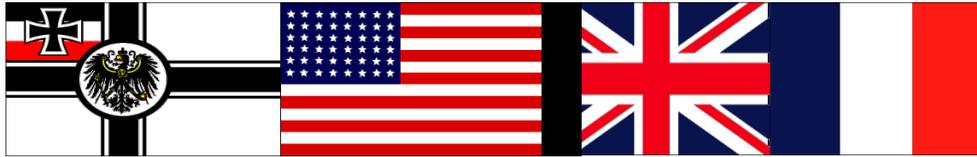


**MILL CREEK RIFLE CLUB
PRESENTS
THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
MILITARY RIFLE MATCH
SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017**



Match goal: The goal of this match is to commemorate the entry of the United States into the Great War, and enjoy firing the weapons of the period. This is not a score focused Camp Perry style match. It is designed to recognize and commemorate the war by using the weapons of WWI and even later manually operated military rifles. WWI era head-gear, uniforms, accoutrements, and flags are welcome but certainly not required.

Match Cost: \$10.00 per competitor

Match Concept: This match is open to manually operated cartridge military rifles issued by any country (including non-belligerents) to its armed forces or militia in the first half of the 20th century.

1. Military issue single shot, lever action, and bolt-action rifles are eligible. Many older military rifles were called out of stores and used in battle, especially on secondary fronts, therefore single shot cartridge rifles from the late 19th century are included.
2. Many World War II era military rifles are similar in design to or derived from WWI rifles and are thus included. World War II era semi-automatic rifles are not permitted.
3. The 200 yard distance simulates the trench warfare distance of WWI and accommodates older rifles which use cast bullets sized to a rifle's unique bore size.
4. The 15 minute time for 20 shots is designed to accommodate rifles which must be single loaded or rifles which use enbloc loading systems.
5. Rifles must be for a center-fire military issue cartridge. (Rifles in rare and difficult to obtain calibers which were converted to other common cartridges due to lack of availability of the original ammunition, are considered by match officials on a case by case basis). No .22 LR training rifles.

Rules for the Vintage Military Rifle Match – (Manually Operated Action)

1. The match will be prone supported (fired on sandbags, rucksack, carpet roll, or use a sling) 20 rounds at 200 yards using the green full size B-27 targets. Competitors may choose to fire in the prone unsupported position with a sling at their discretion. Original slings, U.S. M1907/ U.S. M1 canvas sling) type slings, or reproduction slings are permissible on all rifles.

2. Each relay of 20 rounds are fired in 15 minutes. Three sighting shots are allowed before the record string of 20, with the lowest three hits on the target being dropped for score.
3. Competitors may use spotting scopes or binoculars to see their three sighting shots, but shooters are not allowed down range to inspect targets. A five minute preparation period for sighting shots and sight adjustments.
4. Commercially purchased ammunition, surplus ammunition, and hand loads with jacketed or cast bullets are legal.
5. The safety of the rifle and ammunition are the sole responsibility of the competitor.
6. Eye and Ear protection are required. Empty Chamber Indicators (ECI) are required, and will be available on the firing line or at the MCRC club house at the range for an additional \$1.00.
7. Competitors may wish to shoot in more than one relay for score. The competitor must use a different rifle in the 2nd relay, and the second rifle may be in the same or different class as the first rifle.
8. Two competitors may use the same rifle in different relays if a second relay is fired.
9. There are two separate classes for the matches. People in these classes will be competing only against the others in their class. For purposes of high score As Issued Class takes precedence over the Open Class.
 - a. **As Issued Class:** Rifles must be manually operated action, iron sighted, issued by any country to its military forces. The rifle must be as issued with no modifications of any kind. A military stock which is cut down with no other modifications to the rifle may be allowed in the as issued class on a case by case basis.
 - b. **Open Class:** Rifles must be manually operated action, issued by any country to its military forces. The only thing that needs to be original is the receiver. Other modifications or replacements such as sights, trigger, stocks, etc, are O.K. Sniper rifles issued with telescopic sights are open class rifles.
 - c. **Everyone is welcome to shoot!!!! Your rifle does not have to be perfect, just fun!**
10. The match bulletin: Will publish the names and scores of competitors in each class.
11. All participants are assistant range safety officers and may call a cease fire if an unsafe act is observed.
12. The decisions of the ranger officers are final.

