



The Ricochet

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2008

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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

www.riosaladosportsmans.com

Pete Carstensen, Webmaster

The range is closed on New Years Day, Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day each year.

Attention High School Seniors!

Rio Salado Sportsman's Club will be offering a \$2,000 scholarship for the school year 2008-2009. If you are interested in more information and/or an application form, it is available at the office in the Activity Center or online at: www.riosaladosportsmans.com

You must be a competitive shooter, write an essay, and participate in a service project for our Range.

Deadline is March 31, 2008.

The President's Column

The year of 2007 is behind us and it's been a great year for RSSC. I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and Santa brought you all the neat "toys" you were hoping for. We have completed, or made good progress on a number of important projects. We are in good financial shape and the divisions have put on many outstanding events. It's great to be leading an organization that has so many people committed to the common goal of making RSSC one of the best shooting venues in the country.

As I have said before. Our success is a two edged sword. Due to the general population growth, and our own reputation, more and more people are coming out to use our facilities. This includes commercial users and police agencies as well. It is a real challenge to manage usage of our range to everyone's satisfaction. For the majority of the time our member ranges are still available in the middle of the week for members who want to enjoy casual shooting. In the not to distant past, a member could show up on any weekday at any time and have instant access to the range of their choice. What a deal that was!! I am sorry to say that is no longer true. We now have other groups, such as law enforcement, that have a legitimate need for range time and we must make some effort to accommodate them. We are not a private club and we do not own the range property. Our range sits on public land. As such, we are obligated to serve the public. The board and the Range Manager try very hard to balance the range usage to best advantage. As members we can do our part by checking the calendar and calling the range office to check range availability before driving out. Thanks to the improvements to the RSSC website, and full time office staff, this is pretty easy to do. I invite you to continue enjoying all the great things RSSC has to offer while recognizing we all have to live with some limitations we didn't have in the past. Be safe and good shooting.

Terry Abbott

President Email: president@riosaladosportsmans.com

From the Range Manager’s Desk

Well, another year is almost over. We’ve had some great tournaments and some great times shooting together. Fortunately when an old year ends that means that a new one is about to begin. Think about how lucky we are to live in the Southwest where the sun shines 90+ percent of the time which allows us to have wonderful shooting all year long.

I’m looking forward to exciting new range improvements in 2008, such as the Maintenance building, improved Main Range and more parking. We have just incorporated a new Bullseye Pistol Division which I feel will be a great success. This will enable a lot of the old Bullseye shooters to dust off their boxes and come out to shoot. New shooters -- don’t be intimidated, there are a lot of people here to help you become familiar with the Bullseye Pistol discipline.

Kudos to the range staff for all the work they do. Without them, this range wouldn’t be the success it is. Also, I wanted to thank the Board of Directors for their time and devotion to the range.

This is your range, take care of it and it will serve you for years to come. Be Safe!

Bill Lagusis
Range Manager
Email: rangemanager@riosaladosportsmans.com

From The Training Desk

As many of you are aware, it has been a busy and productive year at Rio Salado Sportsman’s Club. There has been training, with more to come, and important purchases for the safety of club members.

The biggest news in this years training, is we now have three new N.R.A. certified Chief Range Safety Officers. These employees are Bill Lagusis, Robert Marble, and David Smith. It was decided by the Board of Directors to have a total of four people certified in this position rather than three due to the increased number of new members we are adding all the time. Other factors such as regular days off, sick days, and vacations were taken into consideration. The addition of the three new CRSO’s will increase the supervision at the main range, as well as overall safety.

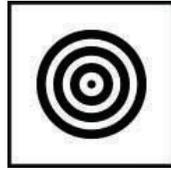
I was not able to conduct as many basic shooters classes as I would like to have, due to a surgery and a personal family loss. I am hoping this next year will be more productive. However, we were able to teach three basic rifle classes, with a total of twenty two students, of which ten were under the age of eighteen.

Upcoming classes for 2008 include: N.R.A. basic rifle on January 19- 20, and N.R.A. basic shotgun on February 9-10. For information about these classes, please call me at 480 924 1551.

Have a happy and safe new year!

