



ON TARGET

Newsletter of the Buffalo Rifle Association of Australia Issue 5 May 2013

APERTURE (the editors view)

Making fire, smoke and loud noises is an old theme that we all enjoyed in our youth. Those who remember the 'tuppenny bungers' sky rockets and other explosive devices will remember loud noise, smoke and coloured fire. They will also remember the blackened hands and eyebrow-less faces at school on Monday after Guyfalks bonfire and 'cracker' nights.

We also used to make what we called 'fairy powder', a mixture of sulphur (readily available) and another substance (forget the name) that you could sometimes inveigle out of the local chemist. Less than a teaspoon of Fairy Powder placed between two flat stones in front of rear wheel of the school bus was enough to lift the wheel off the ground! Or a small portion between two large bolts screwed into one nut and tossed into the air. Trouble was it was highly unstable resulting in significant injuries to those who misused it. I'm not so sure how we ever survived!

We now enjoy a similar kind of banging, smokin' and hopefully 'clanging' as well but in a much more controlled and safer environment. Sometimes rules and regulations are not so bad. Sf

BULLET'IN (Newstuff)

Andrew Quigley and Plinky attended the SSAA NSW Colonial Action State Titles at SSAA Windermere on Friday 22 March for the Long Range Rifle Events. A number of competitions were conducted, being Muzzle Loading Patch Ball and Military, L/A and Single Shot Pistol Cal Rifles, L/A and Single Shot Rifle Cal Rifles, 310 Cadet, and the 2013 Quigley Downunder Shoot.

Andrew Quigley won the Stan Triggs Memorial Trophy for Muzzle Loading Patch Ball Shooting, Plinky won the L/A Rifle Cal Rifle event and Andrew Quigley took out the 2013 Quigley Downunder Shoot without dropping a shot.

And.... Eight BRAA members will be attending the **Matthew Quigley Buffalo Rifle Match** in Forsyth, Montana Territory in June this year. The adventurous shooters; Jim & Brad Skyrms, Gavin & Luke Dignam, Bill Sherman, Gary Vandersluis, Mike Fahey and yours truly will be accompanied by Kellie and Pam Skyrms, our long suffering spotter and scorer.

Wish us luck!

THE POSSE

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| President: | Gary Vandersluis (Chris Madsen) garyv45@bigpond.net.au |
| Secretary/Treasurer: | Bill Sherman (Hickory Will) bsher@acenet.com.au |
| Captain: | Jim Skyrms (Wounded Knees) pamelaskyrms@bigpond.com |
| Vice Captain: | Andrew Tuft (Andrew Quigley) andrew.tuft@ipcdirect.com.au |
| Publicity: | Paul Radin (Sugarfoot) paulradin@netspace.net.au |
| Committee: | Gavin Dignam (J B Books) luan26@bigpond.com |
| Mail: | PO Box 701, Mittagong NSW 2575 |
| Website: | www.buffalorifles.com.au |

SHOT TO BITZ

Clear sunny skies, warm, but not too hot, no wind - near perfect conditions prevailed at Cooyal for the April Whiskey Shoot. It was a shame that so many couldn't be there to enjoy it on this occasion, but we can't do them all.

We had 6 shooters, most of whom will be going to the Montana Quigley shoot in June. So we decided to abandon the normal format in favor of 6 events emulating the distances to be shot at Quigley. www.quigleymatch.com/target-info.html

We set up at 805, 600, 530, 417, 405 and 350 yds - the latter being shot 'off-hand'. Whilst we were unable to replicate the Quigley targets, quite a few 'hearts' were shot, being a good indication that we were 'on-the-money'.

We adopted the usual 5 sighters and 10 scoring shots (Quigley has 8 shots - no sighters on the day) with pleasing results all round.



There are a couple of things missing in this picture - there's no prize for guessing what they are.

And thanks again to our tireless spotter Kellie and scorer Pam. Great job as always. Where do I send the money Pam?

At 805 yd Bill (Hickory Will) produced an impressive 26 points with Brad (Sitting Bear) trailing at 21 and Paul (Sugarfoot) on 20 points.

Next on the 600 yd Paul got up with 26 points just ahead of Bill on 25 and Jim (Wounded Knees) on 23.

On the 530 yd line nobody could get near Jim on an outstanding 32 points followed by Paul at 27 and Bill on 19.

The 417 yd was close with Paul on 32, Jim on 30 and Bill on 28 points.

We then shot the 350 yd off-hand in failing light, getting chilly and a yen for a cold beer to finish off the day. Not great scores except for Brad who shot a creditable 18 with his chunky 45-120. Jim managed a 12 but the others are not worth a mention.

The 405 was shot on Sunday morning in similar weather conditions. Brad on 38 (a really hot score!), Paul on 34 and Jim on 31.

Final scores for the weekend were Paul on 145, Jim on 137, Brad on 134. The prize - a \$50 voucher to Horsley Park Gun Shop. Great.

'Possibles' were shot by Jim at 530 yds, Brad on 405 yds. and me on both 417 and 405 yds. Seems about 400 yds works for me.



