



Peterborough Sportsmen's Club
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President's Column by Rob Alexander

At the September 7th Executive Board meeting, we had a full board and 11 new member applicants...the parking lot was full and it was nearly standing room only in the meeting room! It was refreshing to see the interest.

On September 21 we had the 3rd scheduled general membership meeting (there are 5 general meetings scheduled for each year). The Club bylaws require that a minimum of seven members be present for a general membership meeting to be valid. Three Board Members and two general members showed up for this meeting with two more new member applicants. Total of five members...not enough to have a meeting.

There are several things at issue here. One is the tiny percentage of the general membership that is doing all the work, putting in the time, for the rest of us. Another is how our organization appears to potential new members. Also, let us not forget that we must have membership approval to spend the money to do the improvements that are necessary to keep this club alive. Perhaps most important is the need to have documented meetings on record to maintain our legal existence as a club.

We welcome new members and are happy to have club membership growth. However, we must recognize our need for membership involvement in order to support our club's existence.



Winter Pistol League by Lance dePlante

Editor's note: Lance is a certified shooting expert. He retired after serving 32 years as an officer in the US Army where he competed for many years in shoots at Camp Perry, Ohio. He shot in numerous National and International Competitions including, The President's Hundred. His shooting skills have earned him the Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge and numerous trophies and prizes.

When Rob Alexander stopped in on Monday night pistol practice and asked me if I would write an article about pistol shooting, I said sure, since I enjoy that sport... when I was heading out the door Jim Schmidt thanked me for agreeing to write the article and he said, "by the way, I need it in 4 days...."

Well here goes... I will confine my comments to Bullseye Shooting, since that is the primary style of shooting we do in the club's indoor range and a number of us participate in the New Hampshire Postal League (it is a Postal League in the sense that all the teams mail in their scores). We fire a split schedule on Monday noon (for the 2nd and 3rd shift workers) or nights (for everyone else) throughout the fall, winter, and spring for a total of 20 weeks of shooting. We fire a practice round to warm up and then shoot for record.

The course of fire for record is comprised of two national match courses. In one national match course the shooter fires:

1. **Slow fire:** one 10 shot string, 10 minutes,
2. **Timed fire:** two five shot strings, 20 seconds per string, and
3. **Rapid fire:** two five shot strings, 10 seconds per string.

Normally, in Bullseye style shooting, the Timed and Rapid Fire targets are electronically controlled. They begin turned sideways to the shooter and the range master gives a sequence of commands at 5 second intervals. The shooters align their weapons on the targets and with the final command "Ready on the Firing Line" the targets are turned towards the shooter for the times indicated above.

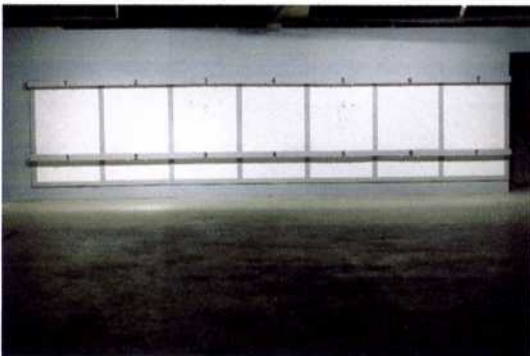
Since the club doesn't have electronically controlled targets we use a "boom box" with a CD of the commands that are used. Of course we don't get too bent out of shape if someone fires a little early or a second or so too late.

While the club's indoor facility can't support it, there is another type of pistol competition which is called three-gun or 2700 Match. We don't fire this type of shooting on the indoor range because it involves a center-fire handgun, a .45 caliber or a 9mm handgun. You may use either a revolver or an automatic, although firing a wheel-gun (revolver) either double action or single action is pretty dicey in rapid fire.

It is called a 2700 Match because you fire three guns (a .22 caliber pistol, a center fire pistol (.38 or .45/9mm) and the .45/9mm pistol) and, with each gun you try to get as close to a 900 total score, broken down as follows:

- two strings of Slow Fire, 10 shots per string for 200 points,
- the National Match Course described above for 300 points,
- four strings of Timed Fire, 5 shots per string for 200 points,
- four strings of Rapid Fire, 5 shots per string for 200 points,
- With a total of 900 points per pistol, times three pistols, for a grand total of 2700 points.

Oh, I forgot to mention that all of the aforementioned competition is fired one-handed and the targets are 50 feet down range.



The Club's 50 Foot Indoor Range with 7 target position

While it sounds rather basic, and for those of you who are not pistol shooters, a few other things enter into the picture in order to be able to put a series of rounds into a target where the 10 ring is about 1 inch in diameter... aside from a good pistol, body position, breathing, grip, **trigger control**, sight

alignment, and sight picture all enter into a successful string.



Slow Fire Target Bullseye

But most of all we have a good time and in the deep dark days of winter when its 20 degrees, or colder, outside we frequent standing around the stove warming our hands... so for those of you who think you might enjoy learning how to shoot a pistol, come on out and join us on Monday nights

Clay Target Facility by Jim Schmidt

The upgrade of the Clay Target Facility has continued to move forward.

- The ground leveling and demolition of the old trap house has been completed.



- The clay target facility drainage system has been enhanced with the creation of new earth berms for ground water control and the installation of new in-ground drains.



