



Western Montana's Tenth Annual

'Nimrod Classic'

This **May 17th & 18th, 2014**

Place: **Big Sky Sporting Clays**
42295 Irvine Flats Rd., Polson, Montana

Greetings to All,

This is your invite to what will be our 10th Anniversary 'Nimrod Classic' vintage shoot. Our return to Polson, for this year at least, will make the Shoot more accessible to those former attendees from eastern Washington, Idaho's panhandle, and northwestern Montana. It will also give Charlie Pflieger and his wife, Julie, a welcome reprieve after four years of successfully organizing the Shoot out of Bozeman. So, be sure to attend if you possibly can as this may become a rotating event between the two locations depending on your response.

You'll notice a couple of minor changes in this year's program. Foremost is the *optional* return of black powder to the Guv'nor's Cup, with the enticement being five 'bonus' birds added to your score should you choose to shoot it. A 'Black Powder' tutorial is also available to facilitate the safe loading of same, if you're interested (turnstone@bitterroot.net). You may also find BP shells commercially loaded through an internet search, although they will be pricey!

An additional two-bird 'bonus' is being awarded for the use of hammer guns in the Guv'nor's Cup, should you have one. It should be a lot of fun as planned, and we hope you SxS shooters will give it a try, even if only as a warm-up for the main event. This event will again run concurrently with the Short Shucker's Subgauge event on Saturday morning, albeit on a different course.

As for registration, we're asking that you use the PDF files provided on our web page. Printing out and completing the Registration form AND Liability Release form, and mailing them in with your check as directed will have you covered until the day of the Shoot. Accordingly, those of you with friends wishing to attend for the first time should advise them to visit our link, or call us at their earliest convenience so that we may get our registration information out to them also... (406) 363-0014. As with all previous shoots, priority status for vacancies will be given to those wishing to enter with 'vintage' guns. The definition of what constitutes 'vintage' is found on our webpage under the heading....'Event Rules':

www.gamradtgallery.com/nimrodclassic.htm

It's also important to remember our 'first come, first served' policy is still in effect, and we are asking shooters to register for any of the weekend's scheduled events as early as possible in order to secure their squadding preferences. Further, any fees collected from an individual who must subsequently **cancel** will be '*refunded in full*' IF that is done 30 days prior to our shoot date of May 17th. A **cancellation** made less than 30 days prior will result in a 50% refund, with all fees being forfeited for **cancellations** made after May 10th.

Lastly, our 'Thanks' to all of you folks for your much-appreciated support these past nine years. It's been a good run, for a lot of enjoyment, and it couldn't have been done without you!

Nimrod Classic 2014 Events

DAY ONE – Saturday, May 17th

The 'Guv'nor's Cup' ... amended for 10th Anniversary!

(60 targets – over 8 select stations on the 'Red' Course)

8:00 AM Sign-In, 9:15 AM Start Time; **\$30.00** entry fee, not to include lunch. Limited to first 40 shooters using vintage breech-loading SxS guns made prior to 1941. Trophy to the 1st place shooter, and prizes for 2nd and 3rd places. Two additional birds will be added to one's score for use of a hammer gun; and five additional birds added for use of honest-to-God black powder (i.e. NO Pyrodex, please). 'Non-compete' SxS's are more than welcome to join in as a warm-up event.... as space permits.

'Short-Shuckers' Sub-gauge Pump Event

(60 targets – over 8 select stations on the 'Blue' Course)

8:00AM Sign-In, 9:15 AM Start Time; **\$30.00** entry fee, excluding lunch.

Note: *Be advised that any pump gun is eligible for this particular event if complying with Rules 2&3!!* Limited to first 40 shooters using a 16 gauge or smaller pump gun and their respective nominal loads... see '*Shoot Rules Section*' on our web page for gauge 'handicap' details. Trophy goes to the high-scoring shooter only, with prizes to 2nd and 3rd places as well. Attend this one if for no other reason than to see Bill Roschi and Gary Cheney short-shucking live rounds all over the grounds!!!

The 'Vintage Open'

(100 targets - over 15 stations on the 'Blue' course)

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Sign-In over the lunch hour, 1:30 PM Start Time;

\$65.00 entry fee to include lunch, Juniors 14 yrs. & under - **\$35.00**.

