

THE TARGET SHOOTER

Are you a Target Shooter? Of course you are as are all who lifts a fire arm points and pulls the trigger, sending a projectile towards the intended target. The idea of being a target shooter however takes on a whole new meaning to some, myself included. Like most new shooters and hunters the ability to hit what you are aiming at can be very rewarding or the inability to do so can be very depressing.

When I first began to shoot at a ripe old age of seven I was over joyed that my iron sighted Daisy could dispatch tiny critters like lighting at 50 feet. As time passed the need to make longer shots required a move to better and more potent equipment, which Dad gladly supplied (wow a 22 Long Rifle), iron sighted of course. As the years passed the need to make longer shots at larger game again appeared and Dad knowing that I was a crack shot gladly supplied the equipment (wow a 38 WCF Lever), iron sighted of course. This rifle served me well up until adulthood, but then the need to make longer shots arose again (wow a 308 Win bolt action topped with a 3x9) not supplied by Dad, what a reality check. After having taken several deer at 150 yards or less I was very comfortable with this rifle and my crack shot status seemed to be secure. A few years after purchasing this rifle the meaning of Target Shooter for me was about to change.

On a crisp cold morning while ground hunting a cut corn field on a neighbors farm I peered through my 3x9 to discover a massive 10 pointer feeding at the far end of this field, from the cover of brush I took steady aim and pulled the trigger, but soon realized that the deer didn't move so I chambered again and quickly launched another round, but again discovered that the deer was still feeding, this time I decided to take a knee and quickly launched my last round only to discover that the deer was still standing, being out of ammo I decided to walk toward this imaginary deer and quickly discovered that this deer was not a mirage and continued to walk toward where the deer had been standing and discovered that my shots had fallen to earth a full 100 yards short of the intended mark. This deer had been standing 370 long paces from my shooting position. After returning home I realized being a crack shot at those distances would require a whole new skill set and lots of time spent at the range and thus it began.

The beginnings of becoming an accurate shooter and the search for accurate equipment and becoming an accuracy nut for me are best summed up by Warren Page, and I quote:

“The idea of an accurate rifle is readily comprehensible to anybody; and all agree that within reason accuracy is desirable. It is only when this idea is carried to its ultimate conclusion that no level of accuracy larger than a pinhead is acceptable, that the true nut stays with it.” End quote: (Taken from the pages of *The Accurate Rifle* by Warren Page).

Yes accuracy is addictive, but so much fun. As far as my missed buck I never saw him again. That next season something similar appeared and with a wind of 8 mph from the west at 8 o'clock I fired and in his tracks he fell. At 365 long steps I knew that the crack shot was back.

L. Williams.