

2010 - SMALLBORE RIFLE SILHOUETTES

Smallbore Rifle silhouette shooting is a fun and exciting rifle marksmanship venue, using your faithful old .22 rifle, or purpose built silhouette standard rifle in .22 rimfire.

More on Silhouettes

Small-bore silhouette is a scaled down version of the original game that originated in Mexico as *Siluetas Metalicas* or metallic silhouettes, that used high power sporting rifles at much larger steel targets in the shape of chickens, pigs, turkeys, and rams, at ranges out to 500 yards or more. Small-bore silhouettes uses iron targets 1/5 the size of the high power at 1/5 the distance for each set. The course of fire is 40 shots at 40 animals. Ten chickens at 40 yards, ten pigs at 60 yards, ten turkeys at 77 yards, and ten rams at 100 yards.

The matches are fired in the offhand position, meaning that no benches, bags or sticks are used to steady the aim. It is just you and your rifle in the standing position. Firing one shot per target left to right in order is the requirement. Any shot made out of sequence is scored a miss for the intended target and for the one hit out of sequence.

Each set of ten targets is separated into two banks of 5 targets. At the command "Fire", the shooter is allowed 2 1/2 minutes to fire five shots. "Cease Fire", Alibis are dealt with, then a short break of less than 2 minutes before the second 2 1/2 minutes of firing to complete the relay. Non-shooting competitors of the previous relay have the responsibility of scoring. Coaching and spotting with a scope is allowed, but neither should interfere with another shooter's ability to engage their targets without distraction.

After the command "Cease Fire", all rifles will be made safe by unloading any saved rounds, and inserting an open bolt indicator, and placed in the rifle racks behind the firing line.

When the line is determined to be safe by the match director, all shooters will then proceed to walk to their targets to reset and paint, for the next relay. This process is repeated until all shooters have completed the 40 shot course of fire.

In the event of a tie within a particular class, or for the overall winner, a sudden death shoot-off will determine the winner. The target will be chosen by the match director, and the competitors shoot until one misses. Shoot-offs are very exciting to watch and even more exciting to participate in.

Equipment

Some of you may think that 100 yards is an awfully long way to shoot a .22. That is not true! Any .22 rifle in good working order is capable of a perfect score of 40/40 if the shooter can do it. The beauty of silhouettes is that almost everyone has everything they need to get started. Iron sights are fine but most folks use scopes with repeatable adjustments to establish "zeros" for each distance.

There will always be two matches; one for what the rules call "Standard rifle" and another for the Hunting rifle. The Hunting rifle class is restricted to what most of us call "sporters". These range from the very inexpensive, and common Marlin bolt-action repeater, to high-end collectables like the Winchester 52 repeating sporters. The hunting rifle cannot weigh more than 8 1/2 lbs, (including sights), and have a standard contour tapered barrel. It must have a hunting style stock without adjustments, or added features, with a trigger pull of not less than 2lb. Thumbhole stocks are not allowed in this category. Other rifles in this category include: Ruger 77/22, Ruger 10/22, Clip fed Marlin, and Savage bolt actions, and tube fed lever actions, or tube, or magazine fed semi autos that are very common. Basically, the .22 you have had gathering dust for as long as you can remember is all the gun you need to get started. Any rule compliant Hunting rifle can also be used in the Standard rifle match.

The Standard rifle category allows the use of more specialized target competition rigs with fewer limitations. They may weigh up to 10 lb. 2 ounces including sights, with "bull" barrels up to 30". Any trigger not subject to accidental discharge may be used; "release" triggers or automatic triggers are prohibited. Stocks are usually specifically designed to conform to current rules, and can be wood, fiberglass, carbon fiber, Kevlar, or laminates. Attachments that do not place the rifle overweight, or extend past the length of the barrel are allowed.

Sights

As stated before, any sight may be used as long as your rifle still conforms to the rules. But most sporters that have not been scoped will probably have the old tried and true leaf rear sight that limits your elevation and windage adjustment. Most will try to establish a zero for the closest target and "hold over" for the rest. This may be fine for a skirmish against a rising hoard of belligerent soda cans, where time is not a factor, and ammo is plentiful, but for silhouettes, it is a major disadvantage.

The obvious upgrade to your sporter is a decent scope. By decent I mean a scope that can reliably focus, adjust, and repeat for each of the known distances required. It should be rugged, and capable of doing this for every match. Most optics chosen for 22 rifle duty are usually not suitable for silhouettes because they lack the features of adjustable objective lens (Focus), target knobs, and have low magnification. When choosing a scope for your favorite 22, think of it as buying a nice scope. Don't let the fact that is going on your 22 limit you to only the cheapest optics.

Ammo

Small-bore shooters today have the widest array of choices available for ammo than anyone in history. Today we have subsonic, standard, and hyper velocity ammo, by more manufacturers than you can shake a stick at. But for our silhouette matches we will only use .22 cal long rifle standard velocity ammunition.

****You may not use 17M2, 17HRM, or any other 17 rim-fire ammo****. The velocity of these bullets are so high that damage to the targets, and risk of ricochet, prohibit their use.

Match Information

Match dates: Apr 10, May 8, Jun 12, July 10, Aug 14, Sept 11, Oct 10, Nov 13 and Dec 11.

Second Saturday of each month with NRA approved matches beginning April 10. Match fee is \$5 per match + a once per year NRA scorebook fee of \$12.

Time: Registration and set up on match days begins at 9 a.m. Sight in period from set up complete until 10:45 AM. The silhouette rifle match begins at 11 AM; smallbore hunting rifle match follows the completion of the first match plus 30 minutes break.

Rules: All NRA small bore silhouette rules apply, as with all safety rules of SRRPC, and commands from match director. NRA rulebooks are available from <http://www.nrahq.org/compete/dept-silh.asp>

Contact Match Director: Rex N. Lutz 803-640-9257 or nrarifleman@aol.com

For more info, and forum discussions pertaining to silhouette competition go to <http://www.steelchickens.com> This is a great resource for online discussion, with very knowledgeable, and friendly members.

So clean the bore, dust off that squirrel slayer, and return it to action in fun, exciting, and very challenging Smallbore Rifle silhouette shooting. Come out and give it try; once you hear that "clang" of a well aimed round, and see that target disappear, you just might get some of that dust out of your system, too.