

1st annual muzzleloader bench competition.

Several MCSC blackpowder shooters recently got together to figure out how to make a more exciting, more attractive, more acceptable means of competing with muzzleloading firearms. Many of us that compete in this sport are now more limited due to age, strength, and capability of firing rifles that may normally weigh somewhere between 10 and 14 pounds. Shooting from a bench, a bipod, shooting sticks, a log, buffalo cross sticks, sandbags, whatever rest you need, makes a type of competition that shooters that no longer come out because of physical restraints, eye sight loss, and age, and keeps us involved in a sport that we have enjoyed throughout our lives. Age is not an issue in this meet and we will have a youth class. If the young competitor qualifies for a youth turkey or deer tag, they will shoot in a youth class. They may need assistance.

Firearms for this meet are limited to those loaded from the muzzle of the rifle. Flintlocks, percussion locks, muskets, smoothbores, Chunk guns, matchlocks, and any variety of modern inline hunting rifles would be welcome. There will be one class for adults regardless of lock. No cartridge arms or breechloaders are allowed. To keep the meet fair, we would require traditional (fixed or adjustable) open sights. This eliminates scopes, red dot types, aperture sights, and sights that would give an unfair advantage to the specific shooter. Barrell length is not an issue, and stock design is not a factor dealing with shape, what it's made from, or weight. Bullets used can be patched round ball, mini balls, maxi balls, sabots, or gravel with the shortage of ammo. If you can figure out how to pound a bullet and powder down an AR's barrel, go for it. Powder will be black powder, pyrodex, or some substitute for muzzleloaders, The exception is if the firearm in question has another form of propellant stamped on the barrel.

We propose 5 events, each costing the competitor one dollar. There will be no reshoots. Your score on your first target counts. Each target allows five shoots. If a sixth shot is on your target, you lose your best score and so on. No firearm is to be primed until at the firing line. All safety expectations of the MCSC will be enforced.

Events will be bench targets at 50 and 100 yards, Offhand at 25 unless the shooter has a reason to go to assistance from bench type methods. Handguns {Muzzleloader pistols and cap and ball revolvers} shoot one event at 25 yards, dueling style. (One hand, held out from body, elbow away from torso, and no bracing whatever). The second pistol event is benched, two handed, propped against something, and braced. All shooters can shoot off hand if they so desire in all events. There will be two novelty events, one at twenty yards and one at two hundred.

Prizes will be furnished by the guys setting this up plus the MCSC ribbons for each event. Our next BP shoot is June 6, starting at 1:00, and this is when we wish to do this. This is not the permanent date but it is a good start. Thank you.

Gregg Deaver, Kevin Meyer, Dan Scott, and Larry Scott

