

Full-bore- Snacking and sipping
Air Rifle and Novice - Endless practice

The



December
2015

Buffalo Chips



**MANITOBA PROVINCIAL
RIFLE ASSOCIATION**

Air Rifle 22 Long Rifle High Power Rifle

Like always, if you have any questions, scores, tips or advice, comments, or have something that you would like to have published in the For Sale / Wanted section, email me at mprachips@gmail.com



Winter has finally arrived

The Prairie Open was a great success even with a smaller group shooting than last year but everyone had a great time. Big thanks to Gryphon Energetics for the donation of exploding targets as prizes. The smiles on the winner's faces were one of the highlights of the weekend.

The Novice program is busy and it has some openings for the winter session. I have added a couple semi auto's to the Gateway night sessions because they give everyone that happy grin you can't not wipe off their faces.

Full bore is pretty quiet but hopefully one of our members heading to the Berger National will provide a report for the next newsletter.

Finally Gateway is open on Monday nights for 22lr, except when the Novice Program is there. Check the website calendar for the regular times or contact Leo if you have not previously received any of his Gateway e-mails.

Next Air match, Jan 9th at the Leola, 22LR at W.R.P.A. range on Jan 10th.

Arguably the best resource you can have around you is people. Talk to people who have been successful. Talk to winners. Talk to people who have been there, done that. Find out what techniques and tactics they used. Talk to them about the training they had leading up to the event. Find out what they thought in order to complete the mission successfully or to win a major competition.

Linda K. Miller and Keith Cunningham, Secrets of Mental Marksmanship

Trigger Control

September 23rd, 2010

Everything else can be correct, but a bad trigger pull can ruin the shot.

Exercising proper trigger control starts with correct trigger adjustment. The triggers on all my rifles have their overtravel stops removed entirely. I want free movement in the trigger after I break a shot because that allows me to be aggressive with my trigger pull. If the finger comes to a stop at or shortly after the point in trigger travel that the shot broke, that stop can move the rifle when the bullet is still inside the barrel.



The rifle is normally moving offhand. Trigger control, therefore, is ultimately responsible for positioning the bullet on the target on an offhand shot.

Everything else can be correct—hold, sight picture—but a bad trigger pull can ruin the shot. The technical fundamental is to move the trigger without moving the rifle. This ability is easy enough to develop through dry-firing.

I believe that the Anschutz two-stage trigger is the finest available, and I've used one on my competition rifles for years. This is the same trigger found on Anschutz smallbore competition rifles. Incorporating an Anschutz into a Winchester or Remington platform requires a good deal of modification, but it's the native trigger in the TUBB 2000.

A properly set-up Anschutz trigger has enough spring tension in the trigger's arc of movement that it will effectively stop the finger from needless movement after the shot breaks. For any shot fired prone, sitting or in calm conditions offhand, the spring tension in

the trigger itself will stop the rearward movement of the finger in virtually the same spot as an overtravel stop might.

MECHANICS

I don't want to give the impression that I yank back the trigger to make every shot, although I will say that I often do something close to that when firing offhand in high wind. I always move the trigger smoothly, but there is a variance in the speed or acceleration of the trigger movement when I won't see a quality sight picture for very long. I don't pull the trigger any harder or more forcibly, just more quickly. An accelerated start on the trigger results in more overrun compared to what I experience in a calm-condition shot. Just like a vehicle, the faster it goes, the longer it takes to stop. A longer arc of trigger movement means this doesn't matter.

I touch the trigger face using only the tip of my finger. There is less movement required from the tendons and muscles to produce movement nearer the fingertip and overall greater sensitivity in this area of the finger. If we divided the surface of the first joint of the index finger into thirds, I would have only the forwardmost third touching the trigger face. I am also shooting nearer the side of my finger pad rather than on its center. That is the natural spot found by most people when touching the fingertip and the thumb together, such as when picking up a pencil. I am also shooting with approximately eight ounces in each of my trigger's two stages. I would suggest moving the trigger contact point in a little if trigger weight is higher (one pound in the second stage or more than two pounds total weight) to approximately halfway down the finger pad and also more centered in the pad.

I adjust the trigger location and face angle (options with Anschutz) to optimize my point of contact with the trigger. The idea is to direct the pressure against the trigger face in such a way as not to induce any movement other than straight back; sideways movement is detrimental. Due to the orientation of my finger contact point with the trigger face, and also to the relatively high right-hand position I have on the pistol grip, my finger is not arcing in a straight line against the trigger face (such that the finger and trigger face are perpendicular), but that causes no problems. Trigger-face adjustment compensates for it.

It is important that the trigger sits far enough forward that it meets the finger when the finger is naturally extended. This is easily adjusted on an Anschutz but may require working around on others, such as when inletting the stock on a bolt action or by moving the pistol grip rearward on an AR-15-type rifle. Curling in the index finger to meet the trigger face means not only that the finger is cramped and less efficient in its capacity for controlled movement but that it also tends to arc such that there is sideways pressure applied against the trigger, which can move the rifle.

