

AFTER ACTION REPORT FOR THE JANUARY 2018 PCSC PISTOL MATCH

Not all matches are shot in balmy weather in a T-shirt. Our last Saturday match was no exception. When I arrived at the range around 6:45AM the temperature was around 30 degrees with a strong southeast wind blowing that probably dropped the felt temperature to around 26 degrees. At that point I asked myself..."what are you doing here?" My answer was to put on a good match for the members who attend. I went to the shop and loaded up my pick-up with the targets, stands, and equipment for the match and headed over to Range A.

Given the weather I wasn't sure what to expect in how many people would show up to shoot the match. I had already received a few calls that some of our regular shooters were down with the flu and I knew some were still on vacation. The first shooter/helper arrived around 7:10AM; Prentice was a new shooter and he jumped right in to help with the match set-up. Within the next 30 minutes a few more shooters showed up and the match stages were set up and we headed to the clubhouse for the Shooter's Briefing and some warmth. It turned out that there were a total of five shooters who braved the cold to come out and shoot, including our own Jon Kitts who is always a great help in running the matches.

This was a good opportunity for people to shoot from concealment if they so desired and some did; others took off their coats to shoot (BRRRRR!). We had a warm up stage, which was a Failure to Stop Drill using two targets at about six feet (most gunfights take place within three feet); two shots to the body (upper thoracic area) followed by a shot to the ocular area . This stage loosened everyone up for the stages that are scored.

Our first stage is called Diamond Cutter and consisted of four scoring targets with four No Shoot targets in between. Two shooters shot the stage clean and three had some hits on the No Shoots (hostages). Alex Komisarz won that stage followed by Prentice Goodwin. Because the cold was seeping into our bones we decided to take a break and headed for the clubhouse to warm up.

The second stage, Both Sides Now #1, consisted of four partial scoring targets and one full scoring target with hard cover on four of the targets and two No Shoots. The shooting was from behind a tall barricade from a shooting box. There were three strings shot for a total of 18 rounds. This was a Virginia Count stage which means you cannot do any make-up shots. If you miss or hit a No Shoot you accrue penalty points. Again there were two shooters who shot the stage clean; the other three had multiple hits on hard cover and those pesky No Shoots. The stage winner was Alex Komisarz with Jon Kitts as second. At this point in the match the temperature had warmed up quite a bit and the winds had died down, so nestled between the berms we were comfortable and moved on to the third and last stage.

Stage Three is called Six Chickens which consisted of three identical target arrays with each array having two shoot targets at an angle with a No Shoot covering a good portion of the scoring areas of the shoot targets. This was a twelve point Virginia Count stage which again meant no make-up shots. This must have been a tough stage since only one person shot it clean. Jim Groce emerged as the stage winner followed by Alex Komisarz.

We were able to redo some of the stages for non-score and some did better while others... blamed the cold. 8-) We had the stages broken down and put away and were back at the clubhouse for a Shooter's Debriefing Meeting where we reviewed the match, what we liked and what we didn't like. Most felt the cold was a deciding factor in how they shot, however it was a good learning experience. While the club doesn't charge for the match the five shooters made a voluntary donation of \$37.00 to help offset the cost of targets and equipment. Alex Komisarz is the Match winner followed by Jim Groce as second, and Prentice Goodwin as third. Well done all of you and well done all the shooters who braved the cold and learned something from the match.

While the Pistol Matches are for shooters at all skill levels they are fun matches and designed to build a shooters skills. Here are some lessons to be learned from this match:

1. In a real life situation weather is never a condition of when you might encounter a negative situation on the streets. We must learn to shoot under any adverse situation (hot, cold, sunny, clouds, rain, snow, sleet).
2. We can always move the muzzle of our gun too fast to hit the target.
3. We need to take a second sight picture after every shot.
4. Sights are placed on our firearms to use in hitting the target. Looking over the sights and pointing your gun at the target does not guarantee a hit.
5. We need to make sure all of our equipment is functioning before a match, and that includes the cartridges you plan on using (like pistol and rifle gauges).

Once again it's been my pleasure to run this monthly Pistol Match for PCSC and I'll see y'all in February.

Remember shooting slow is smooth and shooting smooth is fast!