

**www.ZombieShootersUnited.com**  
**Soo-Z and the Bandit**  
**Match Analysis**

August 6, 2014

From a marksmanship standpoint, the Soo-Z and the Bandit mounted match was the most challenging one we have ever done. This was reflected in the scores. It was a humbling experience for everyone. Even our best shooters were unable to reach the 100% lethality level.

The match followed the one-and-done format with shooters mounting the patrol truck with all their weapons and firing the shotgun, rifle and pistol stages one after the other. This made life a lot easier for the ROs since they didn't have to run the course on foot all day. It was pretty warm, but we had no heat casualties. The course was set up on Saturday with the help of John Thompsett, Dale Winchester and Lonnie Leake.

Thanks to some heavy rain the day before the match, the field was a little soft and it rutted quickly making for a ride that was somewhat bumpy in spots, especially at the start of the shotgun stage in the field. One of our first shooters through the course had to contend with the truck fishtailing a bit as the driver sought solid ground. To our driver, Mark Lenberger's, credit, he only got the truck stuck once, and that was on his first run. After that, he kept it rolling at no faster than a fast walking pace. The speedometer needle barely moved off zero, but it seemed like 5 mph to me. Watching the patrol truck do its zombie "ghetto-roll" as spectator on the ground was described by one shooter as "about as exciting as watching paint dry." However, that shooter had a very different outlook from his perspective in the gunner's seat. Even at low speeds, shooting from a moving vehicle is far from easy.

Six shotgun targets were set in the woods along the side of the road down the hill with one couple in the clearing by the shed challenging shooters to make quick follow up shots. The driver hugged the right side of the gravel road which kept the targets 15 to 20 yards. RO Lonnie Leake paused the truck before it broke out into the clearing to give the shooters a chance to top off their magazine, and then the driver accelerated into the field where another ten targets were standing in line 15 to 20 yards away, with two couples. Though the targets on the hill were partially concealed, the road was smooth making it easier to aim. The targets in the field were in plain sight in the open, but they were twice as densely packed together and the ride was quite bumpy in the first half of the field making aiming and reloading more difficult. Shooters had 30 rounds to take out 16 total targets. David Bagola, Jason Conley and Richard Bryd shot the best shotgun stages scoring 10 out of 16 each. I did not originally intend to run the course as fast as I did, and in the future, I will spread the targets out a little bit more to give shooters a little more reaction.

For the rifle stage, shooters had 15 rounds to take down four targets from any position in the truck. There were lots of places to rest a rifle on and that was the strategy of the best shooters. The challenge here was that the targets were about 100 yards away, making this one of the longest rifle stages we have ever done. Only match winner Larry Datillo and Richard Bryd swept the rifle stage. As usual, this proved the most difficult for shooters and half weren't able to

hit any of the targets at that distance. Knowing your zero is critical in our matches, because you never know at what distance you'll have to engage a target.

The pistol stage had sixteen targets arranged in the open on the outer left and back edge of the field. Shooters were allowed 70 rounds since the first five targets had to be engaged on the roll! On that part of the stage there tended to be a lot of missing. Shooters had a chance to redeem themselves later in the stage when the truck stopped in front of two mobs of undead (one group of six and one of 5) allowing shooters a stable shooting platform. Distance ranged from 10 to 25 yards. The truck's route and stopping positions were marked by a stakes in the ground to keep the course consistent from shooter to shooter. Shooters were allowed to spend up to a minute and a half at each of the stationary groups of zombies but nobody needed that much time. As soon as the shooter cleared all the targets or elected to move one, the truck continued to the next group.

The first shooter through match was Larry Datillo. He didn't miss a single pistol target on the roll which got me worrying that I made the course too easy. Subsequent shooters told me that was not the case. Only five people got a perfect score on the pistol stage, (Larry Datillo, Ryan Abbington, Patrick Blevins, Frank Thomas and new shooter Jeremy L.) Only four shooters didn't hit any on the move. Overall, 2/3rd of our shooters were able to hit one of more zombies in the brain with a pistol shot from a moving vehicle. Frankly, even if you hit just one, your marksmanship puts you in a category probably 99% better than your average criminal drive-by shooter. I tip my Hi-Point hat to every shooter that hit that little 5" x 5" rubber "brain" hidden inside each zombie target head. I don't think I could do it.

It would have been interesting to see how everyone did comparatively on the rolling portion of the pistol stage, but we failed to capture that in the scoring this time. (We were terribly short handed so my little son Franklin and his cousin Justice had to track shots and zombie kills. Unfortunately, they didn't fully appreciate some of the nuances of scoring and did their tallies in the aggregate for each stage. That's why some of you don't have shot counts for individual stages. This won't effect ranking, since those calculations are made based on the aggregate anyway.

On Sunday, we ran slightly modified version of the match for the American Rebel Andy Ross, Dede Day, and their guests which included the band Little Texas and some local friends. They shot video of their runs and I expect to see this as another segment on a future episode of the American Rebel show on Pursuit Channel. For those of you that haven't seen the earlier episode they taped with us, you can find a link to the whole show on YouTube through our Facebook page. Most of that episode in devoted to the ZSU match and it is very well done. Please share it with every living soul you know as we couldn't ask for a better commercial. You will notice that the range staff is wearing the shirts and hats of our sponsors Hi-Point an XS Sight Systems, whom we thank for their generous support.

The next and final match of the 2016 season is coming up a little sooner than usual. Mark you calendars for **OCTOBER 1st**.