

Hello everybody

Let me start out by saying I will guarantee you there was no malicious intent to circumvent the rules here. This discipline of shooting is in its infancy and is experiencing growing pains.

I spent most of the night of 22 February, awake thinking about the situation and since I couldn't sleep anyway, I did some research, as well as looking at research offered up by other folks via email and rather than to just tell you what my opinion. I think you deserve to have a peek inside of the research that I did the pictures and wording was pretty massive to try to put on a form. Therefore, I have put them on a PDF at the link at the end of this post should you wish to see some of the things that I used to form an opinion.

The Reader's Digest version: Searching the Internet and some books that I have at home as well as consulting with some respected elder statesman in the muzzle loading community. I know earlier in the thread that it was mentioned that no mention was made of the stock only that it could not have a rubber recoil pad. I read this rule, as it was presented and accepted by the Association to find that there is mention of the rifle configuration, which would include the stock, is to be of a traditional hunting or traditional target style. The rub has been what is traditional, and that's where the research started. I could not find an example in a traditional hunting or target style rifle of a butt stock, such has been presented on this current rifle. It appears to me that a line needs to be drawn somewhere. I think this has presented us an excellent opportunity to do so.

With all that said, presuming that you have already looked at documentation at the link below. I do not believe this stock is in the "spirit of the shoot" nor do I believe that this stock is for the betterment of the shoot. Please understand I have no desire to squelch innovation, but I do have a very strong nearly insatiable desire to stay traditional. I do not believe this is the direction we should be going.

I just read the post by Kermit, which is post number 13 at 10:30 AM on 23 February, Kermit the question is about the ease-of-use at the table. The Monte Carlo style stock is found in a lesser fashion (the raised cheap peace being approximately 3/4 of an inch above the butt plate in some traditional, offhand rifles), I feel that this stock is designed to allow maximum stability by being close to the bench while lifting the shooter head to come in line with the site, which I do not believe to be a traditional target rifle. I don't know that I can't overuse the word **traditional** plain and simple. I think if we go this direction we will have many people that never want to compete, just simply because it appears to be another bench match. At first allowed the adjustable peep sights. Our hope was that shooters would go away from the adjustable peep sight, to use a low profile fixed peep sight. The adjustable allowed in the beginning so people could use equipment they already had. My burning desire is that people have enough respect for the intent of the founders to not turn this in to equipment race. The whole point of the match is to facilitate those who are physically challenged and put the shooter back in the game.

Below a post that was put up on the Roger Trammell board.

October 26, 2012. I often refer back to this and other emails between Paul and others and myself when pondering such a situation.

"Posted by Paul on October 26, 2012, 6:50 am

64.112.218.34 Back a few years ago Billy Burt & I, heading back from The York, got to talkin about the possibility of setting up a match along the lines of the table shoots such as Bloomsdale. The Wabash Valley shoots came to mind also.

Shooting similar to the matches described in Aubrey William's book. These days Robin & I have been drawing up some guidelines & equipment for a trial run sometime soon.

Of course it goes without saying that part of our motivation is the fact that there are those among us who can no longer or are having trouble getting up & down off the ground at the chunk matches. Actually there seems to be little trouble getting down, it's getting back up that seems to be the problem.

First & foremost it must be stated that as we set up guidelines & equipment for this possible form of shooting our motives are dictated by the directions that we have seen other forms of competition go. We are trying desperately to have a ground work that will keep this game from turning into an equipment race. It is our intentions to set up a game where the spirit that existed in chunk say 25 years ago will not be allowed to be left behind by yet to be seen forms of tech. It goes without saying that no matter what rules that are drawn up that guns will be built that push these rules to their limits, but by placing limits at this point in time, we can check where these special guns are headed. We are not setting up a match for guns that exist now; we are laying down rules for guns that are yet to be seen. Many of the thoughts concerning rules will be in conflict with rules of matches that are already being held. But again as we look at these matches we see "modern nascar" as opposed to "shade tree mechanic" racing as it was 75 years ago. Also the rules would rule out some antique match rifles. Of course the old rifles usually do not pose much of a threat to the integrity of the game but new made rifles of 25 to 60 lbs would completely change the face of this game. It would become the bench line at Friendship. AND don't get me wrong there's absolutely nothing wrong with that form of shooting, we're just heading a different direction. Just as you can't shoot a Browning in a smoothbore match, there will be many rifles that will not fit into this match.

