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October 13, 2008

Dear RPS Members,

The season is over, but what a fun season it was. We started the season in March with the Classifier and concluded yesterday with a Classifier, BBQ, Awards Ceremony and a Fun Shoot. In between we held monthly matches that I am sure were both challenging and entertaining to the participants. We had many shooters come month after month from outside Mendocino County and there were many compliments on the stage designs and friendly attitudes of our members. We must be doing something right.

This weekend we had 37 shooters starting on Saturday with the setup and shooting the Classifier by most of the Safety Officers and others brave souls who braved a very cold day in the woods. We allowed shooters to run through the Classifier two or more times with multiple guns. On Sunday we completed the Classifier around noon and stopped for lunch. Ken Dexter BBQed buffalo burgers that Russ and Jan Saari provide, hot dogs, braughts and hot links. Ken also made a large pot of his famous "Firehouse Chili". Don Miller provided a large pot of Elk Stew and I brought a pot of Robin's clam chowder. Mike Dell'Ara provided salad and Julia Beaty the desert. Good food and good friends.

Our Awards Director, Edward Davies did a great job with the awards.

Trophies and plaques were awarded as follows:

Stock Service Pistol 1 st place, Ken Dexter Sr	Enhanced Service Pistol 1 st place, Charlie Hand
2 nd place, Greg Stafani	2 nd place, Clayton Ball
3 rd place Joe Mankinen	3 rd place, Patrick Ratliffe
Custom Defensive Pistol 1 st place, Sam Tarnar	Stock Service Revolver 1 st place, Peter Matlin
2 nd place, Don Hooper	2 nd place, Ralph Umbertis
3 rd place, Dave Brown	3 rd place, Bob Rodriguez

We had a draw for the "Most Improved Shooter" awards. Sam Tarnar and Jan Saari impressed the awards committee equally. Way to go Sam and Jan (Sounds like a singing duo). "Rookie of the Year" award goes to Bob Rodriguez, hands down. Way to go Bob. The "Best Dressed Shooter of the Year" award (yes, I said Best Dressed) goes to the very dapper Dr. Richard Miller. Awards Director Edward Davies surprised us with a "Best Brass Scrounger" award. It was a tie between Chuck Hathaway and Jerry Beaty. So we held a shoot-off between the two with Jerry receiving the award, a box of useless, very old 45ACP brass. The shoot-off was close.

A very special "Thank You" award for service to the club went to Don Miller for his efforts in teaching three CCW classes and two CCW renewal classes and donating the fees to the club. Much deserving, Don, Thank you very much.

The Fun Shoot started with many one on one challenges. The prizes were awarded to those who could out shoot the other guy by knocking over two plates on the ground, clearing the "Rack of Doom" then two pepper poppers right behind the "Rack" and knocking down the last Popper in the back. This was so popular that we had to force an end to the challenges so we could get to the Sporting Clays and Rolling Rabbits. With shotguns aplenty, this also was very popular.

We had the placed cleaned up and were ready to go home by around 4pm. Hand shakes all around and promises of more to come next year we called it a day.

Prior to the start of the shooting both Saturday and Sunday I asked all participants to fill out a survey form regarding what we should do differently next season. The intent is to get more of you out there more often. We may do nothing differently or we might make some changes. Depends on the results of the survey and our ability to implement changes. I will compile the survey results and discuss with the directors this Wednesday at our end of season meeting.

Speaking of Directors Meetings, your directors will be busy during the off-season planning next year's events. Also Don Miller has decided to conduct one more CCW class this year. Sounds like it will be in mid to late November. We will be moving the "Container" to Jerry Beaty's place for the winter, conducting a site/lead cleanup and reseeding the landing. Also we are looking at the possibility of attending one or more NRA "Pistol Instructor" and "Range Safety Officer" classes in early 2009.

We would like to add a few more Safety Officers to our staff. If you wish to become a safety officer let me know. We will hold a two-day class in February of March.

Again, I would like to remind you that you have a very dedicated Board of Directors who put a lot of time and energy into seeing that you have a safe and fun shooting experience. Lastly I would like to thank Peter, Dick, Don, Chuck, Ken, Edward, Jerry and Darrell. Without the weekly if not daily help from each and every one of them I could not have survived my first year as club president: "Thanks guys".

Welcome, Dr. Richard "Shooter is ready sir" Miller to the board of Directors for 2009.
I hope you all have a great off-season and hope to see all of you next year.

Stay Safe

Don Hooper, President