

The Flyer

Official Newsletter of the
Airfield Shooting Club

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Airfield Shooting Club

at the Airfield 4H Center ~ Wakefield, Virginia

P.O. Box 250, Wakefield, VA 23888



Spring Shooting News



Welcoming in the new season!

The Airfield Shooting Club thrives because of the dedication and contributions of its members, volunteers and fellow board members. To continue improving our activities, events, facilities, and range safety, we depend on and need everyone's help. Volunteering is not just about giving time—it's about building a stronger community and creating a club we can all enjoy.

It is everyone's support and efforts that directly impact the continual improvements to the club. Whether it's maintaining facilities, organizing or helping run events, participating as a Range Safety Officer (RSO), every contribution no matter how small makes a noticeable difference. The success stories, shared experiences, fun filled shooting matches, and fellowship show the real impact of volunteering.

The Airfield Shooting Club is a place where members come together to enjoy various shooting sports continuing to foster a sense of community. Popular events include monthly Bowling Pin Matches, Defensive Shooting, Rimfire Challenges or NSSA Skeet Competition with an occasional concealed carry, pistol, rifle, or shotgun training class added throughout the year.

When more members volunteer their time and effort, ASC improves our activities, events, and ranges for all members to enjoy. This comrade ensures the club remains a welcoming and well-maintained space for

everyone. Together, we can build an even better year in 2025 for the club!

Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL) Annual Lobby Day

On the very cold Monday morning of January 20, 2025, I attended the Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL) annual Lobby Day Rally outside of the Virginia State General Assembly building in Richmond.

As always, it was a great event with a number of Pro2A speakers, some of whom traveled to Virginia from other states. Unfortunately, attendance was low this year probably attributed to the Presidential Inauguration and cold weather. Overall, it wasn't a bad weather day, cold but the sun was shining which helped. VCDL President Philip Van Cleave did make mention that a number of members were actually inside the GA building talking with legislators to garner support for our 2A Rights and urging them to oppose any and all anti-gun legislation being proposed.

One speaker of note, Jim Irvine, briefed attendees regarding a program titled FASTER Saves Lives. Jim is a Co-Director of this program which is targeted toward schools, churches, businesses, etc. providing practical violence response training. More information can be found at <https://fastersaveslives.org/>

Continued on next Page

Inside this Issue:

Welcome	1
Fight to Strip Us of Our Gun Rights Never Ends	2
Range Safety	3
Mastering the Art of Off-Hand Shooting	4
Proper Trigger Control	5
When Should Archers Replace Their Bowstrings?	7
Reading the Wind	8
Spring Gobbler Season	8
When to use DOPE	11
Newsletter Changing	13
Recognizing Match Directors	13
ASC Contact Info	14

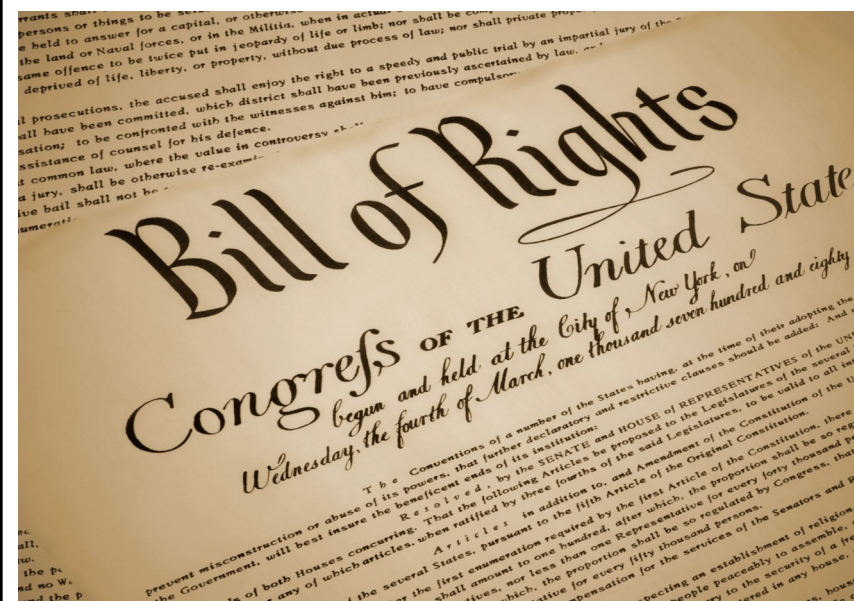


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I've forwarded this information to a school board member here in Prince George County and would encourage you to do the same in your jurisdiction. It's definitely "Out-of-the-Box" thinking from what we are used to but it's a reality of the world in which we live.

