

LWAA Sponsors Team for 2004 NRA National Police Shooting Championships

by Senior Agent Frank A. Reger

Last year I had the privilege of attending and representing the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division and the LWAA at the National Police Shooting Championships (NPSC). It was great to be a participant in such a large event, and this year I was able to return with a team sponsored by LWAA. Joining me on the team were Senior Agent Troy Parker and Senior Agent Jason Clinton. The competition was held in Jackson, Miss., in September.

Leading up to the event, I shared my past year's experience with Parker and Clinton. I went on about the 100-position firing line, the nearly 500 competitors from around the world, the posting of colors followed by the sound of gun fire as the first relay began firing, the exposition hall displays by firearm manufacturers like Sig Sauer, Colt, Glock, STI, Smith and Wesson and Springfield Armory, as well as many other law enforcement vendors. But nothing I could say would prepare them for the moment when they first saw it for themselves. As we entered the Jackson Police Firing Range (host of the NPSC) I could

see by the looks on their faces that they now realized how awesome the coming week was going to be.

Competitors were taking advantage of practice matches preparing for the long week ahead and making last-minute adjustments to their equipment. There's nothing to prepare you for the roar of gunfire emanating from 100 competitors. We made our way to the stat office and picked up our packets telling us the relay and target number we would be firing on.

We then located the team from Caddo Parish Sheriffs Office, as they had invited our team to share their tent to prepare and relax between matches. Finally, we headed to our hotel, cleaned our pistols and checked our equipment in preparation for the start of competition.

Team members did well in individual competition, and we had several fourth- and fifth-place finishes just out of the awards. Parker finished fourth in the off-duty weapon category, using a pistol that he had never shot before and winning a cleaning kit. I won a third-place trophy in one of the revolver matches. Team matches were held on Thursday, the last day of competition. The experience was new to all of

us and was the most enjoyable day of competition.

Clinton and I participated in the two-man revolver team, while Parker joined me for the two-man semi-auto team. The team matches offered a special award for the highest scoring conservation team. The Mississippi Game Wardens were right next to us for both matches. This made for exciting competition, as the scores were so close that we were unsure who was ahead until the targets were scored. Unfortunately, they edged us out both times, the semi-auto score being the closest, within 10 points. To our credit, we were using stock pistols and they had custom guns—but no excuses—we will be ready next year!

The friendships that form among officers during competition week are one of the best things that the NRA-NPSC has to offer. We met game wardens from Mississippi, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Colorado and Utah. Law enforcement agencies from across the United States and the world were represented. We enjoyed social events every night after competition. The Jackson Police Department hosted a fish fry at the range one night. It didn't take

long for the game wardens to get together to swap stories and trade hats, pens and other trinkets from their associations.

On behalf of the team, I would like to thank the LWAA and the department for the chance to represent them again this year and look forward to doing so in years to come. 🍷

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