The Cross Catskills Challenge

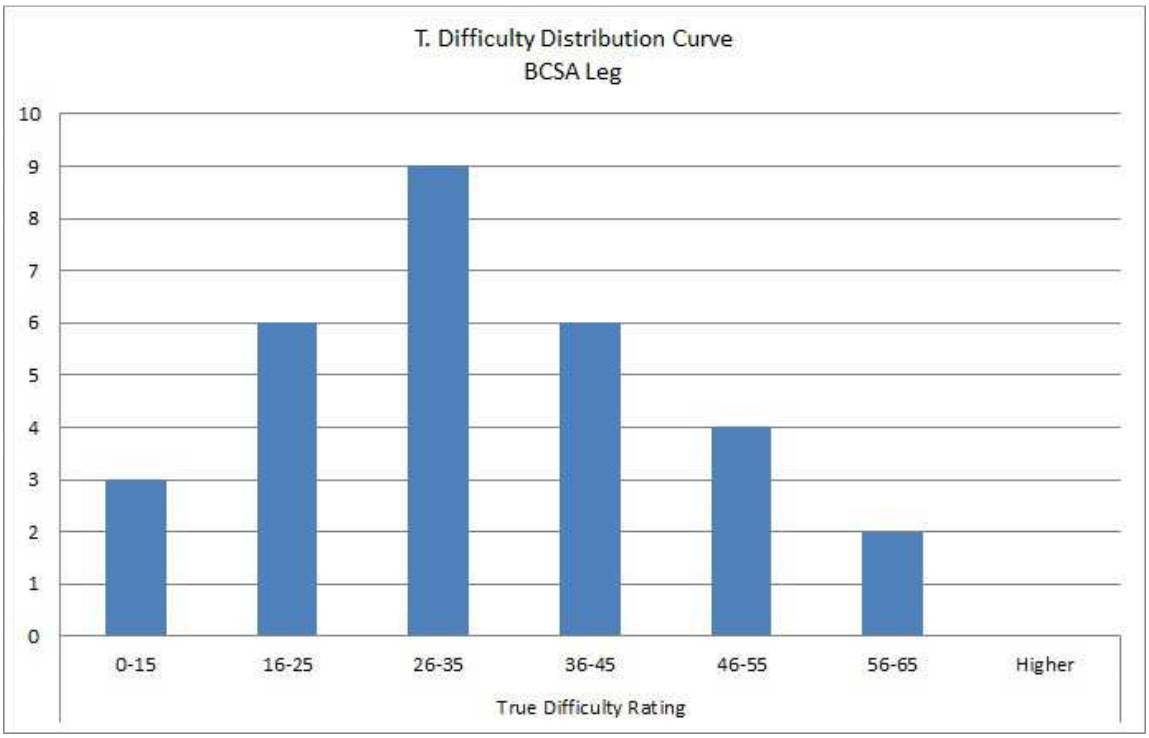
On August 3rd and 4th, the Broome County Sportsman's Association together with the Eastern Field Target Competitors Club, coordinated through the Minutemen League a dual venue Grand Prix Event that was named "The Cross-Catskills Challenge", in attention to the drive between Binghamton and Wappingers Falls. This shoot was sponsored in part by Pyramyd Air.

August 3rd was a beautiful day that saw us in Binghamton starting at 8:00 with registrations and sight in:

After an always too-short sighting & warm-up in time, we adjourned to the match range, which had already been completely laid out with all strings in order:

The first leg of this GP match presented its challenges, with some targets in deep darkness, some raised targets and some really long shots.

This match had a very balanced layout, a little towards the difficult/very difficult range, as can be seen:



Of great importance to us was the presence of the Junior shooters and the father & son teams.

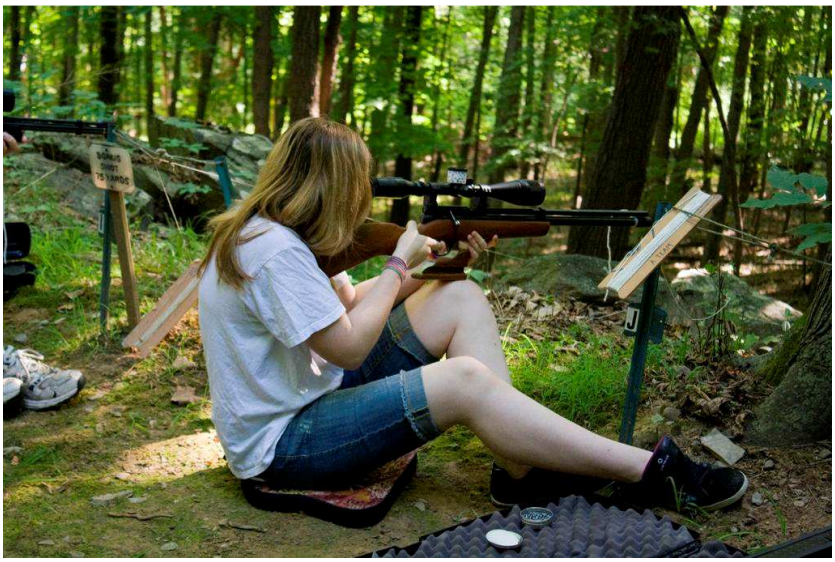
After the rifle match, we raffled off two of the eight prizes and after the BCSA awards were given, there was a pistol match, some used the pistol layout to practice the discipline shots.

