

MATCH POINTS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MAGNOLIA PRACTICAL SHOOTERS

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Superbowl Sunday

The February match was held on a day that the vast majority of the population spends watching football and looking for “wardrobe malfunctions.” Bah! **It ain't a sport unless it involves burning gunpowder!**

What was indeed “Super” about this day was the glorious weather, and the fact that Big John decided to try a little experiment and run **five stages** with three squads, utilizing the East 25 yard berm for the extra stage. Not surprisingly, it worked really well, as we finished five stages in the time it usually takes to finish four.

Twenty-six competitors showed up and every division was represented. As usual, Limited had the largest turnout, with L-10 second. Production and Open were equally represented, and as usual, one lone holdout for Revolver. One squad finished ahead of everyone else, but it was composed of all experienced shooters, where the other two each had some newcomers.

Speaking of newcomers, we want to welcome Steven Walters and the father-son duo of Matt and Tim Fitzpatrick – all shooters of the mighty .45 single-stack. We also want to welcome back former-first-timer William Klein. We had some old hands show up that had almost been gone long enough to qualify as newcomers, as Richard (Redbeard) Pittman and Greg (Boss Hawg) McDade made their first appearance in several months. They were understandably a trifle rusty, or as some would say corroded.

Stage One was a 37 round field course aptly titled **Barrel Racer** as most of the targets were either behind or surrounded by barrels. That made for some exciting moments as some shooters hit the barrels and everyone was treated the sounds of bullets zipping around the inside. There were several ways to shoot this stage and the trick seemed to be making sure that you didn't forget and blow past any of the partially hidden targets. El Presidente, Big John, put this one in and it was well worth the effort.

We didn't notice any "wardrobe malfunctions," but at least one open shooter forgot to turn the "dot" on, and "used the Force" for most of this stage.

Stage Two, Tight Squeeze, was not as bad as the name implied. The only tight shots were those taken through the opening in the barricade. I don't know if you would call this one a field course or speed shoot, but in either case it was fun to shoot.

Stage Three, On the Move, was a 16 round classifier that some shot well and others bit down on a big bullet. Notably, Redbeard Pittman, came close to qualifying for the monkey and the football award, but actually he should be commended for his perseverance. As he began shooting his first string, a case head separated leaving a portion of the fired case in the chamber. Most of us would have just stopped at that point and taken the penalties for misses and failures to engage. Instead, Richard took out his pocket knife, dug the portion of the case out of the barrel, reloaded and finished his string. Needless to say, he finished BNL on that stage, but he still gets an Atta-boy for sportsmanship and creativity.

Stage Four, Haul Butt, was a real run and gun field course of 26 rounds. With a starting position in the center of the stage, there was no way to shoot it without retracing your steps and going back and forth. In Pat's squad, most elected to shoot everything available in the center, move to left to take those targets and then sprint for the right side to finish up.

Stage Five, Shooting the Star, was Pat's personal favorite. "Not just because as a revolver shooter I feel more on a even plain with everyone else, but because I just like to shoot that star." Speed was the order of the day in this stage and several shooters turned in sub-6 second times. By far the quickest though was Bud da bomber Berthold. Shooting his open gun he dropped one point as he posted a blistering 4.32 seconds on this stage. In Limited, Bob (Lightning) Konrady lived up to his name with a perfect score in 5.58 seconds. This by the way shooting his trusty Tupperware Glock. Our resident GM Bryant (Burner) Chaffin was slightly faster at 5.28, but dropped four points on the paper and had to settle for second on this stage. Several shooters took some longer than usual times on this stage as they succumbed to what Pat calls chasing the steel, and Mike doesn't mention because he succumbed to it himself. As the plates on the star begin to move, the safest thing is to wait for them to come to you. It may seem like you are wasting time, but not as much as chasing and missing those plates as they swing back and forth. The same principle applies to activated swinging targets. Pick a spot and wait for the target to come to you. Time spent waiting is time and misses saved.

Next month's match will be March 7th, the day after the Magnolia R & P annual meeting. As in the past, each of the shooting disciplines will be putting on a demo for the members to try and show folks what they are missing and hopefully recruit some new competitors. The IPSC stages will need to be set up Saturday morning and we will also need to help clean out the building in case of inclement weather and the meeting needs to be held inside. If you are free, come out and give us a hand.

Until next month, If you are clear, hammer down and holster.