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# The official publication of The Holmes Harbor Rod and Gun Club

HOLMES HARBOR

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UB



President: Edward Noble Editor: Jerry Hicks

> HHR&GC Web Site HHR&GC Email Us

P.O. Box 151 Langley, WA 98260 (360) 221-8494

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# anuary 2022

January 7th Prime Rib Friday

January 12th General Meeting

#### 360 221-8494

## HHR&G Web Site Club Calendar

Get ready for our 2022 Kick-off Event

On January 29, 2022 starting at noon,

we will be hosting a club social event

**The Winter Soup Potluck!** 

Along with the Potluck on January 29th our Membership Committee will be on hand so you can pick up your 2022 membership cards and/or pay your dues. Ed Noble, Sundown & Hunter Bova - A BIG Thank You for coming out during our last storm & cutting & clearing all the downed trees from our driveway & neighbors.

Also a BIG Thanks to JT and Mike Madsen for bringing in their crew & blowing our driveways clear after this last storm.

Your Spirit and Actions are what keep the Club alive !

#### **Welcome New Members**

Brian Strange and Ann Bowen of Clinton Chad Smith and Kimberly Smith of Clinton Jason Stone and Teresa Stone of Langley

Kevin Murray and Sue Doherty of Clinton

We also have 2 new Proprietary Members:

Eric Flister and James Maynard



pcoming Events

New Members

- **Prime Rib Friday, January 7th** (Reservations Please 360 221-8494)
- General Meeting: January 12th, 6 PM announce the New Board Members for 2022
- Winter Soup Potluck! January 29th Statring at Noon Bring a soup to share, taste a variety of delicious concoctions, and get to know (and be known by) some of our wonderful club members and staff. The Club will have bread and cookies available. So come in and warm up with a variety of delicious soups and friends.

#### **REMINDERS**:

Call for Reservations for Prime Rib Friday January 7th

Meet our New Board Members at the General Meeting January 12th

To get your Membership Card or Pay your 2022 Dues join us on Jaunuary 29th at the Winter Soup Potluck Starting at Noon to 3 PM

Read Part 3 of 'The Brief History of Smith & Wesson' by Michael McInerny attached below

#### Holmes Harbor Rod and Gun Club

### **Range Rules Revised**

Driven by our commitment to safety and the goal to continuously improve, we have completed a project to revise the Club's Range Rules.

Instead of adding a number of new rules, the focus of the revision was on clarifying language and meaning, improving consistency and adding detail to enhance operational understanding.

If you plan to use any of the Club's Ranges, please take the time to read and understand the rules. Even if you've recently participated in one of our Range Certification Classes, it is important to familiarize yourself with the revised Rules.

Follow this link: Range Rules:

# Pine Tree Room

Hours (Food, Beverage and Take-Out)

Monday & Tuesday—Closed Wednesday & Friday—2-7 p.m. Thursday & Saturday—12-7 p.m. Sunday—12- 4 p.m.

# Restaurant and Bar:

We are open for indoor dining. To better serve you, Reservations are required. Kitchen closes 15 minutes before the restaurant closes.

## Range Certification Classes for 2021

We continue to offer two classes per week, at 2 p.m. on Thursdays and Saturdays. Please note that classes are held outside so dress appropriately.

To sign-up https://hhrgc.setmore.com/

If you have a special need send an email to: range@hhrodandgun.com

### **Ongoing Shooting Activities**

#### Shotgun Range

Trap and Skeet - Thursdays & Sundays,12:00 pm 5-Stand (Sporting Clays) - Sundays at 12:00 pm

**Range Hours** 9 AM – 8 PM or dusk, whichever comes first.



# A Brief History of Smith & Wesson

In the first two installment of this brief history I detailed the development and use of the Nation's first cartridge revolvers: the tip-up models 1, 1 1/2, & 2. This installment I will discuss the S&W break-tops (tipdowns) starting with the large frame Model 3.

In 1870 S&W introduced their American. It was the first big-bore cartridge revolver produced in the U.S. The break-top design was much stronger than the previous tip-ups as well as significantly faster to load and unload. The new revolver was of .44 caliber and introduced the concept of center-fire ammunition which used a replaceable cup primer rather than the paste priming compound that was placed inside the rim of the rimfire ammo. Aside from the tip-ups which were rapidly becoming obsolete, Smith would not produce another rimfire pistol until the model 1891 in which a single-shot barrel was placed in a single-action revolver frame. Here's an odd anecdote... while there was still a demand for the accurate .22 single shot barrels, Smith ran out of the single-action frames they fitted those barrels to, having discontinued them some years earlier. So, for the 3rd model .22 single-shot they used a double-action frame. Hence a double-action single-shot....odd indeed.

