

ORSA RIFLE AND PISTOL CLUB

Volume 1 | Issue 5 *MAY-2017*



PITFALLS OF THE NEW HP SHOOTER

By Alan Strachn

Are you thinking about shooting High Power Rifle, or did you attend a CMP clinic and the “bug” has already bitten? If either is the case, then the addiction will soon follow. Prepare your mind to be bombarded with enough information that a super computer will be needed to process everything. If you have a touch of OCD, then you will lose countless hours of sleep as you try to analyze every detail of this game from ammo loading, barrel/chamber selection, and sights to all the other “stuff” you see HP shooters carrying in their shooting stools. The list goes on and on, and every shooter has his/her preference of what works for them and why they “believe” you need it to be successful.

The purpose of this article (and maybe a series) is to try to simplify this process and point out what I think is most important to you, the new shooter, and what can be ignored at this point in your fledgling shooting career. A more appropriate title to this article should have been “*All of the dumb things I did as a new shooter, because I did not listen to the experienced shooters who were trying to help me*”, but then my editor might have thought the title too long. Hmm, so why should my thoughts be worthy of consideration? Maybe it would be because I started shooting HP back in the 80’s with a rack-grade M1 Garand, advancing to a Super Match M1A built by the ARNG MTU, and settling into the AR15 after the AMU showed everyone you could either compete with an AR or be beaten by one. Having experienced the evolution of this sport for over 30 years of continuous shooting, I can look with weakening eyes through my much-needed glasses and pass along as much knowledge as I can to a new generation of shooters. Old people tell stories of the past, and I am no different; however, today’s story could be the secret to your success as a service rifle shooter. Although I think the story is entertaining, if it gets boring you can always skip to the summary at the end. So, let us begin our tale...

In a time long forgotten on a distant firing range, a group of younger shooters were enjoying their “liquid refreshments” in the parking lot of the 600 yard line after a hotly contested XTC match much like the knights of olde would do after a hardy day of jousting and archery. As the victorious told tales of why they were successful, and the losers (is that being insensitive?) licked their wounds, one of the older shooters made a brash statement that the AR15 was such a forgiving and easy rifle to shoot that he could make two modifications to a stock rifle and shoot a solid Master’s score with said rifle. After a heated discussion, and the symbolic glove slap across the

NEW ORSA R&P WEBSITE

We have received some positive feedback on the website, and we would love to hear from you on what you would like to see on there. Remember, the site is optimized to work in Google Chrome due to the limited programming hours available for web development.

As the season continues, we are looking at developing a resource center and a more dynamic new shooter’s page.

If you have any content or links you think would be useful for others, shoot Tracey and email.

face, a wager was placed and the older shooter found himself in the position of having to support his statements. Ok, I admit it. I had probably consumed too much “liquid refreshment”, but I believed what I said.

COMING NEXT MONTH:

We sent out a survey monkey to all the clinic participants this year and received about a 40% response, which is good, since 30% is the norm. A summary of those results can be found in next month's newsletter.

The following Saturday I returned with a new Colt Hbar with a free float tube and a two-stage trigger being the only modifications. For those who may not know, a stock Colt rifle has a barrel of unknown manufacture with an extremely long throated NATO chamber, and sights with 1 moa elevation and 1/2 moa windage adjustments; none of which would be the ideal competition rifle. Armed with this rifle, a 100 yard zero only, and whatever ammo I was shooting at the time, I set my gear up on the 200 yard line and fired through the 600 yard line. At the end of the day, I was not the match winner, but I backed up my statement with a Master's score of 764 out of a possible 800. This result was certainly not achieved from a super high-end rifle, but from many hours of practice and thousands of rounds sent downrange.

So, what do I want you to learn from this? As a new shooter, your equipment is not the key to your success; the key is practice and time behind the trigger. You do not have to own a rifle built by the finest riflemith with the best barrel and a particular chamber. You do not need to spend hours on a bench developing the perfect 1/2 moa ammo, because you are shooting at a 2 moa 10-ring. How many times have I heard new shooters talk about all the ammo development they have done, and the perfect ammo they have loaded, and what they do with this perfect ammo in their new perfect rifle? They shoot perfect 8's. How do I know? I have been there and bought the T-shirt several times. I wore out a marvelous Kreiger barrel on my Super Match when a Douglas, at half the price, would have yielded the same scores and left me with enough money to load more ammo. One can only buy so many points; the rest must be earned. Do not buy into the latest shooting fad or gimmick. I'll save you some money and give you a box of fads I still have. Trust me when I say they will not work any better now than they did when I bought them. I think I only keep them around to reinforce how dumb I was to not listen to the experienced old guys who tried to point me in the right direction. They knew of what they spoke; I was just not smart enough to listen.

So should you want to debate my theory on shooting, bring a 12-pack of Throwback Mountain Dew in the cans along with a package of double stuffed Oreo cookies, and I will listen to your theory.

WANT TO SHOOT WITH CHAMPIONS?

By Cecil Baldwin

Have you ever wanted to match your marksmanship skills with world class shooters on an equal footing? No quarter asked and none given.