HAND POSITION

Another element in precise control of trigger-finger movement is found in the thumb. The thumb and index finger work as a team, and this teamwork is in use countless times in a day (pick up a coin to see it). Technically, it's called "sympathetic movement," which means that when one moves, the other is ingrained to move also. When we shoot we don't want the thumb introducing movement because the movement it introduces insulates the feel of the trigger-finger movement and may also introduce unwanted side pressure against the rifle. Reducing sympathetic movement comes from extending the index finger as described and also from increasing hand gripping tension. Sympathetic movement is more prevalent when the hand is relaxed.

Another means of reducing sympathetic-movement influence is elevating and extending the thumb. All the pistol-grip areas I have designed have allowed natural attainment of this hand-hold orientation. When the thumb is wrapped around low on the pistol grip, sympathetic movement is increased.

Don't allow any part of the trigger finger to touch the rifle other than the contact of the fingertip to the trigger face. If the trigger finger is pressing inward or rubbing on the rifle, that can move the rifle or create pressures that may cause shot displacement. Unwanted rifle movement can also be introduced by the reaction of the hand when the trigger finger is moved. Gripping tension influences this, and higher tension reduces the tendency. Again, the idea and goal is to isolate control of movement to only the finger tip.



The Anschutz two-stage trigger is a shortcut to learning proper trigger control. It's adjustable in ways no other trigger found on a centerfire rifle can approach. For this reason it's the trigger chosen for the TUBB 2000.

Trigger control is what it says: controlling the moment of firing. It is as much a mental process as it is a shooting technique, but mechanics come first. Set up right, and learning trigger control becomes much easier.

Call or go online to learn more about David Tubb and his Superior Shooting Systems Inc. (806/323-9488; www.davidtubb.com).

Read more: http://www.rifleshootermag.com/shooting-tips/shooting_tips_trigger_092105/#ixzz3paYO1qEc

On Target this past fall

Novice shooter Tommy Bennett working on his form at the air range and helping his Uncle Ty during deer season, thanks to his Grandfather.



Young Alex Duarte, training under Rob Deneka takes a break to hunt in what looks like Spruce Woods



Bob Ralke took his second deer with a carbine in 45ACP.



Finally Ray Paredes getting some trigger time back when it was warm.



CARTY AND WHITEHEAD TROPHIES PICTURES



The Prairie Open



The competition was held October 24th & 25th. Athletes from across Canada participated in the two-day event that included a cut score eligible competition on Saturday and a Superfinal on Sunday with over \$2500 in prizes given out that weekend. We would like to thank our officials, volunteers, coaches and especially our athletes for making the weekend so successful and a joy to be part of. We hope to see everyone at the next Prairie Open that will be held October 29/30, 2016.



Special thank you to our sponsor Gryphon Energetics who supplied our top four winners in both disciplines with explosive targets for some fun with bigger guns!



THE BEGINNING OF BISLEY

By Colonel The Lord Cottesloe, C.B., V.D., T.D.

It is of interest to recall after sixty years how great was the revolution in the circumstances of the National Rifle Association when it had to leave its ranges on Wimbledon Common. For more than a quarter of a century they had been the scene of its annual rifle meeting; for three weeks in each July the N.R.A. had been allowed to enclose a part of the common for its own purposes. It owned only a small farm near by, which had been bought for the purpose of storing its removable buildings and materials during eleven months of the year.

At last the time came when the extension of suburban building came into conflict with the requirement for an adequate danger area in rear of the butts. It happened that a property particularly affected by this situation belonged to His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge, who was Commander-in-Chief of the Army; he owned Coombe Wood. The Duke was also the President of the National Rifle Association, and in that capacity took an active interest in it, and habitually presided at its general meetings.

It was at one of these, that held in February, 1887, in the year of Queen Victoria's first jubilee, that he felt obliged to give preliminary notice to the Association that they would have to discontinue the use of their ranges at Wimbledon, as the fall of bullets in the area of Coombe Wood was incompatible with its development for building.

This announcement at once put the N.R.A. into a great difficulty, although his action was at once accepted as being entirely justified, and he showed the Association every consideration. The first and most obvious question was whether by acquiring some part of the lands in question, or by any other means, it would be possible to avoid the closing of the ranges at Wimbledon, which were in use, after all, only for two weeks in the year. Every endeavour was made to solve this problem, but in vain. The fact was, that the common had become quite unsuitable as a site for rifle ranges, and this conclusion was reinforced by a general belief that the bullets of the .303 rifle, at that time newly adopted for the Army, ranged much farther than those of the Martini-Henry, although in fact this was not substantially the case.

Suggestions soon followed for a new site. Could Richmond Park be made available? A meeting of competitors held at the Wimbledon Meeting of 1887 strongly favoured this site. But it became clear that any enclosure there would be unacceptable to the public. It was soon evident that no alternative site for the ranges could be found in the Metropolitan area, and that the Association must go farther afield. Meanwhile, the N.R.A. Rifle Meeting was held as usual at Wimbledon in July, 1888.

