

ORSA RIFLE AND PISTOL CLUB

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CMP RIFLE MATCH EVENTS VETERANS/ARMISTICE DAY

By Kyle Kirschenmann

ORSA Rifle and Pistol is planning several special rifle match events for Veterans Day weekend, November 11 and 12. The rifle events will include three M1 Garand, M1903 Springfield, and Vintage Military (foreign bolt guns) (GSM) matches on Saturday, with a special class for those shooting WWI and older weapons. Sunday matches will include the Vintage Sniper Team (2-person match shot with scoped WWII sniper rifles) and M1 Carbine matches. We would like to put one new veteran with an experienced shooter for the Sniper Team match as well. I encourage all experienced shooters to invite and bring their own “+1” veteran.

As a special thank-you to veterans and current active duty military, the matches will include ONE relay where our experienced shooters will assist new shooters through the rifle match course of fire. We will then continue shooting the rest of our three matches. The matches will be free for “new shooter” veterans/active duty. If you are a veteran, or know a veteran, that would be interested in joining us for these special matches please contact Kyle Kirschenmann at 865.621.5506 or kkmann64@gmail.com. Reservations are required as space and guns are limited.

We need experienced shooters to assist in the pits and coach for one relay. The number of veterans we will be able to allow to shoot is completely dependent on the number of experienced shooters we have! Experienced shooters with GSM guns, and carbines, they are willing to loan to veterans for these matches are also needed, especially those with WWI and older weapons. Any age of M1903 (not A3) or other gun that spans the WWI-era, can be used for that “class.” Please contact me if you are an experienced shooter willing to assist, coach, team with a vet, and/or have vintage rifles for loan. ORSA has just three club M1 Garand to loan. ORSA has plenty of .30-06 M2 and M1 Carbine ammo for the veterans and for purchase.

We are receiving prizes that will be available at each event. So far, the companies that have donated prizes include: *Vortex Optics, Tactical Tailor, Black Rifle Coffee, Creedmoor Sports, Sword & Plough, De Espresso Liber, Alpha Coffee, Shoot Steel, Champions Choice, Midway USA, and GovX*. Most of these companies are veteran-owned and have donated some very generous prizes.

READING WIND

By Dwayne Vidrine

I shoot high power rifle with iron sights and a sling, so my approach to wind reading will be a little different than as compared to a F-Class shooter.

The first thing I recommend is developing your prone position, sight alignment, and trigger control, so you can keep most of your shots in the ten-ring during no-wind conditions. Start by practicing on a 100 yard reduced

slow-fire prone target. This is essential. Wind reading is futile without consistent sight alignment, trigger control, and natural point of aim. Go no further until these skills are learned and honed. Shoot with people that do this well and learn from them.

Next, maintain a true no-wind zero setting on your sight. Always keep track of the windage change on your sight. One way I suggest is to verbally say it to yourself each time you shoulder your rifle, “right two and one half, right two and one half.” If you forget what is on your sight you are lost. Another way is to count down the sight adjustment back to your no-wind zero and start over.

Always remember to record your sight changes in your data book. The recording scheme that has worked well for me is to use a direction letter, R or L and two digits with a decimal point in between. The first digit is whole minute of angle. The second digit is number of quarter minutes of angle. Example: left two and $\frac{3}{4}$ minutes = L2.3, Right $\frac{1}{2}$ minute = R0.2, and right one and $\frac{1}{4}$ minute = R1.1. Either method will work. The best prone shooters save time by recording their sight changes to memory.

Wind has both value and direction. Wind away (12:00) or in your face (6:00) has no value. Wind crossing at 3:00 or 9:00 has full value. All other directions are less than full value. Get a service rifle wind chart. As you get more proficient at wind reading you will be able to adapt the service rifle wind chart or make your own wind chart. I purchased every wind chart on the market and could not make any of them work, so I made my own chart. Think of the wind in terms of minute of angle not in sight adjustment clicks. The target score rings are in multiples of minute of angle. Sight adjustment clicks are in fractions of minute of angle. My wind chart was developed in $\frac{1}{4}$ minute sight clicks. I have not taken the time to convert to minutes of angle. I will leave that to you. I now use this chart only for the wind call of my first shot at an unfamiliar range.

Which flag should you watch most? It depends on the firing range and local conditions. At Palo Alto R&P Club in Donaldsonville, LA, I watch the flags that are 270 yards from the targets. At that location, the bullet is at its highest elevation of its path and almost as high as the flags. That flag seems to give me the best indication of wind value.

DID YOU KNOW?

The NRA and CMP Rules and Regulations governing High Power Rifle and Pistol competition have rules stating individual competitors must know the rules governing their shooting disciplines?

NRA (NRA High Power Rifle Rules, Revised June 2011)

18.15 Responsibility – It shall be the competitor’s responsibility:

(c) That the competitor have full knowledge of the rules under which the match is fired.

CMP (CMP Highpower Rifle and Pistol Competition Rules, 21st Edition – 2017)

5.4.2 Knowledge of the Rules

“Competitors are responsible for knowing and complying with the **CMP Competition Rules**, applicable **NRA Rules**, the official match program and any match director bulletins issued for the match.”

Develop a wind reading strategy. Start observing conditions as soon as you reach the 600-yard firing line to score the shooter ahead of you. Focus your spotting scope on the grass at the 300-yard line. Watch the wind conditions while scoring. Watch both mirage and flags or trees. If clouds pass over or the wind increases to over 8 mph the mirage will be gone. You will be lost if you have not been watching the range flags and trees. Wind conditions repeat in cycles. Wind speed will rise slowly and drop suddenly. If a good shooter is next to you, watch the spotter on his target for missed wind changes. Listen, if you hear somebody on the firing line fuss and cuss. The wind just changed. Check the conditions again.

