

Friends and Shooters,

3/13/22

Oh my goodness! Unbelievable how some great things happen even on dark days! Coralee and I have been calving heifers the last week or two, which means around the clock checks and countless hours in the barn in the middle of the night and we still have to take care of all of our regular work. Usually there is success, but there is plenty of failure as well. The joy of the baby calves, the reward of having the pleasure of being a cattleman, and having the lifestyle of being in production agriculture make it all worth it. Putting on matches is similar. Lots of time, energy, and mental effort go into organizing and putting them on. I have to admit that when we are really busy, I occasionally wonder if it's worth it. Then the match day comes, we share the day with the best group of people I have ever met, lots of great competitive shooting goes on, and memories for a lifetime are made. Yep, it's worth every drop. In fact, from an investment standpoint, I'm pretty sure we get tenfold back from everything we put in. Thank you all for being a part of it and I hope you share some of the same feelings.

Three super things happened this past Saturday. First and maybe the most monumental was somebody finally scored a perfect 100 on the SPG/WY Sight Drifter KYL gongs! The wind was blowing horribly (30-40mph) with high temps reaching the 40's, and it was sunny with splotches of snow so visibility was a challenge between the super bright and the shadows. To keep things changed up and due to the extreme wind, we moved the gongs up a bit. They were at about 93 yards. Although a good shot, the shooter that finally shot a perfect score of 100 was not one you would have expected to do it. It was in fact a lesson in learning the mental component in shooting as I could tell he was very focused and determined when he prepared to shoot. He was smart in that he purchased a mulligan (which contributes to the range improvement fund). His first shot was on the middle five point target and he was about an inch high and an inch off on windage. He adjusted his sights, used his mulligan, and then went for the tiny 2" 10 point gong. One after another he loaded, focused, watch the wind, squeezed the trigger and then ding and a swing of the gong. 9 down and the pressure was on for the tenth shot. The heavens opened, the angels sang, and DING! He did it!

I am so proud of my Dad, Gary Smith! It was absolutely phenomenal shooting! Anyone that doubts it needs to try it. 10 consecutive hits on a 2" round gong at 93 yards with 100 year old technology in extreme wind!! Wow!!! Congratulations Dad! A giant thank you to SPG Sales and WY Sight Drifter for sponsoring this fun side match and donating a \$100 bill to the winner. Dad is still smiling.

Just a warning, events #2 and #3 are really going to warm your heart. #2 happened at the awards ceremony. It was the presentation of a rifle to Emily Anderson from her Dad. Emily has been shooting frequently this year and has been steadily improving. She has been using her Dad's rifle. Steve found her a very nice rifle all set up and presented it to her. Pretty awesome! Event #3 was also the presentation of a rifle. Young Tighe Moritz has been hanging around with his Grandpa Greg Bybee and coming to matches the last couple of years. He is a super young man and is always eager to help, setting targets, helping spot, keeping score, setting up and cleaning up. He's always asking what he can do to help, is friendly to all, and is in general just fun to have at the matches. Well, one of our shooters saw a need and graciously stepped up. Scott Stephenson, known as Grizz by all his friends, put together a top notch shooting kit for a young person. A Ballard (Ballard! Wow!) rifle with a light profile barrel, sights and ammo were all given to Tighe. Tighe was absolutely elated. Grizz was too shy to present it to Tighe, so he had Coralee and I do it at the awards and it was a pretty special moment. I had two thoughts about it. One being that lots of folks yack about how we need to encourage more youth to shoot our sport, but few actually do anything about it. Grizz unselfishly went way above and beyond to do just that. I promise you Grizz, your kindness will never be forgotten. Secondly, one of the main goals here at Smithmoor is to have a place where friends and multiple generations of family can gather and make good memories. It just makes me glow inside to see that goal come to fruition, and man oh man was there ever fruit this past Saturday!

I have always smiled about how all of the shooters have found a way to contribute to the range. Ed and Beth Himelhoch stepped up and made us a super lunch for the match! They saw us struggling during calving season and very

graciously asked if they could do lunch. Coralee was so pleased! Thank you two from the bottom of our hearts. Super chili with black beans and lots of meat, was the main dish. Grace made a couple pans of really good cornbread, and Ed and Beth brought two big pans of chocolate poke cake. Holy Moly is it ever good! Dick Hennebry also brought a big box of really fresh, tasty donuts for our morning snack. Thanks a bunch for the great food!

Lots of good shooting went on as well, in spite of the nasty winds. Katy Stephenson took AA/A class with a solid 23 and one chicken. Yahoo! AAA saw young Javyn Cruz shoot well with a 28 and one chicken for the win. Javyn's Dad, Sir Billy Acklin smacked 4 chickens for a solid 32 to earn 1st Master, while Michael Rix shot a vey good for conditions 32 with 3 chickens for 1st Grand Master. I was pleased to get 7 chickens for a 34 and the match win. As mentioned earlier, the gongs were exciting. In AAA/AA/A Ed Himelhoch shot a very good 63 to be 1st, while in Master/Grand Master class Craig Wolf shot a super 90 to be 1st. Craig was soooo close! As mentioned, Dad, Gary Smith, was the winner of the SPG/WY Sight Drifter gongs and a \$100 bill with a perfect score of 100.

Thank you to everyone that supports, participates, and contributes to Smithmoor Range. Your friendship means more to us than you could ever know.

Take care my friends,
Cody Smith

Shooter Gong Chicken Pig Turkey Ram Total Place

Grand Master

Steve Anderson 8 3 10 10 8 31

Mark Pachares 85 5 7 9 9 30

Michael Rix 75 3 10 10 9 32 1st

Cody Smith 51 7 9 10 8 34 MW

Grizz 88 1 10 10 9 30

Master

Sir Billy 68 4 9 10 9 32 1st

Greg Bybee 85 5 9 8 9 31

Dick Farmer 13 1 10 7 6 24

JD Farmer 0 3 10 9 7 29

Dick Hennebry 0 1 10 10 8 29

Michael Jackson 0 2 10 5 10 27

Gary Smith 100 2 10 9 9 30

Craig Wolf 90 1st 2 10 10 9 31

AAA

Emily Anderson 48 0 8 2 4 14

Javyn Cruz 38 1 9 8 10 28 1st

Ed Himelhoch 63 1st 1 9 4 8 22

AA/A

Roger Decker 18 1 4 3 5 13

Katy Stephenson 58 1 10 6 6 23 1st

Tighe Moritz 22 0 0 0 5 5