I encourage each of you to mark your calendar NOW for Monday January 19, 2026 which will be the next VCDL Lobby Day/Rally. This event sends a strong message to legislators but in order for our message to resonate WE MUST SHOW UP IN LARGE NUMBERS!

Stay Safe, Kenny Williams ASC Member 1581



The Fight to Strip Us of Our Gun Rights Never Ends

It is critical that all gun owners stand up and push back on gun control. No matter how much we wish an election, or a law change, would permanently protect our gun rights so that we don't have to worry about them anymore, that's NOT going to happen.

The General Assembly just passed TWENTY-SEVEN gun-control bills. Every single Democrat in the Virginia

House and Senate voted to pass those gun-control bills! They also all voted to kill all the pro-gun bills. The Democrats have only a ONE vote margin in each body, but that's enough for them to pass any gun-control bill they want and kill any pro-gun bills.

We are now depending on Governor Youngkin to veto all those gun-control bills to keep them from becoming law.

Go to this link and you can quickly and easily send a prewritten email to the Governor to do all those ve-

toes. You will also see the list of all the infringements that are in those bills, including banning AR-15s and magazines that hold more than 10 rounds:

<https://www.votervoice.net/VCDL/Campaigns/122541/Respond>

VCDL is on the frontlines in the fight to protect and restore the Second Amendment. If you are not already a member of VCDL, you can join by going to this webpage: <https://vcdl.org/join>

You can also get on VCDL's free email alert list (VA-ALERT) by going to this webpage:

<https://vcdl.org/va-alert>

As a gun owner, if you are not actively helping in the fight to protect our right to keep and bear arms, you are part of the problem. If we want to keep that right, then we must fight for it! While you may not be interested in politics (I completely understand), trust me when I tell you that politics IS interested in YOU and YOUR GUNS.

Philip Van Cleave, President
Virginia Citizens Defense League
ASC member #193



Range Safety

Range Safety: The Cornerstone of Responsible Shooting

Safety is the top priority at any shooting range, whether you're a seasoned marksman or a first-time shooter. A safe environment not only ensures a great experience for all participants but also builds a culture of trust and professionalism. Here are some key safety tips to remember every time you're on the range:

Muzzle Control Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Never aim your firearm at anything you don't intend to shoot, and always be aware of where your barrel is pointing.

Finger Off the Trigger Until Ready to Shoot One of the most fundamental rules: keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target and you are prepared to fire. This minimizes the risk of accidental discharge.

Know Your Target and Beyond Before you pull the trigger, be sure you know what you're shooting at and what's behind it. Make sure the area around and behind the target is clear, and never shoot at hard surfaces or water.

Hearing and Eye Protection Both hearing and eye protection are non-negotiable on the range. Always wear appropriate protection to shield yourself from the loud noise of gunfire and potential debris from ricochets or cartridge ejections.

Proper Handling of Firearms When not in use, firearms should be unloaded, with actions open and safeties on. Only load your firearm at the firing line, and once you're finished, clear your firearm immediately.

The Importance of Muzzle Control at the Range

Safety is the cornerstone of any shooting activity, and one of the most critical aspects of firearm safety is muzzle control. Whether you are a seasoned marksman or a first-time shooter, proper muzzle discipline ensures a safe and enjoyable

experience for everyone at the range.

What is Muzzle Control?

Muzzle control means always keeping the barrel of

your firearm pointed in a safe direction. At the range, this typically means ensuring the muzzle is directed downrange at all times, whether the firearm is loaded or unloaded. This simple practice minimizes the risk of accidental injury or damage in the event of an unintended discharge.

Why is Muzzle Control So Important?

Preventing Accidents: Even with the safety engaged and the chamber empty, a firearm should always be treated as if it is loaded. Maintaining proper muzzle control ensures that if a round is unintentionally discharged, it is safely directed and less likely to cause harm.

Building Trust and Confidence: Muzzle control demonstrates respect for others at the range. When everyone practices proper discipline, it creates a safer and more comfortable environment for all participants.

Upholding Range Rules and Etiquette: Muzzle control is a fundamental rule at any shooting facility. Adhering to this standard reflects positively on you as a responsible shooter and ensures that the range remains a safe space for all members and guests.