ON THE LINE

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

January – ~~CANCELLED FIRE RISK~~

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

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

April ~~26/27/28 – Cooyal (Quigley Match)~~

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!

‘Last Stand’ at Nioka

The last weekend in May is at Nioka. This is great opportunity for BRAA members across the State to get together.

Nioka range is 42 kms from Manilla on the Manilla - Boggabri Road and has excellent facilities for camping or caravanning. Bar-B-Q's plus hot and cold water for showers and clean pit toilets are provided. There are rooms available at the Manilla Motel

You will need to bring your own food for Friday lunch and evening. Breakfast and lunch will be available on Sat and Sun from the Meigels on the range, each meal is \$5, Sat Evening meal is usually a roast or similar prepared by the Meigels for \$10 and highly recommended.

The shoot will commence about 9-30am on Saturday 25th May and Finish at about Lunchtime on the Sunday. It will be shot over 200, 300, 600, 1000 and approx 1100 yd distances with a maximum 15 shots at each distance of which the last 10 only will score ie the first 5 are sighting shots and if you have two hits your sighting session ends. The practice shots are optional. If those present agree, informal practise can take place on the Friday afternoon but please be sure that there are at least two shooters on the range and that the usual safety arrangements apply. If you have a spotting scope please bring it and ideally your own spotter for the match. We will shoot two details to allow for those not shooting to spot for those shooting.

As usual it would be appreciated if you would dress appropriately as a Buff Hunter of the late 1870's would have. A prize will be awarded for the Best (or is that worst) dressed Buff shooter

The cost of the **Last Stand at Nioka Match** will be \$50.00 to cover two days which includes both days range fees, target paint, and prizes for the Best score at the farthest distance and overall best score.

Please **contact Bill Sherman** to advise attendance and meal requirements on bsher@acenet.com.au or 04118257330

The next **Cooyal** shoot is **June** and will be organized and run by **Andrew Tuft**. Please **contact Andrew** to advise attendance and meal requirements on Andrew.tuft@ipcdirect.com.au

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 get to the range on Friday, please try to get there early to assist in the set-up and also don't forget the clean-up after the shoot.

BISON TALES

The Buffalo Rifle in History and Today - Part 5- Series Final

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.

Since then regular matches have been organised at the Cooyal Range near Mudjee with shooting out to 900 yards, at the "Federal" Match at Canberra out to 1000yds and with the Associations signature match "The Billy Dixon Long Range Single shot Rifle match" taking place at Nioka Range near Manilla .

The Billy Dixon match has been designed to salute both the long range target shooters and the buffalo hunters. It is a two day match with day one being a Buffalo Match where targets are at 200yds shot off hand, 300yds, 600yds and 1000yds on cross stick rests, The match concludes with each competitor having a single shot at a 3ft wide by 8ft high steel plate at 1100 plus yds. This last shot symbolises Billy Dixons famous shot at Adobe walls.

Day two is a modified Creedmore match with competitors shooting at a 12ft by 6 ft Steel plate from 800yds, 900yds and 1000yds. All the rifles are replicas of the originals and sights are tang mounted peep sights, telescopic sights not being allowed. Most competitors do all their own loading with many casting their own lead alloy bullets.

The tradition continues with regular shoots at the three ranges. The Association continues to flourish with new members showing the same enthusiasm as the regular shooters.

BRAA members enjoy shooting these old guns accurately at distances thought impossible by many shooters of modern firearms with expensive telescopic sights and the exhilaration of hitting a gong at 1000 yds is indescribable.

More exciting stories to come.

GUNSMITH

BP Cartridge Calibres - Part 5

.44-90, .44-100, .44-105 Sharps (Necked) and .44-90 Remington

The .44-90 Sharps was introduced in 1873 and discontinued in 1878. All three of these numbers are based on the original .44-90 case; the .44-100 and .44-105 simply represented heavier powder loads in the same cartridge.

The .44-90 used a rimmed, bottleneck case 2 5/8" long. Its base diameter was .517", shoulder diameter .504", and neck diameter .468". Bullet diameter was .446" and COL was 3.30"

This cartridge was more popular as a long range match cartridge than as a hunting cartridge, although it was used for both. Factory loads gave a 520 grain lead bullet a MV of 1270 fps and ME of 1860 ft. lbs.

Very similar, but not quite identical, to the .44-90 Sharps (Necked) is the .44-90 Remington Special. It was designed as a match cartridge for the Remington Rolling Block Creedmoor rifle and was also introduced in 1873.

Its case had a base diameter of .520", a shoulder diameter of .504", and a neck diameter of .466". Case length was 2.44" and COL was 3.08". The correct bullet diameter was .442" rather than the .446" of the Sharps .44-90 cartridge.

Factory loads gave a 550 grain lead bullet a MV of 1250 fps and ME of 1812 ft. lbs. Although primarily a match cartridge, the .44-90 Remington had the accuracy, power and penetration to make it a good bison cartridge.

..... Next month we'll have a look at some .50 cal.