

## Events with Men's Ministry by Doug Reed

I've been to most outdoor events sponsored by the Men's Ministry with the exception of golfing events. I'm just not a golfer but my favorites are the ones involving guns. There is usually food available where we just hang out and shoot the breeze until it's time to shoot. Pistol range events are the most popular. After you've shot your own you can usually go visit with others and see what they're shooting. I find that most people are very willing to let you shoot a few rounds with their guns. It's even surprising sometimes what some individuals show up with. You might never take them for a gun person until you see a collection that would make a cop jealous.

Other shooting events are the skeet and traps events. This is where we bring out our shotguns. Some cheap, some expensive, and some collectables are all common. I brought my grandfather's old side-by-side with external hammers once just to show and tell. It's too old to shoot and it has its flaws but it is a neat wall hanger. Another time I brought my 12 gage, bolt action, goose gun. Not so useful on the skeet range but tore it up on the traps one evening. I now bring an over-under I purchased a few years back. Nothing special but it does the job. People at these events are also good about loaning their guns out. Have you ever fired a side-by-side coach gun? You might get a chance here. One just has to make sure you take home the same gun you brought at these events because sometimes it's hard to tell the more expensive guns apart from the others. It almost happened once accidentally. Everyone's honest so we got a good laugh out of it.

Another event that some of us have attended is a pheasant hunt. Although the land owner said the last one was the last you never know. He said that once before and he also told us all that we are welcome to use his land so maybe we can organize something. Who knows? It's always January and cold but we all warm up quickly from all of the walking that is required. Some bring their dogs trained or not and dads bring their sons. This is something I won't miss if I'm available. The owner (Jim) always served a sack type of lunch to everyone and had some sort of speaker to share the gospel.

Besides shooting we've also done a fishing event. One of the members of our church brought out his pontoon boat and we made a go of it. Unfortunately the weather didn't cooperate that day with high blustery winds in early spring. It was worth it though and hopefully we'll try it again.