

MATCH POINTS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MAGNOLIA PRACTICAL SHOOTERS

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Spring Has Sprung

Spring has once again sprung forth and with it a new crop of IPSC shooters has begun to grow. The challenge for us all is to nurture and care for these shooters so that they will continue to participate in our sport as the years progress. Some of these shooters are the result of the Magnolia Rifle & Pistol Club's annual meeting which was held the day before our match. Many thanks go out to John Heiter, Matt Moorer, Robbie Landry, Pat DeBerry, Bryant Chaffin, Jeff Carey, Bud Berthold and the Magnolia R & P for setting up and running the two demo stages before and after the meeting to allow newcomers to get out and try their hand at IPSC style shooting. I can't say for sure how many new shooters this will produce but there seemed to be a lot of interest. Several individuals tried the stages with their own pistols, but many used the guns and ammo supplied by the individuals mentioned above. Stage One, a pure steel speed shoot seemed to be the most popular, since there was a visible reaction to shots fired, but at the same time it appeared to be the most intimidating. Part of this was due to the fact that many of the "staff" were shooting it beforehand in an attempt to show people how it was done and I heard more than one person say that they weren't going to get out there and embarrass themselves after seeing Ms. Amanda Moorer, the current MS Junior Champion in Limited, blaze through the course. On the other hand, more than a few were willing to try based on the "if that little girl can do it, so can I" attitude. Unfortunately, most were wrong in that assessment. Stage Two was a simple field course with five paper targets set up behind barrels in such a manner that it was necessary to move down the course to see them, but at the same time, they were set up to avoid any 180 traps. This was a good course for the ego after Stage One, since the targets were all open without No-shoots or

hard cover and everyone could get all their hits. Again, thanks to all of those who helped setup and run these stages and provide guns, gear and ammo for the new shooters. If I have left anyone out, my apologies in advance. Now to the good stuff.

Sunday was supposed to be a repeat of Saturday weather-wise, but it stayed just a little on the chilly side until just before we finished the match. Nevertheless, we had 37 shooters come out to try their luck and skill against some pretty challenging stages. Some folks even remarked that a couple of these were State match quality. I go along with that.

Stage One, High-Low came from the demented mind of the midget Bill Cheney. This was a 30 round field course that had targets behind barrels down low, a swinger activated by steel, targets high behind barrels and finished with five steel poppers that had to be engaged through a port that was basically the space under one of the walls, necessitating everyone to go prone to see them. For some of the larger shooters this was not real popular, and hence neither was Bill. Good stage and challenging despite what the fat boys said. For those shooting anything but a wheel-gun times under 20 seconds were good.

Stage Two, Downantadaright, was a stage that we have fired here in the past that came from the imagination of Bud “da bomber” Berthold. Another field course of 34 rounds, this one had you moving and shooting with multiple presentations of targets from different points in the course of fire. No steel, so there was no reason for extra shots, but that didn’t stop anyone from firing a few extra, particularly at the end for those behind the barrels. Again, for most anything under 20 seconds was good time.

At this point I should point out that when I say times under 20 seconds were good, that is assuming all hits made and no misses or no-shoots.

Stage Three, Madness, was just that. A 14 round Virginia Count classifier, that caused more than one shooter to go into brief fits of madness. Seven targets interspersed with No-shoots that got progressively tighter as you got toward the middle and then opened up again toward the end. One shot on each and a mandatory reload and that was enough to throw anyone off their rhythm. Many an old hand tried to slow down and make sure of the hits at the start only to abandon that and “turn and burn” after the reload. Most were better off with the “turn and burn” approach.

Stage Four, Step in It, came from Pat DeBerry as modified by the Team Magnolia design committee. This was a 19 round Comstock stage with four poppers, one of which activated a clamshell paper target, four paper targets and the dreaded Texas Star. There were a couple of ways to shoot this one, and I can’t say which was better, since I only got to observe my squad and we all went the same way. Some took the star first and then came across the steel finishing on the paper and other went for steel first, then

paper and then went back to finish on the star. Anyway you did it had it's advantages and disadvantages. Most chose to go with the steel, paper and then the star so that they could reload and go into the star with full magazines.

Stage Five, Forget About It, was a 21 round Comstock put together by "da bomber". Unfortunately, due to lapses in the recording of times by all three squads, it had to be thrown out, since there was no way to go back and have those whose times were not put down to re-shoot it. As John "El Presidente" said in his e-mail to everyone this is a shame, because there were some really good time on this that might have made a difference in overall finish, but it is not fair to penalize those whose time was not recorded. Attention to Detail folks. This hurts us all. If you are on the clipboard or the timer, GIT UR DUN!

