Ashe County Wildlife Club Hosted National Shooting Competition in October Attracting 48 Shooters from 10 States.   
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The Ashe County Wildlife Club hosted the International Benchrest Shooting (IBS) 100 & 200 Yard Nationals on October 27-28. Forty-eight shooters from 10 states spent two days in Ashe County staying in our cabins and motels, and eating in our restaurants. The Ashe County Wildlife Club has hosted a Nationals event in IBS Shooting several times over the last few years. The tourney was held at the Club House at 3220 Big Peak Creek Road, Laurel Springs. There are 30 shooting benches looking down a 300-yard long rifle range.

“We had shooters from as far away as Maine, New York and Florida attending this year,” said Steve Eller, IBS chair for the Club. “We see a lot of these shooters regularly, even though it may mean a two-day drive for them to reach us. What we do for them that few other clubs do is prepare breakfast and lunch. This year our Club member cooks prepared barbecue pork one day and a low country shrimp boil the next day. All of that is included with the registration price. These shooters tell us that when they make a decision about which events to attend, they often choose Ashe County because of the good food we provide.”

It was a challenging weekend for the shooters as gusty winds in Ashe County made accurate shooting difficult. Benchrest rifles are high-powered, bolt action custom-made rifles with high-powered scopes. The shooter has 10 minutes to shoot single shots at pin-point size bulls-eyes on paper targets mounted 100 and 200 yards downrange. The shooter who gets closest to the bulls-eye over several rounds wins. It is a sport combining skills in lining up telescopic sights, deftly squeezing the trigger, loading just the right amount of powder in each custom-made cartridge, and reading the wind conditions.

The overall winners counting scores for both 100 and 200 yards were: Brud Sheets, Richard Sissel, John Cascarino and Wayne France, all from out of Ashe County. The highest ranking Ashe County residents in the completion were Jerry Powers at 19th place and Swader Miller at 20th place. Other Ashe County shooters participating in the Nationals were Jimmy Thompson, Steve Eller, Jerry Seaman, and E.T. Weaver.

The Ashe County Wildlife Club has rifle, shotgun and pistol ranges in eastern Ashe County, about 12 miles from West Jefferson. It has a clubhouse with indoor bathrooms with a covered shooting rage of 30 benches looking down a 300-yard rifle range. The pistol range and 5-Stand, Pyramid Trap, and Skeet Fields are also nearby. Membership is $175 per year for the first year and $125 for each subsequent year. National Rifle Association membership is required. See [www.acwlc.org](http://www.acwlc.org) for more details, or check our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/178190332358070/>).