Craig Cox
Chief Instructor
Email: chiefinstructor@riosaladosportsmans.com

RSSC Board of Directors Meeting
Third Wednesday of each month—7:00PM—Activity Center
All Members Are Welcome!



BULLSEYE SHOOTING-- WHAT OUR CLUB NEEDS

Bullseye, the center of the target, the highest score and the best place to improve your shooting skills at Rio Salado. BULLSEYE (that says it all).

BULLSEYE, the last division on the line at Rio Salado (#14) and in reality, basic training, the beginning of our shooting experience for most of us. On a different note, I once heard Tony Bennett talk about doing his “scales” every morning to achieve his Saturday night abilities. The scales were in reality, voice DRILLS and I would expect that most of us would find it difficult to shoot every morning (afternoon is fine with me) we all recognize that in order to be successful we have to practice, we have to DRILL.

As I said, BULLSEYE is to hit the center of target. For those of us that have been around awhile it refers to the traditional, one handed conventional pistol competition sometimes called “three-gun.” The well dressed shooter carries a large black pistol case with a top hinged door housing three guns, a spotting scope and a host of other goodies. The three guns are .22 rimfire, .32 centerfire and above and a .45ACP, again, fired one-handed.

If you have one of the cases, bring it on out. If not just come out with a .22/ammo and a fun attitude, we’ll do the rest. The challenge and satisfaction of shooting one-handed and hitting the 10-ring of the standard round bullseye target at a distance of 25 yards is tremendous. Our goal is to make this an enjoyable learning experience for everyone and with that in mind we will have two shooting groups. One hand and two hand. (No three hand)

Day of the week: Monday night with orientation/practice at 1800 (6PM) and a match time of 1900 (7PM) Complete by 2130 (9:30PM) First official match, Jan 14, one gun, ninety shots. We will have a “work the bugs out” on Jan 7th with a thirty shot match.

Match fee - \$5.00 Members/Non-members

Again, we want everyone to be successful and our core membership in this division is close to forty members, all aiming to do just that. A great primer/refresher on BULLSEYE is available at www.bullseyepistol.com/armymark.htm. Good reading!

Success leaves trails and if you are successful at Bullseye it follows that you will be successful elsewhere. Not doing well elsewhere? Then come on home, to BULLSEYE.

I’ll see you on Monday nights.

Bob Logan
Division Director
Email: bullseye@riosaladosportsmans.com

Gift Certificates

Available for purchase in the Activity Center Office

**** Individual Membership—Family Membership—Daily Membership—Sporting Clays ****

3 Position Smallbore on Tuesday Evenings

Did anybody get a new .22 rimfire rifle as a gift during the holidays? Tuesday evening would be a good time to come out to the range to try out the new rifle and get it sighted in. Since this is a rimfire only match, you won't be distracted by the noise and blast of centerfire rifles that can happen at the main range.

The evening is run like a 3 position match with the targets set at 50 yards. You will have 20 minutes to fire an unlimited amount of sighters plus 20 shots for record in each of the three standard positions; prone, standing and kneeling. Don't be intimidated by the three positions, since this is an informal competition, you are free to shoot in any safe position. You can use the time to shoot all of the targets from the same position or any combination of positions.

If you just want to sight in your rifle, bring sandbags or other steady rest and shoot as much as you like. We can also put a few targets at 50 feet for first time shooters or juniors who are just getting started in rifle shooting.

Please keep in mind we emphasize shooting safety; **eye and ear protection are mandatory**. Be at the range at 6:00 o'clock PM to set up your equipment: first rounds go downrange at 6:30 PM. The fee is \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for juniors (under 18).

Hope to see you there!

Ray Sutyak
Director Three Position Smallbore
Email: 3p@riosaladosportsmans.com

Twenty-Two Pistol

The door to 2008 opens with some new challenges and many more successes. However, before I shut the door to 2007, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Divisions and the individuals who donated to make our "Christmas for the Troops"--November .22 match such a successful event. We raised \$1,431.00 from the 44 shooters and non-shooters who came out for the event. A special thanks goes to Tim Morosco of the California Catalina Island Gun Club for his Club's donation of \$100, and I want to invite Tim to return to shoot the many other matches held at our Club each month. **And**, I want to thank the Board for their support--without their support we could not have provided this service.

