



BAKER Products

Sawyer
Bryan Martin

Tailman
Clay Hedrick

Log Scale
358

Sawing Time
39 min. 53 sec.

BF/HR
554

Net Yield
368

Percent Scale
103%

Percent Overrun
3%

Baker 18HD

THE WEATHER MAY have kept some people indoors, but like most participants, Bryan Martin and Clay Hedrick of Baker took the rain and mud in stride. Clay shrugged it off saying, “When you’re out working around mills, it’s rare that you’re ever in a perfect environment.” And while he concedes that the mud might have slowed him down a little, he did not have any issues with the Baker 18HD or the edger. Clay’s job as tailman was to keep the outfeed table clear so that Bryan could keep the blade in the wood.

Bryan has the distinction of having participated in every Shoot-Out since its beginning. The Baker 18HD mill has also been a Shoot-Out regular. “The basic machine has been around for 17 years,” says Clay. While it has undergone few changes during this time, the optional hydraulic assistance is a new feature. As “research and development technician,” Bryan has plenty of firsthand experience with the mill. “It’s a pretty slick new

mill design,” he says.

The 20-hp Honda engine takes on the additional tasks of moving the carriage through the log, and adjusting the carriage height for the thickness of the boards. Although he still had to walk down the log with the carriage, Bryan found that the addition of a hydraulic drive made a big difference. “You don’t get as tired. It does a lot of the work for you. It’s probably the best Shoot-Out on a Model 18 I’ve ever done,” he added.

Of course, the power options still gave the team plenty of exercise. The elevated log deck helped, but they still had to roll the logs onto the mill, turn the logs, and clamp them down by hand. “It took both of us to handle the larger logs,” says Bryan, “but I took care of the smaller ones to give Clay a chance to catch up.” For his part, Clay recalled, “I didn’t have to look for anything to do.” While the largest—12-foot-long, 16-inch-diameter—yellow poplar log taxed the strength of Bryan and Clay, they did-

n't come close to the mill's maximum capacity of 30-inch diameter by 20-feet long.

The increase in production made it that much harder for Clay to keep up with the off-bearing, stacking slabs and lumber, and running the edger. "I'm a desk jockey in the sales department," Clay explained. "I don't run the mill on a regular basis, but sometimes I do bring a mill home to use." The two have demonstrated mills at previous Shoot-Outs, but they had never worked together as a team. "I felt like we worked well together, and got some good comments from the crowd," Clay recalled.

According to Bryan, the machine is quick to learn and easy to use. He cautions, however, that "there is a difference between sawing wood and being a sawyer." One example of this difference was in noticing the

stress in the wood and sawing around it. He recalls noticing the boards starting to curl up from stress as he cut them. "When you see that, you've got to keep turning the cant to keep it straight. Otherwise, the cant bows and you wind up with

"There is a difference between sawing wood and being a sawyer." — Bryan Martin

boards that are thick or thin in the middle." In spite of Bryan's attention to the stress, the team wound up with one board that was just a hair thicker than the gauge allowed, losing 7 board feet from the tally.

Finally, Bryan is a firm believer in the value of an edger for any production-oriented mill. "The edger increases production by about 25% to 35% with two people," he claimed. The 18HD finished the job in 39 minutes,

53 seconds, proving a solid cutting rate of 554 board feet per hour (discounting the miscut board). The lumber recovery factor was 3% above the log scale; however, the debarker had cut deeply into some of the logs, and no doubt chewed into some of

the wood that could have been converted to lumber.

The Baker team enjoyed showing the sawmills in spite of the weather. As Clay put it, "We've always enjoyed the Shoot-Outs. We like the opportunity to get out and show our product. You always look back at how you could have set it up a little different, but you never know. We got some good comments when we were done." ■