Some of the thoughts at this time:

A common bench & muzzle rest all will use, this is a given as without this some would have monstrous benches & others would have an old wobbly ironing board. And it's the way it was done at the matches a hundred years ago. Many old photos of old chunk matches exist where there's a common chunk all would use. No problem seeing where that's went.

Some gun weight & caliber limit undecided at this point but will almost certainly be low enough to make the game more closely resembled an offhand looking match as opposed to an unlimited bench match. Shooting out of a bag should be seen again. Personally I will enjoy leaving the house with a gun, bag & jug in the back of the truck as opposed to the pallet of goodies I fork truck in for a chunk match.

X center scoring.

Some form of peep sights, again the wording is not complete, but it will rule out \$500 modern micrometer type stuff.

Possibly no, Teflon patch. Not sure what the patent date would have been but my gut feeling is that Gilbert Angel probably used a cast iron frying pan."

Don't start on the inlines Jim..... ain't gonna happen!!!

So wha'da'ya think? We can throw in a large sum of money & have a regular good old knife fight.

Next are a few lines from the booklet that was put out as the table shoot began to take flight.

It is the intent of the founders of this discipline. To not have continuing equipment modifications to find an advantage in the contest, in that spirit we have decided to not allow patching materials that were not available prior to 1935. (Teflon was discovered in 1938) It is also their intent that it be shot from a

loading bag or small loading box. The intent being the average contestant should be able to carry their rifle and all needed accoutrements to the range in a single trip, and load from a loading table. Our intent is to stay relatively close to the chunk gun discipline. Therefore, all chunk gun rules will apply with the exception listed below.

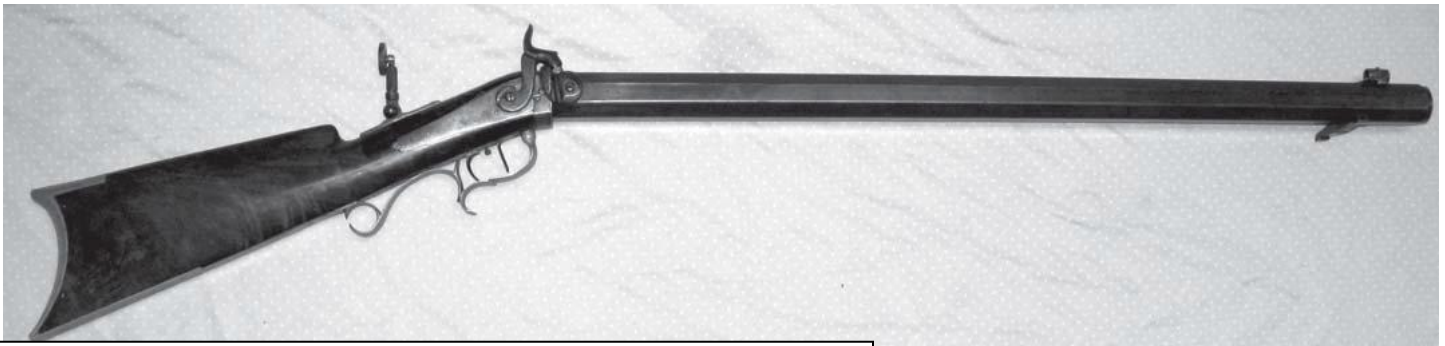
Next a copy of the rule that was questioned on the forum:

5430T—TABLE RIFLE- The rifle may be either flint or percussion ignition, **of either the traditional hunting or traditional target type**, or as specified in the program, with no limit as to caliber. The rifle may not weigh than more than 13 pounds unloaded, including all apparatuses which will be on the rifle at the time of firing. The rifle may not be equipped with a false muzzle or rubber recoil pad.