The stronger the wind speed, the more constant it will be in both direction and value. A slight breeze that barely raises flags can be tricky. There will be sudden drops of wind speed. One tactic to counter this is to shoot on the safe side of the ten-ring. If the wind is from the right, set your sight so you are in the ten-ring at 9:00. You will give up some X’s but if the wind drops, you will be in the ten-ring at 3:00 instead of 3:00 of the nine or eight-ring. The firing line at Bayou Rifles in Manville, TX faces

north. In the summer months, the wind is from behind the shooter. In the winter months, the wind is in the shooter's face. Sometimes the wind flags switch left and right every twenty to forty seconds. In this condition, it is best to pick one prevailing direction over the other and only shoot with the wind from that direction.

Develop a shooting procedure. Identify the prevailing condition. Study the conditions. Judge speed and value. Put wind correction on your sight. Shoot only in the prevailing condition. Keep a small electronic timer beside you to know how long you can wait for your favored condition to return. Do not shoot when the mirage is boiling (no wind) because the wind can switch quickly in either direction while you are off the spotting scope and setting up the next shot. After firing each shot immediately go to the spotting scope to see your target go down and see if the mirage changed since before you shot. Call your shot. Reload and write notes while the target is down. Go back to the spotting scope. When your marked target is raised check the shot location. If the shot is not on call determine the reason. Record your note and make sight change as needed. If the shot value is an X or hard ten and the wind conditions are unchanged, do not waste time by writing in your data book. Quickly shoulder your re-loaded rifle and shoot another X. You can catch up with your data book later in the string of fire. Return your sight to its no-wind zero when the string of fire is complete. Every string of fire should start with a new wind call from your no-wind zero.

Warning, there will be days when the mirage and flags make no sense and the wind appears to be unreadable. It happens to the best of us. Try not to get frustrated and do not chase the spotter. Take a brief rest. Watch the target of a good shooter. Crank your sight back to its no-wind zero and start your wind reading process all over. If you hold hard and hang tough you will get it.

Good books on wind reading:

- Service Rifle Marksmanship Guide – Civilian Marksmanship Program
- Prone and Long-Range Rifle Shooting – Nancy Thompkins
- The Wind Book for Rifle Shooters – Linda Miller & Keith Cunningham
- Reading the Wind and Coaching Techniques – Jim Owens

GENERAL RULES FOR USE OF ORSA RANGES AND OTHER FACILITIES REMINDER

Always fire straight down range towards the hillsides at an appropriate target. **DO NOT** shoot across the ranges. Don't fire anything but skeet or trap loads above the horizon. Only load and handle weapons when the range is clear and no one is down range and you are ready to fire. No shooting of wildlife and no fully automatic weapons. Absolutely NO alcoholic beverages or drugs on any of the ranges.

Never go into the woods down range on any range. The archery range is the exception, of course, but even here; do not wander off the course into the wooded area behind the various targets.

Clean up any mess you make on any range at any time. Clean up the last person's mess if they were not decent enough to do it.

Use each range for its intended purpose. ***THIS IS NOT AN ARBITRARY RULE!!*** The ranges are designed to be safe only when used as intended.

Eye and ear protection are MANDATORY. Participants and spectators at all the ranges must wear eye and ear protection.

Remember that we have critical neighbors. DO NOT fire before 9:00 AM, and never after sunset. No shooting on Sunday morning before 12:00 noon except for matches approved by the Board. Some organized matches will begin before noon on Sundays, but this does not give the individual member authorization to shoot on any other range at that time.

CONTACT US

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ORSA CURRENT R&P CLUB OFFICERS

President – Bill Phelps
Vice President – Ed Johnson
Executive Officer – Tracey Tjon
Secretary – Richard Weber
Treasurer – Fred Trotter

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit our website for all ORSA R&P events. www.orsarandp.com

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello Wind Dogs. It's hard to believe October has come and gone and that our last full month of competition is here.

My emphasis in this month's *President's Corner* is to highlight the importance of learning and understanding the rules and regulations governing our respective shooting disciplines.

Chances are good that every competition you've shot in had "official" calls or rulings associated with the match. Likewise, chances are good that you've been directly associated with such calls or rulings as either the perpetrator or the recipient of the "official" call. Finally, it is also possible that we've all questioned whether or not the "official" call was in fact the correct call. Thus, my point...whether serving as a match official, or as a competitor, it is an individual responsibility to know and understand the rules and regulations we compete under.

Most of our disciplines are governed by either the NRA or the CMP. These rules and regulations are available on-line or can be purchased in pamphlet format for minimal cost. I recommend you carry your shooting discipline's regulations in your shooting stool.

There is one more document to highlight as very important to us as members of the Oak Ridge Sportsmen's Association. That document being the ORSA rules and regulations. Please take a moment to read or reacquaint yourself with their content. Please see the provided link in the insert above.

Each month we will highlight a specific rule or regulation most likely to occur during our matches. It will be titled; "*Did You Know?*" . . . Please see this month's installment.

Finally, let me bring to your attention a very important event to take place on November 16th at 6:30 P.M. in the ORSA Clubhouse – the election or re-election of the Rifle and Pistol Club officers. The five officers currently comprising the R&P Club Executive Committee are running for re-election. This meeting will convene as an open session giving all members of the ORSA Rifle and Pistol Club the opportunity to cast their votes. Please come and cast your vote. A listing of current officers is provided above.

See you on the range.

Bill Phelps