Limited to the first 75 shooters using either vintage pumps, any make of side-by-side, long-recoil autos, or early manufacture over & under guns as defined in our 'Shoot Rules'.

DAY TWO – Sunday, May 18th

The Nimrod ‘SxS Classic’

(100 targets - over 15 stations on the ‘Blue’ course)

8:00 AM Sign-In, 10:00 AM Start; **\$65.00** entry fee - to include lunch, Juniors 14 yrs. & under - **\$35.00**. Limited to the first 75 ‘SxS’ shooters to register. Most any SxS qualifies due to their basic (antiquated) design.

BIG Reminder:

!! For SAFETY sake, we’re again asking that all participants shoot with vetted (i.e. checked-out) guns known to be in good-working order !!

Important Event Changes from last year’s Shoot: The good news is that there basically aren’t any other than small incentives for black powder and hammer gun usage in the ‘Guv’nor’s Cup’!!

Why the increase in fees? Over the past four years at Bozeman, the shooter fee for the 100-target events was kept at \$60.00, which did NOT include lunch. However, Big Sky Sporting Clays customarily includes a hot lunch w/salads, dessert, and beverage for the same 100-target event, which necessitates that our 2014 fee be raised to \$65.00. It is either this, or start skimping on the quality of trophies which we believe is even less desirable. We hope you agree....

As before, participants can still officially compete in both ‘100-target’ events within the various categories listed below just as long as they do not compete in the same category, should they win it the previous day.

Example: Should a ‘senior’ shooter could win the ‘Seniors’ category for Saturday’s ‘*Vintage Open*’he could then compete again on Sunday, in say - the ‘Sub-gauge’ category or ‘Hammer gun’ category, but NOT within the ‘Seniors’ both days. The seven categories are as follows:

- 1) High Lady Shooter
- 2) High Senior “
- 3) High Junior “ **Note:** Vintage gun/low gun requirements are waived.
- 4) High Sub-gauge i.e. 16 bore & smaller, 7/8th oz. shot max.
- 5) High SxS Hammer gun (this subclass is open on Sunday only)
- 6) High Pump gun “ (this sub-class is open on Saturday only)
- 7) Best score shot with a light vintage field gun weighing no more than 6.5 pounds.....regardless of gun mechanism type.

These awarded, in addition to: trophies for Highest Score for Saturday's 'Vintage Open'...or Highest score for Sunday's 'SxS Classic'. To avoid any confusion, Please remember that this categorical awards system does NOT apply to either of the 60-target events held on Saturday morning.

Awards.. Although the 'Nimrod Classic' strives to place more emphasis on its camaraderie than competition, each 1st place winner of *their category* will receive a frame-able certificate and our small, golden target trophy; while 1st place juniors/ladies/and seniors win frame-able certificates and cash awards.

The four 1st place winners of the 'Guv'nor's Cup', the 'Short-Shuckers' Sub-gauge, the 'Vintage Open', and the 'SxS Classic' will receive frame-able certificates along with their respective crystal Event Trophies.

Important Details: As in the past, only one 'high-score' crystal Event Trophy may be claimed by any one shooter regardless of what other scores he or she may post over the weekend. In short, a second 'high-score' win in a subsequent event will receive honorable mention at the Shoot and amount to 'bragging rights' only. **Note:** There will be an awards presentation at the conclusion of each day's 100-target event to recognize our high shooters and various category winners that we'd encourage you to attend.

Displays.. Although the clubhouse's interior space is at a premium during the lunch hour, we will again be reserving the club's recreation room for gun displays of special interest. Those individuals wishing to display a firearm or two are simply invited to bring it/them along and claim your spot on a space-available basis each morning. Many of you gotta' be tired of seeing my junk by now, so it's time for you to step up and help with this show-and-tell.....or I'm afraid we'll be staring at a whole lot of 'nothin' during the morning coffee!!

