



ON TARGET

Newsletter of the Buffalo Rifle Association of Australia *Issue 30 – Oct 2015*

APERTURE – Point of View

And a word from EI Presidenté

The SSAA Rules for Black Powder cartridge Rifle as adopted by BRAA and approved by the NSW Firearms Registry make it mandatory that no attempt must ever be made to remove a stuck LIVE round by dropping a cleaning Rod down the barrel from the Muzzle end. I interpret that to mean also any other steel or Brass rod. If the round cannot be removed from the breech end by some kind of lever (screwdriver, Leatherman tool,??) then the rifle must be removed from the range and the round removed safely by a qualified person (read Gunsmith) probably by removal of the barrel from the action. That isn't going to do anything for the enjoyment of the shooter who has possibly travelled long distances to take part in the event.

The SSAA does not provide any explanation of the reason for the rule and its mandatory application and it is not our role to question it. From my research it appears that the dropping of a rod down the barrel can result in an increase in frictional heat in the round and related increased compression, which may fire the round. In such circumstances it is quite possible that the rod may not be fired out of the barrel as one might expect as this would require the case to remain stationary during the expansion of the propellant and depending on factors such as case shoulder and body taper the case may be driven backwards out through the breech (Newtons Third Law). If the case did actually expand under ignition/ explosion enough to seal the chamber and propel the rod out the muzzle it is likely that the barrel would be bulged or split. There are documented cases of people being killed by attempts to remove a stuck LIVE round in this way.
.....Gary

Now turn to page 4 'GUNSMITH' and read on.



BULLET-IN – Newz

- BRAA are introducing a 'Possibles Badge' see details on page 3



Classifieds

- Single Action Gear, Holsters & Belt, Black leather, 54" length belt. Belt never used. \$300 the lot
 - 2 x Cimmaron Arms (Pietta) Stainless .357 1873 SAA Revolvers. 6.5" Barrel, not sequential serial numbers but close. \$625 ea
 - 2 x Pietta Stainless .45LC 1873 SAA Revolvers. 7" Barrel, not sequential serial numbers but close. \$625 ea
- All in Excellent condition.
- Qty .38 Spec used cases, all clean in good condition, \$20 per hundred, 400+ available.
 - Carl Zeiss 3-9x40 MC scope, Exc condition, \$425.
 - Martini Cadet, .310 Very Good original Condition, dies, about 150 cases & 200+ HRBC healed projectiles. \$350 the lot
 - Martini Cadet, .310 Fair condition, internal action V.G but exterior rough due to storage in a barn for over 20 years. \$125

Photos of all available on request.
Contact BRAA for seller details.

THE POSSE

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|----------------------|------------------|
| President: | Gary Vandersluis |
| Secretary/Treasurer: | Bill Sherman |
| Captain: | Brad Skyrn |
| Publicity: | Paul Radin |
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SHOT TO BITZ

COOYAL IN OCTOBER

Nine shooters and three supporters attended the October Whiskey shoot at Cooyal. The match was shot on our paper target with a score of 3 for a hit on the target (white), 5 for the center square (black) and 7 if you managed to hit the 'bull' circle (orange and 6"Ø).

Conditions were favorable most of the time with the occasional tricky wind episodes to spice up the match. Wind direction changed completely on the second day, so it pays not to get too complacent with your windage settings, always looking for the change.

The scores below in the next column show some fairly close shooting, although it was clearly Dan's day. To emphasize the point Dan had a 'bull' at every distance! A very well deserved win, well done Dan. Oh and I believe someone else finished up with the whiskey, but that's another story. Thanks mate!



Following up with a very respectable score was Ken B. Consistency is the name of the game in any sport, and Ken certainly showed that on the day. Equaling Dan on the 600 yd and putting up good scores for every other distance earned Ken a very creditable second overall. This is a man to watch in coming matches. Good on you Ken.



The two 'Pauls' were close in 3rd and 4th but 'no cigar ... er whiskey' on the day. Other notable achievements were 'bulls' by Gary V. on the 600 yd and Gavin D. on the 700 yd.

So here are the scores with the winners at each distance highlighted.

| SHOOTER | POSI | 600 yd | 700 yd | 800 yd | 900 yd | TOTAL |
|------------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Dan Mac | 1 | 48 | 40 | 31 | 30 | 150 |
| Ken B. | 2 | 48 | 33 | 25 | 26 | 132 |
| Paul Mac | 3 | 37 | 27 | 34 | 26 | 124 |
| Paul R. | 4 | 34 | 35 | 33 | 21 | 123 |
| Gavin D. | 5 | 38 | 29 | 38 | 12 | 117 |
| Gary V. | 6 | 41 | 26 | 28 | 21 | 116 |
| Jim S. | 7 | 38 | 28 | 30 | 17 | 113 |
| Brad S. | 8 | 38 | 17 | 22 | 9 | 86 |
| Brendan S. | 9 | 38 | 23 | 18 | 0 | 79 |

COOYAL MATCH OCTOBER 2015



TARGET ? Where ?

