

After the sudden loss of Texas FT shooters' much-beloved and well-storied Yegua Airgun Club in 2014, it was a most pleasant and improbable surprise to see FOUR other FT clubs spring up in Texas within a few months preceding and following Yegua's unFORTUNEate demise (the property owners literally struck oil, sealing Yegua's fate). So with FOUR active FT clubs in Texas, Yours Truly felt it only natural there be a Texas FT Grand Prix season points series in 2015 similar to the AAFTA Grand Prix and some other regional FT series. And since pistol field target is My Baby, of course the Texas Grand Prix would include Open Pistol and Hunter Pistol Champion awards.

It being my big idea and with no-one else particularly interested in organizing it, guess you could say I became the self-appointed (anointed?) 2015 Texas Grand Prix Director. Considering the four new clubs and apparent health of field target in Texas, I hoped to achieve certain purposes with Texas' first Grand Prix series. Chief among my motives were- to promote field target in Texas, help make some Texas FT shooters more serious about the game, promote an atmosphere of "hybrid vigor" through interaction and co-operation between Texas clubs and shooters, and expose everyone to the close FT-fellowship "magic" I feel at every championship match I've ever attended.

Little did I realize what I was getting myself into! Suffice to say directing the First Annual Texas Grand Prix was not without its fits, starts, set-backs and challenges. However that said, I'd like to think the Grand Prix more success than failure, but am currently awaiting replies of a poll of the Texas club Match Directors. Results of that poll will determine the future of the Texas Grand Prix, and help guide improvements and evolution of the series.

In addition to no small amount of resistance to the proposed Grand Prix from less-serious shooters and clubs, historic spring and summer flooding in Texas certainly "rained on my parade". Some Grand Prix events had to be rescheduled, and even moved to another venue due to the floods. However, the clubs and Match Directors pulled together to salvage the Grand Prix... and pull my ass out of the fire (rather, flood)! Thank you, Gentlemen.

The primary source of airgun goodies to support my addiction, Pyramyd Air came through BIG TIME with sponsorship support of the 2015 Texas Grand Prix with catalogs, schwag-bags, and a .177 AIR ARMS PRO SPORT to be auctioned at the final event of

the Grand Prix to help defray award and related expenses. Many, MANY THANKS to Pyramid Air, and our sponsorship contact there, Stormie VanMeenen. The Grand Prix Director also kicked in a few auction items, to further defray expenses for the Grand Prix hosting clubs. Unfortunately a big THANK YOU is the best reimbursement I can muster for all those involved in the Grand Prix for their valuable time and selfless efforts.

The first leg of the 2015 Grand Prix, on March 22, was also the first field target match ever staged at the Boerne Field Target Club. However, it could be said the Match Director at BFTC is not exactly a newcomer to FT. Leo Duran did an excellent job hosting and directing the first GP event, in spite of rains until, and again after, match day. Thankfully we endured only a short-lived drizzle during the rifle match on an otherwise nice day. Good job Leo, and congratulations on your excellent field target venue at the historic Boerne Rifle Club that is well into its SECOND CENTURY.

The second event of the Grand Prix was hosted by the new(ish) Dallas Field Target Club on April 18. Match Director Bob Dye endured his share of challenges smoozing his way into Elm Fork Shooting Complex to find a home for the DFTC in the first place, but then demonstrated his tenacity and resourcefulness in staging an excellent second event in the Grand Prix. Great job and great venue, Bob.

The Pecan Plantation Airgun and Archery Association hosted the third leg of the Grand Prix. Ever-gracious and accommodating, Match Director Craig Martin did an excellent job of accommodating not only the Grand Prix competitors, but his less-serious airgunners that are an integral part of his airgun program. The Pecan Plantation gated community is very supportive of Craig's program, and that shows with recent improvements to the airgun/archery facilities. I'm really looking forward to trying out that new frozen-margarita machine I've lobbied you so hard for, Craig!

Some of the Powers That Be at Arlington Sportsmens Club are airgunners. With an established archery program and 3-D course, ASC makes perfect sense as a field target venue. Chris Simmons, Byron Wells and Jeff Cloud have done a great job of building a field target club, and did an equally great job staging the fourth leg of the Texas Grand Prix. They then went well beyond the call of duty by rescuing the Dallas club in their time of need when the Dallas course was still under flood-waters a couple months later. We owe the Arlington Sportsmens Club quite a debt of gratitude.

The final leg of the Grand Prix was to also be the Eleventh Annual Republic of Texas State Championships (RoT), scheduled for September 19-20 at the Dallas Field Target Club. Unfortunately a couple months after the historic Texas floods had ended, the Lake Lewisville flood-plain known as the Dallas Field Target Club was STILL under water! Arlington Sportsmens Club to the rescue! However, due to scheduling constraints the RoT dates had to be moved forward a week. Otherwise RoT went off at ASC with nary a hitch, thanks to the hard work and cooperation of the Dallas and Arlington Field Target Clubs and principals. Also, we would be remiss to overlook the selfless hard work and contributions of Kevin Enzian, Bob Dye's right-hand man.

Aware of softening participation in the Piston classes, I blame meager Piston participation at 2014 Nats for my decision to not award Texas Grand Prix Champion trophies in WFTF Piston, Open Piston and Hunter Piston classes. Rather, expecting too little Piston participation, I decided to award just one "Piston Champion" trophy. Long story short, Piston Rifle is alive and well in Texas. Flog me with a fatigued main-spring; we could have had awards for all three Piston classes!

I'm surprised and proud of the level of Piston participation in Texas. I'm also amused at the level of interest and excitement among the Piston competitors, manifested all season by a steady stream of good-natured challenges, ribbing and "trash-talking" in the Piston ranks. You Piston guys are great... even if Y'all "ain't 'zactly right"!

Congratulations to the 2015 Texas Grand Prix series Champions, as follows. WFTF Class Champion- David Alsup. Open Class Champion- Mike Vredenburg. Hunter Class Champion- Bob Dye. Piston Rifle Champion- Robert Droege. Hunter Pistol Champion- Ron Robinson. Open Pistol Champion- Leo Duran. Great shooting, men!

Full results of the 2015 Texas Grand Prix series and individual matches are posted on the Texas Grand Prix at [http://txgp.x10host.com/TxGP\\_2015.pdf](http://txgp.x10host.com/TxGP_2015.pdf).

Bob Dye took on the responsibility for the individual Grand Prix match awards; lovely walnut pellet boxes engraved with pertinent details, including the recipient's name! I arranged for the Grand Prix Champions awards; nice walnut wall plaques (if I do say so myself). Congratulations to all participants, and thanks again to all contributors to the 2015 Texas Grand Prix. Special thanks again to our sponsor, Pyramyd Air.



Congratulations to the 2015 Texas Grand Prix Champs (left to right)- Mike Vredenburg, Robert Droege, David Alsup, Ron Robinson, Bob Dye and (not pictured) Leo Duran.



Each leg of the Grand Prix featured super-cool walnut pellet boxes engraved with the recipient's name. Overall Grand Prix Champion awards were nice walnut wall plaques.