Tips for Practicing Muzzle Control

Always Point Downrange: Ensure that your firearm is pointed toward the target area whenever you are handling it, whether loading, unloading, or simply holding it.

Be Aware of Your Surroundings: Keep an eye on others at the range and ensure your actions do not inadvertently point your muzzle in an unsafe direction.

Use a Chamber Flag: When your firearm is not in use, insert a chamber flag to clearly indicate it is unloaded and safe. This reinforces good habits and gives others peace of mind.

Practice Even Off the Range: Safe firearm handling begins with habits you develop at home. Always practice muzzle control during cleaning, transport, or dry-fire practice.

Final Thoughts

Muzzle control is not just a rule; it's a mindset that every shooter must adopt to ensure the safety of everyone at the range. By consistently practicing proper muzzle discipline, we can maintain a safe, enjoyable environment for all shooters and continue to uphold the highest standards of responsible firearm use. Let's make safety our top priority—because it's everyone's responsibility!





Mastering the Art of Off-Hand Shooting

Off-hand shooting, or shooting without a rest, is one of the most challenging skills to master for any marksman. It demands a deep understanding of shooting fundamentals, complete body control, and immense practice. Whether for hunting, competitive shooting, or recreational purposes, the ability to shoot accurately from a standing, unsupported position is a mark of true skill. This article explores the critical fundamentals needed to achieve tight, accurate groups while shooting off-hand.

Understanding Off-Hand Shooting

Off-hand shooting refers to firing a weapon without the aid of any support. It requires the shooter to rely entirely on their body to stabilize the firearm, making it particularly challenging. This method is common in various shooting sports and is an essential skill for hunters and defense shooters who may need to shoot quickly without the time or ability to find support.

Proper Stance: The Foundation

The first fundamental of off-hand shooting is establishing a proper stance. A good stance provides stability and balance, essential for precision shooting. The most effective stance for off-hand shooting is a slight variation of the isosceles or the modern isosceles stance.

Feet Position: Position your feet shoulder-width apart, with one slightly in front of the other to maintain balance. The exact positioning can vary based on personal comfort and body type, but the goal is to create a stable base that minimizes sway.

Body Alignment: Your torso should be upright or slightly leaning forward, engaging your core muscles to create additional stability. Avoid stiffening your body; a relaxed but controlled posture will help manage recoil better.

Grip and Arm Position

A secure and consistent grip is crucial when shooting off-hand. The way you hold the firearm can significantly affect accuracy and recoil management.

Grip Tightness: The grip should be firm but not so tight that your hands tremble. The pressure should be evenly distributed across your shooting hand.

Arm Position: For rifles, pull the buttstock firmly into your shoulder pocket to minimize the rifle's movement upon firing. Keep your elbows slightly bent to absorb recoil. For pistols, extend your arms fully, but keep the elbows not locked, allowing some flexibility to absorb shock.

Sight Alignment and Sight Picture

Accurate off-hand shooting relies heavily on proper sight alignment and sight picture. Align the sights so that the front sight is in focus and centered between the rear sights, with the top edges level.

Focus: Always focus on the front sight, keeping it crisp and clear in your vision. The target and rear sights should be slightly blurred. This technique helps maintain a consistent aim and improves shooting accuracy.

Practice: Regularly practicing sight alignment and picture will help you acquire targets more quickly and accurately, a crucial factor in off-hand shooting.

Breath Control

Breath control plays a significant role in the precision of off-hand shots. Movement from breathing can throw off aim, particularly when standing.

Breathing Technique: Take a deep breath before you shoot and exhale partially. Hold your breath as you squeeze the trigger to minimize body movement. Do not hold your breath too long, as it can cause muscle tremors and degrade performance.

Trigger Discipline

Trigger control is critical in all forms of shooting but becomes even more essential when shooting off-hand due to the lack of support.

Trigger Pull: Apply steady pressure on the trigger in a smooth, continuous motion. Jerking the trigger can disrupt sight alignment and result in off-target shots.

Follow-Through: After the shot breaks, continue to squeeze the trigger and maintain your aim. This practice helps in managing recoil and preparing for subsequent shots.



Mastering the Art of Off-Hand Shooting— Continued



Consistent Practice and Mental Focus

Consistency is key in mastering off-hand shooting. Regular practice will help muscle memory, and mental focus is equally important.

Dry Fire: Practicing dry firing (shooting without ammunition) is a useful method to work on stance, grip, sight alignment, and trigger control without the cost of ammunition.

