



ORSA Rifle & Pistol Club



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www.orsarandp.com

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Rifle Shooting Archery

by *Bill Arnett*

Are you intrigued by archery, but a rifle shooter at heart? That's the way I was when I got into field crossbow competition. Crossbow competition is divided into two main types, match and field. Match crossbow is conducted under strict rules regarding equipment which includes shooting jackets, gloves and boots. This competition is shot using short metal-tipped wood bolts at distances of 10 meters (standing) and 30 meters (standing and kneeling) using a different crossbow for each distance. This type of competition is mostly shot in Europe and no longer shot in the U.S. (See www.usa-armbrust.org for the history of match crossbow competition in the U.S.)

Field crossbow competition, on the other hand, is much more informal shooting where shooting coats, gloves and boots are not allowed. These crossbows shoot small arrows, 12-22 inches in length, at distances ranging from 18 meters indoor to 45, 55, and 65 meters outdoor, shot standing, as well as a benchrest match at 70 meters. These matches are shot in flights of 3 or 5 arrows with scoring after each flight. Other types of matches include Forest rounds (game animal picture targets set in a forest setting at known or unknown distances) and 3-D rounds (life-size game animal targets set in a forest setting with unknown distances). Crossbow-only matches include target, sport (hunting-type), and medieval (made like they did in the Middle Ages). Most competitors use target crossbows because most of the major traditional archery events allow target crossbows, but not the other two types. Crossbows tend to be the "black sheep" of the archery world so many of the smaller traditional

archery matches and ranges don't allow crossbows.

Target crossbows are limited to 95 pound draw weights and have to be drawn by hand, no mechanical or rope draw devices. Most are set up similar to a smallbore freerifle with buttplate and palm rest and Anschutz or other target rifle accessories are commonly used. Only iron sights are allowed with no magnifying lens. Target crossbows are made up of two types, track (the arrow is supported by a rail until leaving the bow) and trackless (the arrow is unsupported when shot like a traditional bow). The bow limbs can be easily changed out to lighter or heavier draw weights. I like target crossbow shooting, because it is very much like shooting a rifle standing. Concentration and a long follow through are important, very much like shooting an air rifle, which can only help in shooting a service rifle. To get into the sport basically only requires the initial buying (or building) of a crossbow and some arrows and strings. Most competitors end up modifying their crossbows in a manner that they like and learn how to make their own arrows and strings (kind of like reloading in the rifle world).

The biggest expense in getting started in the sport is the crossbow and there are many options in that regard. The least expensive options would be purchasing a used bow or building your own. Excalibur Crossbows have a model that can be modified for well under \$1,000. The good target crossbows tend to run in the \$1,200-2,000 range with some that are \$3,000 or more. The U.S. organization for the sport is USA Crossbow, Inc., www.usacrossbow.org. The website is a good source of information and the president, Bill Pimm, sells equipment, both used and new, and is very good to work with

Did you know?

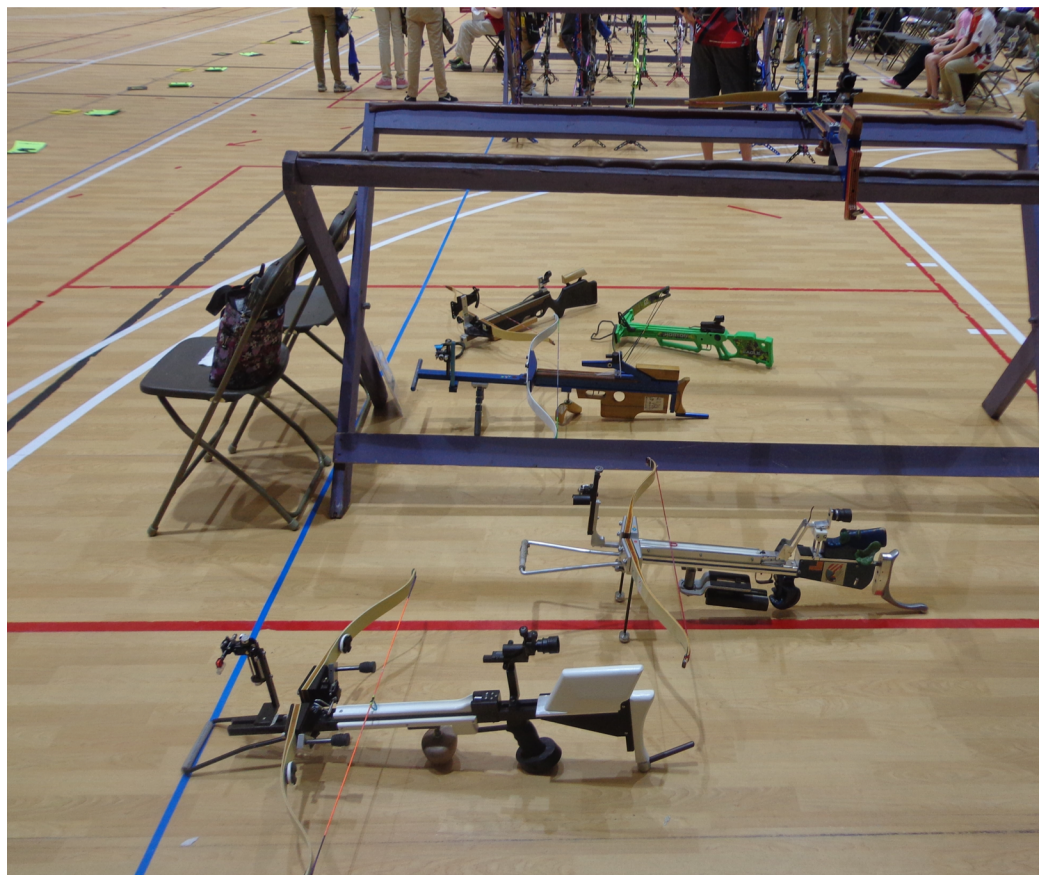
That in accordance with CMP Highpower Rifle and Pistol Competition Rules, 21st Edition – 2017

