

Long Range Pistol / Cowboy Rifle Silhouette Match

When: On the first Sunday of each month, South Bay Rod and Gun Club hosts a long range pistol and cowboy rifle silhouette match.

Course of Fire: The course of fire is ten metal silhouette targets each, at ranges of 50, 100, 150, and 200 yds. The targets are the full sized NRA approved targets. There are chickens at 50 yds, Javelina at 100 yds, turkeys at 150 yds, and rams at 200 yds. Total score of 40 possible. The course of fire is the same for the pistol and cowboy rifle competition. The target has to fall to score a hit.

Qualifying rifles: This match is not NRA sanctioned but adheres closely to the qualifications for NRA Center Fire Lever Gun Match. For the NRA Match rifles have to be center fire, lever action, exposed hammer, and a tubular magazine built before 1898 or a replica thereof. Sites have to be iron; open or aperture but if aperture the front sight must be a post. Examples would be Winchester or Marlin model 94s in 30-30, 35 Remington, 38-55, Winchester 1886 in 45-70. The 30-30 is a popular cartridge for this match. The rams weigh about 50 lbs so consider a rifle that will knock them down. The 30-30 occasionally will "ring" a ram at 200 yds with a 150gr factory load. The 170gr cartridge usually will do the job. Pistol cartridge rifles can do the trick as well, some shooters have had good success with 357 & 44, Magnum, 38-40, 44-40, and 45 long colt in the originals and replicas. We have one shooter that competes with a Spencer.

Here's where we differ from the NRA. Lots of cowboys in the old west didn't have repeaters so we allow single shot rifles of the era. Again pre-1898 or a replica thereof, exposed hammer. These would be the Winchester High Walls, Sharps, Springfield Trapdoors, Remington Rolling blocks...

If you have a question call the Match Director listed in the newsletter. The limiting factors to any qualifying rifle are primarily safety, and secondarily avoiding target damage.

Qualifying pistols: Single shots, revolvers and 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, 41Magnum and 44 Magnums. As with the rifles, a hit is only scored when the animal is knocked from the stand.

Scoring: Shooters compete by class.

For rifle: 35-40 Master, 29-34 AAA, 22-28 AA, 15-21 A, and 0-14 B

For Pistol we go by the Hunter Pistol scoring: 30-40 Master, 23-29 AAA, 16-22 AA, 8-15 A, and 0-7 B and in pistol there are the open sight and scoped groups

Range Setup: We start setup of the range at 7:00 AM and set our own targets. It takes about 30 minutes to set up the range. We have to pull down the target frames and set up the stands and steel targets. We expect the shooters to help, we're all club members, and it's our match. If you can't due to a physical restriction, that's OK; we're all not as young as we used to be. Putting the range back to normal configuration takes about the same amount of time. We're pretty good at it by now and if we team up it's not too bad.

Ammunition: The match course of fire requires 40 rounds. We have an approximately 20-30 minute practice session to get sighted in starting at about 8:00 AM and the match starts at 8:30 AM. We can accommodate up to eight shooters on the line at any one time due to the number of targets. Depending on the shooter turnout, we shoot in relays of 4 or 8 shooter on the line at one time. This also allows for shooters that want to shoot more than one rifle, more than one pistol, or a combination.

Match Fees: Members: One gun \$10.00, two guns \$15.00, three (if space available and we are running a third or more relays) \$20.00. Non-members must pay the daily range fee as well so you may want to make a day of it. We usually finish up around 12 -1 PM if we run three relays.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call. The more shooters; the more fun. We have had fun shoots after the main match if we have enough shooters. 50 yd chickens at 150 yds, 100 yd pigs at 200 yds. Tres Bandidos. Also, if we have enough shooters to fill out the classes we have small cash prizes for class winners as well as the Match Winners in rifle and pistol.

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