

## 27<sup>th</sup> Oak Ridge Long Range Muzzle Loading Match Oak Ridge, Tennessee, 2014

*Rick Weber, Match Director*



**Left to Right: 5th Place Winner Ike Leggett, 4th Place Jason Lee, 3rd Lee Shaver, 2nd Joe Hill, 1st Brent Danielson. Far Right: Match Director Rick Weber**

The 27<sup>th</sup> Oak Ridge Long Range Muzzle Loading Match was a success in many ways. First, I want to thank all the shooters who participated and traveled from all over to attend. Then we have to be very thankful that the weather cooperated and was terrific!

Thirty shooters gathered at the Oak Ridge Sportsman Association in Tennessee to test their skills at distances of 200, 300, 600 and 1000 yards with relay times of 60, 60, 75 and 90 minutes respectively. Friday started at the clubhouse with lots of handshakes, greetings, and conversations as many of us have not been together since last year. The shoot was blessed with sunny skies all day with temperatures starting in the 30's only to warm into the 60's by the end of the day with light winds. There were seven squads of four member each plus two squads with one additional member. This four-man squad format has been in place since our conception in 1998 and as two shooters are shooting the other two squad members split as one will score and the other will work the target pit. At the conclusion of the 200 yards match, two shooters tied for 1<sup>st</sup> place with a score of 99-5x (they both shot a 9 on their 10<sup>th</sup> shot for score – last shot). We also had a tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> place with two shooters shooting 99-3x. Sad to think someone who shot a 99-3x did not medal!

We moved to 300 for the afternoon relays with the temperatures warming up as well as the scores continued to be competitive. A third of the field posted a score of 90 or better and another 14 posting 80 or better on the NRA-LR targets. The top score of 95-3x, 2<sup>nd</sup> with 93-3x and 3<sup>rd</sup> place with score a 93-1x (this time I lost a medal by an X). This being said by the end of the first day there were ten

shooters (a third of the shooters) within 10 points of each other causing a lot of 'talking'— all in the spirit of the game, of course.

Saturday, I knew scores would start to separate at the greater distances and unfortunately I was one of the victims. The weather continued to be terrific with overcast skies and again cool weather that warmed to the 60's by day's end. I was glad the sun was not in our eyes on this day early in the morning and at the end of shooting 600, only one person posted a score above 90 to take 1<sup>st</sup> place honors and again fourteen posted a score of 80 or better.



At 1000 yards in the afternoon, things really became serious for the top shooters. With eight shooters within 10 points and another four within 20 points who knows what would happen. For me and many others we needed a miracle and wanted to shoot just to compete and possibly have some time to experiment with something new. I was having a great time and was looking forward to who might come out on top. After both relays concluded there was one score of 90+ posted and 4 of 80 or better. As seen before, the one who wins the climatic 1000 yard distance won the Overall Aggregate. So, congratulations to **Brent Danielson** with his fine shooting all weekend, posting a total match score of 369-8x/400. 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to **Joe Hill** with a 359-9x, 3<sup>rd</sup> to **Lee Shaver** 356-8x, 4<sup>th</sup> to **Jason Day** 352-4x and 5<sup>th</sup> to **Ike Leggett** with a 348-4x.

There were 3 new shooters at this match and again everyone seems to go out of their way to make them feel welcome and assist with any need that arose. This match is set up and intended for the beginner as well as the more advanced ML shooter. Thanks to all who attended and made the event a success.