

MATCH POINTS

Official newsletter of the Magnolia Practical Shooters Club

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SEASON'S GREETINGS AT THE END OF THE YEAR AND THE START OF A NEW ONE.

As we start the New Year, I apologize for being so remiss with the newsletter over the last four months. Between getting ready for the 2005 State Match, and personal difficulties, (which we will not go into as they should not have interfered) I have fallen down on the job of getting the newsletter out each month. I will try to do better in the future. (But don't hold me to that.) A lot has happened over the last few months and I will try to re-cap it here for those of you who might have missed a couple of the matches.

September was a great match to tune up for the state match if you were in to tight shots and small plates. The Texas Star raised hob with many shooters and those little plates were great for putting a damper on anyone's over confidence factor. Naturally, most of the stages were the product of the evil mind of Robbie "Crack Boy" Landry and Bryant "the Burner" Chaffin. Needless to say though it was a great match with 31 shooters showing up to burn some powder and bust some caps.

We'll skip over the state match for now and get to it later. As Big John said on the web page, November is usually a let down from the state match, but not this year. We had 31 shooters out for the November match and it was a good one. As usual, Bryant smoked the competition in Limited, and Bud 'da bomber' Berthold was the man in Open. Robbie Landry managed to ace out Paul Crechale by a bare 1.35% to take Limited-10, and Jim Davis eased past Cliff Cargill by a slim .15% in Production. Lo and behold after Pat 'Bwana' DeBerry retired Betsy from Revolver competition, who should show up but Glenn Whitfield with a six-shooter to take Revolver. When Bwana commented to Glenn that he was surprised to see a wheel-gunner besides himself out there, Glenn replied, "I heard you were scared of competition." That hurt to the quick. With the gauntlet thrown down, there is no choice but to reply. Come January 1, 2006 there will be "Betsy" back out again to answer the challenge. I just

hope Betsy doesn't end up sucking bad gas on the smelly end of the stick, if you know what I mean.

November 20 was a great day at Magnolia as we had our final 3-Gun match of the year and it was a good one. The turnout was not as good as we would have expected, with the weather forecast keeping all but 12 at home, but the weatherman was wrong again. Unfortunately, we did not get to see anyone "Amandarize" a prop, but we did get to watch Sean Walch's slug reloads float downrange, sometimes even reaching the target before they hit the ground. We also got to discuss and bet on who had the most tricked out Open rifle. The consensus was that Sean Walsh was a contender, but no one could touch "Smiling Jack" Harrington with his bipod, multiple sights and other gizmos.

December's match was about what you would expect at the end of the year as everyone's thoughts turn to Christmas and the hell on earth of shopping for presents at the malls. The weather forecast was once again a factor in the low turnout, but as usual the weather persons were wrong. Without "Burner" Chaffin (hereafter to be known as a wuss for letting the weather keep him home) Jeff Carey pulled out a win over tight competition from Mark Young, Cliff Cargill and "Dead-Eye Doc" Cabell. All three were less than 3% behind him. Mark finally left the 'dark-side' to shoot Limited and Cliff didn't want to shoot Production without the Cajun boys from down south the go against.

Robbie "Crack-Boy" Landry continues to dominate in Limited-10 as he aced out Frank Farmer for the overall by almost 9%. However, this was Frank's first match since back in July.

Open was a small turnout with just Bud "da bomber" Berthold and "Happy Jack" Harrington competing on the dark-side. Bud got the win, but Jack didn't give it to him for free.

Production and Revolver had just one shooter each with Jordan Walsh and Glenn Whitfield getting the wins.

2005 MISSISSIPPI CLASSIC

Although the turnout was not up to previous years, this was one of the best championships we have held at Magnolia. What with Hurricane Katrina playing havoc with the Gulf Coast and Louisiana, we lost some shooters that would normally have been here, but even so we still had 120 competitors out giving it their best on some challenging stages. Unfortunately, we only had one Team Magnolia member get a state champion's plaque, but several others finished in the money and got some "wood" to take home and hang on the wall.

With the cooperation of the weather, (something new and unusual) we were able to shoot the entire match on Saturday and thus on Sunday we got an early start

on passing out trophies and checks to the winners and also getting the prize table raffle going. As I mentioned earlier, Katrina played havoc with many of the shooters from Louisiana, and one of the hardest hit was Tom Duchman and his wife Ramona. Tom pretty much lost all he had in his shop and their home did not fare much better. The match staff decided it might be a nice idea to set up something for donations for them and so we had a bucket outside the stat office for people to contribute. That was nothing compared to what occurred on Sunday. When the first winner was announced and came forward to get his trophy and check, he turned to John and said "Tom and Ramona need this more than I do." He turned and handed the check back to the match treasurer. After that, it was a continuous stream of checks coming back. Over 90% of the checks handed out to the competitors came right back in. As more and more competitors made their gifts, the number of dry eyes in the crowd decreased. It was something that we can all be proud of. As match treasurer, I hate to write any check that isn't for the winners, but when it was all over and I wrote the check for Tom and Ramona, it really felt good.

2006 started off with a bang for 16 of us, the rest of the wimps stayed home and nursed their hangovers. A big thank you goes out to Matt Moorner, Cliff Cargill, Jeff Carey and all the rest who showed up, set-up and then stayed to help tear down.

Open Division had only one shooter, so Amanda didn't get to embarrass any of the other members of the "dark side" as she cruised through the stages with no apparent problems.

Limited was where all the action was this month as 13 competitors fought for first place. Jeff "Michelin Man" Carey was the man again this month as he won two of the stages and took the High Overall. He did not get it on cruise control though. Cliff Cargill had his groove on and was only .12% behind to take 2nd and 1st Master. The difference between the two was less than one match point. Robbie "Crack-Boy" Landry wasn't giving them any slack as he took 3rd overall and 1st C Class. Matt "Woodbutcher" Moorner made the best run on Stage One with the dreaded Texas Star, but it wasn't enough to get him better than 4th Overall and 1st B Class. After Matt the gap widened as everyone else struggled just to complete the match.

Last, but not least, we have Revolver Division. Glenn Whitfield and "Bwana" Pat went head to head for the first time and Glenn claimed the win. Their squad started on Stage Four and Bwana took a slim lead on the opening stage. Glenn came right back on Five and jumped ahead. When they moved to Stage one with the star, Bwana should have been able to get the lead back, but he foolishly gave himself the 'kiss-o-death' by opening his big mouth and saying, "You know, I have never had to reload on the star." The words were not out of his mouth good before he realized his incredible stupidity. Three reloads later, the last plate on the star fell to the ground. Glenn took a big lead and never looked back. All the Bwana could do was try in vain to catch up. An important lesson to be

learned here. Never let your alligator mouth overload your mockingbird butt. The shooting gods are always listening and waiting for a chance to make you humble.

For those who haven't heard, the 2006 Mississippi Classic is scheduled for May 19-21. This is to avoid conflicts with the Nationals and some of the other sectional championships. Put those Stage design caps on and start thinking of some new stages for us to use. We want this one to be another great match for people to enjoy.

There is one bit of bad news to report. Tommy Cabell's father passed away this week and services were held on Saturday the 7th of January. I know everyone at Team Magnolia sends their condolences to Tommy and his family.

That pretty much wraps up the news for this quarter. Our next match will be February 6th, so start practicing and get ready. Range is Clear!



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