Visualization: Mental rehearsal of the shooting process can improve physical performance. Visualize the perfect execution of a shot from stance to follow-through.

Handling Environmental Factors

Off-hand shooting outdoors means contending with varying environmental factors like wind, lighting, and terrain.

Adaptation: Learn to adjust your stance and aiming to accommodate for wind and uneven terrain. Practice in different settings to enhance adaptability.

Light Conditions: Adjust your sighting method based on light conditions. In low light, sights equipped with illumination can be beneficial.

Conclusion

Mastering off-hand shooting requires dedication to learning and practicing the fundamental skills of marksmanship. From proper stance and grip to breath control and precise trigger management, each element contributes to the ability to shoot tight, accurate groups. Regular practice, both dry and live fire, will help solidify these skills, making you a proficient off-hand shooter. Whether for sport, hunting, or defense, the expertise gained in off-hand shooting is invaluable and a testament to a shooter's skill and discipline.

The Importance of Proper Trigger Control in Marksmanship

Accurate shooting relies on a number of technical skills, with trigger control being one of the most crucial. Regardless of how well a shooter aligns their sights or controls their breathing, poor trigger discipline can result in missed shots. This essay explores the reasons why improper trigger control can cause a shooter to miss the bullseye and how correcting these habits can lead to more consistent accuracy in marksmanship.

One of the most common reasons for missing the target is jerking the trigger. This happens when a shooter applies sudden, forceful pressure, causing the rifle to move off target just as the shot breaks. The shooter might be unaware of the small movements this creates, but even slight disruptions in aim can send a bullet far off-center. Smooth, consistent pressure on the trigger allows the shot to break without disturbing the rifle's alignment.

Similar to jerking the trigger, slapping it involves hitting the trigger with too much force, usually in a fast, uncontrolled motion. This can cause the rifle to jump, shifting the shooter's aim in the crucial moment. Slapping the trigger prevents the shooter from maintaining steady control over the rifle, resulting in missed shots, especially at longer distances where precision is essential.



The Importance of Proper Trigger Control in Marksmanship—continued

Another issue related to improper trigger control is the anticipation of recoil. Many shooters, especially beginners, tend to flinch or tense up in expectation of the gun's kick-back. This can lead to premature movement before the shot is fired, causing the rifle to dip or move to the side. This anticipation disrupts the aim and results in a shot that misses the bullseye. A relaxed posture and steady control over the trigger help minimize this problem.

Proper trigger control doesn't end the moment the shot is fired. A common mistake is failing to follow through, where the shooter immediately releases the trigger or lets their grip loosen after the shot breaks. This sudden change in hand position can affect the shot's trajectory. Follow-through ensures that the shooter maintains control over the rifle until the bullet leaves the barrel, reducing errors in accuracy.

Using too much of the trigger finger, such as placing the whole finger inside the trigger guard, can disrupt the precision needed for accurate shooting. Ideally, only the pad of the trigger finger should contact the trigger. Over-gripping can result in excess movement that shifts the rifle off target when the shot is fired. Using just the right amount of the finger helps maintain stability.

Where the finger is positioned on the trigger can also affect accuracy. Placing the finger too far forward or too far back can cause the shooter to push or pull the rifle unintentionally. The trigger should be squeezed with the center of the pad of the finger to avoid lateral movement. A properly positioned trigger finger ensures that the pressure is applied directly backward, minimizing the risk of shifting aim.

Inconsistent pressure on the trigger is another cause of missed shots. Some shooters apply varying levels of pressure as they pull, which can create a jerky or erratic trigger release. Instead, the shooter should focus on applying even pressure until the shot breaks naturally. This smooth, consistent motion prevents any unintended movement of the rifle during the shot.

A shooter's grip on the stock or pistol grip of the rifle affects how the trigger is pulled. Improper hand positioning can lead to imbalanced pressure and cause the entire rifle to shift when the trigger is squeezed. A firm but relaxed grip is

essential for steady control. The shooter should focus on controlling the rifle's movement without gripping so tightly that the hands shake or apply uneven pressure.

Many shooters miss the target simply because they rush the trigger pull before achieving proper sight alignment. This is especially true in high-pressure situations like competitions or hunting. Rushing the shot leads to hasty trigger pulls that disturb the rifle's aim. A deliberate, controlled pull, once proper sight picture is obtained, ensures better accuracy and fewer missed bullseyes.

