

Match Points

- The TeamMagnolia Newsletter -

Sunday, October 4th, 2009



October's monthly match started out much like September's with rain again. I had gotten home about 1AM from alligator hunting and still had the alligator, all, 6ft 2 in, on ice in the cooler in the bed of the truck. You won't even see an alligator at the Gator Classic later this month, but you never know what you're going to find at one of our matches.

I rolled over about 5AM and checked my Blackberry for an updated Accuweather radar picture and what I saw looked terrible with all of the rain north of Interstate 20 and lots more rain headed our way from Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas. Steven and I headed out, leaving Phillip, aka Home Alone in the bed, either dreaming of sugar plums or planning some devious booby trap for us when we returned. Leaving Brandon and before Pearl, we ran into a wall of water pouring out of the sky, which is when I sent the Match Director John Heiter, a text with my proxy, to vote on my behalf that we not set up and shoot in the coming monsoon although I was headed that way hoping Mike Gilbreath had remembered the donuts, I mean Power Rings.

John Heiter had six stages planned for the match, but we discovered early Saturday morning that there was a Muzzleloader Competition Match on the East 50 and 100 meter ranges, so we had planned to nix the 6th stage and run with 5 until the morning radar showed thunderstorms swirling just north of the range. After gathering under the 25 yard range canopy to visit, a decision was made by all to forget the planned match and to have an Unplanned Freestyle Match which consisted of 3 steel target arrays on the 25 yard range and a classifier shot from the 50/100 range into the side wing berm that consisted of the shooting box being under the covered portion of the shed because a few shooters needed to get classified for the upcoming Gator Classic in Thibodaux, LA.

In preparation for the upcoming ICORE Cup Cliff Cargill and I decided to shoot our new Smith & Wesson Model 627 .38 Super 8-shot Revolvers which should have been in Limited 10, but ended up in Revolver due to the lack of sign up, match fees, and score sheets that were kept on the back of targets. So, those in Revolver would have placed higher, it was just a Fun Match and Heiter thinks anything with a cylinder instead of a magazine is like a Rubik's cube, difficult to understand.

Bryant Chaffin was fresh back from Las Vegas and the USPSA Nationals where Chaffin placed 25th out of 231 Limited competitors, and Rodney May placed 16th out of 91 competitors in Limited 10 and 17th out of 145 in Production Division. Congratulations to two of our very own local shooters for placing so well in national competition. I've shot at the Sin City Shooters range west of Las Vegas and like we discussed Sunday, the hardest thing to get used to there, is all of the ricochets, and the debris falling into the stage area whether it be rocks, fragments, and full diameter bullets, one of which landed in front of Bryant and skidded to a stop. His wife was also struck on the arm by a falling rock. They also do not stake down any targets, everything sits on top of the stone hard ground. There was also no rain there while the rest of the nation was covered in rainfall. Chaffin said the plan is to have it there again next year, so we should plan now to have a few more people there to represent Mississippi.

20 shooters showed up to start the October monthly USPSA match off, 5 shooters for Revolver, 6 shooters in Production Division, 4 shooters for Limited Division and Limited 10 Division, and 1 in Open Division. The 20 shooters were divided into 3 squads.

Stage 1 Peek-A-Boo No-Shoots was the classifier set up with 6 IPSC targets with 3 no-shoots clustered in 3 sets with a pair of targets on each side of a No-Shoot, upon the start signal you drew, fired one shot per target with a mandatory reload and fire one more shot per target. Stage 1 was shot in 7.14 seconds by Bud Berthold (Open), in 7.18 seconds by Robert Konrady (Limited), 7.75 seconds by Bryant Chaffin Limited 10, and in 9.05 seconds by

Kalyn Ulmer (Production). Hit Factor went to Robert Konrady at 7.5209 points per second (p/s), Bud Berthold with 7.2829 p/s, Bryant Chaffin with 7.2258 p/s, and Richard Pittman with 5.8386 p/s.

Stage 2 Plate Rack was a cumulative score of running the 5 plates on the plate rack four times with NO throw away times. The center plate was painted PINK and was designated the stop plate. Stage 2 was shot in 10.15 seconds by Robert Konrady (L), in 11.98 seconds by Bryant Chaffin (L-10), in 13.12 seconds by Bud Berthold (O), and in 15.74 seconds by Will Mullendore (Limited). Hit Factor went to Robert Konrady with 2.4631 p/s, to Bryant Chaffin with 2.0868 p/s, to bud Berthold with 1.9055 p/s, and to Will Mullendore with 1.5883 p/s.

Stage 3 Five Plates was exactly that, 5 twelve inch plates set atop the metal stalks in a random order and shot with a stop plate in the middle designated by orange flagging tied around the stalk. Five strings shot on the steel plates with a total cumulative time, with the slowest string time thrown out. Stage 3 was shot in 12.35 seconds by Bud Berthold (O), in 14.78 by Cliff Cargill (Revolver), in 15.25 seconds by Bryant Chaffin (L-10), and in 15.66 seconds by Robert Konrady). Hit Factor went to Bud Berthold at 2.0243 p/s, Cliff Cargill at 1.6915 p/s, to Bryant Chaffin at 1.6383 p/s, and to Robert Konrady at 1.5964 p/s.

Stage 4 Three Plates had 2 large rectangle plates that required two shots each and a 12 inch stop plate between the two rectangles. 5 strings shot on the steel plates with a total cumulative time, with the slowest string time thrown out. Stage 4 was shot in 7.86 seconds by Robert Konrady (L), in 8.41 seconds by Bryant Chaffin (L-10), in 8.47 seconds by Cliff Cargill (R) and in 8.51 seconds by Bud Berthold (O). Hit Factor went to Robert Konrady at 3.1807 p/s, Bryant Chaffin at 2.9727 p/s, Cliff Cargill at 2.9516 p/s, and Bud Berthold at 2.9377 p/s.

Afterwards we got all of the stage props, steel, and targets inside between rain showers, and Steven shot several hundred rounds of .22 Long Rifle through his Ruger 10/22 while Tommy Cabell, Bud Berthold, and I ran the .38 Super Revolver through its paces before packing up and meeting everyone at Mazzio's for lunch pizza buffet.

What almost turned into a rained out match was a salvaged Fun Match that worked out great for everyone. I knew if I had rolled back over and gone to sleep I would have missed a great time with a great group of shooters, glad I persevered and showed up. And Gilbreath did NOT bring the Power Rings... Don't forget that Cowboy Action is this Saturday, October 17 at Mendenhall off Peacemaker Road. the Gator Classic is scheduled for October 24 and 25th in Thibodaux, LA and at the ICORE Cup match this weekend, Barbara Thibodaux advised they had at least 180 of the 200 slots filled and they were planning to shut it down very soon. Mark your calendar, October 30-November 1 for the Memphis Charity match featuring a USPSA Revolver only match. Click here for additional details <http://www.memphis-ssa.com/mcc/mcc.htm>. I plan to shoot through on Friday, and then head east bound for Talladega Nights, for the Halloween party on Talladega Boulevard prior to the NASCAR Race on November 1. Take good notes, so IF I survive, I can write up another Matchpoints for November. And just remember, what happen in Dega, stays at Dega! I bet I might even find our former Matchpoints writer, ole Navin R. Johnson between the Prevost RV's and the helicopters, sipping on little umbrella drinks.

Range is Clear!

Sincerely,

Scott Womack

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