

TEJAS CABALLEROS LONG RANGE SHOOTING

LONG RANGE RIFLE SHOOTING: Our game:

We don't shoot for speed; we shoot for accuracy. We simulate a buffalo hunter in the 1870's. Every shot cost's money to make, and every shot should generate revenue. The shooter can take advantage of the best solid front rest that they can to make a money shot as an 1870s Buffalo Hunter would, but must adhere to the Club Long Range Rules, specifically how the rifle butt can only be supported by the shooters shoulder. Steel targets of all shapes and sizes are placed at 25, 50, 100, 150, 200, 300 and 400 yards and intermittent ranges in between. Shooters can use any position they want: table supported forearm rest while sitting, stick supported forearm while lying down, or sitting, or standing, or whatever is the shooters desire. We do not time our shoots. The course of fire order is determined by the Match Director Range Marshall just before the match starts. We currently charge \$15 per member shooter, \$20 for non-members. All money goes to the club. Additional financial donations are always welcome. Lead bullets only in all guns.

Our program at the Tejas Caballeros has five shooting classes:

100 yds to 400 yds. Precision sighted, big bore, buffalo rifle: Any 19th century pattern rifle, shooting a 19th century rifle cartridge caliber .375 or larger, with a 19th century pattern micrometer rear sight mounted on the rifle's tang.

100 yds to 400 yds. Scope sighted, big bore, buffalo rifle: Any 19th century pattern rifle, shooting a 19th century rifle cartridge caliber .375 or larger, with a 19th century pattern scope sight mounted on the rifle's barrel.

100 yds to 200 yds. Bolt action military battle rifle: Any country's issued bolt action battle rifle in the original configuration as it was when it left the government arsenal. The rifle is chambered in the original government configured cartridge with original government installed front and rear sight.

100 yds to 200 yds. Working cowboy saddle rifle: Any 19th century pattern rifle or carbine, with a barrel mounted rear sight, or an action mounted receiver sight, or a non-micrometer tang sight, shooting any period correct 19th century rifle cartridge caliber.

25 yds to 100 yds. SASS main match rifle. Any rifle, ammo and sight combination recognized as legal by SASS, shooting a pistol caliber cartridge.

Picking a competitive rifle:

The most popular nineteenth century single shot, big bore, rifles that appear on the Central Texas long range CAS fields are Sharps 1874s, Rolling Blocks and High Walls. I have also seen Trapdoors, Handi Rifles, Sharps 1875 and Martinis. When picking a gun, find one with a shotgun butt and a 30 inch barrel length. Barrels of 28 inches to 34 inches also work well. A rifle with a crisp 3lb standard trigger or a rifle equipped with a single or double set trigger are best for accurate shooting. Single shot and lever rifles require an exposed hammer per SASS rules. The Cabs allow all classic 19th century style non-exposed hammer rifles to be used for match shooting.

Lever repeating guns most seen are Marlin 1895s and 336s, Winchester 1894s, Winchester 1876 and Browning 86s. The triggers on these guns are usually very bad for competition shooting and some work on them is a good idea. Legal lever guns require a tubular magazine and an exposed hammer.

Original military bolt action battle rifles are also shot in competition. This is a special competition called Bolt Action Military Match (BAMM). Rifles must be in the original condition as they were built by a country's arsenal. Most common rifles are US Springfield 1903 or A3, US Krag, Mauser 1898 or 1896 or 1895, Swiss K-31, Enfield, there are others. No scope mounted Sniper rifles fit in this category; no sporter rifles are allowed.

Calibers:

Big bore calibers are 38 caliber and larger. The most frequently seen caliber in single shots on the range is the 45-70 Govt. Other calibers are 40-65 Win, 45-100 and 38-55 Win. Bullet size in 45 caliber is between 400 and 500 grains. 400 grain bullets are a good choice in 40 caliber rifles. The traditional 38 caliber weight is 265 grains.

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The Marlin and Browning lever guns come in 45-70 and the Marlin and Winchester can be found in 38-55 Win. Some shooters choose to shoot 30-30 and 32-40 in lever action saddle guns. Winchester 1876 guns can be had in 45-60 and a few other obsolete calibers that work well.

Sights:

Precision Front sights should be a globe style with interchangeable inserts. Adding a bubble level to the front globe is a great idea because if the gun is tilted left or right, then bullet will follow the sights and miss the target. A third option that can be added to a front globe sight is a wind gauge. This is a micrometer mechanism that allows the front sight to move left or right to augment windage needs.

Precision Rear sights can either be Soule or Creedmoor style. Precision Rear sights must have vertical and horizontal adjustment. One minute of angle (MOA) scale is the only recommendation. Finer scales can't be read by our old eyes, courser scales won't let you be accurate enough. I recommend Sharps bases on Sharps and Winchester bases on Rolling Blocks and High Walls. Lever guns require special bases because the bolt drives back to where the sight is mounted.

We do not allow any shooter to shoot past 200 yards with open barrel sights, receiver or non-precision tang style sights. There is no way to measure bullet placement with open sights at longer ranges. Bullets can't be allowed to exit our range onto neighboring property. We require shooters to know where their bullets will land at every yardage prior to shooting on our range. There are calculators on the web that can plot the path of the bullet given: weight, diameter, speed and ballistic coefficient. The shooter must be able to transform inches of bullet drop or windage to the MOA micrometer scale on the sights. Knowing air temperature, wind direction and speed is helpful. Knowing how to adjust for those natural functions are what separates winners and losers on the range.

Ammo:

Lead bullet tips only. 1100 fps to 1500 fps should work well for any caliber. Black or Smokeless is ok.

Club Rules:

1. All bullets must be lead.
2. Only one competitor shoots at a time, rifles are unloaded, action open, when not shooting,
3. The rifle butt stock can only be supported by the shooters shoulder.

Scoring:

Black or blue painted target hits are one point each, white painted target hits are two points, red painted target hits are three points each. A miss, with no hit on the steel is zero points. Tie scores are broken by number of bullseyes. Further ties are broken by shoot off with shoot-off rules being extemporaneously designed by the Match Director Range Marshall. Only one person shoots at a time. Other competitors are expected to use spotting scopes to watch the target and pass judgment on the quality of other shooter's hits. Scoring is determined by multi-person argumentative agreement instantly. There are no appeals.

A Clean Match is awarded when every target is hit for at least one point.

A Perfect Match is awarded when the maximum score for every target is achieved.

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