

Pull, pull. Wobble, wobble. Bang, bang”

- by Linda Buzzard - 10/17/2007

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“Pull, pull. Wobble, wobble. Bang, bang” aren’t words to a rap song. It’s action at the wobble clay range at Cacapon State Park.

If you can trigger a shotgun and say, “Pull” 25 times, the trap supplies the wobble as the clay birds careen down range on Cacapon Mountain. You, and others with you, supply the laughter and relaxation that’s guaranteed to go along with trap shooting, the park’s newest recreational activity.

Recently my husband, Buzz; my sister, Mary Jo Knight, of Stuart, Va.; and my brother, Jack Swaim, of Weirton, and I laughed our way through five stations—five rounds of five shots each. Although a deer hunter, my sister had never shot trap and the rest of us had not shot clays for 25 years. We laughed more than we hit.

John Mirra, of Berkeley Springs, and a park visitor from Shepherdstown followed our party and shot the way shooters should, blasting a very high percentage. They took their shooting seriously and didn’t laugh much. Maybe because, they’d laughed with (or at) us for an hour while they waited.

It is said that total relaxation is engaging in an activity that removes all thought of everyday tensions and worries. “Total relaxation” best describes the hour we spent on the range. Little to no experience is needed and all ages are welcome. (Children under 16 must be in the company of an adult over 18. SKB Youth Model 12 and 20 gauge shotguns may be rented for youngsters.) Shooters may rent Beretta 12 gauge over-and-under shotguns and buy ammunition at the park or may supply their own 12, 16, 28, 20 or 410 bore shotguns. Reservations and advance payment are required: Call the Lodge at 304-258-1022.

Questions, answers and cost of the Cacapon sport shooting are online at: www.cacaponresort.com

Wobble trap

Wobble clay trap shooting, unlike standard trap, fires the clay pigeon at different angles, with the shooter never sure of the flight path. The trap, which fires about 60 yards down range, can be set so the bird takes a repetitive path, a change our party asked for about half way through our shoot.

Trap shooting is one of three major forms of competitive clay pigeon shooting. The others are skeet and sporting clays. According to park literature, the sport began in the late 1700s using real birds, usually the then-extremely abundant passenger pigeons. During the Civil War when passenger pigeons were nearing extinction, fake birds were used. Clay targets (clay pigeons) were introduced in the 1880s. The clays are biodegradable and decompose within two years.

Safety is uppermost

As hunters, we expected safety to be uppermost at the range and were pleasantly surprised at the initial instructions and rigid range rules. First off, we heard basic safety rules and received eye and ear protection. Strict rules apply on the range: how to hold, carry and rest the firearm. Only one shooter at a time loads the firearm and not until the range officer says so. The gun remains open and resting on the rail except when shooting

The range is located on the Mountain Road on the right (before the Batt picnic area). The park welcomes groups and clubs, and, of course, private parties like ours. **Go shoot. It’s a hoot.**