Some then adjourned to the Roscoe Diner, which was about halfway in the drive between Binghamton and Wappingers Falls. Roscoe is an interesting town; purportedly housing the best Fly Fishing museum in the country.

Next day found some of us having an early morning breakfast at Perkins:

The Field had already been set, so we proceeded to registrations and sighting in:

And, again, the high water mark was presented by the Junior shooters and the Father& Son team:



To try to explain the difficulty encountered in this match with words is extremely hard, the light was VERY peculiar, even high end cameras were having problems capturing a crisp picture. Same scene, same time, different settings:

The forest was dark, the shooting line was very bright, and the targets were gray, very challenging conditions that do not get reflected in the T. Difficulty rating.

The Match was shot with one shot at each target, and then change of lane. Twice around so as to replicate, as much as possible the upcoming World's match style and conditions. It was a challenge to keep to the three minute/lane time but it was, indeed, good training for Germany.

There was one lane that was particularly challenging and that brought severe mutterings from a number of shooters, Yep! There are two targets in this wooden box hanging up in the air:

If we thought that the little bird up in the tree at Binghamton had been steep, this was three times as steep, as per my rifle's inclinometer.

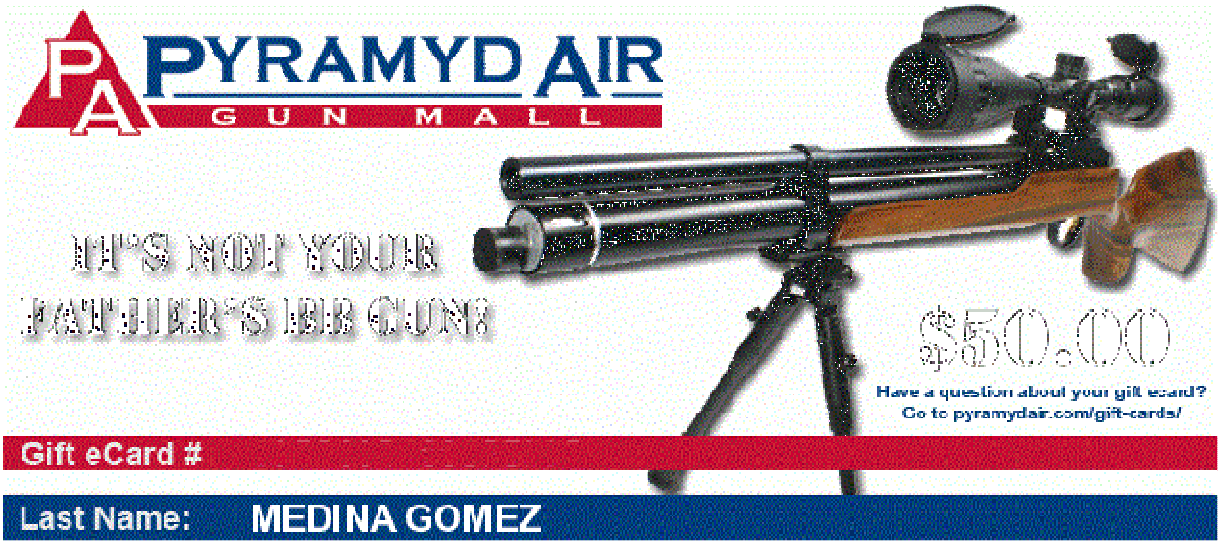
In the end, some got the targets, some didn't, I think we all accepted that the pucker factor was more impressive than the T Difficulty factor. Some shooters were traditional in their approach, like Veronika Ruf others were a little extreme:

In the end, we all had a lot of fun!

When all was said and done, while the statisticians were calculating scores and posting results, we held the raffle for the remaining 6 prizes.

¿What were those prizes?