Regulation 5.6.6. Carrying Rifle to the Firing Line. “After rifle competitors are instructed to move their rifles and equipment to the firing line, they are permitted to handle their rifles on the firing line as long as rifle muzzles remain pointed up or downrange and safety flags remain inserted. After arrival at the firing line and prior to the start of the preparation period, competitors may put slings on and get into a firing position with their rifles. Competitors may not remove safety flags, close actions or dry fire until the Range Officer announces the start of the preparation period.

NRA High Power Rifle Rules, Revised June 2011, **Regulation 10.1.1** contains the same provisions.



to get you started as he did me. USA Crossbow puts out a newsletter, *The Chit-Chat*, that is a good source of information. Other sources include The World Crossbow Shooting Association, www.worldcrossbow.com, National Field Archery Association, www.nfaausa.com, IAU, www.iau-crossbow.org, and National Archery Association, www.usarchery.org. I'd be glad to help you get started if you're interested.



President's Corner

Hello Wind Dogs. If you're like me you've had enough cold weather and have visions of an early Spring. And, for us competitive shooters, we've had plenty of time to reflect on what it's going to take to make 2018 "the year." Many have already established personal goals. Whether those goals include a higher shooting classification, leg points, scoring a personal best, or entering into the annals of Rifle and Pistol Club shooting lore, the only way to achieve those goals is to make an early commitment to go "all in" to the 2018 competition season.

2018 will be a great shooting season. High Power has a number of relatively new shooters who are hungry on the heels of our "old timers." Fortunately, our seasoned shooters have shown a willingness to coach, teach and mentor those of us aspiring to accomplish what they have. Fortunately, we do not have long to wait.

Our first NRA approved HP match is Saturday, March 3rd. Squadding begins at the clubhouse at 8 A.M. Saturday's XTC match will be followed on Sunday, March 4th with a 3 x 600 club match. This match is open to all ORSA HP rifle shooters including HP Service and Match Rifle, Long Range and F-Class competitors. Or, if you just want to break out a long gun and come out and have fun, you are welcome to do so. Following the match, we plan on throwing burgers and dogs on the grill at the clubhouse. And since the entry fee for the 3 x 600 match is only \$5, there's no excuse for not coming out. Squadding for the 3 x 600 begins at the clubhouse at 10 A.M.

And I want to remind everyone that our first CMP Clinic will be conducted on March 17th starting at 8 A.M. at the indoor range. Alan Strachn will be the CMP Clinic Director. Expect Alan to put a call out, like our last CMP Clinic, for coaches and assistants. If you or someone you know is interested in participating as a student, notify Alan.

I want to put a special shout out to everyone who has committed to competing, or is thinking about competing, at Camp Perry this year. Just as we recently did at Talladega with 16 Wind Dog competitors, we hope to have a strong showing at Camp Perry this year. Furthermore, the preparation planned for Camp Perry competitors will ensure we are prepared to compete. We have opened a channel (camperry) on SLACK where key dates and times will be posted.

The indoor range reopened following the ORSA Board of Directors approving the installation of six security cameras and an update of our range access, safety, and administration policies. Thank you for your patience during this process. Look for the article addressing new policies in the February Rangefinder.

Finally, on behalf of the R&P Executive Committee, I want to express a special thanks to Tracey Tjon for her stellar service as the R&P Club Executive Officer. Tracey's other obligations have led her to tenure her resignation. She will however continue to maintain the R&P website, monthly newsletter publication, and our SLACK chat site. We wish Tracey the best of luck.

See you on the range!

Bill Phelps

Contact

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Schedules:

HP events - www.orsarandp.com/hp-events
Pistol events - www.orsarandp.com/pistol-events
Other events - www.orsarandp.com/other-rifle-events