

The Stittsville Range — Canada's Finest!

by Reg Gale

Two important events of the 1981 I.B.S. Registered competition schedule will take place at the Stittsville, Ontario ranges. They are the I.B.S. 100-200-300 Yard Championship in June and the I.B.S. 200-300 Yard Championship in July.

For many I.B.S. members in Canada and the northeast United States the Stittsville Range is familiar, having hosted many major B.R.S.C. and I.B.S. tournaments in the past. But for many other shooters the activity planned for Stittsville this summer will be their first introduction to this fine but challenging bench rest range. In order to bring old friends up to date and to help new competitors feel welcome, I think a brief summary of the Stittsville operation and recent improvements made, is in order.

Stittsville is a village of about 1200 souls located just off the Trans Canada Highway, 22 miles west of Ottawa, Ontario. It is roughly a 90 minute toll-free drive from the Ogdensburg, New York border crossing. The range itself is located about 3 miles southwest of the village on Goulbourn Twp. concession 10 (see map).

Upon entering the range property you will be immediately impressed by the wide open spaces with loads of recreation and parking space. The first building you will notice, other than the

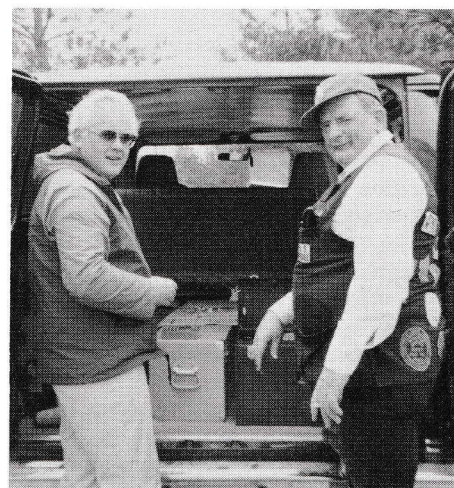
owner's home, is the rustic but modern clubhouse. It contains the kitchen, sit-down eating area, ladies and gents washrooms and a small but well-stocked retail shooting supplies store.

While on the subject of the clubhouse I should mention that full-course breakfast, lunch and supper is offered at reasonable prices during each day of competition. The food is truly home-style cooking and the portions are ample and prompt. Jean Benedict's home made pies are exceptionally delicious so be sure to save room for dessert each day!

For those so inclined there is a complete trap and skeet range adjacent to the clubhouse parking lot. As we proceed down the range road toward the park you'll notice the fresh aroma of evergreen trees with the summer breezes whispering through the Scotch pines and the ground beneath a thick carpet of wild strawberries; truly inviting and relaxing surroundings.

Some 200 or so yards through the evergreens we enter the range park and the bench rest range. Trees in the park, mostly tall pines and a few northern oaks, have been thinned enough to allow large campers and mobile homes to maneuver easily but still provide plenty of shade cover.

One significant addition to the park which came about in 1980 was the drill-



Reg Gale (left) and Clint Benedict (right).

ing of a well; it's no longer necessary to travel to the clubhouse for water. Although the water at Stittsville is perfectly safe to drink, it is high in sulfur content so you may be advised to bring a few gallons of your home water for drinking and cooking. Electrical hook-ups are available for a fee of \$2.00 per day.

Across the large parking lot will be found the stats. crew office and the Waiting Wall. The real focal point of the entire range property is the excellent 25 bench covered firing line. Built to last of the finest materials, the benches are of concrete block construction with heavy plank tops and conform to all I.B.S. specifications.

Looking out toward the butts you will notice the very flat terrain, right out to 300 yards, is devoid of any vegetation which might interfere with wind currents or direction. Although it is often quite windy at Stittsville the winds there are generally quite fathomable. For this reason I call it the most honest range in Canada, outside of perhaps the one at Namaka, Alberta. When shooting in a Stittsville wind and you decide that a certain set of conditions indicates a certain change of hold or even a momentary cease fire, your decision is usually correct. The flags there usually do not give false information. It is a good idea to bring your own wind indicators as the range provides only a few wind socks since they expect shooters to bring their own.

Mirage is, of course, a problem everywhere we shoot and the Stittsville Range is no exception. How you deal with mirage problems is your business but when it gets real heavy I generally "shoot the rail". I watch the top rail of the target frames and shoot only when it runs heavy in one direction. Over the

