

2014 Cajun Spring Classic Match report

April 14 2014 at 10:22 PM

I would like to start off with a sincere thanks to all of our club members for participating and helping with the event. We had some changes to our course to make things easier and it helped us for setup and takedown. We pulled together and we setup and picked up quicker than I can remember. Good job guys!

I would also like to thank all our out of town shooters for taking the time and spending the money to come down. We love having you here and it makes the gathering something very special. We all enjoyed getting to see old friends and chatting. I just wish I had more time to chat and less time putting courses up and a gun together.

We were very blessed with the weather this weekend; we didn't have the unusually long and cold winter weather and we ducked the rain. However, Mother Nature decided to have some field target fun this weekend.

We were greeted Saturday with a nice fog during sight in. It wasn't enough to really affect visibility at sight in, but I was shooting about 1/4 low at 50 yards that morning. Denser air? Finicky gun? Both? Who knows. Regardless, the wind was dead, so it was a great sight in.

We had the shooters meeting at 840 and headed to the woods shortly there after. The fog was quickly converted to a nice dark overcast which equalled extra dark lanes and range finding issues. Fortunately, we were able to squad everyone on the same course (Belle Terre) to make things even. Our sinister course master Benny surprised all of us with a great mix of target difficulties... Dark lanes, tough killzones, far targets, mixed terrain, with a few confidence winners. My hats off to him! The overcast lifted somewhere around 1130 and the wind started to kick up a little, but not enough to really mess with is in the woods.

After the shoot, we filled our bellies with some jambalaya with red beans and rice! (Your welcome Steve V) 😊

We setup the PFT course and started the match around 300. I timed it just right for 15 mph winds swirling in the course! That's a great mix for shaky 12 fpe pistols and a Ron Robinson approved course... Yikes! We had a few issues with targets which involved giving a few scores, but overall the match was a success.

Paul Bracaglia cleaned the course with his Hunter Pistol skills for a score of 36. I had the unfortunate task of having to face off in a shoot off with one of the PFT greats Mike Vredenburg. Mike and I went 3 rounds and backing up to the target which was probably a 1 around 27 yards, (someone will have to correct me here.) At that point, we went for the best of 3 shots. I somehow managed to pull of 2/3 and Mike made it 1/3. I was ready to sleep after that mental and physical exhaustion. Good job Mike!

Sunday we had a shooters meeting around 815 ish and quickly started off on the back course (Lagniappe) The weather was overcast again which caused REAL havock on some of these lanes as the underbrush and canopy choked out any light we needed for our scopes. On lane 6 I could barely make out the black far target even with some orange paint still showing. I have absolutely no idea how I hit it. It was more intense than a shoot off.

Again, Benny did his devilish work with a great compilation of difficulties which made for a great course. Like Saturday, the overcast lifted, and the wind kicked in enough to make you think a little when shooting lanes 1-5 which butted up to the sight in range. I think I lost a shot due to that...(that's what I'm telling myself anyway.)

Regardless, most people shot fairly consistently from day to day and it led to a great event. We finished off with some Gumbo, potato salad, and more desserts than a bakery! Wow - If I recall, we had cake, cupcakes, Bayou Mudd, brownies, fudge, banana pudding... I think I went into a coma that afternoon due to the insulin swings!

When I woke up from the coma, I had to shoot off against clean-em Ken. That sucker gave me pressure all weekend. I was squadded with him Saturday and had the pain/pleasure of being squadded with him Sunday, then I had to do a shoot off with him! I can't shake this dude... 😊

Right about that time, it felt like a hurricane was about to come in so I rushed to the sight in range to try and learn wind doping for dummies in 12 fpe in 5 minutes. I proceeded to try and put a group in 1.5 circle on a target at 50 while reading wind flags with the rifle rested on bags. When I was done, it looked like I shot at the target with a #1 shot 12 gauge. While I was doing this futile exercise, Ken was shooting 1 spinners in the FT position... Grrrr... Should I just say, take 1st place, you're a better shot than me??? Heck no! I'm a competitor, that's too easy, even though he was clearly showing me that.

So we go to the shoot off and they put a 3/4 or 1 target around 32 yards. I take the first shot and split a pellet at 9:00, but knocked the target down. Ken takes a shot and knocks it down clean, I take a shot, and hit 3:00 and the target goes down. Ken looks at the target and looks at me and says Really, did you see the face plate? I look at him and said, It went down. At that point you can see the tumbleweeds rolling across the range I could have sworn I heard that old western whistle during a shoot off (maybe it was the insulin swings, who knows) Ken gets back into position, BAM knocks it down clean. I would like to remind you we were having to make decisions like do I take the shot with 10mph winds? or 15? At this point, Greg goes to move the target out further and validates it falls with face plate hits... OK, so my second shot wasn't a hit. They replace the target, I read the wind hold off BAM, I hit the faceplate edge at 9:00. Ken doesn't blink and slams it down. My hats off to him. I really enjoyed shooting with him and he definitely deserved 1st. Even before the shoot off in my opinion. He just validated it.

However, we were both lucky that we didn't breathe wrong because "Greg the Great" was about to run over both of us!

Warren Landry ate our lunch with a total of 116. He hasn't shot with us in 2 years :-| Yikes! He didn't have much room for error with David and Dottie nipping at his heels.

Joe DuBoulay brought in 1st for the hunter division with a 104. (This is my go to guy for offhand BTW) Will Thibaut stopped shooting starlings this weekend to come in at 2nd with Phillip Ready right behind him.

Kevin Yee took 1st in WFTF Piston with a 105!!! Great shooting with a Piston rifle! Leo was not far behind.

Scores and equipment are here:

<https://sites.google.com/site/bayouairgunclub/home/fieldtarget/2014bacft>

Additional notes:

1. I would like to formerly apologize to Tyler Patner from Pyramyd Air for barrage of questioning and begging for free pellets by everyone this weekend. (although, I am running low on AA 8.4s 😊)
2. David Slade kept me entertained all weekend with his witty banter and funny English accent. Im not sure if he is really that funny, or its the accent that makes everything sound funny. I did see him do some awkward dance around lane 4 on Lagniappe which made me wonder if he has a shot of whiskey every morning?
3. Greg Blair - you are the man! thanks for pulling this event together!
4. Ken - I think my reg was off when I got home on Sunday
5. David "Slade" Alsup - I apologize again for insulting you with Slades name. I know thats as low as it gets. Ill make it up to you by bringing you some decoy weights.
6. Benny Lopoo - Thank you for setting up a wonderful course! It seemed like everyone enjoyed it.
7. Brad Troyer - I will never listen to you again if you tell me a lane is hard.
8. I'm really glad I didn't have to shoot with Greg Suave! His credentials and success would've made me shake my shots right off the faceplate!
9. Ken Green shot piston all OFFHAND!

Thanks again Everyone
Submitted by Paul Plache