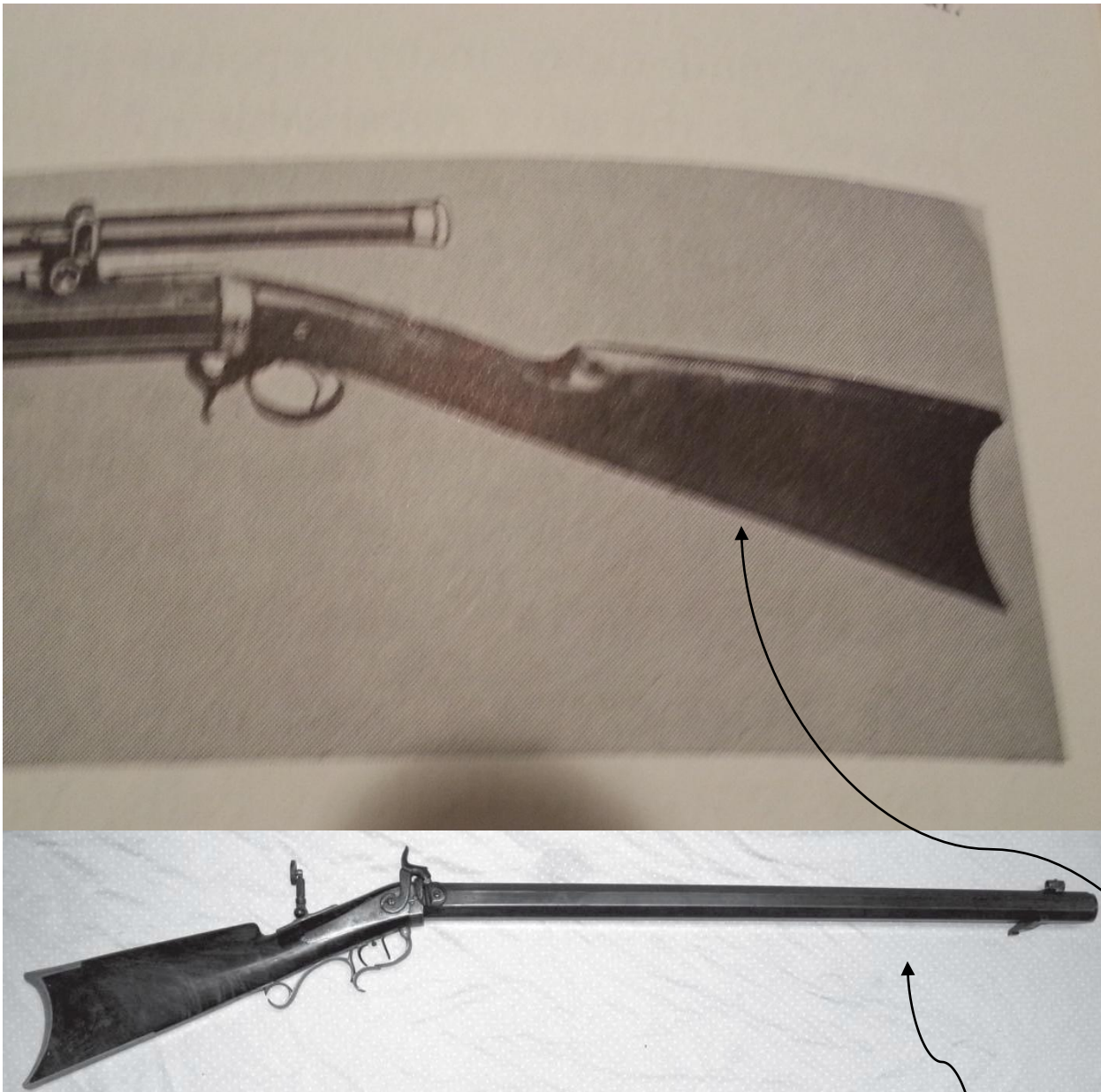
The statement **of either the traditional hunting or traditional target type** has been sufficient for many years at the chunk gun line. I had hoped it would be sufficient here.

With all that said, and having gone back through some 50 emails and recollecting telephone calls, which probably exceeded 150. Those are my thoughts in a direction that I want to go below I have put some pictures from various sources and ideas. Thank you for your time. I will talk to you later.

Robin



“B.H.Drew - Feb. 23, 1898.” Picture from 2013. Muzzle blast Magazine



Examples of traditional target rifle's
From Ned Roberts book the cap lock
rifle



Billinghamurst 42 calibre Target Rifle, 30-in



The last Rifle that Brockway made: 28 cali
ignition. Brockway telescope. Weight of

Examples of traditional target rifle's
From Ned Roberts book the cap lock
rifle



Fish belly
style stock
that would be
acceptable



Current table
gun that
would require
slight
modification
see redline
lines are
approximate
only

Correction of
the squared
flat to



The stock currently in question. I believe the following modifications redline would bring it into conformance lines are approximate only. I might even be able to live with the toe if the comb were not so excessively high. However, I think in all fairness, I did not see a squared flat toe in any of the examples of a traditional target rifle.

So when it's all said and done, the stock will not fly. Although this stock is nearly a work of art. I do not think that it is in the best interest of the table shoot to allow this very modern style stock to be used.