Trigger reset is the point where the trigger is ready to fire the next shot after being pulled. Failing to understand or utilize the reset point can lead to premature trigger release, which disrupts the shooting process. Shooters who do not properly reset the trigger between shots may find themselves misfiring or struggling with follow-up shots. By learning to control and feel the trigger reset, a shooter can maintain a more consistent rhythm and achieve greater accuracy.

Trigger control is a fundamental aspect of accurate shooting. Poor trigger control can result in missed targets even with perfect sight alignment and steady breathing. By avoiding common mistakes like jerking, slapping, or rushing the trigger, and by focusing on smooth, consistent pressure, shooters can improve their accuracy and performance. Consistent practice, self-awareness, and attention to detail are key to mastering trigger control and hitting the bullseye every time.

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The Critical String: When Should Archers Replace Their Bowstrings?

In the meticulous world of archery, maintaining equipment is not just a part of the sport—it's a cornerstone of performance and safety. Among the many components of an archer's gear, the bowstring stands out as a vital piece, its condition directly impacting accuracy, speed, and reliability. For both seasoned archers and enthusiastic beginners, knowing when to replace a bowstring is essential, yet it often goes overlooked until performance dips or safety is compromised.

Archery experts and manufacturers suggest that the life expectancy of a bowstring depends significantly on usage, care, and the type of string material. Archers who train daily or compete frequently should consider inspecting their bowstrings regularly and be prepared to replace them at least once annually. On the other hand, recreational archers who shoot less often may find their strings lasting up to three years.

Visible signs of wear, such as fraying or stretching, are clear indicators that a bowstring needs replacing. However, subtle signs shouldn't be ignored. Changes in bow performance, such as decreased accuracy or a shift in arrow flight, can also signal that a string is past its prime. Even if there are no visible signs of deterioration, a bowstring stretched beyond its elastic limit will negatively impact shooting results.

Storing and caring for a bowstring properly extends its usable life. Archers are advised to store their bows in cool, dry places away from direct sunlight, which can degrade materi-

als over time. Regular application of bowstring wax is recommended to protect the string from moisture and reduce wear from friction.

The type of material also plays a critical role in the durability of bowstrings. Modern synthetic materials like Dacron, Dyneema, and FastFlight offer enhanced longevity and performance compared to traditional natural fibers. These materials can better withstand the elements and the rigorous demands of repeated shooting.

For those unsure about the condition of their bowstrings, consulting with a professional at an archery shop is advised. These experts can provide a thorough inspection and recommend whether a string should be replaced based on its current state and the archer's usage patterns.



In conclusion, while the bowstring might seem like just another part of the archer's toolkit, its maintenance is crucial for ensuring the sport's safety and enjoyment. By staying vigilant about the condition of their bowstrings and adhering to recommended replacement schedules, archers can keep their focus on hitting the target accurately and effectively, every time they draw their bow.

Above photo from <https://www.prolinebowstrings.com/blog/cowansville-archery-supplies/bows-and-bowstrings-then-and-now/>



Wind and how to read it!

Using wind flags provides several subtle advantages beyond simply showing the wind direction. Here are some key benefits and methods shooters can use to read the wind:

Advantages of Using Wind Flags:

Assessing Wind Speed: Wind flags indicate direction and help shooters estimate wind speed. For example, the angle



and flutter of the flag can give clues about the wind's strength—barely moving for light winds, fully extended for stronger winds.

Identifying Wind Changes: Wind flags allow shooters to detect sudden or gradual shifts in wind direction, especially critical during long-distance shooting. Tracking flags in different parts of the range can show crosswinds or wind eddies.

Recognizing Wind Zones: Often, wind behaves differently at various distances between the shooter and the target. Multiple wind flags at different points can highlight these variations, allowing better prediction of how the bullet will travel.

Spotting Wind Mirages: Wind flags, in combination with scope observation, help shooters notice mirages (heat waves), which can give valuable clues about wind at ground level.

Avoiding Guesswork: Using wind flags gives a more straightforward, consistent visual cue of real-time wind data, reducing guesswork and helping shooters apply more precise hold-offs or windage adjustments.

Learning to Read the Wind:

Practice with Wind Flags: Start with simple wind flag setups at different distances, observing how the flag's behavior correlates with bullet impact. Over time, you'll understand how much correction is needed for various wind conditions.

Use Scopes and Binoculars: Watching for mirages through optics can complement wind flags. A boiling mirage means there's minimal crosswind, while a mirage slanted in one direction shows wind moving in that direction. Combine these cues with wind flags for better accuracy.