One veteran shared with me that when he received packages from home, it helped him get through some of the tough times. There were some who did not receive anything in which case he shared some of his gifts with his buddies. It's nice to know that with your donations many more have received that 'package from home' filled with new boot socks, some cocoa mix, crackers, cookies, and other goodies.

Did you enjoy the December match? If you weren't there, you missed out! We hope to continue bringing challenges and fun to our matches. Come and join us.

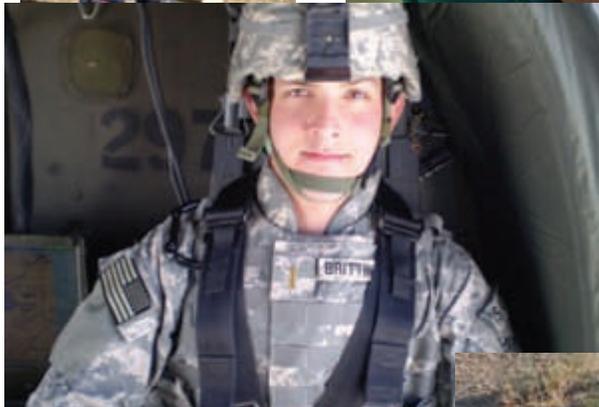
May the new year bring good health, happiness, and prosperity to you and your families.

The things that matter most in this world are those that carry no price tag, for they can neither be bought or sold at any price. Suze Orman

Sue Little
Director Twenty-Two Pistol
Email: 22pistol@riosaladosportsmans.com

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Old Gun of the Month The 577/450 Martini Henry # 2

When the British devised the 577 Snider they knew that it was only a stopgap measure and immediately started searching for something they felt was more suitable. In 1871 they came up with the 577/450 on the Martini Henry system. The rifle was designed by Henry O Peabody an American and later it was modified by Friederich von Martini. The British used rifling designed by Alexander Henry and gave its name Martini Henry. It is a large sturdy single shot rifle that uses a lever to open and close the action and extracted the shell from the chamber. Like many of its peers it doesn't have a safety but with proper gun handling it doesn't need one.

The cartridge is an elongated and necked down version of the 577 Snider and is based on a 24 gauge shotgun shell. Like everyone else of that period they found out that bullets in the 11 mm to 45 caliber range gave better long range accuracy than the larger 50 and above calibers. The military round used a 480 grain bullet with about 85 grains of black powder. The velocity was rated at about 1350 making it a powerful cartridge for its time. They had heavy recoil giving some soldiers a boldy nose. A thumb rest was put on later models to help alleviate that problem. The first cartridges were made from wrapped brass foil with a steel base but they had problems with extraction and durability so was replaced with conventional brass cases.

It made a name for itself at the battle of Rork's Drift in Natal South Africa in January of 1879. The British had about 140 troops including hospital patients against 4000 Zulu warriors and expended some 20,000 rounds during that battle and the 577/450 acquitted itself very well. The Zulu suffered about 500 dead and left the battle while the British had somewhere around 20 casualties. The cartridge served the British Empire until the 303 was brought out in 1888. Like many similar military rifles of the period it served in reserve units and colonies many years after being officially discontinued. Like many rifles of the period it has a long and interesting history and is a worthwhile addition to any collection. Rifles are available at various antique rifle dealers.

Shooting this rifle is an experience that everyone should try after making sure it is safe to shoot. Ammo and brass is available though you may have to look for it and it is a bit pricy though definitely worth the effort. I shoot mine and find that it is an invigorating experience especially with bullets in the 500 grain range. However bullets as light as 300 grains can be used along with light doses of smokeless powder. Standard 45 caliber rifle bullets work fine giving some pretty respectable accuracy if you do your part. If you experience an accuracy problem I suggest that you slug the bore as there may be differences in diameter. If you don't mind the weight about 9 lbs. it is an effective hunting cartridge for anything that you care to hunt with the proper load.

Bob Shell
RSSC Historian
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Free Lance Writer & Ammo Maker
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**Get the Latest Range and Match Information
Go to the RSSC Web Page
www.riosaladosportsmans.com**

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