

LET'S SHOOT THE BULL

There recently has been renewed club interest in NRA-style pistol shooting. That is done standing, one-handed, and without a rest. The NRA Short Course is fired in five-shot strings with two strings of Slow Fire in a total of 10 minutes, two strings of Timed Fire at 20 seconds per string, and two strings of Rapid Fire at 10 seconds per string. These are all fired at 25 yards. In the Timed and Rapid Fire stages, the command to cease fire, reload five rounds, and then commence fire will be given by the range officer.

The Short Course is preceded by 20 shots of Slow Fire and followed by 20 shots of Timed Fire and 20 shots of Rapid Fire, all at 25 yards, for a total of 90 shots and a possible score of 900 points. Thus, it's called a 900.

Twenty-five yards!! Don't panic—the target is almost 2 feet square and most shooters will be able to hit it by accident. The Short Course will allow everyone ample time to become familiar with standard commands, range procedures and scoring. Safety is paramount. Correct gun handling and proper dealing with pistol malfunction will be observed at all times.

The match is open to any pistol or revolver, any caliber, any barrel length, any sights. Because of the Timed and Rapid Fire stages, don't bring a single-shot gun. Since no speed reloading is involved in these stages the revolver is not necessarily at a disadvantage.

If time permits, any shooter will be allowed to repeat the Short Course with the same or different pistol. After the first 900 point aggregate, we'll run a series of 300 point Short Courses until the entries drop to two shooters, or it gets dark or the match directors get tired. These guys never get tired of shooting events.

The 2700 point aggregate is composed of three 900s, one with 22 caliber rimfire, one with the .45 or other centerfire pistol and one with the .45 only. This format is used for local club tournaments, State and Regional Championship and the National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio.

Bring the gun of your choice and at least 100 rounds of ammo, more if you want to shoot the later events. A spotting scope and a staple gun are not required, but they will make life easier. Unless you're already world-class, you'll need some white or buff-colored pasters or a roll of masking tape to cover up some stray shot holes.