



ORSA Rifle & Pistol Club

Wind Dogs Travel to the “2018 Vintage Sniper (Metal) World Championship”

by David Kiefer

ORSA Vintage Rifle shooters Kyle Kirschenmann and I traveled to the Championship match on 13-14 of April to Paris.... Tennessee. While many might think it is pretty pretentious and bold to call a match in the town of Paris, TN a “World Championship”, after experiencing the challenging conditions and observing the excellent marksmanship displayed by the shooters, this match hosted by the Henry County Gun Club (HCGC) is certainly worthy of respect for several reasons.

First, while Wind Dogs are familiar with traveling to the well-established matches at Camp Perry, Butner, and Talladega, many of us haven't heard of HCGC, but that depends upon where you look. Many of the HCGC members are prolific users of social media on Vintage Sniper related pages and for some quirk of gun collecting anomaly, Henry County seems to have a high per-capita ownership of Swedish M41b's, and PU/PEM Mosin-Nagants, as well as several other obscure and collectable vintage sniper weapons. This fact was clearly apparent when we first arrived in town on Friday evening

to a local home where we were met by a large group of shooter/collectors that had traveled the day before for a day of practice at the venue. These shooters traveled from Northern Ohio, Kansas City, Raleigh, NC as well as many other towns from the region. Suffice it say, the trip from East TN to Paris, certainly didn't win the award for the team that traveled the furthest.

Match day was a perfect example of not paying too much attention to the weather forecast, being prepared, adaptable, and then just a bit of luck. The forecast had been predicting a major system moving through throughout the week, and the monsoon started promptly at 4:00 am the morning of the match. Unfazed, we traveled to the venue comforted by the fact there was a morning break in the downpour and knowing we had a canopy shelter to keep our firing point from being soaked. The match director wisely, fired one stage, stopped firing for a rain delay and lunch then promptly picked up shooting again after a full belly of BBQ, slaw, beans and brownies. The HCGC members certainly are great hosts.

Secondly, the course of fire was challenging for two reasons; the use of

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smaller steel targets, no larger than a silhouette, and some of these silhouettes were placed out to over 800 yards, a bit further than the typical vintage sniper course of fire. In order to prepare for this the best possible way, we used a combination of chronograph data, ballistic computer software, as well as known “come up” DOPE as we rolled into the match with no known zeros for this range. There were also NO sighters and no more than two shots on any target during the match.

While HCGC holds a “standard” match at their club facilities very similar to the ORSA HP range, they do use steel plates at various distances strategically placed within terrain from 100 to 600 yards, with a few plates in the hillside behind the pits. The venue for the “World Championship” was held at a nearby farm where the firing line looked to the north over a wide expansive green pasture with a tree line forming a box to the right and left and ending at 865 yards in the distance.

The Course of Fire:

As one might expect, shooting many teams at singular steel targets may seem time consuming, the HCGC has been shooting this technique several years and the match directors are well practiced in having teams in sequential stages of prep, ready and firing to insure there is always rounds down range as much as practical, and in some cases different teams are firing simultaneously once a team has advanced past a certain target at a particular stage.

Stage One: The Gauntlet. The gauntlet is a series of plates set up at 100 yard increments out to 700 yards. Only two shots at each target, 1st round hits score more than 2nd round. This is intended to be a confidence builder by shooting at a known distance and confirming your DOPE at different ranges. This first stage was humbling as the “K-squared” team scored about a third of the available points and couldn’t hit any target past 400 yards. This isn’t paper, if you miss the “center”, you really don’t know by how much.

Stage Two: Machine Gun Nest. Two targets, two shots each. A target with a small center “flapper” at 250 yards, and a reactive head plate at over 300 yards hidden behind a hill. Hitting the flapper is worth more than hitting the outside plate, hitting the head was the only option from our firing point. Again this was humbling; Kyle was able to pick up half of his available points, and I

left the stage with a big goose egg. This is tough, and the harder targets are coming up.

Stage Three: Lundy Special. This is named for a local shooter who developed this stage of 4 targets of different sizes between 200 and 450 yard being engaged within 30 seconds from a full magazine. First round hits are worth more than second round hits. This was a hoot, as we don’t perform rapid fire engagements with sniper rifles. This fact got into the heads the ORSA team where one person had difficulty with the magazine and magazine cut-off switch, and the other team member forgot to cycle the bolt after the first shot, which was a hit! In spite of these initial setbacks, the “K-square” team picked up about three-quarters of the available points where I was able to redeem myself after the previous goose egg earning 3 first round hits at this stage. The long range targets were up next.