$50 Gift cards, sponsored in part by Pyramyd Air:



It was very refreshing to see Pyramyd Air committed to the growth of Field Target as the "Formula One" of shooting sports. Pyramyd Air facilitated the purchase of 6 gift cards with the proceeds of the registrations, and added two more gift cards as a partial sponsorship towards this event. Thanks, Pyramyd!

Awards for the GP event had been decided as medals. It seems that no one really keeps the ribbons, plaques, paper certificates, cups, etc. But we thought that giving medals would allow shooters to make a medal board over the seasons and years. These are the medals, obviously (L-R): Gold, Silver and Bronze:

On the reverse there is a laser engraving detailing the Event, Division, Class and place won.

Nobody went home empty handed, the Clubs and the League recognized the effort and the sportsmanship displayed by all shooters over the two day grueling event:

While we were on the awards for EFTCC, suddenly the sky darkened, and I really mean DARKENED:

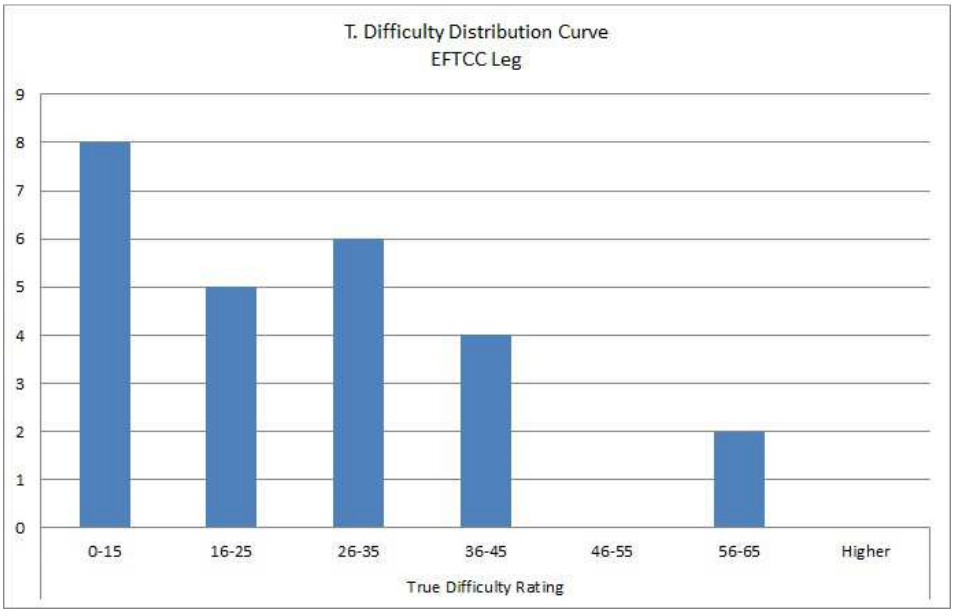
Drops started coming down and Sheriff Rain ran us out of Dodge! LOL.

The final scoreboard had to be rescued, but for the traditional photo of the scoreboard, here it is:

NAME		BCSA	EFTCC	
OPEN PCP				
HANS A.	3	46(2)	32	78
TOM. H.	1	47(1)	38	85
MATT S.	2	43(3)	39	82
NATHAN T.		29	34	63
OPEN PISTON				
LARRY B.	2	21(2)	22	43
DAVID F.	1	31(1)	32	63
WFTF PISTON				
ART D.	2	26(3)	26	52
HÉCTOR M.	1	41(1)	36	77
VERONIKA R.		26(2)	16	42
HUNTER PISTON				
PAUL. M.	1	32(1)	22	54

NAM		BCSA	EFTCC	
WFTF PCP				
RAY A.	2	48 (2)	44	92
TIM B.	corrected	33(3)	30	63
CODY T.	3	33	30	63
DAN B.	1	52(1)	43	95
HUNTER PCP				
BILL D.	2	46 (2)	34	80
ANDREW Mc.		17	11	28
SEAN Mc.		37	28	65
HAROLD S.	3	38(3)	30	68
GREG S.	1	47 (1)	34	81
GLENN T.		34	27	61
TOM W.		29	26	55
JIM W.		29	28	57
JUSTIN G.		22	18	40

This is the difficulty distribution curve, not too different from the BCSA one, as there are 12 targets at each match that lie between 26 and 65 of T. Difficulty:



Separating and ordering by Division and Class, these are the scores in clean form:

Cross Catskills Challenge.- An AAFTA Grand Prix event

Place	Name	Division/C	Street #	Rifle	Pellet	Scope	Mag	BCSA	EFTCC	Total	Medal
1	Greg Shirhall	Hunter PC	228	TM-1000	JSB 10.3	Bushnell	12X	47	34	81	Gold
2	Bill Day	Hunter PC	404	HW100S	JSB 10.3	Falcon T50	12X	46	34	80	Silver
3	Harold Schaefer	Hunter PC	22	GAMO Dynamax	Barr. Match 10.65	Hawke	12X	38	30	68	Bronze
4	Sean McDaniel	Hunter PC	8190	Marauder	JSB 10.3	Hawke	12X	37	28	65	
5	Jim Wilcox	Hunter PC	1524	Steyr LG-100	JSB 10.3	Hawke	12X	29	28	57	
6	Thomas Wade	Hunter PC	192	Marauder	C Premier 7.9	Bushnell	12X	29	26	55	
7	Andrew McDaniel	Hunter PC	8190	Marauder	JSB 10.3	Hawke	12X	17	11	28	

Place	Name	Division/C	Street #	Rifle	Pellet	Scope	Mag	BCSA	EFTCC	Total	
1	Paul Manktelow	Hunter Pis	3570	BSA Polaris	H&N Trophy 8.64	Leapers	12X	32	22	54	Gold

Place	Name	Division/C	Street #	Rifle	Pellet	Scope	Mag	BCSA	EFTCC	Total	
1	Thomas Holland	Open PCP		Steyr LG-110	JSB 7.9	Nikko Stirling	50X	47	38	85	Gold
2	Matt Sawyer	Open PCP	6	FWB P-90	C Premier 10.5	Nikko Stirling	50 X	43	39	82	Silver
3	Hans Apelles	Open PCP	14	Marauder BullPup E	C Premier 7.9	Leup. Comp.	35X	46	32	78	Bronze
4	Nathan Thomas	Open PCP		Marauder	H&N 10.65	Bushnell	32X	29	34	63	

Place	Name	Division/C	Street #	Rifle	Pellet	Scope	Mag	BCSA	EFTCC	Total	
1	David Fontayne	Open Piston		AA Pro Sport	C Premier 7.9	Nikko Stirling	50 X	31	32	63	Gold
2	Larry Bowne	Open Piston		FWB 300	JSB 8.44	Bushnell	24X	21	22	43	Silver

Place	Name	Division/C	Street #	Rifle	Pellet	Scope	Mag	BCSA	EFTCC	Total	
1	Dan Brown	WFTF PCP	16-A	EV-2	JSB 8.44	Nikko Stirling	50X	52	43	95	Gold
2	Ray Apelles	WFTF PCP	17	Marauder BullPup E	C Premier 7.9	Leup. Comp.	35X	48	44	92	Silver
3	Cody Talbot	WFTF PCP		Custom Discovery	C Premier 7.9	Bushnell	32 X	33	30	63	Bronze
4	Tim Barnes	WFTF PCP	16	Tm-1000	JSB 7.87	Falcon T-50	50X	33	30	63	

Place	Name	Division/C	Street #	Rifle	Pellet	Scope	Mag	BCSA	EFTCC	Total	
1	Hector Medina	WFTF Pist	51	WFTF D-54	JSB 8.44	Hawke	20X	41	36	77	Gold
2	Art Deuel	WFTF Pist	119	HW97	C Premier 7.9	Leupold EFR	20X	26	26	52	Silver
3	Veronika Ruf	WFTF Pist	51	HW-95	Barr. Green 6.7	Hawke	24X	26	16	42	Bronze

	Total Number of Shooters			21							

It was a GREAT personal satisfaction to have collaborated with such wonderful Match Directors as Greg Shirhall and Ray Apelles, their commitment to the sport is unwavering. And, while we may not agree in everything, the healthy respect in the discussions and the Team Work achieved over the three months of continual planning, registering and execution of this event was highly rewarding, thanks to both!

Also thanks have to be given to the support structures of the two MD's: Pat Shirhall and Hans Apelles, without them the event would not have been possible at all.

I personally have to thank my wife, Veronika, who has a much better eye for management than I have and without whom I could not do even a fraction of what I get into.

Lastly, thanks to all the shooters! It is fun putting up a Match, but it is heart-warming to see ALL the lanes busy, hear the laughter (and sometimes the cussing, LOL!), see the youngsters warming to the sport, as demanding as it is; and see all the satisfied faces after two days of strong, loyal and honourable competition. Thanks to all that came to the shoot!

There are still a dozen shoots left in the Minutemen's League calendar and MAYBE, we can organize another two-day event, ¡hey! . . . . . You never know, ¿right?

Héctor Medina