



Tri-Cities Shooting Association .50 BMG Benchrest Matches for 2021

MATCH DATES:

Spring – March 26-28
Early Summer – June 18 to 20
Autumn – October 1 to 3

LOCATION: Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility located 10 miles NW of Richland, Washington. Access to the range is through the large main gate on SR 225 (Horn Road) about 3 miles south of SR 240 or 8.5 miles north of I-82 exit 96 at Benton City. Go to the club web site www.tcsa.info for maps. Facilities at the range are primitive. Lavatories are available (portapotties) but there is no water. Please prepare accordingly.

RULES: All events will follow the Rattlesnake Rules posted at www.tcsa.info under the “Shooting Disciplines” tab (select Highpower Rifle). Because these events are sanctioned by the Fifty Caliber Shooting Association (FCSA) they will follow the FCSA rule book posted at www.1moa.org/. The FCSA match rules take precedence only where the rulebooks differ.

ARM: On the days of competition (Saturday and Sunday) any 50 caliber rifle suitable for competition is needed. On the practice days (Thursday and Friday), any rifle suitable for 1000 yd is acceptable.

AMMUNITION: Ammunition will be provided by the competitor and may be commercial manufactured or hand loaded. Tracer, incendiary or armor piercing ammunition is prohibited. (visit www.tcsa.info for more on this subject).

TARGETS: NRA MR with ring diameters: X is 6”, 10 is 12”, 9 is 18”, 8 is 24”, 7 is 36”, 6 is 48”, 5 is 60”, 4 is 72”x72” square. Aiming black is 24” diameter.

SHOOTING BENCHES: Ten concrete benches about 48 inches long spaced 20 ft apart are located about 1000 yd from the target butt area. Bring your own chair or stool.

ENTRY FEES: \$50 per entry for the whole match, Thursday through Sunday. \$10 if you just shoot on Thursday and/or Friday. Make any checks payable to “TCSA”.

REGISTRATION: The range has 10 benches so the total number of entries (guns) is limited to 40. **While early registration is recommended, it is preferred that you bring your registration forms and match fees to the match.** Information needed is your name and what gun classes you intend to shoot. The FCSA registration & liability waiver forms can be turned in when you arrive. Late arrivals (Saturday morning) are possible, but work this out in advance to prevent delaying the match.

Send the above info (or the FCSA forms) to: nicdj@comcast.net

Dave Nicholson

phone: 253-973-9047

SCORING: Orange spotters are placed in the bullet holes to show the location of the shots. Record groups of 5 shots have both a score and group size. Black and white markers will be used if requested by the shooter. Competitors will score and pull targets. (Paid target service is available, but contact Dave Nicholson, 253-973-9047 well before the match to arrange this.)

RANGE SAFETY:

Rifles must be in a “safe condition” when presented for tech inspection, when brought to the firing line, and also between relays. “Safe Condition” means the rifle has a clear indication that it cannot be fired. Options include opening/removing the bolt and/or inserting an empty chamber flag of some type. Also, when the range is cold all ammunition must be in containers with lids (off the bench and out of sight).

First shots at the target must not overshoot the impact mound (or seriously undershoot and possibly skip over the mound). This means the line officer or other knowledgeable person must verify the scope setting. A rule of thumb: (1) center the crosshairs on the target, (2) look through the bore (or sight along the barrel) to see where the barrel is pointed. If the barrel points to the top of the impact mound then the first shot will be close to the target.

SCHEDULE:

Thursday and Friday the range is open for long range practice anytime between 8 am and 4 pm. Good time to get your 1000 yd zero. Highly recommended if you’ve never shot at 1000 yd before, or have new equipment. New shooters will also learn how to score targets.

Friday afternoon there may be a 600 yd match. Since the 600 yd line has just one bench, all participants will be shooting off the ground. Other details will be available by Friday. It is also possible to use the 800 yd line.

Saturday

7:30 am - Safety meeting for all competitors at the 1000 yd line.

7:45 am – Relays 3 and 4 head to the pits to service targets.

8 am – shooting begins. Relay 1 shoots first. Shooting sequence is as follows:

- (1) sighter period, unlimited shots, 10 minutes
- (2) first record shot period, 5 rounds, 10 minutes
- (3) sighter period, unlimited shots, 3 minutes
- (4) second record shot period, 5 rounds, 10 minutes
- (5) sighter period, unlimited shots, 3 minutes
- (6) third record shot period, 5 rounds, 10 minutes

Then relay 2 shoots in the same way. The pit change is next so relays 3 & 4 can shoot.

Sunday is a repeat of Saturday except for the shooting order. Relays 1 and 2 will head to the pits at 7:45 am.

AWARDS: Award plaques are presented based on the aggregate score and/or group for each class of competition. The award ceremony takes place Sunday afternoon.

FOOD: Bring your own water and food. No lunch break is planned. There will be refreshments after the shooting ends on Sunday.

CAMPING: Camping on the range in self contained campers & motor homes is okay. Note that there is no water or electrical hook ups. Gate is normally locked (call Paul at 509-845-4900 for entry instructions). Also, nearby (2 miles north), is a newly refurbished County park on the Yakima River. It has full hook-up and no hook-up sites at moderate cost. No reservation system is in place at this time.

HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS: Plenty are available in Richland, Pasco, and Kennewick. There are no hotels in Benton City.

AIRPORT: Tri-Cities Airport is located in Pasco (PSC), 10 miles from Richland, and is served by several airlines. Many of the car rental agencies are represented at the airport. Smaller aircraft may also use the Richland or Kennewick airports.

QUESTIONS: Contact Dave Nicholson at nicdj@comcast.net or 253-973-9047. Also, look at the club website www.tcsa.info for more about the range and locale.

DIRECTIONS FROM THE NORTH/WEST: (1) take I-90 east to exit 137 for highway 26 to Othello, (2) about a mile after the exit take 243 south, go past the Wanapum dam and Priest Rapids dam, turn right at highway 24 (also labeled highway 240). There is a rest area just past the Vernita Bridge. Scenic note: the Vernita Bridge takes you over the Columbia River onto the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. Remnants of the World War II nuclear reactors and other structures are off to the left. (3) take highway 240 heading southeast through the Hanford Site towards Richland, (4) to get to the range, turn right (south) onto highway 225 toward Benton City. The range is on the right. The north entrance is about 3 miles from highway 240. There is a large graveled area in front of the gate. Inside the gate a gravel road heads away from the highway. Take the left branch in the road (right takes you to the shotgun area). The 1000 yd rifle range is another half mile up a winding canyon road. Stay on the gravel and follow the signs. Welcome to Rattlesnake!

DIRECTIONS FROM I-82: take the Benton City exit 96. Follow the main road (highway 225) north through the city. The range is about 8 miles from the exit on the left side of the highway. There are two entrances to the range. The first entrance is just before mile marker 8. It is paved and heads up to the pistol bays and the general purpose range. The second entrance is 7 tenths of a mile further. There is a large graveled area in front of the gate. Inside the gate a gravel road heads away from the highway. The primitive range and shotgun areas are off to the right so take the left side of any branches. The 1000 yd rifle range is another half mile up a winding canyon road. Stay on the gravel and follow the signs. Welcome to Rattlesnake!