

“The Meadow.” The backstop was good, the shooters’ location could handle more people than I could imagine ever attending, and it was only about 200



Putting out an out-of-control fire during Boomershoot 1999.

yards down a reasonably solid gravel driveway from the county road. I was disappointed we only had about 700 yards instead of the nearly 900 at the previous location, but it was so much better in other ways that I was willing to accept the tradeoff.

I needed a name for the event and a website. I finally settled on “Boomer Shoot.” This was because the fireworks industry calls fireworks that explode “boomers.” I had read a lot of fireworks books in my scores of attempts to create

reactive targets that were safe to build and deploy, but easily detonated by rifle. We were shooting at boomers, so the event, logical engineer that I am, obviously should be called “Boomer Shoot.” I obtained the domain name boomershoot.org and created the website. All entrants had to have an email address and web access to attend. The event could not require me to send out snail mail and deal with a lot of paper. I resisted for several years but the domain name, boomershoot, became how people spelled the name of the event. Boomer Shoot became Boomershoot.

Learning from the first event, I used half-pint milk cartons for the target containers. These opened up much wider and were much easier to fill. I used the tailgate of my pickup and a folding table setup in the middle of The Meadow to make my targets. Still, it took much longer than I anticipated. I got help from one of my friends from Microsoft and we stopped building targets when we had about 100 targets for the 25 people

who showed up. Many of them showed up on Saturday for Eugene’s very well received precision rifle clinic, then shot in the main event on Sunday.

The weather cooperated much better in 1999. It didn’t start raining until the last shooter had packed up and was driving away. I cleaned up and picked up the table, mixing equipment, caution tape, wooden marker stakes, and hauled off the trash with the help of son James and some of his friends. We got very cold, wet, and muddy, but the participants had a great time.

I scheduled another event for July of 1999. The weather was awesome. It was bone dry but not excessively hot. I had one target from a cigar box that had the equivalent of about five of the normal targets. I placed it 700 yards away. People shot at it all morning without hitting it. It wasn’t until midafternoon that it was detonated. It was really loud. It was so loud that it brought new spectators from 5 miles away. I was pleased with the weather and shooting condi-

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