

The 5th “Steamboat Challenge” NRA Action Pistol Regional and WY State Championship concluded on Sunday August 18 2019. Action Pistol shooters from four points of the compass converged on “The Capital of the Old West” for a great weekend of Action Pistol competition at the Otto Road Shooting Range in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

“Steamboat Challenge” pays homage to Steamboat. Born in 1896, he was a Wyoming bred black gelding who was huge, ornery and known as “the horse that couldn’t be ridden”. As a colt he sustained a broken bone in his nose that caused him to make an odd whistling sound when he bucked earning him the name “Steamboat”. The Steamboat legend lives on as he is the official state symbol of Wyoming.

This Regional and State match lived up to the “Challenge” - competitors have to deal with the altitude—the range is at 6,600 feet and changing weather conditions. We had fair skies but high winds—especially Saturday for the Regional with strong westerly winds gusting to 40 MPH. On Sunday, the winds came out of the south and abated to a much more tolerable level.

The Saturday Regional match consisted of the traditional four events that make up the NRA Bianchi Cup National Championship—The Moving Target, The Barricade, The Practical and the Falling Plates. California shooter Seiichi Ishikawa had some hard luck with his luggage. When he arrived in Denver his gun and ammo arrived but another bag with belt, holster, and magazines did not. Our match Chief Statistics Officer, Renee Krawiec was able to help by letting Seiichi use a belt, holster and magazines for his gun and he was able to successfully shoot both days.

Regional Category Winners:

Open: Adam Sokolowski (1st Overall)

Metallic: Robert Gaskins

Production: Anthony Heinauer

Rimfire: Bridger Steege (1st Junior)

The Sunday Wyoming Championship was different. We announced two of the four events months ago in the match program those being the “Texas” Moving Target and The Falling Plates. The other two events were not known until the Saturday shooters meeting by using a spinning wheel commonly encountered on prize tables. The other events on the spinning wheel were those in the NRA Action Pistol Rulebook not fired at the NRA Bianchi Cup. For the Sunday match the other two events were Ambidextrous Plates and The Barricade (Modified). The Ambidextrous Plates event is a difficult course requiring some strong and weak hand unsupported shooting under the same time limits as the traditional Falling Plates course. A decent score is over 400 -- Adam Sokolowski of the US Army Marksmanship Unit led the way with a “clean” score of 480-48X. Impressive!

Custom belt buckles were awarded to the top three shooters in the Wyoming Championship match.

Wyoming State Champion: Adam Sokolowski

Second: Tim Theno

Third: Alex Ragulsky

Complete results for the Regional and State Championship at this link: (Note: for the WY State Match the Ambidextrous Plates score is listed under the Practical. The scoring program used is set up only for the traditional Bianchi Cup events and cannot be changed)

<https://www.steamboatchallenge.com/scores>

Available on our Facebook Page at this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/steamboatchallenge/>

Also, a big thank you and tip of the hat to our supporters and sponsors!

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Next year's Steamboat Challenge is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of August 15 & 16, 2020. Mark your calendars and hope to see everyone once again in 'Ol Cheyenne!

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