Learn Wind Estimation: Train by practicing wind calls without instruments. Estimate the wind speed by feel (5-10 mph is a gentle breeze, 10-15 mph starts moving small branches, etc.), then check against your wind flags and bullet impacts.

Engage in Various Wind Conditions: Practice in different wind conditions to develop the ability to gauge both wind speed and direction instinctively. Pay attention to the angles at which wind flags flutter under various wind speeds and how the wind behaves near physical obstacles, such as hills or trees.

Use Ballistic Apps: Many modern ballistic calculators allow you to input wind data. Combine readings from wind flags with these calculators to learn how different wind speeds and directions affect bullet trajectory.

By practicing with these tools and paying close attention to wind behavior, you'll improve your wind-reading skills and shooting accuracy over time.



Spring Gobbler Season

As the woods of Southeastern Virginia come alive with the sounds of spring, turkey hunters are gearing up for another exciting season. The 2025 spring gobbler season, from April 12 to May 17, offers both seasoned hunters and newcomers ample opportunity to pursue the elusive wild turkey across the region's diverse landscapes.



Photo taken by unknown photographer

Remember, only bearded turkeys may be harvested during spring, with a daily bag limit of one. The annual limit is three birds per license year, with no more than two taken in the fall. All harvested turkeys must be reported through the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) reporting system.

Southeastern Virginia offers several public hunting lands, including national forests, state forests, and Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). These areas provide hunters with diverse habitats and ample space to pursue wild turkeys. Success on public land often hinges on thorough scouting and understanding turkey behavior.

With favorable weather conditions and a stable turkey population, the 2025 spring gobbler season in Southeastern Virginia promises to be rewarding. Hunters are encouraged to review the latest regulations, obtain the necessary licens-

es, and engage in responsible hunting practices to make the most of this annual tradition. Look at the turkey recipes that one might find delicious for a nice wild turkey meal.

Visit the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources website for more information on turkey hunting regulations and public land opportunities in Virginia.

Southern Fried Wild Turkey Nuggets

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs wild turkey breast, cut into 1- to 2-inch nuggets
- 2 cups buttermilk
- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup cornmeal
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 1/2 tsp paprika
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1/4 tsp cayenne pepper

Oil for frying (peanut oil preferred)

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- 1/2 tsp paprika
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1/4 tsp cayenne pepper

Oil for frying (peanut oil preferred)

Instructions:

1. Soak turkey nuggets in buttermilk for at least 2 hours (overnight is best) to tenderize.
 2. Mix flour, cornmeal, salt, pepper, paprika, garlic powder, and cayenne in a bowl.
 3. Heat oil in a large skillet or fryer to 350°F.
 4. Dredge the turkey pieces in the flour mixture, coating thoroughly.
 5. Fry in batches for about 4–5 minutes, until golden brown and cooked through.
- Drain on a rack or paper towels.

Tip:

Serve with honey mustard, ranch, or a spicy comeback sauce. Perfect for a clubhouse meal, a casual dinner, or wild game parties!

Southern Virginia Smoked Wild Turkey Breast

(Perfect for when you've got time to smoke it low and slow!)

Ingredients:

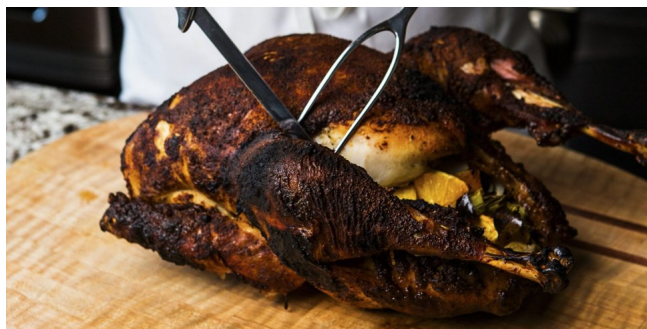
- 1 wild turkey breast (skin-on preferred)
- 1/4 cup kosher salt
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 4 cups water (for brine)
- 1 tbsp black pepper

- 1 tbsp paprika
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp onion powder
- 1/2 tsp cayenne pepper (optional)

Wood chips (hickory, pecan, or applewood)

Instructions:

1. Make a simple brine with salt, sugar, and water. Submerge turkey breast and refrigerate for at least 6 hours, preferably overnight.
 2. Rinse and pat the turkey dry.
 3. Rub turkey breast with pepper, paprika, garlic powder, onion powder, and cayenne.
 4. Set your smoker to 225°F. Use mild wood like pecan or applewood.
 5. Smoke turkey until internal temperature reaches 160–165°F (about 2–3 hours).
- Rest 15 minutes before slicing thin.



