



I use a separate rear sight to fire across the course prone events. I'm using the same sight now for 300 and 600 yards, but I want also to maintain as close as possible the same amount of elevation on the back sight for each of these yard lines. That is possible through moving the front sight to a different position on the vertical. The front sight I use provides a very wide elevation range and has proven to be extremely consistent when used in this manner. Going from 300 to 600, I move the front sight down one notch (approximately 6 minutes of angle) and that gets me very close, within a couple of minutes, for my 600 yard elevation zero. I do this because it keeps my head position and pressure against the cheekpiece more nearly the same for both prone events. [See zero information on page 186.]

The cheekpiece is the last thing that's adjusted in prone, and it needs to be done from position for that string. That's why it is so important to have ready adjustment capability in this piece. I know that cheekpiece height will be within a certain framework for different shooting positions, but the tuning should be done with the face on the cheekpiece pad: run the post until the eye is seeing right through the center of the rear sight. The T2K has a simple wheel and pinion arrange-

ment that has, but doesn't need, a lock nut to stay correctly positioned. Stocks that require loosening screws, sliding pillars, and so on, are not going to help the shooter fine tune eye position, and, therefore, deprive him of the ability to make best use of this important adjustment. I used a similar arrangement to what we have on the T2K on my Model 70.

There are days and firing points where I can't keep my sights level (on the bubble) and get my eye aligned with the center of the

[The stock piece shown in these photos is a prototype solid tube used as an experiment in T2K pre-production tests.]



aperture. There are other adjustments that may help, but sometimes the only course is to add or subtract a little cant. If that's done then I reference from the bubble position wherever it is. It will not be more than a half bubble, or I haven't yet seen it be more than that, and that reference, used as such, is as consistent and accurate as seeing it settle in the center.

I am adamant about attaining a natural head position in prone. A natural position has to do with the more upright orientation I've discussed, but also the left and right effect. When I place my head on the stock, I want my neck relaxed, and it will be if it's not having to hold my head still or keep it from drifting one way or another. This drift is miniscule. At the eye it's in thousandths of an inch — imperceptible to anyone but the shooter, but it can take a lot of additional neck tension to counteract. Eliminating that tense feeling of "holding still" makes shooting much easier. I don't know that anything improves an already competent prone shoot-

er's capacity more than having him place his cheek against the stock and have the eye looking exactly through the center of the sight — and the neck be relaxed. There's no doubt that those conditions, concurrent with a well thought out and adjusted sight picture, will increase visual acuity and reduce physical tension. Period. I spend a good deal of time in my prep period establishing this outcome.

I am also adamant about a natural left hand position in prone, and have become more so after more experience with the tubular forends I've been shooting. It is important for the hand and wrist to be in as comfortable an orientation as possible. That, essentially, means that the wrist is not bent up or down or angled side to side, and the fingers are not forced into an inflexible position. I think the fingers and thumb should be able to move freely, and, again, most of what allows attaining a natural position comes first in the shooter's choice of equipment. Overly padded mitts, a handstop that's too tall or too wide, and a rifle forend that's too wide or too