Well here's your chance. ORSA-HP is once again fielding a team of high power shooters to go to the National Rifle Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio in July. The team (and anyone else interested) will be having practice sessions on the big range on May 27, Jun 17, July 1, 2 and 8. These are open practice sessions for anyone interested in possibly being part of the team or are just going to the National Matches solo.

Practice will start about 9:00 am each day, so please show up on the HP range 600yd line at about 8:00 am. We will be shooting prone, sitting and standing and as a team from the 200, 300 and 600 yd. lines. We will also practice Rattle Battle at 300 and 600 yd. If you've never done it, try it. It's really fun! There is no charge to attend or to just come by and watch. For more information call Cecil at 865-566-3265.



IT JUST WENT CLICK

By Mike Glasman

There are two types of shooters, those who have and those who will ... “It just went click” ... and then you are standing there wondering what to do next.

It’s a potentially dangerous situation if not properly managed. Worst case is a projectile stuck in the barrel and if you try to send another round downrange, **the rifle will blow up**. So, the purpose of this article is to raise your level of awareness for the need to hold up for 30 seconds to make sure your barrel is clear, asking for help if necessary.

Here are the three classic “Just Went Click” or dull thud situations and what to do when a round fails:

- **Squib Round**

The hammer strikes the firing pin and the primer ignites, but you experience no report, no recoil, and the action does not cycle, or there is a dull thud, and the action may or may not cycle. This is due to little or no propellant in the case. This means one of three things happened: 1) the projectile cleared the barrel (but at greatly diminished velocity), 2) the projectile is still in the case *or* 3) *worst of all, the projectile is lodged in the barrel*. To ensure the firearm is safe, you **MUST** reconcile where the projectile went.

Response: Wait 30 seconds, keep muzzle downrange, then slowly open the action and recover the round – Don’t lose it in the grass! If the projectile is not seated in the case, it may be in the barrel. The fastest way to know if the barrel is clear is to remove the magazine, **OPEN THE BOLT**, and push a cleaning rod through from the muzzle and ensure the rod touches the bolt face. If no rod is available, the bolt or bolt carrier group must be removed and you need to see daylight through the barrel.

Evaluation and Prevention: Disassemble the round and see if there is any powder in it. Obviously, if there is no powder, it didn’t get loaded in the case to start with. The most important preventive action is to weigh each round to ensure there is an adequate quantity of propellant. See article entitled “The Best ‘Weigh’ to Check Ammo” in the January 2017 Newsletter. And before you can fire another round, the bullet stuck in the barrel needs to be removed.



REVIEWER NEEDED

While Tracey can assemble and review all the newsletter articles each month, there is no one currently performing a final review to ensure there are no errors or typos. If you would be interested in helping her out with this, shoot her an email.

- **Misfire**

The hammer strikes the primer, but the propellant does not ignite and the projectile has not been fired from the round. This is due to a defective primer, a piece of media in the primer flash hole which interferes with propellant ignition, or there is an issue with the firearm.

Response: Wait 30 seconds, keep muzzle downrange, then slowly open the action and recover the round. Don’t lose it in the grass! Ensure the projectile is seated on the round. Misfires can be caused by rare (but possible) bad primers, the primer being seated too deeply, or any number of issues that prevent the firing pin from properly engaging the primer. Inspect the round to see if the primer was dented normally. If so then the problem

is that the primer didn't ignite, or tumbling media blocked the flash hole. If the primer dent looks shallow, inspect the firearm for other possible causes.

Evaluation and Prevention: Disassemble the round and check to see if the flash hole is clear. You can shine a light into the case mouth and should clearly see the "anvil" of the primer. If you can see the primer anvil then the primer may be seated too deeply (SAAMI Spec is 0.002 – 0.005 inches below flush). However, if it looks like a good dimple is in the primer, then indeed it is a bad primer. If the in-spec primer seating depth is correct, and there is no blocked flash hole, then there may be an issue with the firing pin, or hammer springs. Clean the action and ensure gunk and carbon buildup doesn't limit the firing pin protrusion and depth of the firing pin strike. Another condition may occur if the firing pin tip is fused due to searing hot gasses from a previously-pierced primer, and the firing pin is not hitting the primer deeply. So, inspect the tip of the firing pin and make sure it is rounded and not pitted or burned. If so, replace it.

- **Hangfires**

Hangfires occur when there is a delay between the time the firing pin strikes the primer and when the round goes off. Usually there is diminished or soft ignition, but it takes anywhere from a fraction of a second until a couple seconds for pressure to build enough to force the round down the barrel. Hangfires can also be caused by a bad or damaged primer or if old surplus ammo is being used, the powder and primer may have undergone chemical changes that adversely affect ignition.

Response: Wait 30 seconds, keep muzzle downrange, then slowly open the action and recover the round. Don't lose it in the grass! Stop using the ammo.

Evaluation and Prevention: The only thing to do when experiencing a hangfire from the use of old ammo is to stop using it. This is a hazardous situation. The powder and/or primers have undergone chemical decomposition and there is no telling what may happen next. Dispose of this ammunition. If you are shooting new or hand loaded ammo, it may be a damaged primer and this is an isolated incident. However, proceed with caution. If it happens again stop and contact the ammo or powder and primer manufacturers for advice on what to do next.