Photos by Andrew Cebulka

Tip:

Slice it thin for sandwiches or thicker cuts for a main entrée. Serve with a side of Southern-style greens and cornbread!

Bonus Southern Side Dish Ideas for Wild Turkey Meals:

- Buttermilk biscuits
- Creamy grits
- Braised collard greens with smoked ham
- Sweet potato casserole
- Fried green tomatoes
- Black-eyed peas



When to use DOPE at the range.

A DOPE (Data On Previous Engagement) card is a reference tool used in long-range shooting to store and access ballistic data, allowing shooters to quickly adjust their aim based on factors like distance and wind conditions. It's essentially a cheat sheet that helps shooters make precise adjustments to their weapon's scope or hold-over to account for bullet drop and wind drift

Maintaining a detailed logbook for training and competitions is essential for tracking progress, identifying trends, and making necessary adjustments to improve performance. Here are some key things to record:

1. General Information

Date and Time: Note the date and time of each training session or competition for reference.

Location: Record the shooting range or location. Environmental conditions vary by range, so tracking this can be helpful over time.

Event or Practice: Indicate whether the log pertains to a training session or a specific competition.

2. Rifle and Ammunition Details

Rifle Model and Setup: Document the make and model of your rifle and any modifications (e.g., scope, trigger weight, stock, and barrel).

Ammunition Brand and Type: Note the ammunition's brand, bullet type, and grain weight. Ammunition performance can vary, especially in rimfire shooting.

Lot Number: Recording the ammunition's lot number is crucial for competitions since even small variations between lot can affect accuracy.

Round Count: Track how many rounds you've fired during the session or event. This can be useful for understanding the wear on your rifle and performing a performance review.

3. Weather and Environmental Conditions

Temperature: Record the temperature, as it can affect the

performance of ammunition.

Wind Conditions: Write down wind speed and direction, which will heavily influence bullet trajectory in shooting.

Humidity: Humidity can affect the air density and, subsequently, bullet flight.

Light Conditions: Note the lighting conditions (sunny, overcast, cloudy, etc.), as shadows or bright sun can impact target visibility and sight picture.

Barometric Pressure: For longer-distance rimfire shooting, barometric pressure may also be relevant, as it can influence bullet drop.

Mirage: If mirage is present, describe its intensity and direction.

4. Target Information

Distance to Target: Record the distance to the target (e.g., 50 yards, 100 yards, etc.).

Target Type: Specify the target type (e.g., paper bullseye, steel plates) and its size.

Sighting In: Log any adjustments made to your scope or sights during zeroing or throughout the session.

Group Size: Measure and record the size of your shot groups in inches or millimeters. This helps track consistency and accuracy over time.

Point of Aim/Point of Impact: Document the difference between where you aimed and where your shots hit, noting any adjustments you made.

5. Wind and Weather Reading

Wind Flags/Indicators: Record your observations from wind flags or mirage, noting how these influenced your shots. This helps build your wind-reading skills over time.

Windage Adjustments: Write down any windage corrections made during shooting and how effective they were.

Rest/Support Details: If using a bipod, sandbags, or other supports, describe the setup and how it may have affected stability and accuracy.

Continued on next page



When to use DOPE on the range. (cont)

6. Shooting Position

Position Used: Document whether you were shooting from a prone position, benchrest, standing, or using some other form of support.

Rest/Support Details: If using a bipod, sandbags, or other supports, describe the setup and how it may have affected stability and accuracy.

7. Personal Performance

Be Honest: Self-assessment in benchrest shooting isn't about beating yourself up — it's about owning your craft, identifying small mistakes, tracking real improvements, refining equipment and techniques, and building the disciplined mindset necessary for long-term success.

Mental Notes: Include any thoughts on your mental focus during the session. Were you calm, rushed, or distracted? How did that impact your performance?

Trigger Control: Reflect on how well you executed trigger control, follow-through, and any issues you encountered with pulling the trigger.

Breathing Technique: Record whether your breathing technique was consistent, and note any times you felt off in your rhythm.

8. Adjustments Made

Scope Adjustments: Record any changes to windage or elevation, including the number of clicks or MOA adjustments.

Trigger Adjustments: Document the trigger pull weight if you adjusted it.