Equipment list

1. Hearing protection (required) and eye protection. (required)
2. Military rifle with case.
3. Magazines or clips as required (optional).
4. Ammunition of proper caliber, type, and quantity (at least 20 rounds + 3 sighters).
5. ECI (Empty Chamber Indicator) (required).
6. Money for entry fees.
7. Shooting sling (optional) Slings at the competitors discretion may be original type for the rifle or original or reproduction U.S. M1907 leather sling or a U.S. M1 canvas sling. Modern slings are permissible on open class rifles.
8. Military Sand bags, ruck sack, or rest such as a carpet roll (optional), no butt stock bags
9. Timer or stopwatch (optional).
10. Shooting mat or equivalent.
11. Spotting scope or binoculars (optional).

12. Shooting jacket (optional).
13. Tools and cleaning equipment (optional).
14. Bag or container to hold empty brass.
15. Range bag to carry small items.
16. Sunscreen, insect repellent, water, hat, (optional)
17. Shooting stool or range cart (optional)
18. Ability to have a good time.

Range procedures: Single Relay (second relay depending on the number of competitors)

0800-0830: Competitor registration / safety briefing/ course of fire orientation.

0830-0900: Historical presentation

0900: Report to firing line, assign target number, proceed with range officer in a group to post targets.

0930: Range officer clears target pits and proceeds to firing line

0945: Competitors stage equipment on firing line.

1000: Range Hot, 5 minute period for firing 3 sighters.

1005: Range Hot, 20 minute period for firing 20 rounds.

1020: Cease fire: clear and safe all weapons, inspect ECI in place.

1030: Inspect, score, and reset all targets for 2nd relay if needed.

Next 24 Hours: Publish match bulletin (email or post on Club website). Award for high .303 British rifle score!

For any questions please contact Kevin B. Makel at:

kbmakel@aol.com

913-203-5529 (My new cell number!)

Brief history of the American Expeditionary Force (A.E.F.)

U.S. President Woodrow Wilson appointed Major General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing in May 1917 to command the A.E.F. Pershing remained in command for the entire war.

Pershing insisted that American soldiers be well-trained before going to Europe. As a result, few troops arrived before 1918. In addition, Pershing insisted that the American force would not be used merely to fill gaps in the French and British armies, and he resisted European efforts to have U.S. troops deployed as individual replacements in decimated Allied units.

By June 1917, only 14,000 U.S. soldiers had arrived in France and the A.E.F. had only a minor participation at the front in late October 1917, but by May 1918 over one million U.S. troops were stationed in France. The French harbors of Bordeaux, La Pallice, Saint Nazaire and Brest became the entry points into the French railway system which brought the US forces and their supplies to the front. American engineers in France built 82 new ship berths, nearly 1,000 miles (1,600 km) of additional standard-gauge tracks.

The first American troops, who were often called "Doughboys", landed in Europe in June 1917. However the A.E.F. did not participate at the front until late October 1917, when the 1st Division fired the first American shell of the war toward German lines, although they participated only on a small scale. A formation of regular soldiers and the first division to arrive in France, entered the trenches near Nancy.

The A.E.F. used French and British equipment. American aviation units received the SPAD XIII and Nieuport 28 fighters and the US tank corps used the French Renault FT light tanks. Pershing established facilities in France to train new arrivals with their new weapons. By the end of 1917, four divisions were deployed in a large training area near Verdun. The 1st Division, a regular army formation; the 26th Division, a National Guard formation; the 2nd Division, a combined formation of regular troops and United States Marines; and the 42nd "Rainbow" Division, a National Guard formation consisting of units from nearly every state in the United States.