Stage Four: Diamond Joe Special. Again, a local creation, this started with 4 targets at 550 to 865 yards, the first of which is an 8-inch diamond shaped plate at the closest range, with 3 silhouettes from 700 to 865 yards. Two shots per target, first round hits worth more than second round hits. The ORSA team patiently watched other shooters to see what hints they could pick up engaging these targets with neither of us have engaged our vintage rifles at ranges beyond 600 yards before, not to mention the target being much smaller than the 6 MOA black circle we normally use. A full-size IPSC silhouette is about 18x24 inches. By this time, the weather system had pretty much moved out and we were beginning to experience much more wind from the cold front moving through and since West TN farms don’t have range flags, the only hint the ORSA team had was most misses appeared to be to the left. Kyle shot first, but I was not much help during that string seeing the trace or impact until the last and furthest target. I noticed a splash low and left in the tree-line next to the target. With a hold correction Kyle’s last shot for the stage was a hit for the silhouette at 865 yds. The team was excited with this new achievement of hitting a silhouette at that range with a vintage sniper rifle. I was up next, and was not expecting much luck at these ranges (many teams scoring zero hits). The first small diamond had not been hit much, if any, and I missed it as well. What happened next was an unexpected surprise as I continued to make wind corrections, but relied on calculated come ups and began to hit the remaining silhouettes. I hit the furthest three



Did you know?

CMP High Power Rifle and Pistol Competition Rules, 22nd Edition – 2018, states:

6.2.6 Malfunctions

A malfunction is the failure of the rifle or ammunition to function properly. Competitors are responsible for having rifles and ammunition that function reliably and do not malfunction or misfire. If a malfunction occurs, a competitor may attempt to clear the malfunction and continue firing, if he/she can do so safely. If a competitor is unable to fire the prescribed number of shots within the time limit, the unfired shots (saved rounds) must be scored as misses (0):

No alibis will be granted in CMP matches for “Malfunctions.” The exception/s are “Range Alibis” as defined by rule:

3.9.3 Range Alibi or Interruption of Fire

A range alibi or interruption of fire occurs when a competitor, group of competitors or relay of competitors are prevented from firing or completing a series due to a fault of the range or range officials. If a range alibi occurs, additional time or a refire shall be permitted.

targets twice each, with Kyle screaming “hit” at every one; culminating in two shots placed in the furthest target with the bullet splatters overlapping. Things were starting to look better for the ORSA team.

Fifth and Final Stage: Know your limits. As the name implies, this stage is meant as a test of knowing when to stop... if you can hit your target. Steel plates are set up in a row where each set has plates that start “large”, barely 2-moa, to less than ½ MOA. Each shooter starts with the largest plate and may advance with hits. Any miss, you stop with a zero for the stage. Shooter is free to stop at any time and claim hits achieved. The “K-square” team ended with zero points gained at this stage with only one initial hit, and then a miss.

We ended the match with a Team Score of 69 points, which we were very happy with considering this was the first time we’ve shot such a match. We started with

theoretical data, no known zeroes, and no experience. The winning score was 113 out of a possible team total of 214 points, and even that took amazing shooting. We left the venue having shot it new for the first time with a respectable score that was better than others who had a day’s prior practice.

This was certainly a Championship venue, with excellent marksmanship skill displayed. I would expect there may be other ORSA Wind Dogs up to this type match and the HCGC are great hosts. We look forward to the winning team of Tony Lacy (56 points) and John Brewer (57 points) and others attending the ORSA Vintage Sniper match on May 20th. I suspect they will have no problem scoring well, aiming at the 6 MOA round bulls.

President's Corner

Hello Wind Dogs. Our April matches certainly required us to test our "Wind Dog" moniker. Our 7 April match provided many of us important lessons about being prepared for shooting in the rain. As many of you know, you and equipment have to get wet to truly appreciate the experience. And our 8 April EIC match reinforced the importance of understanding the dynamics associated with making proper wind calls. Doing it properly is clearly an art and a science. A valuable lesson re-learned by many of us was avoiding the temptation to chase spotting disks.

Fortunately, our competitive shooting schedule affords us the opportunity to apply those valuable lessons learned. Before getting into our May schedule, I'd like to thank everyone who made our first CMP clinic a big success. Likewise, thanks for your help in our 21 April CMP clinic.

Our preparation for Camp Perry is off to a great start. I want to thank our coach, Alan Strachn; and team captain, Rhonda Booker, for their hard work and leadership. I am confident it will pay off.

The month of May takes us into the heart of our Spring competitive shooting schedule with matches scheduled across the R&P shooting disciplines. On 5 May we will shoot NRA HP, indoor sniper league, and rimfire bench rest matches. On 6 May we will conduct our second 3x600 club match to be followed by a clubhouse cookout. A second rimfire bench rest match will be conducted as well. On 12-13 May our Long-Range Club will fire NRA approved matches. 19-20 May brings us an opportunity to break out our wood and steel rifles to shoot in the CMP Games GSM, Vintage Sniper and Carbine matches. Our Precision Pistol Club will shoot a match at our indoor range on the 20th. And our third scheduled practices for Camp Perry will occur on 26 and 27 May.

Shooting in the May HP competitive events will provide preparation for our Charlie Smart Regional Match weekend beginning with a practice, Army Marksmanship Unit mentor match on 1 June; followed by the NRA Regional Match on the 2nd, and culminating with the CMP EIC Match on the 3rd. We look forward to having the US Army Marksmanship Unit participate in this weekend. A cookout will occur at the clubhouse following completion of the Saturday NRA Regional Match.

I want to thank in advance everyone whom will make the events noted above a great success.

I look forward to seeing you on the range.

Bill Phelps

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Schedules:

HP events - www.orsarandp.com/hp-events
Pistol events - www.orsarandp.com/pistol-events
Other events - www.orsarandp.com/other-rifle-events