

2011 Annual Meeting President's Report



Thanks to our leadership...

Executive Board (Cascarino, Gebhardt, White, Baker and Grosbier)

600-1000 Committee (Taylor, Tooley, Thielen, Rosen, Walker, Hall)

Score Committee (Sargent, France, Perkowski, Bunker, Livengood, Llewellyn)

Group Committee (Goodling, Harshman, Shifflett, Trutt, Baker, Raines)

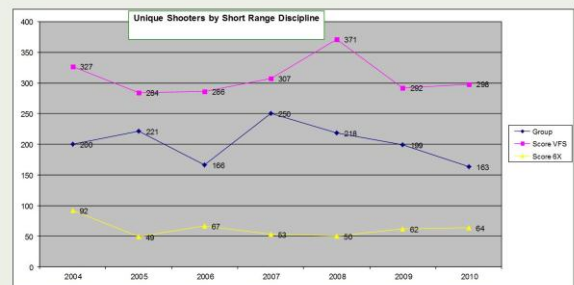
Records Committee (Harshman, Hart, Tooley)

Kudos to our staff...

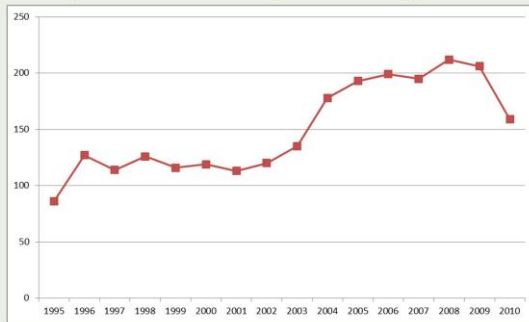
Webmaster - Dick Grosbier

Recording Secretary – Joan Borden

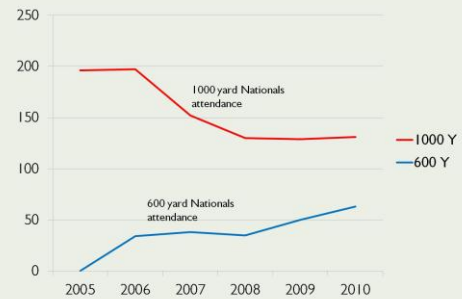
2004-2010 Competition Trends



Total 1000 Yard Shooters 1995-2010
 (# shown is number of persons earning points)



Long-Range Competition Trends
 # of Shooters at Nationals



2010 Matches:

600 yard

+32 matches plus Nationals

1000 yard

+46 matches plus Nationals

Score

+73 one-day matches

+15 two-day matches

+Score Nationals

Group

+10 two-day matches

+5 one-day matches

+Group Nationals

2010 "Hits"

- Survey of members and benchrest shooters – "why do we lose shooters?" "How can we grow?"
- Web site redesign
- Committed to posting on web within 48 hours a summary of 2010 Annual Meeting

IBS welcomes and THANKS an underwriter of the
1000 yard Long-Range Marksman Program

DOUGLAS BARRELS Charleston, WV

Douglas Barrels will annually contribute 50% (up to \$500) of the costs of LRM jackets and related awards.

2010 “Misses”: What we did not achieve - yet

- Simplify rule book and clean up DQ rules among other items
- By-laws changes to:
 - Move July 1 agenda item deadline to a later date (using the IBS web site to provide official notice)
 - Such action would NOT affect Precision Shooting as our “official publication”.
- AR class did not take off.

Benchrest’s Place Amongst Shooting Sports

Benchrest is, and will be, a niche shooting sport, BUT...

- **There is a need to grow Benchrest**
 - ✓ Too important in terms of technology to remain an “underground” shooting sport
 - ✓ Need to have critical mass of shooters for matches – clubs need to survive
 - ✓ “Benchrest” is a valuable brand earned over the decades
 - ✓ Benchrest is recognized as contributing to rifle development via “trickle-down”
 - ✓ The challenges of our sport need to be explained, but not made so daunting

Would You Like to Shoot the Most Accurate Rifles in the World?



Welcome to BENCHREST!

Do you try to squeeze the maximum accuracy from your hunting or varmint rifle?
Do you enjoy competition with some of the **finest** shooters around?
Would you like to improve your shooting skills?
Would you like to hear of subjects of precision shooting from those that really know?
Do you like to have **FUN** shooting?