OK, before I go into who shot John, or who won what as the case may be, lets welcome all our new shooters. In Limited we had Brad Phillips, Joe Heath, and Jimmy Walker. Royal 'Bulldawg' Catchings was back after a two year layoff, so I guess he qualifies, and Bob Gilfoy, not new to USPSA, but new to Team Magnolia. In Limited-10, we had a huge crop of new shooters. David Donovan, Jeremy Keen, Steven Walters, Justin Bartlett, Matt Fitzpatrick, Mike Walters and Michael Fitzpatrick all were out shooting their first or in a couple of cases second IPSC match with Team Magnolia. In Production we had Brett Burkhalter and Adam Salters as well as returnees William Klein from down in Cajun country and Sean Walsh another local boy. Mark 'Man Mountain' Young is back with us from down in Poplarville still shooting in Open, sometimes known as the "Dark Side". Unfortunately, once again the seeds sown to try and harvest another revolver shooter have fallen on rocky ground, but hope springs eternal.

Now for the results. In Limited, once again Bryant "the burner" Chaffin dominated to win High Overall. Robert 'Lightning' Konrady was second and first A Class still shooting that Tupperware .45. Jeff "Michelin Man" Carey was third and second A Class. Those two misses on Stage Two hurt him bad. Tommy "Dead-eye Doc" Cabell was fourth and third A Class. Once he gets the feel of that new hi-cap, lookout! Leighton "Big Un" Dillard was fifth overall and 1st B shooting his newly acquired Limited gun as he gets back into the swing. Matt 'woodbutcher' Moorner was less than one 1 % behind to take sixth overall and 2nd B Class. Attaboy to Brad Phillips for his seventh overall and first Unclassified finish. Look out guys he's a shooter! Bob Gilfoy and John Heiter were 8th and 9th to finish out the b Class. Bill 'the midget' Cheney rounded out the top ten and took 1st C Class. Amanda Moorner, Howard Adams and Dianna Moorner rounded out C Class. Melissa DeBerry took the D Class win. Joe Heath, Royal Catchings, Brandon Moorner and Jimmy Walker completed the unclassified.

All our L-10 competitors were Unclassified and David Donovan was the top dog. He

dominated throughout the match, winning four of the five stages (including the one that was thrown out). Jeremy Keen was second overall and won the only stage that Donovan didn't. Steven Walters was third overall, with Justin Bartlett, Matt Fitzpatrick, Mike Walters and Michael Fitzpatrick finishing in that order.

In Production, Jim "the little fat guy" Davis took the High Overall with Robbie "Resident Coon-Ass" Landry taking second and 1st C Class. Brett Burkhalter was High Unclassified with William Klein, Richard Booth, Sean Walsh and Adam Saulters finishing the field.

Open Division (the Dark Side) only had three shooters this month, with Bud "da bomber" Berthold our current MS State Champion, taking the High Overall. Mark Young was second and 1st C Class with "Happy Jack" Harrington our resident super gimp third overall and 2nd C Class. Lest anyone think I am being less than politically correct when I refer to Jack as super gimp, that is a term he coined for himself. In his own words, "When that buzzer goes off, I turn in to Super Gimp." Having watched and shot with Jack since he started in IPSC competition, I can say that this is a true statement. He may be old, going bald and getting fat, like some of the rest of us, but when that timer beeps, he moves like lightning and his gun sounds like thunder. He is and should be an inspiration to some of the new shooters. If he can do it, there is no reason they can't. If we could just get him to quit burning those nasty cigars of his during the match.

That's about it for this month. Next month Mike will be back with more sedentary commentary since he is a nicer guy than I am. Unfortunately he had prior commitments this month and you will have to settle for my prose this time. The next shooters meeting to decide on stages for the April Match will be March 30th at a location to be determined by El Presidente. If you want to have a say in what we shoot, draw one up and bring it to the meeting, otherwise live with it.

Later this month several of the Team Magnolia shooters are headed off to Texas to try their luck and skills at The Double Tap Championship in Waco, Texas. Good Luck to them all.

There was no Monkey and the Football Award this month, since there weren't any candidates observed, of course we had only one observer. However, beware all of you including new shooters. Next month everyone is on the block and who knows what may happen.

If you are clear, Hammer Down and Holster. Range Clear!