

SHOWDOWN AT ZOMBIE CENTRAL STATION!

A Zombie Killer Series Shoot
www.ZombieShooterUnited.com
Copyright ZSU LLC 2017

MAY 20, 2017 MATCH ANALYSIS

Our first match of the season was framed around a surprise shoot/don't-shoot challenge at the end of the final (shotgun) stage where our ZKs found themselves face to face with the villain of last season's storyline (Karl Buchholtz) and his critically important hostage (Dr. Vincent Von Bloom). The kidnapped Von Bloom was standing hooded, but Buchholtz was crouched low to his right side, almost in his armpit, shielding most of his body with the hostage. The range was about 20 yards and shooters could not alter their position. They had to take the shot from the end of the trail, if they took it at all. Both targets and shooter were surrounded by hip high underbrush. My expectation was that at that range the 00 buckshot pattern would spread out substantially and most shooters would opt not to fire, rather than risk injuring or killing the hostage with stray pellets. I was proved wrong. Not only were patterns tight enough for head shots even with a short barreled KSG bullbup shotgun, but all save one shooter took the shot! (Most hesitated momentarily before making their move to kill Buchholtz.) On one occasion the hostage was killed outright, and Buchholtz escaped uninjured. On another, a single pellet caused a minor wound on the hostage's shoulder but Buchholtz was killed. The lesson here might be that ZK's have more marksmanship skill than good judgment, but as they say at outpost, "What happens in the Dead Zone, stays in the Dead Zone."

Buchholtz was a professional mercenary. He was aware that his mission to kidnap Von Bloom was over the moment he saw the ZK turn around the bend in the forest trail and would have released the hostage to affect his own escape if given the opportunity. Only one ZK (Jon Goff) did this. Buchholtz released Von Bloom, ducked below the underbrush and called out behind him, "Thanks a lot pal." That ZK earned the two mission points for rescuing Von Bloom as well as the bonus point for good judgment BY NOT SHOOTING.

Since the match winner was going to direct the course of our future storyline, we had to wait to the end to find out if Live E-town was going to lose one of the world's greatest biological weapons research scientists and if Buchholtz was going to continue to be a thorn in the city's side. Ryan Abbington shot a great match, killed Buchholtz, and rescued Von Bloom. Exactly who the black helicopter guys were is still unknown, but the capture of one of them offers the hope of some future answers.

It was an exceptionally hot and humid match day. The temperature at 6:30 am was 71 degrees and I'm sure it was in the high 80s by afternoon. On top of that, it rained heavily the day before and the gravel on the road along the rifle stage was slick, as was the field where the pistol stage was set up and the new forest trail for the shotgun stage. The heat and the unsure footing slowed down the range staff and shooters and it ended up being a very long day.

I cannot thank those who helped at the match enough. On Friday, Dale Winchester and I spent four hours setting up the course, beating down the new trails and clearing them of detritus and tripping hazards, and insuring the course was laid out to make it both fun and safe.

Dale came back on match day along with Lonnie Leake, John Chenault and Joey Booker and worked ceaselessly in the heat and humidity aided tremendously by our shooters, and none more tirelessly than Doug Parrack, Roger Kavanah and Norm Sabol. They were among the first to shoot the match and they generously stayed to work reset until the match was done around 7pm. Thanks to all of you for your help. Every bit of it matters and helps the match run better.

In addition, accolades go out to Jason Bradford and Ryan Abbington who loaned guns to a new youth shooter Timothy Scott. He earned the money for the match fee mowing lawns and then waited patiently for his turn as the last shooter. He had to shoot in the driving rain (over our ankles in places) but still shot well. He dropped

nearly all the targets though some initially were only distant gray shadows because of the heavy downpour.
Good shooting Tim.

The fastest perfect rifle stage was shot by veteran ZK Jason Bradford who dropped all five targets in 55 seconds with only 8 shots. Larry Datillo was close behind him with 78 seconds and 8 shots.

The fastest perfect pistol stage was shot by match winner Ryan Abbington. He dropped all 18 targets in 120 seconds with 27 shots. Close behind him was Patrick Blevins with 122 seconds and 37 shots.

The fastest perfect shotgun stage went to Dave Kiwacka who dropped all 13 targets with a KSG bullpub in a lightning fast 88 seconds and only 14 little mini-buckshot rounds. It took him longer to load the shotgun than to run the stage.

I noted some excellent pistol marksmanship on the course by Nasby Stroop and Darris Messinger, among others, who were taking 25 yard and longer shots on the zombies and dropping them. This might have had something to do with the heat and slick ground which I felt discouraged competitors from taking the course at a run. Overall, we had the slowest times we have ever had on a ZSU course. Even winged Mercury himself, ZK Frank Thomas, (the second place match winner) slowed down a little bit at the end of the pistol course.

The most interesting things I saw during the day were Grant Wilson dropping two targets about 30 yards apart with a single shot from his new .45 FN autoloading pistol; and Larry Datillo, who had to shoot in the rain, taking off his fogged prescription eye-glasses to shoot the shotgun stage and still sweeping all 13 targets with only 15 shots in a very respectable 120 seconds.

Thanks go out to our great sponsors Hi-Point, Inland Manufacturing, XS Sight Systems, Sierra Bullets, Duracoat, Birchwood Casey and Brownells for their continued support. Door prizes were awarded topside in the afternoon using a more efficient secret method contrived by, and known only to, Odessa. Those who were not present can pick up their prizes at the next match. Our friends who didn't make the match but registered will have their match fee put against the next match on Sunday, July 23.

TAKE NOTE: THE NEXT MATCH IS ON A SUNDAY. It will also feature a truck mounted shotgun stage. Unlike the last few matches, this one will be a two part event, not a one-and-done style. All shooters will do the (mounted) shotgun and (forest) pistol stage first; then all shooters will do the final rifle stage. I expect we will try to schedule time slots online for the first (shotgun/pistol) portion; and then repeat that roster for the second (rifle) portion. I'd advise signing up early if you want to get off the course earlier. Get those guns sighted in and know your zero, we'll be doing some new and interesting stuff.