Rifle Adjustments: Note any changes to rifle fit, cheek weld, or other modifications that affected your shooting comfort or consistency.

9. Results and Analysis

Score/Ranking: Record your score and overall performance. Identify areas for improvement in your rifle system and

shooting fundamentals.

Group Placement: Analyze where your shot groups landed on the target, especially concerning the center or bullseye.

Lessons Learned: Reflect on what worked well and what didn't. Note key takeaways, such as how well you handled wind or whether certain ammunition performed better.

Improvements for Next Time: Record any specific areas where you want to focus on improvement during your next session (e.g., better wind reading, smoother trigger control).

10. Equipment Performance and Maintenance

Rifle Condition: Record any issues with the rifle's performance, such as malfunctioning parts, fouling in the barrel, or wear on specific components.

Cleaning and Maintenance: Log when you last cleaned the rifle and any maintenance tasks performed, as this can impact accuracy.

Keeping detailed records in these areas will help you track your shooting progress, identify trends, and make more informed decisions about adjustments in future training sessions or competitions.





Airfield Shooting Club Newsletter to Debut New Format Enhancing Member Experience

Dear Airfield Shooting Club Members,

We are excited to announce that the Airfield Shooting Club's quarterly newsletter will soon unveil a refreshed format designed to enhance your reading experience and keep you better informed about our community's activities.

What's Changing?

The upcoming newsletter will feature:

- **Expanded Content:** More in-depth articles covering our primary disciplines—rifle, pistol, shotgun, and archery.
- **Community News:** Timely updates on events, competitions, and achievements within our club and the broader shooting community.
- **Improved Layout:** A cleaner, more organized design to help you easily find the information that interests you.

Stay Informed and Engaged

Our goal is to provide content that reflects the interests and needs of our members. Whether you're a seasoned shooter or new to the sport, the revamped newsletter aims to offer valuable insights, tips, and updates to enhance your involvement with the club.

Your Contributions Matter

We encourage members to contribute to the newsletter. If you have stories, tips, or news related to our shooting disciplines or range activities, please share them with us. Your input helps create a richer, more diverse publication for everyone.

Stay tuned for the launch of the new format in our next quarterly issue. We look forward to your feedback and continued participation in making our newsletter a valuable resource for all members.

Best regards, Thomas Sanford, Newsletter Editor



Airfield Shooting Club Match Director Recognition

Too often, as shooters, we arrive at a match, pay our fees, enjoy the event, and head home until the next match, without fully appreciating the effort that goes into making it all happen. Unless you've served as a match director, it's hard to grasp the dedication and hard work that goes on behind the scenes. Match Directors spend countless hours coordinating with the shooting facility, handling range maintenance, managing registration, designing courses of fire, setting up and tearing down, and submitting scores—all to provide us with a place to shoot and compete.

I encourage everyone to take a moment to recognize and thank your match directors whenever possible. Volunteering to help set up, tear down, or assist with general range



maintenance is a great way to show your appreciation and support. Your efforts go a long way in helping them and keeping our shooting events running smoothly.



Board of Directors

President:	Art Schoner	president@airfieldshootingclub.org
Vice President	Tim Drewry	vp@airfieldshootingclub.org
Secretary:	Lena Eljaiek	secretary@airfieldshootingclub.org
Assistant Secretary:	– vacant –	
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Director:	Frank Sanders	frank.sanders@airfieldshootingclub.org
Director:	Todd Woessner	todd.woessner@airfieldshootingclub.org
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Match Directors

Bowling Pin Matches:	Steven Gordon	pinmatch@airfieldshootingclub.org
Service Rifle Matches:	– vacant –	servicerifle@airfieldshootingclub.org
Defensive Pistol Matches:	Taylor Strickland	idpa@airfieldshootingclub.org
Rimfire Challenge Matches:	Tom Sanford	rimfire@airfieldshootingclub.org
Shotgun Competitions:	Jon Lester	shotguncompetition@airfieldshootingclub.org
Swamp Shooters:	Dale Mullin	swampshooters@airfieldshootingclub.org

Please send us your outdoor photos for future newsletter editions.

Have you been out in the woods or on the water? Did you take a youngster fishing, hunting, or shooting? Did you take a photo of wildlife or nature you may want to share? Send a copy of the JPEG to editor@airfieldshootingclub.org and it may be included in a future newsletter edition. Add a short caption explaining the who, what, when, and where. There is always room for great sporting photos you may want to share.