Side Match

We had a pistol match for our side event with a few of us 'H' licensed shooters bringing along, mostly center fire, pistols in .38 and 9mm. The idea is to encourage our shooters who may be interested in obtaining accreditation in this discipline.

As a matter of course the appropriate documentation was completed ensuring all shooters compete legally and under strict supervision from accredited range officers.

The event was won by Gary V. with 'bragging rights being the winners prize.



ON THE LINE

Note! The following dates and arrangements are subject to change from time to time depending on prevailing conditions etc. Every effort will be made by your Committee to advise any changes well prior to the event. It is also advisable to check this calendar with each issue of "On Target"

CALENDAR 2015 – 2016

| DATE | RANGE | MATCH | TARGET | SIDE EVENT |
|-------------|----------|--------------|--------|----------------|
| Oct 24-25 | Cooyal | 8,7,6 + 9 | Paper | Pistol |
| Nov 28-29 | Cooyal | 6,5,3 + 9 | Gong | Shotgun |
| December | No Match | | | |
| 2016 | | | | |
| Jan 23-24 | Cooyal | 7,5,2 + 9 | Gong | Lever/R |
| Feb 27-28 | Cooyal | 8,6,3 + 10 | Paper | .22 Rifle |
| Mar 26-28 | Canberra | 10,8,6,4,3 | Paper | Silhouette |
| Apr 23-24 | Cooyal | Mini Quigley | Gong | Quigley Bucket |
| May 28-29 | Nioka | 10,9,8,6,3 | Gong | Shotgun |
| Jun 25-26 | Cooyal | 9,6,4 + 10 | Gong | .22 Rifle |
| Jul 23-24 | Cooyal | 6,5,3 + 8 | Paper | Lever/R |
| Aug 27-28 | Cooyal | 8,6,3 + 10 | Gong | Muzzle/L |
| Sep 24-25 | Nioka | Billy Dixon | Gong | .22 Rifle |
| Oct 22-23 | Cooyal | 8,7,6 + 9 | Paper | Pistol |
| Nov 26-27 | Cooyal | 6,5,2 + 7 | Gong | Shotgun |
| December | No Match | | | |

Notes: *

- * all distances 300 and below are shot off-hand
- * the 'numbers' are (hundred) yards.
- * the match will be shot in the order shown
- * the '+' separates Sat & Sun in that order
- * side events are held only if time and daylight permits.

Attendance and Catering

Due to the nature of our discipline, the nominated ranges are remote and therefore usually some distance from services. Accordingly, it is essential that all members and visitors wishing to attend any of the matches must advise the Secretary/Treasurer or at least a Committee member of their intention to attend so that catering and any special needs can be arranged.

The Ranges

Our 'home' range is **Cooyal** situated about 1 km east of the Cooyal Pub, on the Wollar Road (just over the creek).

Nioka Range is usually attended twice a year and is situated about 40 kms west of Manilla on the Boggabri-Manilla Road.

Canberra Rifle Club Hector McIntosh Grove, Majura, ACT (next door to the SSAA Range)

Range Facilities

Our ranges have varying facilities;

- All cater for camping, caravanning
- All have bunkhouse accommodation (except Nioka)
- All have cooking and beverage facilities
- All have fridges are available (except Nioka)
- All have hot/cold showers
- All have adequate toilets

In all cases there is also some local accommodation available and information can be provided at request.

Coming Up

The next, and final shoot for 2015 is

Cooyal on 28-29th November.

The match will be as described in the calendar being 600 yd, 500 yd and 300 yd events on Saturday beginning at 9:00. Followed by a single event on Sunday at 900 yds also kicking off at 9:00. All distances except 300 yd will be shot on the buffalo plate and may be shot off sticks in your preferred position. The 300 yd event will be shot off-hand at the 'diamond' springer target.

This event will be 'gong' shoot on steel targets with scores being 3 for a hit on the buffalo body and 5 for a 'heart' shot. The off-hand at 300 yd will be 3 for a hit.

The range will be open from early after lunch on Friday 27 November. If possible please arrange to be there early to assist with the set-up of the range.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

'Possibles'

At the AGM Members decided to introduce a 'Possibles' badge for shooters who score 10 out of 10 on the hardest target at any match.

The 20mm badge will be like the picture.

How the BRAA Possibles badge will be awarded will be announced in the pre-shoot briefing at each match. This is because we do not always shoot 10 rounds so, for example, at Nioka where we only put 5 rounds at each target on the Sunday match, a 'Possible' might be five hits at 1000/900 and 800 yards – it doesn't want to be too easy.

The badges have been ordered and should be ready for the November Cooyal Shoot.



Side Event

Got a SHOTTIE ? Bring it along. No SHOTTIE – not to worry there will be one there for you to use. We have a clay thrower (well Brad has) and we will set up to shoot some clays after the afternoon event.

