

River Bend tactical Shotgun Match January 31, 2010

Tactical Shotgun – We held our first ever match on the new bays, the first River Bend Tactical Shotgun Match. Although they are still closed for general membership use we will be using the new Action Complex for some matches to identify any items that need to be added to the punch list.

Tactical Shotgun is a component of 3-gun and in this case, we set up 5 shotgun only courses of fire. I will be trying to schedule an event like this on the 5th Saturday or Sunday of those months that have 5 weekends. The goal is to offer a few matches that we do not regularly see at River Bend.

Sunday was a great day for a match, warming from about 27 degrees in the morning to a balmy 45 degrees around 2 pm. 40 folks braved the elements and came out to break in the bays and see what this shotgun thing is all about. 40 folks at a first time match in 27 degree weather...I would call it a success!

So here is a short description of the courses of fire and some pictures to go with them.

On Stage 1 the shooter had to engage 4 slug targets and 12 clays. You had the option of taking all 4 slug targets from 100 yards or moving to 45 yards but the trade-off was that you could only see two of the targets from either forward position so you had to cross the entire bay to get the other two. The bold folks who knew what their guns did at 100 yards had no trouble with the 100 yard shots but even our most accomplished shooters threw a few “Mikes” down range.

Stage 2 was a speed shoot that I made a little more difficult by placing the targets, 7 clays and 2 steel plates, between 25 and 35 yards away from the shooting box. We had more than a few folks leave a plate or two standing due to under-choking.

Stage 3 was a corridor with openings between the walls and a port in the wall at the end. There were 8 clays, 8 plates, and 7 poppers two of which launched clays in the air when activated. Planning your reloads was critical on this stage as we saw a few folks run out of ammo before they could engage the flying clays.

Stage 4 was another speed shoot of sorts. There were 8 mini poppers on one side of the wall and 8 large poppers on the other. You started with an empty shotgun on a barrel and on the start signal had to load the shotgun and take all 16 targets transitioning to the other side of the wall after 8.

Stage 5 was a great design by Will Owensby with 5 clays at 15 yards and 4 slug targets at 50 yards. After clearing these 9 targets from a shooting box you had to move forward to boxes on either side of the bay where 3 mini-poppers were hidden behind walls in front of the box requiring both lefties and righties to shoot weak handed at one of the walls.

Overall I think it was a great match and we will certainly do another one!

Mark