Lunches.. Each shooter entering one of the 100-target events receives lunch as part of their registration fee. Therefore, those individuals shooting Saturday's 'Vintage Open' - with a start time of 1:30 PM - should be on the grounds by 11:30AM to ensure that they have time to eat and digest a bit before their event begins. Additional lunch tickets for family members and friends can be purchased either day of the shoot for \$7. each.

!!VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! As always, volunteers play a big part in making this weekend possible. If any of you gals feel that you would have an hour to spare at our registration table either Saturday or Sunday morning, we could sure use you to cover a single task job. Ones such as checking-off shooters as they report in, or handing out name tags, or simply adding a shooter's name to a score card. Just like McDonald's, we can have you fully trained in under five minutes for these low-stress jobs that afford outstanding career opportunity !!! Oh, I should also mention that non-shooting volunteers receive a free lunch ticket for that day and a chance to hang out with an old guy who is said to look a whole LOT like George Clooney, or so I'm told! If interested, please contact us at (406) 363-0014...or you can volunteer that morning of the shoot.

Nimrod Classic Entrant Rules

As formulated by the Rules Committee

In order to promote the spirit of our events that salute vintage guns, the men & women who made and used them, and the outdoor pursuits they engendered, the following rules will apply:

What constitutes a vintage gun at the 'Nimrod'??

1) ONLY breech-loading side-by-side, pump, and *long-recoil* semi-automatic shotguns whose makers and basic models were extant prior to 1951 will be eligible to enter on a competitive basis. *As such, gas-operated semi-auto shotguns are hereby excluded from competition. Over & under shotguns – generally coming in with the more modern era of manufacture – are herewith excluded competitively unless valid documentation is provided showing manufacture prior to 1941.* Further, a Winchester-designed Model 97, Model 12, or Model 42 pump shotgun must be of pre-1964 manufacture in order to be used competitively

(Exception 1: Note that there are NO 'vintage' gun requirements for the 'Short-Shuckers' subgauge pump event except Rules 2 & 3)

Regardless of the event, ALL shotguns will be limited to 10 gauge and smaller, throwing shot payloads of 1-1/8th ounce or lighter of American shot sizes #7-1/2 or smaller.

(Exception 2: Under our Short-Shuckers handicap system of bonus points, we require the use of industry-established, nominal charge weights for each particular sub-gauge...i.e., these are max. loads: .410 = 1/2 oz.; 28 ga. = 3/4oz.; 20 ga. = 7/8oz.; & 16 ga. = 1 oz.) Further, a .410 bore must use the 2-1/2" length shell in this event.

All other makes and models not fitting this description of 'vintage' can certainly be used in an event, albeit non-competitively, ...given that they also comply with following rules (2) and (3).....which are:

2) NO gun having either ported barrel(s), an adjustable stock of any form, or sporting a stock made of synthetic materials is eligible to participate in a sanctioned event.

3) A gun having interchangeable (screw-in) choke tubes IS permissible to use provided that they are not of the extended variety, and that they not be changed for the duration of that event (i.e. make your selection(s) prior to the shoot and stick with them).

4) Vintage-era choke devices such as were fitted on the older, single-barreled shotguns (ex. Cutts Compensator, Poly-Choke, POWER-PAC, Weaver Choke, etc.) ARE permissible, and will be permitted their full range of use due to their vintage status.

5] ‘Spreader’ loads ARE permissible to use in any gun; and may prove advantageous for those older fowling pieces too tightly choked.

6] Unless shooting as a ‘junior’ or ‘non-competitor’, a ‘Low Gun’ starting position will be required until the moment that the target actually becomes visible to the shooter.....just as in bird hunting, just as our grand dads’ would have done.

This starting position is defined for the purposes of our shoot as the upper edge of the buttstock (or heel) being placed no higher than the top arch of one’s armpit prior to mounting. In short, tucked up closely under the armpit is as high as it can be positioned and still meet the requirement.

7] Just because it’s old, doesn’t mean it (or you) shouldn’t work dependably. Therefore, only three malfunctions will be excused per competitor/per 100 target event (and just two for 60-bird events) before it results in a lost target. These glitches can be either shooter-related or mechanical in nature.