Then benchrest shooting may be for you!
You can try shooting either of the 100/200 yard benchrest disciplines, group, score or BOTH. Shooting group results trying to put all five shots through the same hole or nearly so. A well-tuned competition rifle will be able to put five shots into a 1/8" or less, measured center to center of the ten outer dots. Many ranges can be scored for a time with lots of events to spare. The home discipline requires equally accurate rifles, but the object for that game is to hit five separate bullseyes. A perfect target would be 50 ft.

For more information, check out: www.international-benchrest.com and also www.benchrest.com
Have questions or want to learn more? For 100/200 Group: james313@verizon.net, for 100/200 Score: longrange@att.net
and for long range: 800-1000-1100 1100@longrange.com

Benchrest Survey

- Set-up two surveys on surveymonkey.com
- One was for current, or previous benchrest shooters
- The other was for shooters with no experience with benchrest

“The survey says...”

- **549** shooters filled out the benchrest survey
- **435** non-benchresters responded to the survey

Survey for NON Benchrest Shooters

How do you describe yourself as a shooter?

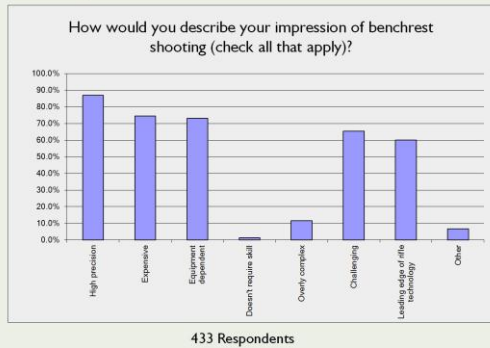
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Informal recreational shooter	36.0%	156
Interested in pursuing serious competition	44.8%	194
Hard core competitor	19.2%	83
answered question		433

Survey for NON Benchrest Shooters

How do you describe yourself as a shooter?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Handguns	52.0%	225
Hunting Rifles	52.7%	228
Muzzleloaders	10.2%	44
AR ("Black Rifles")	38.8%	168
Precision Rifles	91.2%	395
Shotgunning	25.9%	112
answered question		433

Survey for NON Benchrest Shooters



Survey for NON Benchrest Shooters

Does benchrest shooting interest you?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	85.3%	367
No	14.7%	63
answered question		430

Do you know anyone that shoots benchrest rifles?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	62.8%	270
No	37.2%	160
answered question		430

Would you like to learn more about benchrest shooting?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	84.9%	360
No	15.1%	64

Survey for NON Benchrest Shooters

Which benchrest discipline(s) that interests you?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
600 yard	62.5%	255
1000 yard	55.9%	228
Group (100-200-300)	46.3%	189
Score (100-200-300)	39.0%	159
answered question		408

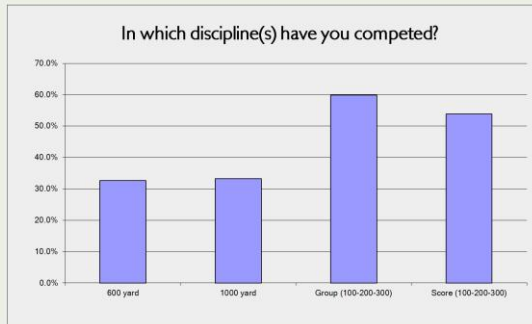
Note: some responses were via 6mmbr.com

Survey for NON Benchrest Shooters

Are you involved in another shooting discipline?

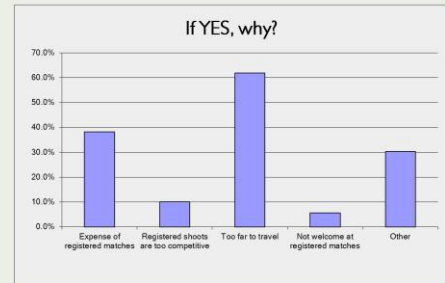
Varmint hunting	52.7%	173
High-Power	37.2%	122
Shotgunning	23.2%	76
Smallbore	22.9%	75
Silhouette	17.1%	56
Action Pistol	16.8%	55
Groundhog shoots (competitions)	16.5%	54
Bullseye Pistol	9.5%	31
Cowboy Action	1.8%	6

BR Shooters Responses



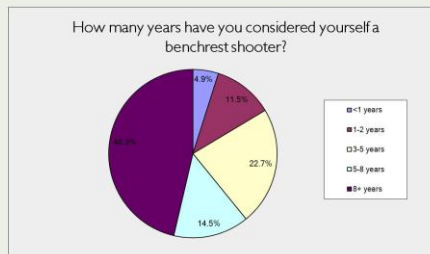
BR Shooters Responses

15% said they shoot in club matches only, why so?



