

Sporting Clays

At LaCrosse Rifle Club

The club maintains three separate 100-target sporting clays courses, thus allowing three separate squads to each shoot on their own course. It is therefore possible for a shooter to encounter different targets on three successive 100-target shoots.

A.)The Front Course continues to use primarily manual traps.... providing “**traditional**” targets that were common several years ago. Manual traps allow simultaneous-pairs, following-pairs and report-pairs to be thrown from a single trap. The twenty shooting stations have names like Quail Covey, Flushing Grouse, Twisting Dove, Crossing Pheasant, Diving Chukars, Red Partridge, Spruce Grouse and Mountain Quail. New shooters often prefer this course; sometimes they shoot it several weeks in a row as they adapt to sporting clay shooting.

B.)The Middle Course uses 8-10 manual traps plus another 8-10 automatic traps to define a more modern “**professional**” sporting clay course. Most pairs come from two different traps. Although shooters use twenty different shooting boxes, the traps are relocated regularly to provide a plethora of new target presentations. The targets often simulate the flight of waterfowl with names like Whistling Woodies, Prairie Gadwalls, Settling Mallards, Incoming Bluebills, Decoying Snows, and Green wing Teal. This course provides excellent practice for shooters who are preparing to compete in statewide Sporting Clay tournaments.

C.)The Back Course is located at the far end of the club property beyond the 600-yard targets used by the rifle shooters. Approximately 18 stations are placed into a woodland setting that reaches near to the top of the hillside bluff. Mostly manual traps are used to provide a “**hunting-like**” experience with names like Fur & Feather, Sharp-tail Grouse, Flushing Jakes, Northern Grouse, Spooky Woodcock, Evil Huns, and Mourning Dove. The lighting is ideal for either early-morning or the late-afternoon shoots.

The La Crosse Rifle Club (established in 1929) maintains a 600-yard target range that hosts a number of annual competitive regional, state and national high-power rifle matches. Since 1998, the Club has also maintained several Sporting Clays ranges, as opportunities for shotgun shooters to improve their hunting skills. Both programs are open to members of the Rifle Club and to their guests. Club members are encouraged to bring guests to the weekly Sporting Clays Shoots. New shooters are encouraged to visit the range and to “try” sporting clays by shooting the course... they shoot as guests of the club members. New shooters and member-applicants on the waiting list are fully welcomed to the weekly sporting clay shoots.

Sporting Clays shooters typically arrive at the clubhouse at least fifteen minutes before scheduled shoots. Shooters are divided into squads of 4-8 shooters, grouped according to ability but grouped to keep friends together. In a typical 100-target course, each shooter takes six shots at each of seventeen stations over the period of approximately two hours. A volunteer club member serves as a trapper for each squad. The trappers lead their squads from station to station; the trappers operate the manual traps and use “remote controls” to release clay pigeons from the automatic traps.

Please Note!

Sunday sporting clay shoots ARE NOT held on Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, the last Sunday before Labor Day (August Service Rifle Match) and on occasion a Sunday to accommodate the State Rifle Match. Heavy rains may also cause cancellations. When in need of more information or in doubt regarding schedules, telephone 608 317-4207 (Gary Bender) or 608 788-0406 (Roland Roskos).

Cost

Members: 100 targets \$16.00 or 50 targets \$8.00

Guests: 100 targets \$22.00 or 50 targets \$11.00

Note. Shooters opting to shoot only 50 targets shoot only half as many stations. Some shoot the first eight stations while others select the eight stations they would prefer to shoot. Still others will shoot 4 shots at each of 13 stations.



Schedule

Sunday Mornings @ 8:00 and 11:00, April-September

Monday Late Afternoons @ 6:00, May thru August

Tuesdays Mornings @ 8:00, May thru September

Note. Sunday Sporting Clay Shoots are **NOT HELD** on Mother’s Day and Father’s Day because of Rifle Matches. The Club website identifies other conflicts with rifle matches that cancel sporting clay shoots.

Equipment

Shooters need to bring hearing protection and shooting glasses (the club has a few loaners). Although 12 gauges (double, pump or auto) are the most popular, some shooters find 20- and 28-gauges more fun. Open chokes are better but not necessary. For safety reasons, we use only 7 1/2, 8, or 8 1/2 shot. Bring a few extra shells in case we shoot a few extra stations. Hiking/hunting boots are better suited for the ungroomed trails. A shooting bag (or an ice cream bucket) helps to carry the shells and the empty hulls. On really hot days, some of the shooters will also carry a water bottle.