

Joplin Rifle & Pistol Club hosts Christmas charity match

Submitted by Les Welch, JR & PC Match Director

Joplin, Mo. - Every year during the Christmas season **KOAM TV7** teams up with the Salvation Army to collect toys donated by area residents and sponsors for children of families that meet assistance guidelines set by the Salvation Army. This year the Joplin Rifle & Pistol Club decided to get involved with this very worthy cause. It was decided that a CMP Sanctioned Garand/Springfield/Vintage match would be held and the entry fee would be a toy valued at \$15 or more. The toys would then be donated to the ToyBox collection.



The date for the match was Dec.11th and that morning an Arctic cold front was pushing through the area with northwest winds gusting 30-35 mph. By the time the match started we had 28 shooters that had brought toys to enter the match and several individuals not shooting donated toys and had a cup of coffee. The JR&PC and the OOS rifle club from Springfield Missouri also donated toys for their clubs. All in all it was a great success and a lot of children will receive a Christmas present that otherwise might not have.

The match started at 9 AM and the wind flag at the targets 200 yards was standing straight out and the temperature was steadily falling. The first relay made it through the prone stages without much trouble but the standing string was a challenge for most. The second string faced even tougher conditions as it was colder and the wind was worse.

The best shooters rise to the occasion and the top shooters did on this day. Firing a U.S. Model of 1917 James Severin of Joplin, Missouri shot a score of 287-5X for top Vintage score and overall match winner. James shot an incredible 95-2x standing in that wind, and that's the highest overall score we've ever had in a CMP G/S/V match. John Daley of Pittsburg, Kansas shot a 276-5x



with a 1903A3 for second place overall, and Alex Belt of Springfield, Missouri finished with a 271-5x with a Garand for third place overall. All three categories were represented in the top three overall scores and we also had a Krag take fifth place overall.

What could be better than shooting a match, raising Christmas gifts for a great cause, and having a good time? We are looking forward to making this an annual event for JR&PC.

