



HARDHOLDER

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Range status and notifications

A reminder that the range is open to the public and to review the Range Safety Rules. Remember, it is a member's responsibility to ensure that their guests know and abide by the range rules.

Range Safety Rules

1. Treat every gun as if it were loaded.
 2. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction. • The only safe direction is muzzle pointed down range at the berm while on the firing line. • Muzzle must never break the 120-degree rule (+/- 60 degrees in any direction of down range) while the shooter is on the firing line.
 3. Keep finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until your sights are on target.
 4. Be sure of your target and what is behind it. • All shots must land in the designated impact berm, if not stopped by a target such as steel. □
- ◆ **When a Cold Range is Called:** • Do not touch or handle firearms. • All firearms must be holstered, cased, bagged or unloaded with actions open and/or an empty chamber indicator inserted.
 - ◆ **When a Hot Range is Called:** • Eye and Ear protection are required at or near the firing line. • Firearms may be taken from the case, bag or holster only on the firing line, with the muzzle pointing downrange at the berm. • Shooters may fire when ready. • Anyone may call a cease fire.
 - ◆ **Transporting Firearms to and from the Firing line:** • Firearms must be holstered, cased, bagged or firearms must be held muzzle up with actions open and/or an empty chamber indicator in place.
 - ◆ In addition, everyone must follow all Range Usage Rules, and all Match Specific Rules.

Thank you,
Owen Maddox
President, BCGC

"This place is amazing! I have been a member for a year now and for the money you won't find a better deal! It's all outdoors and they even have a 600 yard range; not going to find that at your fancy indoor club."

- Adam Hosman

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Rimfire Benchrest 101

Part 1, Basic equipment

Everyone likes playing around with accurate rifles, and who does not enjoy shooting .22's? With Rimfire Benchrest, it is a win/win, you get to do both. It is still hard for me to believe a cartridge design that came to life during the black powder era, which spits out a 40 grain soft lead rebated base round or flat nose bullet, is capable of benchrest type accuracy.

A good 'Unlimited' rifle, in good conditions, shooting matched ammo (more on that later) will shoot five shot groups at 50 yards so small that if you tried to drop a .22 LR case thru the hole, it would hang up on the rim. Some people who have never tried it might put down benchrest, saying "after all you are just sitting at a bench, what is the big deal, where is the challenge in that?" My comeback is, "Think of it as being kind of like NASCAR, you may only be turning left, but you better be really, really good at it." This article will hopefully explain some of the subtle nuances that can make a difference when you are 'just sitting at a bench'.

You should think of your rifle/scope/ammo/rest as a complete unit, all the parts must work together so that everything happens the same way, every shot, every time. Starting with your rest, it should be solid, with no loose parts, and be fairly heavy, with smooth tracking windage adjustments, a bag that fits your forend, a forend stop and some way to adjust elevation. Quality 2 piece rests are made by Sinclair, Cowan, and Bald Eagle among others, Pappas, Arnold and several other makers supply the one piece rests used in the "Unlimited" class. If you are shooting in the "Sporter" or "Squirrel" rifle classes and are using a bipod, just make sure it is a reasonably rigid one, and keep in mind the weight of the bipod counts against the total weight limit of 8-1/2#. The rear bag can be leather, cordura or a combination of the two, make sure it sits flat on the bench and holds its shape. In the both the "Limited" and "Unlimited" classes, you should either use a stock that is 3" wide or buy/make an adapter for the forend that is 3" wide. When combined with a 3" wide front bag or roller set up, you will have a rifle that tracks well and stays level while shooting; it stabilizes your rifle the same way outriggers stabilize a back hoe. Starting with the "Squirrel Rifle Class", this is an entry level "Grins and Giggles" class for the run of the mill Ruger 10/22's, Marlin 39A's and so on, in fact the current range records are actually held by a Ruger Charger Pistol. The "Sporter Rifle" is for all those classy sporter style .22's like Kimbers, Anschutz's, CZ's, Tikkas, Remington's, Browning's, Winchester's and so on. The "Limited Class" is where all the old, and new, prone, 3P and gallery guns that still have stock barrels come out, and most of them with a little work are capable of remarkable accuracy. After all, they pretty much rule those standard bullseye games. Winchester 52's, Anschutz 54's, Kimber 82's and Remington 40x's are the most common rifles encountered in this class. "Unlimited" class rifles are the "hotrods" in this game, they always have custom barrels, often have custom actions, triggers and stocks, and when built, tuned and used correctly, are capable of incredible accuracy. In the "Limited" class and both of the "Unlimited" classes you are allowed to use Muzzle and mid-barrel Tuners, most shooters use either the "Hopewell" or "Purdy RX" methods for setting the tune for their rifle. The details of tuning are beyond the scope of this article, but if you google it you will find a wealth of info.

Since we cannot handload .22 LR, all rifles will benefit from carefully selecting the brand and kind of ammo it prefers, time spent at the bench testing will pay off once you find the ammo it likes and then narrowing it down to a specific lot number. I start my ammo testing by trying maybe 3 brands of top tier or second tier ammo, then after that initial testing I will buy multiple lot numbers of the brand of ammo it likes. Once I find a particular lot number that stands out, I will buy as much of it as I can afford. The dominant brands among serious shooters seem to be Eley, Lapua and RWS, in that order.

Now for scopes, most people use a scope in the 24 to 45 power range, or a variable that will work within those ranges. If you have less than a 12X scope, you may have a hard time seeing where your shots go, in which case



Rimfire Benchrest 101

Part 1, Basic Equipment continued..

you will need a spotting scope.

Part 2, in the next newsletter, deals with “Setting up your gear, Bench Manners, Doping conditions and shooting in a match”

By John "jp" Perizzolo

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