

## **2008 Wyoming State Muzzle Loading Bench rest Match**

June 7-8, Casper, Wyoming

The 2008 edition of our bench rest match got off to a flying start on Saturday, June 7. We had dry, cool, clear conditions for the match at the Stuckenhoff shooter's complex in Casper. This match is shot on the main (modern) range facility since it has good shooting benches at each firing point. We can accommodate up to 42 shooters on the line at one time if all positions are used. Since our numbers are not that high, we usually use the 10-20 benches located under the roof and protected by the building from the wind. This range is set up to fire to the east so it is a better afternoon range than a morning range. Saturday proved this our both with the light conditions as well as the wind. Although it was breezy during the afternoon, it was consistent enough to adjust for while shooting your targets. Some very good long-range scores were posted from Saturday.

Rules governing this match are pretty simple. The state board adopted them a number of years ago and they are specific as to equipment and firing position. The rifles used in the match must be legal offhand rifles. They must be traditional side action locks, traditional iron sights (no peeps or other sights), and the rifle must accommodate a ramrod. The firing position allows for sand bag support of the fore stock and the butt stock will be supported by the shooter. This means no rear sandbag. The course of fire uses a number of familiar targets. We have each shot hundreds of them over the years. We shoot a six bull at 50 yards, a musket target (9 ring black) at 75 yards, standard 100 yard target (8 ring black) and the official 200 yard target (huge thing that is still easy to miss). In addition, we have reentry targets at each range so that you may practice a bit before going on to the aggregate targets. The targets are as similar as we can make them without using the same targets over.

One odd fact we have learned over the years about this bench match, every target we shoot has been scored better off hand than from a bench. This may be changing at least in the 50 yard pistol match but as far as rifle targets, I think better scores have been turned in from off hand efforts.

In addition to the rifle aggregate and reentry matches, we have a 50 yard reentry pistol match. This is shot on the standard 25 yard 10 shot target but at 50 yards. The shooter may use two hands and rest the pistol on sand bags for this match. We also shoot traditional muzzle loading schuetzen targets. We have a 10 shot off hand 50 yard target as well as a 10 shot 100 yard bench target. The rules are the same as for our regular bench rest events. Since this is a state sanctioned match, we provide an opportunity to qualify for the state traveling trophy. There is enough shooting for almost everyone to put in a full day if they want.

One new addition this year was the use of spotting scopes or binoculars. The state board authorized the host club for the bench rest match to use its discretion in regards to optics. After this year's match, we discussed the pros and cons of their use. No complaints were brought up so we intend to permit them in the future if we continue to hold the match.

The future of holding this match is dependant on the participants. We have seen our participation decline to the point of having to ask whether or not it is worth the trouble to hold the match. Those of us that have been shooting it find it fun and challenging but as the hosting club we wonder if it is worth the trouble to tie up so much of the range for so few shooters. Remember, you all have the required equipment to shoot this kind of match. No special bench guns are even legal by our state rules. I can't make it any plainer than that.

Here are the scores from this year's event.

<b>Aggregate:</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>
50 yard 6 bull 8 ring black	Ned Dunn 42	Jake Jacobsen 42
75 yard musket 9 ring black	Ned Dunn 46	Teri Schwindt 44
100 yard 8 ring black	Teri Schwindt 43	Ned Dunn 40
200 yard target	Roger Roebling 31	Teri Schwindt 27

Aggregate Teri Schwindt 146

<b>Reentry Targets</b>	<b>Winner</b>
50 yard 6 bull 7 ring black	Ned Dunn 43
75 yard X target	Ned Dunn 45
100 yard 7 ring black	Ned Dunn 45
200 yard (50 yard pistol target)	Roger Roebling 31
50 yard pistol (25 yard pistol target)	Bruce Schwindt 94xx
50 yard off hand Schuetzen	Roger Roebling 238 4c
100 yard bench rest Schuetzen	Bryan Youngberg 195 1c

#### **State Traveling Trophy Qualifiers**

Men Bruce Schwindt 49xxxx  
Women Teri Schwindt 45x

Thank you to all of this year's competitors and to Dennis Obert of the Platte Valley Muzzle Loaders for running the match and keeping everything in order.