

Dear LRML Shooters:

It is Groundhog's day 2012 and I reflect on how fast the first month of this year has passed. Oak Ridge LRML match will be here in 2 more months, time will pass quickly. Since the groundhog has seen his shadow, it looks like winter will end just prior to everyone coming to Oak Ridge.

This spring match will be my 25th LRML match that I've held at Oak Ridge. I sit here reflecting on how it's been nearly 15 since I started writing down the rules for my first match. Who would have ever imagined that we still have the following of great people like we do today?

Here are a few stats from over the years:

- 691 shooting positions have fired for score
- 117 different shooters
- 23 different states represented
- 3 countries
- 263 pounds of lead shot for score only – not including practice. (est. 525gr/shot)
- 25 shooters have only participated 1 time
- 5 shooters have participated more than 20 of the 24 matches. (including myself)
 - Harold Wade – 20
 - Al Roberts – 21
 - John Hitt – 21
 - Ike Leggett – 23

THANK YOU all for your support.

I read over the NMLRA yearly report and I'm saddened to see the numbers so low, so I would encourage everyone who has an interest in ML to join. You may not see the fruits of your commitment to this organization, but I would hope your membership contribution will assure its longevity for your children and grandchildren like so many before us have done.

This year I will have a catered dinner again at the Oak Ridge clubhouse following Saturday's day of shooting. Non-shooters will be \$10/head for dinner so please let me know so I can plan accordingly. I will also have custom LRML shirts made up for all shooters who return their entry form to me in time, if you fail to do so there will not be a shirt available as I'm having them custom made. If all goes as planned there will also be a display of original Whitworth rifles during the Saturday evening dinner. If you have one, please contact me and plan to bring it for the display.

Attached are the rules as usual; this match is a ORSA Long-Range Muzzle Loading Match using traditional long-range muzzle loading rifles of the mid - late 1800's. I hope the rules are clear so potential problems at the range can be avoided. I included in the rules what to follow; not to answer the hundreds of questions to what's not allowed. If you're not sure about something then contact me.

This Match is designed to be an enjoyable shoot and as much as everyone wants to do there best it is a team effort in order for it to work successfully. This means that when you are shooting you'll need the utmost attention from your spotter and pitman to assist you and vice-versa. This especially holds true at 1000 yards - the small flags used in the impact area are designed to give the pitman a reference as to where the bullets are impacting. This translates into good communication / feedback to the shooter when the pitman and spotter are doing their job.

Let me highlight that ORSA is letting us use their facilities. This means there are NO pit boys/girls, I will serve as range officers. We all must be willing to spot and pull targets for each other. I will serve as range officer and try to shoot as well if I can.

High-power shooters primarily use the ORSA range and there are NO provisions for Muzzleloaders. i.e. Loading Tables or covered firing line! **Each shooter is expected to bring their**

own loading table to safely support their rifle. If you're traveling from abroad, please contact me on this as myself and many shooters don't mind sharing their table when not shooting.

The distances and format will be slightly different this year as we'll shoot 200 & 300 on Friday, 600 & 1000 yards will be shot Saturday. Sunday will be reserved for a rain day if needed, if not I plan to open the range at 11am for a 2 – 1.5hr practice relays.

Hope to see you in Tennessee.

Rick Weber