Smith & Wesson operated under the protected monopoly of the Rollin White patent for bored-through cartridge revolvers until the patent expired in 1872. When the patent expired the dam broke and numerous gunmakers brought cartridge revolvers to the market., Chief among these was Colt who, in 1873, brought out the iconic model 1873 solid frame 6-shooter, The Peacemaker. Remington also produced cartridge revolvers during this time but to a much lesser extent. Merwin & Hulbert twist frame revolvers were also present to a lesser degree. Between the Smith's and Colt's there was a healthy competition. Each had it's merits: The Colt was arguably stronger with it's solid frame and many found it's slightly lighter weight and handier size and "pointability" to be preferable to the Smiths. Unarguably however the S&W top-breaks were much faster to load and unload...a critical feature on the frontier. Though western movies would have us believe everyone used Colt 6-shooters, the use of revolvers in the 1870's and 80's was pretty evenly divided between Colt and Smith. While Smith produced 2 1/2 times the number of guns as Colt did prior to 1900, much of the S&W production was exported to foreign markets most notably the Russians. Both designs would take a back seat to the swing-out cylinder solid frame hand ejectors coming from Colt in 1889 and Smith in 1896.

The S&W top-break big bores can be divided into 4 major model 3 families:

\* the Americans 1870-74....Square butt frame, .44 cal. Healed bullet like the rimfire bullets, 8" barrel, no knuckle on the backstrap, latch mounted on barrel.

\* The Russians 1873-78...round butt frame, extreme knuckle, .44 CAL. bullet diameter matches the inside case diameter like modern rounds. The .44 Russian is the parent cartridge to the .44 special and .44 magnum. 6 1/2 and 7" barrels, latch on barrel, trigger spur extension under the trigger guard.

While a majority of the production of the Russian models were indeed sent to Russia, there was also American distribution of a civilian model Russian.

\*The Schofield 1875-77...COL. GEORGE SCHOFIELD brought several design to Smith & Wesson looking to improve the model 3 for U.S. military use. It had a Square butt, no knuckle, latch mounted on frame making it easier to load and unload on horseback. Like the Colt, the Schofield was chambered in 45 cal. However, the frame was not of sufficient length to accommodate a cylinder long enough to chamber .45 colt ammo so S&W designed the .45 Schofield round. While close in actual power, the case was shorter than the colt. This design would end up costing the company significant military orders. While the .45 schofield rounds worked in .45 colts, which had been issued to many military units, the Schofield revolvers would not accommodate the longer .45 colt round. Any unfortunate mix-ups in shipping .45 revolver ammo would result in rendering the schofields useless with the colt ammo. To avoid these logistical supply problems the military contracts were given largely to colt. Those unfamiliar with the large frame smith models often refer to all the model 3's as "Schofields" which were relatively rare among the model 3's.

\*The "new model 3" 1878-1912 (though all frames were made prior to 1899) these modern looking top-break revolvers were the most accurate smiths had ever produced Most were chambered in .44 russian though some target models were produced with special target sights and unique .38-44 or .32-44 cartridge chamberings. Smith also produced a limited number of model 3's in .38 Winchester (.38-40), ..44 Winchester (.44-40) , .44 rimfire for the Turkish government, and .320 for the unique revolving cylinder rifle. While the .,38-40 and .44-40 designated first the caliber then the charge of black powder..,ie. .44 caliber and 40 grs., Smith's target rounds indicated the caliber and the frame size ie. .32 caliber and a .44 caliber frame.

By the 2nd decade of the 20th century the era of the top-breaks had come and gone. Though still produced by Harrington and Richardson and by Iver Johnson as well as several lesser companies into the 21st century these are almost exclusively .22 caliber guns. Of some interest is the very recent introduction of a North American Arms top-break, the Ranger II chambered in .22 WMR.

Next time..... pt. 4 The double-actions.

Q

by Michael McInerney Range Master, HHRGC



#### Holmes Harbor Rod & Gun Club: Events Calendar

Today	January 2022 🗨	I.		6	Print Week M	onth Agenda 💌
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1
Open 12 to 4			Open 2-7	Open 12-7	Open 2 to 9 New	Open 12 to 7
2 Open 12 to 4	3	4	5	6		
			Open 2-7	Open 12-7	Open 2 to 7	Open 12 to 7
					Prime Rib Dinner	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Open 12 to 4			Open 2-7	Open 12-7	Open 2 to 7	Open 12 to 7
			6pm General Boan			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Open 12 to 4			Open 2-7	Open 12-7	Open 2 to 7	Open 12 to 7
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Open 12 to 4			Open 2-7	Open 12-7	Open 2 to 7	Open 12 to 7
						12pm Winter Soup
30	31	Feb 1	2	3	4	5
Open 12 to 4			Open 2-7	Open 12-7	Open 2 to 7	Open 12 to 7

Events shown in time zone: Pacific Time - Los Angeles

Calendar