BISON TALES

There Is No “Magic Bullet” - Part 2

by Lee Shaver (undoubtedly one of the best of our time)

Once the primer has traveled to the rear as far as the face of the breech block then the pressure within begins to cause it to act like a hydraulic jack that forces the cartridge case forward in the chamber as far as it will go. As the pressure in the cartridge continues to build, the brass case will swell out until it makes contact with the chamber walls. This contact will seal the chamber pressure inside the rifle and prevent any leakage out the back. It also causes the case to hold onto the chamber to the extent that the case will not slip to the rear and reset the primer in the primer pocket. So it leaves the primer sticking out of the back of the case.

The situation is different with high powered smokeless powder cartridges as they build up enough pressure to cause the case to stretch to the rear until the primer resets. The forward half still clings to the chamber walls and does not move. So when the case stretches to the rear it stretches the overall length of the case and creates a weak spot in the rear middle part of the case that will crack and separate after a few loadings. The case also applies quite a bit of pressure to the bolt face on a high power rifle requiring that the bolt face and locking lugs, etc. be perfectly true and fitted for best accuracy.

Straight-walled black powder-loaded cartridges do not create enough pressure to stretch a case to the rear except in rare instances. There are some cartridges that have enough taper and/or chambers that are slick enough that the case can not get a good hold on the chamber and the case will slip to the rear under pressure and reset the primer, but that is an entirely different process than the high power smokeless cartridges go through. If a black powder cartridge case is stretching when fired it is invariably because the case has been annealed too much and is too soft, or the front of the case is trying to follow the bullet up the bore, but I will address that later.

If everything goes as it should to this point, the primer will be left hanging out of the rear of the primer pocket more or less exactly the amount of the headspace minus the thickness of the rim. This is actually a good thing. Not that you want it hanging out a bunch, but it is a sign that the case is holding in the chamber as it should. When it works right, you don't have to worry about truing cartridge case rims, squaring breech block faces to perfectly square with the bore or any of the things smokeless powder target rifle guys do to tune their actions for accuracy.

I have a load for my 45-100 that pushes a 550 grain bullet out the muzzle at 1500 fps, and it leaves the primers sticking out just the slightest amount, and the cases never stretch unless I send the front half of the case up the bore with a bullet. That rifle was built from one of the most inexpensive Sharps actions you can buy. The breechblock was never trued to the bore, the firing pin was never bushed (it is still about 1/8 inch in diameter), and that rifle simply shoots as good as any I have ever shot.

Now, let's leave the rear of the case and move up front where the important stuff is going on. Since we left that back end of the case with the powder burning and pressure building to the point where the case is swelled up to seal the chamber, it is important to know that the soft lead bullets we use react differently than the jacketed bullets with smokeless powder. With smokeless powder and jacketed bullets that pressure builds slower than with black powder, and the case swells and, in theory, the case neck swells and releases the bullet to travel forward.
.....continued ↗

Continued

Or perhaps the bullet slips out of the case neck under pressure and begins its forward travel before the case is fully swelled to seal the chamber. It doesn't really matter for our story here, but if you are shooting with smokeless powder and you are getting smoky cases on the outside or a puff of gases out the breech with light loads, then the case has certainly not sealed the chamber before the bullet heads down the barrel and your brass is too hard or your powder charge too light.

With thanks to Lee Shaver – watch for the next episode.

GUNSMITH

Continued from..... ‘APERATURE (Page 1)

Stuck Live Rounds

So is there any other way that a stuck LIVE round can be removed from a rifle breech in the field and which would not place our member in breach of our Rules? There are two ways that I have seen suggested. Please understand that neither I nor BRAA nor its officers advocate either of these two methods but it does appear that they are not contrary to the Rules.

Method 1 suggests that after taking off any Rubber butt plate the rifle is held vertically and then dropped onto a hard surface whilst pointed away from the body and head of the person dropping it and any by-standers. Obviously this is only done from a short distance above the ground and it may require several drops but this method has been known to work. To this idea we add that for our type of rifles, sharps and Rolling blocks the action should be open in a sharps and in a rolling block the rolling block and hammer should be tied back and padded in some way. In neither case should the set trigger be activated.

Method 2 may be considered controversial and requires some advance planning. The method is to cut a number of three-inch lengths of wooden dowel of a slightly smaller diameter than the barrel diameter 5-7 pieces should be enough depending on the length of the barrel. Have a longer piece of the dowel say 30inches available. The rifle should be held vertically, action open as detailed in method 1, ideally clamped vertically perhaps using a C clamp and cross sticks and rusted bolt remover or a similar penetrating oil poured down the barrel for a quarter of its length. Whilst the barrel is soaking for about 20 minutes the 3 inch pieces of rod should be dropped down the barrel to about ½ of its length. These pieces will sit on top of each other but each will be slightly offset from that below it and 5-7 pieces will actually fill the bores diameter so compressing the oil and lightly pressuring it against the front of the stuck round, bullet and case edge.

Then take the 30-inch length of dowel and let it drop under its own pressure onto the stack. No downward force is needed. Experience has shown that the stuck round will usually fall out on the first tap. Then clean up!

If these methods do not work then it seems a visit to your gunsmith is the only option left.

Footnote.

We reiterate that neither Gary nor BRAA nor its officers advocate either of the two methods described above.