



ON TARGET

Newsletter of the Buffalo Rifle Association of Australia Issue 4 April 2013

APERTURE (the editors view)

An interesting thing happened at Canberra Range on the Easter Weekend. All shooters coming to the BRAA Federal Shoot were invited to participate in a Metal Silhouette shoot on the adjacent range on Saturday afternoon. Dan 'Taps' McDonald, another BRAA member, issued the invitation. 'Nothing Ventured - Nothing Gained' some of us turned up with extra ammo for the shoot. Now you may know all about this stuff, but I didn't so bear with me on this.

Without going into too much of the detail of the match, basically the shoot is conducted using BPC guns, shooting from any position except sitting on a chair or stool. 'Chickens' are shot from 200 yds 'off-hand'. And 'Rams' shot from 500 yds. There are two other distances, in this case, 300 and 385 yds with 'Pigs' and 'Turkeys' respectively. The targets are small and very testing and I'm sure we all had a ball. I know I did.

The main thing I took away from this encounter is the camaraderie between like-minded individuals shooting BPC rifles in slightly different disciplines.

I believe there is a lot to be gained by BRAA members in participating in this kind of event and thereby encouraging members of other clubs to participate in ours.

The cross-pollination of experience, knowledge and ideas can only be good for BRAA, it's members and the sport in general.

I would also like to hear from BRAA Members who belong to other clubs and can provide calendars of their shoots. Providing there are no clashes with BRAA events, there may be opportunities to shoot BPC at different ranges.

And. There was another observation expressed on the weekend and that is the issue of the 'aging population' in BPC.

Before you all turn your rifles on the writer - think about it. We need to be encouraging younger shooters to the sport. If anyone has any ideas let's hear 'em' quick!

That's my view Sf

THE POSSE

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SHOT TO BITZ

Daniel McDonald (aka TAPS-Hot & Cold) was certainly 'hot' for the Federal Shoot at Canberra over the Easter weekend. With a top score of 164 Dan won from a close second Paul Davis (John Slocum) with 160 and Bill Sherman (Hickory Will) on 151. Well done to you all.



Eleven shooters turned up for the match comprising 1000 yds, 800 yds and 200 yds on Sunday, the latter being shot offhand. The final round at 600 yds was shot on Monday. Weather was kind to us with not too much cross wind to contend with. Very creditable scores for all shooters were achieved for the 800, 600 and 200 yd events and as usual the 1000 yd event 'sorted the men from the boys'.

In the individual events, Taps and John Slocum, both on 25, shared top score for the 1000 yd. Hickory Will was right there with 24 and Sitting Bear, Old Gringo and Wounded Knee all on 17. Well done!



The 800yd event was hotly contested with Taps coming out on top again with 40. But he had four other shooters nipping at his heels on 37 and one on 36.



The 200 yd event shot off-hand late on Sunday afternoon produced some surprising results, except for Ken Hiley (Shiloh) where no one was surprised at his win with 55. Paul McCarthy (Rusty Nails) was second with 53 and a couple more on 51.



On Monday the final 600 yd event saw some pleasing results with John Slocum coming out on top with 53. Taps was second on 49 and Shiloh bringing up 3rd place on 48. Doug finally 'hit his straps' on 46 and a grin from ear to ear.

For those who weren't there, this is a much-enlarged view of the target. It's about what you would see at about 200 yds. The white section is about 8' x 6' with a 3' black square. In the middle is the 'bull', a 4" orange disc.



At 1000 yds the whole thing is a mere speck! One may be able to make out the black centre but the bull is not visible no matter how keen your eyesight.

Notable 'bulls' were Taps & John Slocum with 1 each at 600 yds! Old Gringo with 2 at 200yds and Sitting Bear, Rusty Nails, Shiloh and Sugarfoot each scoring one at 200 yds.

ON THE LINE

There are no revisions to the calendar this month so keep them in the diary.

January – ~~CANCELLED~~

February ~~22/23/24 – Cooyal (7-5-3-9)~~

March ~~30/31/01 – Federal – Canberra~~

April 26/27/28 – Cooyal (6-4-2-8)

May 24/25/26 – Nioka -Via Manila NSW

June 21/22/23 – Cooyal (7-5-3-9)

July 26/27/28 – Cooyal (6-4-2-8)

August 23/24/25 – Cooyal (7-5-3-9)

September 27/28/29 Nioka – plus AGM

October 25/26/27 – Cooyal (6-4-2-8)

November 22/23/24 – Cooyal (7-5-3-9)

Coming up!

The smoke has only just cleared on the Federal Shoot and already the next **Cooyal Whiskey Shoot** is just 3 weeks away!

As with previous shoots the range will be open from about midday on Friday 26th April and the 600 yd event will begin at 9:00 am on Saturday. Following the 600, the 400 yd and 200 yd (off-hand) events will progress through the day. The 800 yd event will begin at 9:00 am on Sunday and lunch and presentation will usually see us clear early afternoon. Practice may continue on Sunday afternoon if agreed on the day by the Match Director.

