

## Long Range Duel at Fort Wolters: 2002 TSRA Long Championship Match

by John Gaines

The 2002 George Tubb Memorial Long-Range match was fired on October 11-14 at the Fort Wolters Shooting Sports Range near Mineral Wells. The weather was as near to perfect as can be found in Texas. The temperature was in the 70's and the wind was mild every day except one, and that's not bad for the Great Plains.

The firing line at the 1000 yard mark on the Tubb Range was the scene of the finale of the match. Photo by James Dark



Thirty-eight shooters were on hand to test their skills at 800, 900, and 1000 yards. Out of state shooters representing Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana and Arkansas were there along with Texans

The shooters hunkered down and shot their best through a tough, shifting north wind. Photo by James Dark



from as far away as, Amarillo, Lake Jackson and El Paso. Most shooters shot Palma rifles, but several shot M1A's, AR15 "space guns" and across-the-course bolt rifles. In the "Any" rifle matches several magnums were pitted against wildcat cartridges such as the 6BR and 6.5X284.

The overall winner and Texas Champion is Robert Mead of Iowa who was Texas Champion last year. He fired a blazing 1305-48X over the three days of shooting, and barely edged out Robert Horn of Arkansas who was first High Master with a 1304-47X. First Master was John Leazar of Midland, with 1277-

28X. First Expert was Robert Quinn from Dallas who fired an M1A to score 1266-34X. First in the combined Sharpshooter and Marksman class was Joseph Riley with 1121-8X, who also shot an M1A.

Other winners of note were the winners of the individual Palma matches. Palma 1 honors went to Robert Mead, 442-13X. Palma 2 was won by Jon Rhynard from Louisiana, 447-24X, and Palma 3 was won by Robert Horn, 425-11X. Winner of the Any/Iron (20 shots at 1000 yards) match was Robert Horn, 198-6X, and winner of the Any/Any match was Shawn George, 199-10X. (Shawn's

A patriotic sight indeed. . . but one that told the shooters to stay on their toes! Photo by James Dark



scope ran out of elevation and he fired the match aiming at a spot under the number board!)

Of special interest this year was a new trophy for F Class shooters, the Conway trophy. It was awarded to Larry Bartholome of El Paso, the high F Class shooter in the aggregate of three Palma matches. His score, 1349-101 was just one point off the maximum of 1350-135X. Other Palma shooters were only an X or two behind him. The competition which included Mr. Conway himself, was fierce.

F Class winners in the individual Palma matches were Jeff Cochran, 450-37X in Palma 1; J.J. Conway, 450-39X in Palma 2; and Larry Bartholome, 449-31X in Palma 3. 450-45X is the maximum score so it is easy to see the marksmanship exhibited at the match.



The winner of the new J. J. Conway F Class Trophy was Larry Bartholome (kneeling) with the trophy's namesake, J. J. Conway himself. Larry narrowly won the trophy by beating out Mr. Conway. Photo by James Dark.

The range at Fort Wolters is a first class and challenging range. The Fort Wolters Shooting Sports Club did a great job in getting the range and targets in top condition. Club president Dick Curry was the range officer and Bill Killian was the pit officer. TSRA long-range director, John Gaines was Match Director.



Successfully defending his title was returning champ Robert Mead of Iowa. He fired an incredible 1305-48X despite the handicap of wearing an Iowa State sweatshirt. Photo by James Dark.