

The 33rd David L. Swanson Match

Sponsored by The Corporal Digby Hand Schützenverein and The Manchester Rifle Club

Hosted by the Quaker Hill Rod and Gun Club

A CLASSIC CONNECTICUT JUNIOR RIFLE MATCH ON A TRADITIONAL SHOOTING WEEKEND.

The late David L. Swanson was a very active member of the Manchester Rifle Club during the 1960-61 season. Taken ill, his shooting career was tragically cut short when he passed away as a teenager. The Swanson family, wishing to recognize his passion for small-bore rifle shooting, donated a handsome trophy to his memory to the Manchester Rifle Club to be placed into annual junior competition.

The first Swanson match was first held in 1963 and continued, uninterrupted until 1986 when issues with the Manchester range caused a halt. Jason Stansfield took custody of the trophy and records with the hopes of reviving competition. While reminiscing about 'The Old Days' with Hap and Steve Rocketto the Swanson Match came up and they dedicated themselves to bring the match back. And so, through three long time Connecticut junior coaches the Swanson match returned to competition in 2015.

The Program

Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023, and Sunday December 3, 2023.

Location: The Quaker Hill Rod and Gun Club, 215 Oxoboxo Dam Rd, Oakdale, CT 06370 Club telephone: 860-848-8385

Rules: Current NRA Small bore Rules will apply.

Time: Relays begin, on the hour, 9AM through 5PM on Saturday and Sunday. Relays will be called to the line 15 minutes before the relay is scheduled.

Scoring: NRA A-17/Orion System

Courses of Fire: 30 shots in three positions, in any order, unlimited sighters for juniors
30 shots prone with unlimited sighters for sub-juniors

Time: 40 minutes per relay for all matches

Coaching: Allowed in both matches

Entry Fee: \$5.00 per individual. \$5 for a four man team.

Challenge Fee: A warm smile and a pleasant request for the first challenge. Further challenges cost \$1.00 each.

Awards: First, second, and third place plaques in both matches with winner's name engraved on the permanent Swanson Trophy. Plaques awarded in each of three classes, A, B, and C, as determined by the Lewis Awards system.

Advance entries are to be made to Steve Rocketto, 928 Old Colchester Rd., Oakdale, CT 06370 via U.S. mail, e-mail at srocketto@aquilasys.com. Post entries will be permitted, to range capacity.

Notes

1. Shooting mats are provided
2. A match bulletin will be available via Email no later than 24 hours after the final challenge period closes to all who provide an email address.
3. Quaker Hill requires eye and ear protection for all those on the range
4. Coaches will file QH Permission Form for each shooter upon arrival. Forms attached,.

SWANSON MATCH HISTORY

The original course of fire was 20 shots prone on the A-17 target for sub-juniors. Juniors shot two matches, one of 20 shots with ten shot in each of prone and standing and a second of another 20 with ten each for sitting and kneeling. The Swanson Trophy was awarded to the junior with the highest aggregate score in both matches.

Additionally, there were paper team matches of two and four man teams counting scores from the two position matches and a four man sub junior team event.

When the match was revived in 2015 it featured a three position match for juniors and a 30 shot prone match for sub-juniors on the A-17 target along with four person teams in each division.

While the match was exciting it always seemed that the most important part of the Swanson for most of the kids was gobbling down the inexpensive, but tasty, hot dogs-the only item on the snack bar menu, if one can dignify a small card table set in the corner of the range by that title.

The Swanson Match was, in many cases, the first major individual victory for many of the winners,

Jesse Johnston, one of only two two time winners, went on an All American collegiate career at Tennessee Tech, shot on the US Dewar Team, and was the youngest shooter ever to gain membership to the United States Pershing Team.

Barbara Gilnack was the first women to win the Swanson to be followed by Chris Bozzo.

David Lyman followed family tradition and ran the junior programs out of Blue Trail Range. He earned Distinguished in prone and position was well membership on the US Dewar Team and a few National Championships in his shooting career.

Gurrie Fandozzi was a member of the US Dewar Team and he and Dan Whaley shot on the All National Guard Small-bore Team.

With such lineage who know where the future winners of the Swanson Trophy may find themselves?

David L. Swanson Memorial Match Winners

1963-A. Archibald-548

1964-A. Archibald-561

1965-B. Moeller-558

1966-William Sheldon-565

1967-John E, Gallagher-575

1968-William Sheldon-574

1969-L. Skoglund-558

1970-G. Slack-560

1971-Carl Lees-559-EHRC

1972-Rick Blauvelt-MRC

1973-Steve Seaman

1974-David Lyman-388-MRC

1975-Steve Snyder-380

1976-Barbara Gilnack-383-MID

1977-Jack Santo-383-QH

1978-Scott Bothwell-386-BTR

1979-Jay Poirier-388-BTR

1980-Dana Sweet-393-BRC

1981-Jesse Johnston-390-BTR

1982-Jesse Johnston-394-BTR

1983-Dan Whaley-391-MAN

1984-Gurrie A, Fandozzi, Jr.-395-MAN

1985-Leo Sihvonen-393-NFA

1986-Robert Mercadante-BTR-390

1987-Miss Chris Bozzo-BTR-385

2015-J-Michael Acampora-BTR-294 SJ-Kayle Pasko-Metacon

2016-J-Kyle Kutz-Cos Cob-295 SJ-Kyle Kutz-Cos Cob-300

2017-Hope Kavulich-SPAL-296 SJ-Ashley Gillis-SPAL-295

2018-Veronica Martino-SPAL-288 SJ-Shane Burton-SPAL-293

2019-Lilian Davenport-MET-296 SJ-Tyler Brunetti-PAL-296

2020-No Match

2021-David Kuhn-BTR-286. SJ-T. Martin-MET-295

2022-Nicole Gardecki-SPAL-290 SJ-Sophia Johnson-MET-295

BRC=Bridgeport Rifle Club BTR=Blue Trail Range EHRC=East Haven Rifle Club MAN=Manchester Rifle Club MET=Metacon MID=Middlebury Rifle Club MRC=Middlefield Rifle Club NFA=Norwich Free Academy QH=Quaker Hill Rod and Gun Club RHS-Rockville High School PAL=Stratford Police Athletic League XHS=Xavier High School