They include: forgetting to load the gun in either one or both chambers; misfires/hang-fires due to faulty ammunition or lock malfunction; short-shucking a pump gun; mechanical or shooter failure to return the gun’s breech block to ‘full battery’; failure to release an automatic safety or cock a hammer; failure to see the target; or even pulling the wrong trigger of a two-triggered gun.

8] For any contested malfunctions, ALL shooters shall abide by the majority decision of his/her squad mates, with further appeal being made to our Rules Committee upon conclusion of the event.

9] ‘Short-Shuckers’ Sub-gauge Handicap System for 60 targets:

16 ga.	1.0 oz. max. shot charge	0-bird handicap
20 ga. 2-3/4”only	7/8 oz. max “ “	+2-bird “
28 ga.	3/4 oz. max “ “	+4-bird “
.410 @2-1/2”only	1/2 oz. max “ “	+10-bird “

Note: No vintage gun requirements for this sub-gauge pump event with the exception of Rules (2) & (3).....aside from the ammo.

10] When a shooter opts to participate without competing, he or she can easily do so through either of the following means:

- a] Instead of declaring (i.e. entering) yourself as ‘competitive’ in one of our categories at the sign-in table, simply request a ‘non-compete’ sticker for your score card for that particular event.

Or....

- b] Declare to your squadmates during any point in that event that you have de-to go ‘non-compete’ and this will be written boldly across your classification sticker and initialed by the scorekeeper and the shooter in question.

This will allow you to then shoot your gun pre-mounted – i.e. strictly for fun without the rigid scoring for gun’ shooter error. Examples: a non-competing shooter forgetting to remove an automatic safety for the first shot, or failing to see the target, could conceivably ask for the target again – provided that the privilege is not abused to where it affects the efficiency of the squad.

11] ALL ties among competitors within the 100-target events will be settled by ‘merit’, i.e. a shoot-off at day’s end involving a series of four true pair thrown from the ‘5-stand’ course. Conversely, any ties in score within Saturday morning’s 60-target events will be settled by deferring the win to the shooter using the oldest firearm.

12] For the purposes of this shoot, a ‘Junior’ must be 14 years of age or younger, and a ‘Senior’ at least 70 years and older in order to compete in their respective category. ID may be required!

13] Both ear and eye protection are mandatory for the duration of all events, as is full compliance with BSSC course safety rules.

Also, be sure to check our webpage at:

www.gamradtgallery.com/nimrodclassic.htm

for all of our (pre and post) Shoot information/past photos/etc.

Lastly, Please be thinking of ‘SAFETY/MUZZLE CONTROL’ at ALL times!

2014 Registration Form

Please complete this Registration and sign the required Liability Release Form **in full** at your earliest convenience. Return both along with your money order or personal check made out to: 'Rob Harris'

Robert S. Harris
719 Loma Lane
Hamilton, MT 59840

(Also, be sure to review the stipulation on page (2) regarding the terms for 'late' **cancellations** before submitting this form.) Please print.....

Full Name _____
Mailing Address _____
City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone # _____ E-mail (optional) _____

Shooting a '**vintage**' gun (where applicable) ? ____ Yes ____ No
Number of non-shooting guest lunches you might need over the weekend? _____ which you'll be paying for at the shoot.

Events you wish to participate in:

Yes___ Saturday's *The 'Guv'nor's Cup'* \$30.00 entry.
Yes___ Saturday's *'Short Shuckers' Sub-gauge Event* \$30.00 entry.
Yes___ Saturday's *'Vintage Open'* \$65.00 entry; Juniors \$35.00.
Yes___ Sunday's *'SxS Classic'* \$65.00 entry; Juniors \$35.00.

For full Shoot Details see: www.gamradtgallery.com/nimrodclassic.htm
For any remaining questions about our Shoot, please call day or eves at:
(406) 363-0014, or send an e-mail to: **turnstone@bitterroot.net**

Lastly, please list here the names of any individuals attending that you'll likely be wanting to squad with: _____
_____.

Displays: Interested in displaying a favorite vintage/classic shotgun or rifle? We certainly hope you areso be sure to bring it (them) along to share with others. Remember these firearms will be displayed in your presence either indoors or under the covered patio and not handled by the viewing public without your expressed permission! A special 'Thanks' in advance to those who choose to assist us with this popular part of our shoot!

