

targets from 15 to 20 yards away. Then some of the participants still packing their gear and getting ready to leave noticed what was going on and wanted to



The Boomershoot shooting line.

participate. In another year or two the crowd of people wanting to help became so large that it was getting unmanageable. Ry told me I was doing it wrong. I should be charging extra for people to help with cleanup. That was the birth of the “High Intensity” portion of the event in 2009. We created a special event for people who wanted to be “up close and personal” and made the Sunday evening cleanup staff only. This is now considered one of the perks of being volunteer staff.

It’s called High Intensity because, outside of a war zone, I don’t know where you can experience so much gun fire and so many explosions in such a short period of time. We place 400 to 500 targets against a shooting berm on Friday and Saturday evenings after the precision rifle clinic. Then 20 to 30 shooters who have paid \$50 each shoot them as rapidly as the smoke, dust and/or flying mud clears enough for the remaining targets to be visible. The targets are consumed in just four to five minutes. At that range with that many people shooting so rapidly and with so many explosions going off so close it’s almost painful. But people keep coming back. Some people tell me that is the best part of the event for them.

Due to the economy, the last couple of years haven’t quite filled up, but Boomershoot continues to draw a lot of people both as participants and spectators who drive from a far away as Seattle just to watch. We continue to learn, experiment, and most of the time, im-

prove each event. We think the changes are important. Ry and I in particular, plus some of the more experienced staff, don’t get too excited over seeing and hearing another 1,500 to 2,000 ordinary explosions each year. This motivates Ry to improve on the event-opening fireball.

I think my contribution for Boomershoot 2013 will be to shave Ry’s arms, head and eyebrows the night before he demonstrates his latest opening fireball creation. This should reduce the chances of him igniting should his fireball be a little too impressive this time. **WSJ**

Editor’s note: Joe competes in USPSA and Steel challenge matches and loves long-range precision rifle shooting and making explosives when he gets the chance. He has an ATF license to manufacture high explosives and is the creator and event director of Boomershoot. He is considered one of the top gun bloggers and is proud to be called “Perhaps most offensive” by the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. His blog can be found at blog.joehuffman.org.

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