Various schemes were suggested to the Council, who had appointed a committee to go into the matter. Lord Wantage, a member of the Council, strongly pressed the advantages of a site in the Berkshire Downs, where he owned a large tract of open ground; here he had made a rifle range at Churn, which is still in use. A

site on the South Downs, near Brighton, was also suggested. From the North of England the advantages of Altcar, where there had long been an important range in the sandhills of the Lancashire coast, were pressed. A strong case was made for Cannock Chase, in Staffordshire, a site within reach of Birmingham and a large Midland population, where strong local support was promised.

It was evident that a decision would shortly have to be made, and the Council had appointed a committee to make a recommendation on the subject. The two sites which offered the most obvious advantages were that on the Berkshire Downs, where Lord Wantage had generously offered to give to the Association 500 acres of land on which the ranges might be constructed, and the Cannock Chase site, which was pressed on the Council by a deputation from the Midlands. The committee, having been requested to make a recommendation as between these two sites, reported that it found itself unable to do so, and left the decision to the Council.

After discussion by the Council at their meeting on 22nd August, Capt. Stewart Pixley, an old member of the Council, who had won the Queen's Prize in 1862, moved that the site in the Berkshire Downs should be adopted by the Association. But there was evidently a feeling that the N.R.A. was hardly in a strong enough position to undertake an enterprise so large and so uncertain as the establishment of a national and permanent home of its own, unless it could count upon wider support than had so far been indicated. It was felt too that there was a real danger that a meeting held at a distance from London might tend to assume a Provincial character.

At this juncture Lord Wemyss, who had been prominent on the Council of the N.R.A. since its birth, moved an amendment that before adopting either of the sites suggested, further time should be taken to try to find a site within a reasonable distance of London, and that a committee should be appointed to ascertain from the Government whether they would assist the N.R.A. to find such a site for their Annual Rifle Meeting.

Lord Wemyss's amendment was carried, and a committee was appointed to explore the position and to approach the Government. It consisted of Lord Wemyss, Lord Wharncliffe, Sir Henry Wilmot, Sir Henry Halford and Colonel Walrond, M.P. The Committee had already inspected a number of suggested sites within easy reach of London, at Staines, Guildford, Lewes, Brighton and Pirbright. It was evident that much the most suitable of these was that adjoining Pirbright and Brookwood, where the War Office owned a large tract of unenclosed land surrounding Aldershot, on a part of which the ranges at Pirbright, used by the Guards, had been established. There need be no question here of firing rights over a large danger area having to be purchased by the Association. The distance from London to Brookwood was under thirty miles, and Brookwood Station was on a main line of railway and almost contiguous to the area in question. It could not but be an advantage to the N.R.A. to enjoy such facilities.

The outcome of the approach made to the Government was entirely satisfactory. The military authorities welcomed the proposal that the Association should become their neighbours on the Brookwood site (henceforward to be called the Bisley Common site), and Lord Wemyss was able to report to the Council on 5th December that it had been thoroughly inspected, that all requirements could be met there, and that the Secretary of State and the Commander-in-Chief were ready to do all in their power to help the N.R.A. to establish itself there. The scheme for moving to the

new site soon went actively forward.

A large portion of the site to be used, the unenclosed heath land, was already the property of the War Office, and it was on this ground that the ranges and butts were made. But it was necessary for the Association to buy the enclosed ground on which the camp was to be established, and this cost them more than £12,000. A company of Royal Engineers and working parties from Aldershot were soon engaged in making the butts and in laying the tramway running between the camp and the far ranges, which were promptly nicknamed Siberia. The London and South-Western Railway Company assumed a large share of the burden of providing the very substantial tramway running from the railway station to the camp, and the Royal Engineers assisted in its construction, which entailed the building of a road bridge.

It was out of the question for the works to be finished in time for the rifle meeting due to be held in July, 1889, and the Duke of Cambridge again postponed taking any action which would have interfered with its being held in that year, for the last time, at Wimbledon. At the Spring General Meeting of 1889, a resolution was unanimously carried, thanking His Royal Highness for the consideration he had shown for the needs of the Association, and for enabling the Wimbledon Ranges again to be used.

The work of preparing the new site went forward actively and energetically under the general supervision of Lieut.-Colonel A.P. Humphry, who had undertaken the secretaryship of the Association for a year in order to deal with the period of its removal to its new home. Its original Secretary, Capt. Edmond St. John Mildmay, who had loyally served the Association for almost thirty years, retired; it could hardly have been expected that he would undertake the great amount of work needed to establish the Association on a permanent basis in its new home, and to re-start the rifle meeting in completely changed conditions. Very great credit was due to the new Secretary for his work in making all the various arrangements for establishing the new regime at Bisley.

AMENDMENT TO RULE BOOK

On October 2nd last the Executive ruled "that safety catches no longer be required for target rifles as defined in our rules".

Therefore please amend your rule book by deleting the words "and TR" in rule 3.00 (3).

**Hope you had a safe and Merry Christmas
and enjoy the New Year outdoors or at the range.**



**Stay safe this
holiday season.
The Operation Red
Nose mascot
stopped by the Air
Rifle Range to
remind everyone
not to drink and
drive!.**