

# ORSA LONG RANGERIFLE TEAM

THE FINAL WRAP UP

## 2017 LONG RANGE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Camp Atterbury, IN

2017 marked the first year since 1907 that the Long Range National Championships have been held outside of Camp Perry, OH. Only a couple of shooters on the ORSA team had any experience shooting the odd, south facing range. That did not seem to matter much. Winds during the early hours were generally mild, but tricky. Afternoon winds picked up considerably during the team matches and made coaches' jobs very difficult.

We started off the week by sending 4 shooters to shoot in the Mid Range Team Match as a warm up. Firing members were David Tubb, Aubrey Brock, Phil Crowe and Thomas Colyer. They were coached by Corbin Shell. They finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the

Any Rifle Category behind USA Rifle Team – Shirley.

Phil Crowe, widely considered

to be one of the best prone shooters in the country, led the ORSA effort

with an outstanding score of 797-47x to win the Canadian Cup aggregate. This award consists of all 4 of the any rifle matches at the Nat'l Championships.

Everyone in the Highpower community knows any time you beat 5 time Nat'l Champion John Whidden over 4 days of shooting prone, you are a serious contender. Phil works extremely hard to improve and his dedication and determination has infected the entire ORSA team. He finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall, made 2 of the 4 shootoffs, and made the Palma 20 in 9<sup>th</sup> place.

David Tubb needs no introduction. Having won 11 Highpower Nat'l

Championships and 6 Long Range Nat'l Championships as well too many other championships to list, he is a great resource to have on the ORSA team. Imagine having Babe Ruth batting 3<sup>rd</sup> for your team, and you get the point. He is one of the greatest shooters of all time and a top wind coach for the team matches. He brings

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### Final Overall Standings

- 2.Crowe 1245-68x
- 7.Tubb 1239-69x
- 8.Colyer 1239-58x
- 22.Kubic 1231-59x
- 40.Shell 1222-52x
- 45.Hudson 1219-57x
- 51.Sokolowski 1216-49x
- 60.Brock 1206-47x

invaluable knowledge and does not hesitate to share it if you ask.

David was not able to shoot much this year, but he still made it look easy by finishing 7<sup>th</sup> overall as well as making the Palma 20 in 14<sup>th</sup> place. He also made the Wimbledon Cup shootoff for the 114<sup>th</sup> time. That has got to be some kind of record itself. He is always in the mix.

Thomas Colyer, our youngest shooter by far, has been a Top 10 finisher at the Nat'l Championships for 3 years now. He is supremely talented and continues to improve. After having won the Wimbledon Cup in 2014, he continues to get better. He finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the Canadian Cup, 8<sup>th</sup> overall and made the shootoff for the Mustin Trophy.

Aubrey Brock is our newest team member. We recruited him for the 2015 season. He is a former Highpower shooter and has a President's 100 on his shooting resume. He picked up a bolt gun, and in the matter of 3 years has become a solid team member. He finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the Canadian Cup in only his 3<sup>rd</sup> year of LR competition. On the first day of competition, Aubrey shot a 200-11x which was the highest score of the day and made the shootoff for the Remington Trophy.

Jim Sokolowski was added to the roster in 2011. He started his LR career shooting F Class at a very high level. He made the change to prone shooting and has worked very hard to become the solid shooter he is today. It didn't take him too long. His skills at load development and wind reading were already very strong due to competing at such a high level in the F Class world. He has continued to improve and with his work ethic, we knew it wouldn't be long. Jim had a Championship to remember. He shot his first ever clean at 1000yds (200-10x) and it was good enough to land him in the Leech Cup shootoff. Now, for those not familiar with it, the Leech Cup is the most coveted Iron Sight Trophy in the USA. Phil Crowe won it 2 years in a row. Jim found himself on the line for the shootoff facing teammate Crowe, Nancy Thompkins (one of the greatest shooters in the world) and Bill Vaughan.

As an aside, Bill is a former ORSA LR team member, a long time and current member of ORSA and 5 time TN State LR Champion. This means that 3 of the 4 shooters in the shootoff for the Leech Cup were ORSA members!

Jim went on to win the Leech Cup shootoff in absolutely terrible wind conditions against some of the best shooters in the country. I would say that his odds were somewhere around 100-1 against

that lineup, but oh, did he make the best of the opportunity. His name will forever be linked to the oldest competitive shooting trophy in the USA where he is the 117<sup>th</sup> winner. Congrats Jim!

Corbin Shell is a fixture at the LR Nat'l Championships. He is a multiply time Palma 20 finisher and a natural born shooter. He is also known for owning the most beautiful stable of rifles on the planet. His experience makes him an outstanding wind coach for the team matches. Corbin finished 14<sup>th</sup> in the Canadian Cup. One of the highlights of this Championship was the addition of a new match, the 1 MILE Competition. This brought out many of the nation's best Extreme Long Range shooters. In the span of a couple of months, Corbin spec'd, built and tested a new XLR rifle specifically for this match. He finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the match after there was some contention over how the winner won this match in a shootoff. They shot 5 shots each at 1400yds, 1575yds, and 1790yds. Corbin hit all 15 shots shooting 300gr Matchkings at 3,050fps out of a 338 Lapua Improved. That is mind boggling.

Gary Hudson has been an ORSA LR team member since 2014. He is a former Nat'l Champion (1994). That year, he won the Canadian Cup, the Centurion Cup (which doesn't

exist anymore), the Palma Individual Match and the Overall Championship. That is what you call a clean sweep. He is a top level wind coach who helped ORSA win the Roumanian Team Trophy Match last year at Camp Perry as a shooting member and coach beating all of the top teams in the country.

Matt Kubic was the only ORSA member shooting a Palma rifle exclusively at the Nat'l Championships this year. There is a separate category and trophy, the Sierra Cup, for those competing with Palma rifles. It runs concurrently with the Canadian Cup for any rifle shooters where the caliber is unrestricted. In Palma, shooters are required to shoot a .308 with

iron sights only. He finished 14<sup>th</sup> overall in the Sierra Trophy match as well as making the Palma 20 in 12<sup>th</sup> place. He finished 22<sup>nd</sup> overall and 9<sup>th</sup> among those shooting a Palma rifle.

Overall, it was another great year for the ORSA LR Team.

1. 5 Shooters in the top 15 of the Canadian Cup
2. 3 shooters in the top 10 overall – Tompkins Trophy
3. At least one shooter in every shootoff
4. 3 shooters in the Palma 20
5. Jim Sokolowski wins the Leech Cup
6. Corbin Shell 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Extreme Long Range Match
7. 2<sup>nd</sup> place Mid Range Team Match – Any rifle category

This is a great team. I have enjoyed every minute. We continue to improve as a team and as individual shooters. We would like to say a special Thank You to ORSA for sponsoring our team for the National Championships. We are proud to represent ORSA on the National stage and to do so at a very high level. We have shown that we can compete with and win against the best teams in the country. We thank you for your support.

Faithful Scribe and ORSA Mouthpiece,  
Matt Kubic

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Matt Kubic

The final wrap up