



The shooting range at the Panola County Gun Club (PCGC) in Carthage, Texas.

2023 TSRA Highpower Championship

BY: JUSTIN BURNS, DIRECTOR, HIGH POWER RIFLE



“

I got into Highpower in 2023 because of Bruce Finley's generosity and friendship. I love our Highpower community because of our positive energy and willingness to help each other!

”

— CONRAD YOUNG



(Left to Right) Danny Arnold, Kyle Hoelscher, Conrad Young, Blackston Fisk and Dan Pate

The TSRA Highpower Championship was held Sept 22-24, 2023, at Panola County Gun Club (PCGC) in Carthage, Texas. This weekend of shooting marked the closing of the highpower season in Texas.

The Friday matches saw two new competitions, the first 4-Man Team Scramble, which was a forty-shot match. Teams pre-selected which competitors' score would be used before the match started. Team **“BAK”** had the highest raw score of 1541.42X and an official score of 378.11X. However, team **“Where's Bobby?”** had an official score of 387.03X for the win. Lots of laughter ensued all weekend over the shooter selections made.

The second match was the “Sniper Challenge,” which was an individual version of the 600-yard CMP Vintage Sniper Match. Shooters had twenty seconds to make a shot for a total of twenty shots. There were some very unique rifles, including original M1C and M1D Garands, in addition to Springfield 1903A4 and 1941 USMC Sniper Tribute rifles. There were also classes for sling rifles and modern rifles. **Dan Pate** won both the Vintage Class and had the highest overall score with a 193.03X. This match was well-received and will most likely be included in future championship weekends.

Saturday was the State Highpower Championship and



there were 27 shooters in total. It was hot and humid for the end of September. The winner was **Conrad Young** with a score of 786.27X. **Danny Arnold** finished second with 784.27X and **Kyle Hoelscher** finished third with a 782.19X. The High Senior was Dan Pate with a 781.23X and the High Junior was **Blackston Fisk** with a 777.26X.

New this match was the “Cold Bore X” award. To win this, competitors had to score an “X” on their first shot of the day on Saturday. **Kevin Fisk** and **Rick Conner** were the first recipients of the award, with Rick also firing an “X” on his first shot Friday during the team match. **Bruce Finley** also received one for firing an “X” with his 90-year-old sniper rifle on Friday during the Sniper Challenge.

Sunday finished the weekend with an Excellence in Competition (EIC) match. The weather on Sunday included heavy rain and lightning, but 26 shooters braved the weather to finish the match after a couple of rain delays. The match winner was Danny Arnold with a 493.19X followed by Justin Burns with a 488.18X. Conrad Young and **Loni Barry** received “leg” points as well.

This concluded the 2023 Highpower Season. Monthly matches will continue at the local clubs, and the next State Match will be the TSRA State Service Rifle Championship, held in May 2024. There is plenty of time to get ready for it! *I look forward to seeing you there.*



Rifle used by Bruce Finley during the Vintage Sniper Match. Bruce used an M1941 1903A1 USMC Sniper Rifle with 8X Unertl scope replica he built himself.



Daryl Melkert's X-Count at 200 Yards Sitting.

WHERE'S BOBBY?

The team's name was created when one of the intended teammates, **Bobby Adams**, was unable to attend. Fortunately, **Daryl Melkert** was available, and he put up big numbers at 600 yards. Yay, Daryl! — Conrad Young

My name is **Bruce Finley**. I live in San Antonio and I am a TSRA Member and a High Power Shooter. I have been shooting HP since 1987 and was on the “Where's Bobby.” I have known **Sgt./Major (RET) Bobby Adams** since the early 1990s, when we would shoot at the matches held at Camp Bullis, northwest of San Antonio. Bobby is doing well and is still shooting on a very regular basis.

He was scheduled to be at the TX HPChamps in October, but had a prior obligation. He couldn't travel to Carthage and so everyone wondered, “Where's Bobby?” — Bruce Finley



Bobby Adams