



ON TARGET

NEWSLETTER OF THE BUFFALO RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

72 JUNE 2021

Nioka in May

Hello there from my 'cool' office in Tamworth. Yes I do believe winter may have finally arrived! A fresh load of firewood delivered last night and I'm sure we'll be using every last piece. I trust this finds you all well and preferably, mask free.

Well our May shoot went ahead from the 21st through the 23rd at the Nioka range and, of course, the Nioka fall of shot phenomena raised its ugly head as it usually does. A handgun side match was proposed for the Friday and Saturday afternoons with a 'buffalo' match slated for Saturday at 200, 300, 600 and 1100 yds. Sunday was a Creedmoor shoot at the 'bears head' target at 800, 900 and 1000 yds.

Present for the Saturday were myself, Paul McCarthy, Gary Vandersluis, Dan MacDonald, and the bonus was seeing both Happy Hans and Mark Green at the range. Mark came bearing gifts... namely three bags of firewood, which weren't actually needed this time around but will be put to good use at Cooyal this coming month. Thanks Mark. The Meigels had provided a good load of firewood and I brought some from home to supplement the supply.

Kicking off the Saturday at 200 yds on the small disc, left me with a possible of 8 against Happy Hans with 7 and Mark & Gary even on 4. At 300, Dan found his sights and scored 8 along with Gary. Gavin followed on 7 with Hav on 6. Up to 600 yds now and it was Dan and Gavin on 8 with Gary on 5 and Paul Mc on 4. The 1100 yd distance on the bears head only revealed a problem that we were to be plagued with on the distant mound for the remainder of the weekend. Dan scored the only hits being 2 and did well to do that. The matted, dry grass and vegetation hit any chance of seeing dirt and hence most of us were chasing our sights. Notoriously the wrong thing to do but almost all of us did it. Sigh!

During the evenings around the fire I made friends with Morris. A little brown fur ball with a tail that came to warm his rump by the fire each evening. He was one of many but the only one to stop and chew the fat as it were. Beautiful nights and days and while it was certainly cool, I don't think our Lithgow traveler even noticed the drop in temperature?

Ken Hawes arrived on the Sunday morning with his new rifle. Very nice too I might add. So it was decided to allow him some time to familiarize himself with it before we again challenged ourselves at the Creedmoor gong.

We had lost two of our number with Hav and Dan now absent but we soldiered on. At the end of the 800 we had Gary V and Ken H on 2.. the only hits for the detail. At the 900, Paul Mc found steel and managed to hold it for five hits which given the spotting or lack thereof...was amazing. Ken Hawes and I had to settle for 1 hit a piece. Given the late hour and the frustration around lack of feedback it was decided to call it a day and so we packed up and headed for our respective camps.

Still a good weekend in general and an opportunity to use our two new AR500 steel diamond targets which performed well. Heck ... we even hit those!

Our next shoot is about three weeks away now at Cooyal. Plans afoot to have it as a corflute or 'paper' target match. Raised and lowered and scored accordingly. This relies on a few things, not the least being enough members present to run the match. Distances to be 700, 800 & 900 yds + two others This is a 'corruption' to some degree as we've dropped the 1000 this time around as the range set up is tedious for this distance and the overhanging foliage makes it a hazard for our high trajectory rounds. Just ask Gary !

Hope to see you at the range...and only when my sights are down.

Regards... Gavin/ J.B.

Wano v Swiss

An interesting article by Ben Gregory in a recent Australian Shooter compared the results from using Swiss v Wano powders.

The author compared Swiss 3Fg and Wano 3F and 3P—standard and precision versions. He also compared a 1917 powder (which performed best of all!) and Pyrodex (which is made by adding Potassium Chlorate and some proprietary additives to the usual black powder ingredients) and, another substitute, Alliant Black MZ (made by mixing Potassium Nitrate and Potassium Perchlorate plus 1% Carbon Black).

The rifle used was a Winchester 1892 in 44-40 calibre. 30grains of Wano and Swiss were used in Winchester Brass with CC! large pistol primers and a 240 grain semi-wadcutter projectile.

While this is not what we use, the results below are still useful. Incidentally, while the Swiss 3F did not group well it is recommended by Dave Guile of Buffalo Arms for use in our type of shooting. His record is outstanding, of course, so perhaps it is just the wrong rifle or bad shooting (I hope so because I am about to start using it having bought some in the last BRAA powder purchase. Bill)

Hope to re run some of the test ourselves before the next newsletter.

Powder	Swiss3F	Wano3F	Wano3P	PyrodexP	BlackMZ
Mean Velocity (fps)	1249	1016	1065	1245	1265
Standard deviation	14	19	19	19	22
Extreme Spread	44	75	63	64	71
Group Size (cm)	23.5	13.5	8	9.5	13.5

So we have a substantial difference between Swiss and Wano in velocity but that hasn't translated into group sizes (they were shot at 50m). The difference in groups between the between the two Wanos was to be expected. Precision powder should shoot better. BRAA Member and Guru Charlie Siringo (Eric Johnstone) always reckons any standard deviation over 10 is too high so these certainly are. And as another Guru says Its what's on the target that matters!

Next Match

Cooyal 19/20 June

Paper/Corflute if practical

Range open from Lunchtime Friday

Details to follow

Self Cater. BBQ available

Plenty of room to camp. Toilets and showers on site