

Smallbore Rifle Silhouette explained

According to legend, Silhouette shooting started in Mexico when two of Pancho Villa's gunfighters wanted to fight a duel. Pancho could not afford to lose any more men so he commanded they settle the dispute by shooting stolen livestock which would become dinner for the bandits. The gunfighters had so much fun they continued the practice which eventually evolved into shooting metallic silhouettes of animals in a friendly competition. Originally high-power rifles were used, but today there are also events for handguns, and .22 rifles.

Almost any smallbore rifle can be used, provided it is within the limits below. A scope is very desirable but not required. Ammunition can be 22 short, 22 long or 22 long rifle. Hypervelocity rounds such as "stingers" are not allowed because those rounds can cause target damage. Standard velocity long rifle is most common. Accuracy is far more important than bullet speed.

"Smallbore Silhouette Rifle" (heavy rifle) refers to a gun with a maximum weight of 10 lb 2 oz (with scope), with a barrel length under 30 inches. Replacement triggers are acceptable. There are additional regulations about scope mounting height, stock design, etc. which you should be familiar with if you are interested in serious competition.

"Smallbore Hunting Silhouette Rifle" (light or hunting rifle) refers to the more typical rifle used in hunting. It can weigh no more than 9 lbs. with scope. The trigger pull must be over 2 lb in pull weight. The stock must conform to a hunting style stock. Thumbhole-type stocks are not permitted. Barrel tuners or additional weights are not permitted

Targets are set on a metal rail and must be knocked off or over to be counted as a hit. The chickens measure about 1.25 by 2 inches and are shot at 40 meters (43.7 yards). Pigs are about 2 by 4 inches in the body and are at 60 meters (65.6 yards). Turkeys are about 2.5 by 3 inches and are at 77 meters (84.2 yards). Rams are about 5.5 by 2.5 inches and are placed at 100 meters (109.4 yards). The course of fire is 40 targets (10 of each type).

All shooting is done from the standing position and without the use of slings or artificial supports. Following a 15-second ready period you have 2.5 minutes to shoot the first of two banks (rows) of 5 targets, with one shot per target. After at least a 30 second pause you shoot the 2nd bank of 5 targets. Eye and ear protection is required while shooting.

In competitions, shooters are assigned classes, based on how they have shot in the past. This means that you compete against others with a similar skill level. The classes are B, A, AA, AAA, and Master.

The above tells you the "with what" and the "how"- but not the "WHY". It's FUN- that's why! You do your part in aiming and trigger control, and a satisfying "ping" and a fallen animal result. You know right away how you are doing, and as soon as you have your shots off you can see how the others are doing. Chances are that you have a .22 rifle that can be used to get started, and the ammunition costs are quite reasonable. It is an excellent way to keep your shooting eye sharp and your skill level up.

At Green Valley we have matches from April through October. Please see the schedule or the Green Valley calendar for the dates.

Practice starts at 9 am, and the match starts at 10 am. There will be a 40-round match, a break for lunch, and then another 40 rounds. These can be shot as one or two 40 round matches, or an 80-round match. You can shoot both heavy and light rifles in the same match. Rifles can also be shared between shooters in the same match.

IF YOU ARE A FIRST TIME SHOOTER THE ENTRY FEE IS WAIVED.