

Deep South Region



4th Louisiana Delta Rifles

Skirmish Results February 2019

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The 2019 skirmish season started off in the Deep South Region with an event hosted by the Fourth Louisiana Delta Rifles at the Brierfield Ironworks State Park. The centerpiece of this historic park is the ruins of the Brierfield Ironworks, which provided iron for the Confederacy during the Civil War, and which the late Chief of Confederate Ordnance, Josiah Gorgas, owned for a time after the war. The furnace went out for good in 1894. In addition, this park boasts a large covered range and a field that extends to (almost) 100 yards. Combined with the attached campground, it's a perfect skirmish location and it is thus no wonder that most of the Deep South Region's skirmishes are held there.



Photo credits: Left: State Archive. Right: tripadvisor.com

As usual, February is a risky month for skirmish hosting in the Deep South Region, and this weekend was downright treacherous. It has been a very wet winter, and while the outlook for Saturday was cloudy right up until the weekend, all the weather reports insisted that we would have rain on Friday during Individuals and on Sunday during the Musket Match and really coming down during cleanup. The actual weather defied all predictions and we were extremely fortunate that we had absolutely no rain during the day all weekend long! The weather was cool enough for coats if you wanted, but they weren't needed most of the time.

As is usual in the Deep South Region, shooting started on Friday around noon with Individuals. We ended the weekend with 20 individual entrants. Jim Wood pulled double-duty selling targets and scoring them. Bruce Stevens and our newest member, Mark Hubbs patrolled the line as safety officers. When everyone had had their fill of smoke, we closed the range for the evening.

Saturday morning Tracy Stevens opened up the Snack Shack with All-You-Can-Eat Flapjacks, with sausages and coffee and sodas available as well. It's hard to roll old rebels out of the sack, and as seven-thirty rolled around I was getting a touch nervous about turnout for the revolver match, but in short order we had 5 teams formed up and ready to go. The "Can't Miss 'Em" Revolver Match has become a Deep South Regional tradition over the last few years. For this event, all targets are shot at 15 yards! This has really done wonders for participation in the Revolver Matches, which had all but withered on the vine before we started the new format. It's a lot of fun for both the shooters and the spectators when the horn sounds and the targets on 5 frames explode almost simultaneously from the onslaught! At the end of the spectacle the Forrest Escort took first place, followed by the 44th Georgia in second, with the 4th Louisiana bringing home 3rd.

After the Revolver match, the host team quickly re-set the field for Individual shooting, which proceeded until just after noon. As the Individual matches were wrapping up, Bob Kelley was generating a tastier kind of smoke with his grill as he grilled up burgers and hotdogs for lunch.

Because the weather forecasts were so ominous for Sunday, the Skirmish Director made the decision to have Opening Ceremonies on Saturday before the team events got underway, so that we would not have to stand in the rain or skip them on Sunday. Hoot Gibson lead the invocation, which was followed by announcements, and then the ceremonies were concluded.



Next up was the Carbine match. Five teams took up their positions in two relays. We had a slight hiccup when it was discovered that the lids did not fit the Styrofoam cups, so we abandoned that relay. Fortunately we were able to sort out the cups and lids issue in time for the rest of the weekend's events. When all was said and done the Forrest Escort took first place, followed by the 14th Mississippi in second place, and the 44th Georgia bringing up the rear in third place.

After a brief interlude with teams helping clean up the debris from the Carbine Match, and getting all the frames set up on the 50 yard line, the Smoothbore match commenced. After the smoke cleared, the Forrest Escort held the lead, followed by the 44th Georgia in second, with the 14th Mississippi taking third.

After everything was squared away from the day's shooting, the spread was laid out for the Fourth Louisiana's famous potluck dinner! We had our usual giant pot of Jambalaya, and Bob Kelley's famous pulled pork, combined with lots of other dishes the 4th LA team members had brought for the occasion. Southern green beans, cherry-blueberry cobbler, and more deserts than you could shake a stick at! I had four helpings and never even made it to dessert!

During the afternoon we had been selling raffle tickets for a 50/50 contest, where the winner takes half the prize and the host team takes the other half, and for a bullet mold donated by Eras Gone Bullet

Molds. We held the drawing during dinner. Bob Kelley won the 50/50 raffle, pocketing himself \$31, and park visitor won the bullet mold. Having no use for a bullet mold, he sold it to Bob for \$20, so both winners went home with more money than they started with and a bullet mold besides!

Sunday morning we got straight to shooting since we had dispensed with the opening ceremonies on Saturday. The weather forecast was calling for about a 60% chance of rain by 7am, and that went to about 85% by noon, so we were eager to get the shooting done and everyone on their way home before the deluge commenced. But, as it turned out, despite the dark skies no rain fell on us, even during cleanup!

We had six teams on the line for the musket match. As usual, the Forrest Escort came out on top, followed by the 14th Mississippi, followed by the 44th Georgia. There was less than a second's time difference between second and third place!

The next skirmish will be hosted by the 20th Georgia, March 15-17, at Brierfield.





Team Event Results

	Smoothbore	Carbine	Musket	Revolver
1 st	Forrest Escort	Forrest Escort	Forrest Escort	Forrest Escort
2 nd	44 th Georgia	14 th Mississippi	14 th Mississippi	44 th Georgia
3 rd	14 th Mississippi	44 th Georgia	44 th Georgia	4 th Louisiana

Individual Event Results

Revolver	25 Yard		50 Yard		Aggregate	
1 st	Charlie Bondurant	40	Charlie Bondurant	33	Charlie Bondurant	73
2 nd	Jim Koch	35			Jim Koch	35

Smoothbore	25 Yard		50 Yard		Aggregate	
1 st	Lannie Harrison	44X	Charlie Bondurant	45X	Charlie Bondurant	89X
2 nd	Charlie Bondurant	44	Lannie Harrison	44	Lannie Harrison	88X
3 rd	John Hamilton	42	Larry Kershner	32	Larry Kershner	67

Carbine	50 Yard		100 Yard		Aggregate	
1 st	John Hamilton	45	Eddie Lawley	40	Charlie Bondurant	76
2 nd	Jim Koch	42	Charlie Bondurant	36	Jim Koch	74
3 rd	Charlie Bondurant	40	Jim Koch	32	Eddie Lawley	40

Musket	50 Yard		100 Yard		Aggregate	
1 st	Charlie Bondurant	46	Jim Koch	46	Jim Koch	88
2 nd	Jim Koch	42	Larry Kershner	42	Charlie Bondurant	87
3 rd	Larry Kershner	38	Charlie Bondurant	41	Larry Kershner	80

Musket / Carbine Agg		
1 st	Charlie Bondurant	163
2 nd	Jim Koch	162

Breechloader	50 Yard		100 Yard		Aggregate	
1 st	Charlie Bondurant	43XX	Charlie Bondurant	45	Charlie Bondurant	88XX

Grand Agg		
1 st	Charlie Bondurant	236