GUEST/OPERATOR AGREEMENT

In consideration of being permitted to participate in hunting, trap shooting, Big Sky Sporting clays and sightseeing and accompanying hunters or shooters, or for any other related activities engaged in by Guest, for himself or herself, his or her spouse, or children, and all of those accompanying Guest while attending such activities (hereinafter collectively referred to as Guest), the undersigned Guest hereby releases, waives and discharges Van Voast Farms, the owners and lessees of the premises, including Big Sky Sporting Clays, promoters, sponsors and advertisers, and each of them, their officers and employees (hereinafter collectively referred to as Owner/Operator), from all liability to the Guest for any and all loss or damage, and any claim or damages resulting therefrom on account of injury to Guest's person or property even an injury resulting in death whether caused by the negligence of Guest, or otherwise, while Guest is involved in hunting, trap shooting, shooting sporting clays, sightseeing, accompanying hunters or shooters, or other related activities on the property operated by Van Voast Farms and Big Sky Sporting Clays.

Guest agrees to indemnify Owner/Operator, and each of them, from any loss, liability or cost Owner/Operator may incur due to the presence of Guest in or upon Owner/Operator's property, whether caused by the negligence of Owner/Operator, or otherwise.

Guest represents that he or she is experienced at gun handling, shooting and bird hunting, does not need instruction in these areas, and is fully cognizant of all of the inherent dangers of gun handling, shooting, bird hunting, shooting sporting clays, trap shooting and sightseeing under field conditions.

Guest agrees that hunting or shooting with a firearm, bow or other instrument is an inherently dangerous and hazardous activity and injury may result from gunshot, arrow, malfunction of a gun, weapon or equipment, locomotion, transportation, slipping, falling, shifting of the ground, encountering wild animals, poisonous reptiles, poisonous spiders, noxious insects, misbehavior of dogs, shot fall, lead poisoning, broken or not broken targets, accidental discharge of gun, ear damage, eye damage, damage to gun or weapon.

Guest understands that it is not the purpose of Owner/Operator to teach safety rules, nor is it the function of Owner/Operator to teach safety rules, nor is it the function of Owner/Operator to serve as guardian of my safety.

Guest hereby assumes full responsibility for the risk of bodily injury, death or property damage due to the negligence of Owner/Operator, or otherwise, while Guest is hunting, trap shooting, shooting sporting clays or conducting any other related activity. Guest assumes full responsibility and risk of loss or damage for all of his or her equipment and the shells used.

Guest represents that he or she is physically and mentally able to engage in these activities, is of lawful age, competent to sign, maintains his or her own personal injury and personal property and liability insurance in the event that an injury is sustained or loss incurred, and has no physical or mental impairment, or an impairment caused by the use of medicines, drugs or alcohol that can or will endanger self or others.

Guest understands that the "Trail Network" throughout Big Sky Sporting Clays is designed for foot traffic. The use of or riding on motorized vehicles is not recommended and is at operators and riders own risk.

Guest further agrees as follows:

1. To abide by all applicable state, local and federal laws, rules and regulations.
2. To confine his or her hunting, shooting or other activity only to the assigned area.
3. To have a shell or cartridge in the firing chamber of a gun only when engaged in hunting on foot, when waiting for a bird on the firing line at the practice shooting range, in the station at the Sporting Clay facility or on the pad at the trap range.
4. To always carry loaded guns while engaged in hunting, except at time of firing, with the safety in the ON position.
5. To keep guns empty, both chamber and magazine, at all times when not in the field actively engaged in hunting, and to keep the breech open unless the weapon is securely in place in a gun rack.

Violation of these rules, which are intended to provide a safe shooting opportunity for all, shall result in the revocation of the membership without a refund. Guest understands that these terms are contractual and he or she represents that he or she has read this release and fully understands its contents and ramifications. The terms hereof shall serve as a release and assumption of risk for Guest and Guest's heirs, executors, administrators, all members of Guest's family and all minors who shall accompany Guest.

Signed _____

Date _____

PRINT NAME

ADDRESS

() _____
Phone

CITY

STATE

ZIP