

Strong Showing by Club Shooters at 2019 Orange Blossom F-Class Matches

Six of the Club's F-Class shooters headed over to Port Malabar, FL for the annual Orange Blossom Regional matches on March 19 - 21, 2019, and turned in some outstanding results against some very tough competition. The OBR consists of 9 individual matches, all conducted at 600 yards. Our own Bruce Knapp won the NRA National Badge as the top F-TR (Target Rifle) shooter for the three-day matches with an aggregate score of 1789-102X (yes, only dropping 11 points in 9 matches!). As an indication of how tight the competition was, Bruce edged the second place shooter by just 2 points.

And Dave Mommaerts was back at setting National records in the Police category again, doing it this time in back to back shootings. On Day one, Dave shot a 199-9X score to break the existing record, then followed that on Day two with a 200-11X score. Dave now awaits the interminable NRA record certification process to see if his record score holds. He should know by Christmas.

Other highlights from the matches include:

- Three of the nine individual matches were won by Club members - two by Bruce Knapp and one by Jack Sapp. Jack saved his best performance for the last match, shooting a personal best of 199-13X to win.**
- Six "cleans" (i.e. 200 points) were shot by our members, three by Bruce Knapp, and one each by Dave Mommaerts, Jack Dean and John McGowen.**
- In addition to the overall aggregate score, Bruce was the AGG winner on the Day one and Day two competitions.**
- Pete Bono won a Cold Bore X medal, awarded for shooting an X on the first sighter shot of each day's competition.**

- **John McGowen won 2nd place High Master.**
- **Jack Dean, in addition to shooting extremely well during the 3 days, really left the matches with a smile on his face, after winning two of the raffle drawings for a Bartlein barrel and huge discount on a Panda action. Yes, Jack will be building another rifle.**

In addition to our Club members, two other “members in waiting”, John Granauro and Al Benarroch, were part of the SW Florida group shooting at Port Malabar. Both compete in F-Open, and are excellent shooters. John was the overall winner in F-Open and Al was an individual match winner.

The boys did more than shoot during their stay on the East coast though. After the Day one matches, the gang convened at the rented house of Mssrs. Dean, Knapp and McGowen, curiously described in the marketing information as the “Enchanted Chalet” (it was neither Enchanted nor a Chalet). Nonetheless, Master Chef Pete Bono put forth a BBQ dinner of Brazilian steak and sausages for the boys. Pete’s secret was a 3-day marinate in chimichurri sauce. Thank you Pete! A beverage fueled evening of camaraderie and nonsense followed. Happily, no injuries were reported.

All in all, a great performance and wonderful time was had by our F-Class shooters. Hopefully, the Club can field an even larger group to head over to Port Malabar for the State matches in October.

John McGowen