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A Firearms Competition for Anyone Who Loves to Shoot

The Cheshire County Shooting Sports Education Foundation (CCSSEF) will hold a 'Tactical Steel' match Saturday, June 24th at its facilities on Ferry Brook Road in Keene. (The original date for the event was June 17, but was changed to allow for an ongoing range improvement project at the site.)

"This is a new type of shooting competition that anyone can do," explains event coordinator Mark Timney. "It combines the fun of shooting steel targets, but in a real-world scenario—a combination of a Steel Challenge Match and an IDPA event—and you don't need a fancy gun or a lot of ammo to participate."

There are divisions for centerfire pistols (no magnums), pistol caliber carbines, and .22 rimfire pistols and rifles with or without an optic. Participants should have some prior shooting experience, but the event is open to those as young as 12 if they have a parent or guardian with them.

"Each of the six stages of the event will feature three or five steel targets from ten to 20 yards away," said Timney. You may be standing still when you shoot, but for some stages you may have to shoot while moving or shoot from behind an obstacle. A timer keeps track of how long it takes for you to hit all the targets, some of which you have to hit once and others of which you have to hit twice. You get three chances to shoot each stage, and the two fastest 'times' for each stage are added together for your overall score. Speed is critical, but accuracy really counts," Timney explains.

The entry cost is \$10.00 (\$15 for non-members), and you can shoot another firearm for an additional \$5.00. Shooters under the age of 17 shoot for free. Needed gear includes approximately 125 rounds of ammo, a holster or gun case, multiple magazines, as well as hearing and eye protection.

All novice shooters, as well as those using pistol caliber carbines or .22 rimfires, will start each stage with their gun pointing down range. Experienced pistol shooters, however, will be required to draw from a holster before they engage the targets.

Registration for the event begins at 1:15 p.m. at CCSSEF Pistol Bay #1, and there is a mandatory shooter's safety briefing at 1:45. The shoot begins at 2:00 p.m. and should run till a little after 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact Mark Timney at (603) 321-2213.

The Cheshire County Shooting Sports Education Foundation was created in 2010 by the Cheshire County Fish and Game Club with a mission to offer beneficial educational programs to the community. The Foundation also fosters amateur shooting sports competition at the national and international level.

In 2011, CCSSEF was granted 501(c)(3) non-profit status. As a charitable entity, the Foundation can receive tax-deductible donations which it uses to offer programs to serve the community.

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