

Lever Action Rifle and Long Range Pistol Silhouette Match

What: Silhouette competition – knocking steel targets off stands – much more fun than poking holes in paper! Bang! – Clang! – Thud! – Repeat! What better way to spend a day at the range?!

When: The first Sunday of each month, South Bay Rod and Gun Club hosts a lever action rifle and long range pistol silhouette match. Setup starts at 7:45 AM and the match is usually completed by 1:00 PM.

Where: Range 6, aka the Main Range

Who: Match Director Ryan King, 619-888-7667

Course of Fire: 40 shots total, 10 each at steel silhouette targets at distances of 50, 100, 150, and 200 yards. There are chickens (8"x8") at 50 yards, pigs (20"x14") at 100 yards, turkeys (16"x23") at 150 yards, and rams (30"x24") at 200 yards. One point is scored for each target knocked over, up to 40 possible. The course of fire is the same for lever action rifle and pistols. The targets are the full sized NRA approved targets. There is a 15-20 minute practice session before the match starts.

Qualifying rifles: This match is not NRA sanctioned but adheres closely to the qualifications for the NRA Center Fire Lever Action Match. Rifles need to be centerfire, lever action, with an exposed hammer, and a tubular magazine. Only iron sights are allowed; barrel mounted or aperture mounted on the receiver or tang. Typical guns are Marlin models 1893, 1894 or 336; Winchester 1886, 92 or 94; and replicas thereof. Caliber choices can range from 357 Magnum to 45-70, but the classic 30-30 works just fine, as do its cousins the 32 Special, and 38-55. Classic pistol cartridges such as 38-40, 44-40 and 45 Colt are also acceptable, but may not always knock down the 55 pound rams.

Here's where we differ from the NRA – not all guns of the period had levers or tubular magazines, so we allow single shot rifles and other lever actions of the era. These could include Winchester High Walls, Sharps, Springfield Trapdoors, Remington Rolling blocks and Savage lever actions; provided of course they are in a suitable caliber and loaded at velocities that do not damage targets. We will also run special matches from time to time, these could include M1 Carbines, 1911 pistols or long range 22LR at reduced size targets.

If you have a question about a specific gun or caliber, please call the Match Director listed in the newsletter.

Qualifying pistols: Single shots, revolvers and semi-autos are all permitted. Open sights or scoped. Single shots like the Thompson Contender are popular, as are Ruger, S&W, and Colt revolvers. Calibers cover the spectrum from 7TCU, 357 Magnum, 41 Magnum and 44 Magnum. As with the rifles, a hit is only scored when the animal is knocked from the stand, therefore big, slow bullets are usually the best. Both open sights and scopes are allowed.

Scoring: Shooters compete by class.

Rifle Classification: Master 35-40, AAA 29-34, AA 22-28, A 15-21, and B 0-14.

Pistol Classification: Master 30-40, AAA 23-29, AA 16-22, A 8-15, and B 0-7 and in pistol there are the open sight and scoped groups. For first time shooters, you will be classified based on your first score and move up from there.

Range Setup: We start setup of the range at 7:45 AM and set our own targets and stands. This process takes about 30 minutes to set up the range. We expect all competitors to help, we're all club members, and it's our match.

Ammunition: The match course of fire requires 40 rounds, plus 5 or 10 sighter shots during practice. However, one will be more successful if the gun is sighted in at 50 and 100 yards prior to match day. Lead or jacketed bullets are acceptable, but must not cause target damage. Please contact the match director if you have questions about a particular loading.

Match Fees: Members: One gun \$10.00, two guns \$15.00. Non-members must pay the daily range fee as well so you may want to make a day of it.

Prizes: Match winner and class winners are awarded cash prizes, dependent on number of entries. Usually it's enough to cover your entry fee.