The most important thing to remember in all three of the above scenarios is to keep the weapon pointed down range for at least 30 seconds when it doesn't go off as expected before attempting to eject the round. Next, *slowly* eject the round and recover it to determine where the projectile went, being certain the barrel is clear. If there is any question and you are unsure of what you are doing, GET HELP! We are all here for each other.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BULLET SEATING DEPTH (PART 2)

By *Fernando Hernandez*

Oh the suspense... Check back in June!

WED NIGHT HP PRACTICE

We have had some amazing turn out for the Wednesday evening organized HP practices. Members get there between 4:30 and 5:00 pm, with shooting starting around 5:15. It is important to be on SLACK to receive/send communications each week. All participants are asked to communicate whether they will be attending and approximately their time of arrival. As a reminder, the schedule runs as follows:

- 1st and 4th Wednesdays – 200 yd
- 2nd Wednesdays – 300 yd
- 3rd and 5th Wednesdays – 600 yd

Since the days are getting longer, we can shoot at all distances depending on what the group needs.

CONTACT US

President - Mike Glasman
orsatime@gmail.com

Executive Officer - Tracey Johnson
traceycatojohnson@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

May-2017

06-May -> CMP GSM Games HP 200 & CH 8 AM; Kyle Kirschenman kkmann64@gmail.com
06-May -> Air Rifle Sniper League ID 10 AM; Dave Arney, bigarney@gmail.com
07-May -> CMP M1 Carbine HP 300 & CH 8 AM; Kyle Kirschenman kkmann64@gmail.com
13-14-May -> NRA Prone Match HP 1000 yds 8 AM; Larry Sparks, larrysparks@chartertn.net
20-May -> NRA APP HP Match HP and CH 8 AM; Gerald Bowers, coldfire70@comcast.net
21-May -> CMP Vintage Sniper Team HP 600 & CH 8 AM; Kyle Kirschenman kkmann64@gmail.com
21-May -> Bullseye Pistol Match; ID 9 AM – 2 PM; Robert Carden, cardenre@aol.com
27-May -> Air Rifle Sniper League ID 10 AM; Dave Arney, bigarney@gmail.com
27-May -> Camp Perry Practice 8 AM HP 600 yds; Cecil Baldwin, cabaldwin@mindspring.com
28-May -> LR Team Training 8 AM 1000 yds; Phil Hendra, phendra@tds.net

June-2017

01-03-Jun -> Charlie Smart Memorial NRA Regional HP Rifle Championship; Mike Glasman, orsatime@gmail.com
03-Jun -> Air Rifle Sniper League ID 10 AM; Dave Arney, bigarney@gmail.com
04-Jun -> EIC Rifle Match CH & 600 yds line 8 AM; Mike Glasman, orsatime@gmail.com
09-11-Jun -> NRA Regional LR Championship, 8 AM CH; Larry Sparks, larrysparks@chartertn.net
10-Jun -> ARBA Auto Rimfire Benchrest 10 AM; James Carroll, danaaudio@comcast.net
11-Jun -> ARA Unlimited Rimfire Benchrest 10 AM; James Carroll, danaaudio@comcast.net
17-Jun -> Camp Perry practice 8 AM; Cecil Baldwin, cabaldwin@mindspring.com
18-Jun -> CMP Vintage Sniper Team HP 600 & CH 8 AM; Kyle Kirschenman kkmann64@gmail.com
18-Jun -> Bullseye Pistol Match; ID 9 AM – 2 PM; Robert Carden, cardenre@aol.com
24-Jun -> CMP GSM Games HP 200 & CH 8 AM; Kyle Kirschenman kkmann64@gmail.com
24-Jun -> Air Rifle Sniper League ID 10 AM; Dave Arney, bigarney@gmail.com
25-Jun -> M1A Match HP 300 & CH 9 AM; Mike Glasman, orsatime@gmail.com

July-2017

01-Jul -> Camp Perry Practice 8 AM HP 600 yards; Cecil Baldwin, cabaldwin@mindspring.com
01-Jul -> Air Rifle Sniper League ID 10 AM; Dave Arney, bigarney@gmail.com
02-Jul -> Camp Perry Practice 8 AM HP 600 yards; Cecil Baldwin, cabaldwin@mindspring.com
08-Jul -> Camp Perry Practice 8 AM HP 600 yards; Cecil Baldwin, cabaldwin@mindspring.com
15-Jul -> ARBA Rimfire Benchrest 8 AM; James Carroll, danaaudio@comcast.net
16-Jul -> ARA Rimfire Benchrest 8 AM; James Carroll, danaaudio@comcast.net
22-Jul -> Air Rifle Sniper League ID 10 AM; Dave Arney, bigarney@gmail.com

KUDOS

David Keifer gets the Kudos this month for helping with our friends from Polk County. Anita had contacted me (Tracey) on April 13 to see if the “Chick squad” (Anita’s words not mine) and their coaches could come out and practice on the range. Long story short...David stepped up to the plate and took care of hosting them on April 14. Thanks Keifer!