All events will be shot with 5 sighting rounds (or less if desired) and 10 scoring rounds. The Match Rules are attached to this newsletter.

Camping / caravanning is available on site and there is ample room in the clubhouse to bunk down. Earplugs are definitely recommended!

There are rooms available at the Cooyal Pub which vary from \$50 to \$110 and accommodation is also available at the local Yarrawonga Cabins - BRAA members also enjoy a discount.

It will get cool overnight so come prepared!

Breakfast and lunch will be available from BRAA on Sat and Sun in the clubhouse. **Each meal is \$5 and will only be available if prior advice is given to Bill Sherman when you confirm attendance for the shoot.**

Evening meals are usually taken at Cooyal Pub, which has a good menu at reasonable prices, but there are facilities at the clubhouse for preparing your own meal if so desired.

Also remember that in May the monthly event is at Nioka. This has always been great opportunity to catch up with fellow BRAA members from the North.

Oh and one more thing. There are always lots of things to do when setting up the range for the shoot and all too often this is left to the 'willing few'. If you are intending to be at the range on Friday, please try to get there early to assist in the set-up.

Attendance advice to Bill Sherman;

bsher@acenet.com.au or 04118257330

BISON TALES

The Buffalo Rifle in History and Today - Part 4

There were many different rifles used in the Buffalo hunt but by far the hunters preference for a reliable accurate rifle was either Remingtons Rolling Block or a Sharps 1874 using a .45 or .50 calibre cartridge.

As well as the isolated attacks on individual Hunting parties there were also attacks by much larger groups of Indians of which perhaps the most famous was the 2nd battle of Adobe Walls when 28 Buffalo Hunters held off a force of 700 Indian warriors for three days. The climax of the battle was a shot taken by one of the Hunters Billy Dixon with his Sharps "big 50" which knocked an Indian shaman off his horse at a later measured 1538 yards. Dixon never claimed it to be anything other than a lucky shot.

In 1990 A Hollywood Movie shot in NSW and Western Australia called "Quigley Down Under" featuring Tom Selleck as a Marksman with his Sharps rifle. The movie and its real star a Shiloh Sharps 1874 in 45-110 calibre became a cult success and re-invigorated interest in the old Buffalo rifles. Shiloh Sharps and its main competitor C Sharps had been making expensive replicas of the old Buffalo rifles since the early 1970's and business boomed as matches for the old style rifles were started in many parts of America. The Italian gun makers were quick to follow with Sharps and Remington replicas at more affordable prices.

In Australia nothing much happened for some time but with the success of Single Action Shooting in Australia a group of enthusiast started shooting the replicas of the old rifles at side events to Single Action matches and later started organising their own matches at different ranges.

In 2009 a group of enthusiasts registered the Buffalo Rifle Association of Australia and affiliated the new club with the SSAA as part of the Muzzle loading discipline.

..... final episode in next issue

GUNSMITH

BP Cartridge Calibres - Part 4

.40-90, .40-100 Sharps (Necked) In its day the .40-90 Sharps (Necked) was a popular cartridge both for hunting and target shooting. It is perhaps not widely realized that Sharps made target rifles as well as hunting rifles, and the company was very successful in match competition. Their match successes eventually resulted in the word "sharpshooter" (contracted from "Sharps shooter") generically meaning a good shot.

Introduced in 1873, the .40-90 used a rimmed, bottleneck case 2 5/8" long. The base diameter of this case was .506", the shoulder diameter was .500", and the neck diameter was .435" Bullet diameter was .403". The cartridge overall length (COL) was 3.44".

The .40-90 and .40-100 (Necked) were the same cartridge with different powder charges and bullets. Period .40-90 factory loads drove a 370 grain lead bullet at a MV of 1475 fps and ME of 1800 ft. lbs. This was the big game load.

The .40-100 was an "Express" load, which in those days meant "high velocity." It used a lighter 190 grain hollow point bullet in front of extra powder to achieve a higher MV at the expense of penetration on large game.

.44-77 Sharps and .44-77 Remington This pair is actually the same cartridge. The .44-77 was introduced in 1869 by Sharps for their Model 1869 rifle, and was based on the Sharps 2 1/4" rimmed, bottleneck case. This case had a base diameter of .516", shoulder diameter of .502" and neck diameter of .467". Bullet diameter was .446" and cartridge overall length was 3.05".

It was also available under the Remington name in their No. 3 Rolling Block rifle. The .44-77 was used for both hunting and target shooting. Factory loads were provided with various bullet weights up to 470 grains. Using a 365 grain bullet, one typical factory load had an advertised MV of 1460 fps and ME of 1730 ft. lbs.

..... more calibres to follow