BR Shooters Responses

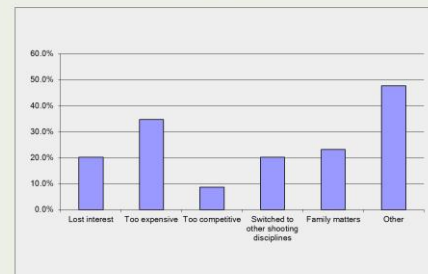
"Old hands" responded



88% are still competitors

BR Shooters Responses

Only 70 persons said they are not longer a competitor, but if so, why?



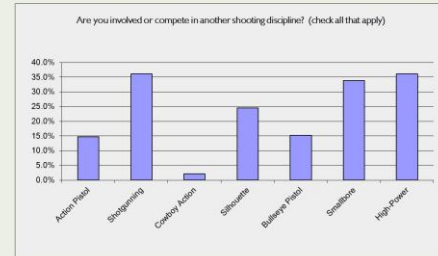
BR Shooters Responses

What would it take to bring you back?

- More matches close to home
- Factory class with simple rules so a varmint hunter can shoot is rifle
- Lower costs to shoot

BR Shooters Responses

1/3 of respondents shoot another discipline



Several mention F-Class and Groundhog shoots

BR Shooters Responses

What did they mention as the attraction of the other disciplines?

- F-Class, more shooting, simpler
- Groundhog shoots, lower keyed
- Some remarked about some benchresters attitudes

BR Shooters Responses

Should we grow the sport of benchrest?

•96% said YES
(517 votes!)

BR Shooters Responses

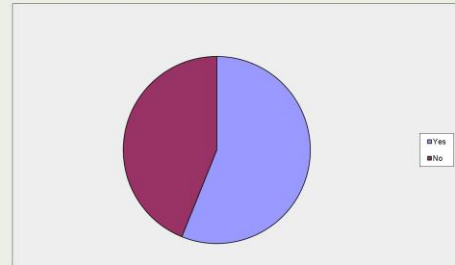
How do we grow benchrest?

If YES, how so?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
More awards	15.9%	73
More matches at existing ranges	37.1%	170
New ranges added to schedule	52.6%	241
Add factory class	35.8%	164
Add shooter classifications	19.9%	91
Combine benchrest sanctioning bodies	39.7%	182
Other	18.3%	84
Other (please specify)		136
answered question		458
skipped question		91

BR Shooters Responses

Has the economy affected your shooting?



55% say yes

BR Shooters Responses

Score Shooting

Do you shoot score?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	63.6%	337
No	36.4%	193

If YES, do you favor "caliber neutral" scoring (one that does not give an advantage to larger diameter bullets)?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	46.4%	159
No	53.6%	184

If NO, would you shoot Score if it were "caliber neutral"?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	60.8%	180
No	39.2%	116

BR Shooters Responses

Group Shooting

Do you shoot Group?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	70.6%	362
No	29.4%	151

How can it be improved responses:

- Lots of different answers –
- ✓ More matches
- ✓ One day matches
- ✓ Benchrest schools and mentoring
- ✓ Several said 'ok' as it
- ✓ Change sporter
- ✓ Add factory class

BR Shooters Responses 600 Yard Shooting

Do you shoot 600 yard?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	35.8%	181
No	64.2%	325

How can it be improved responses:

- Lots of different answers –
- ✓ Drop the IBS 600 yard DQ rule
- ✓ Allow all rifles to have muzzle breaks
- ✓ More matches and more shooting
- ✓ Excellent the way it is reported by many

BR Shooters Responses 1000 Yard Shooting

Do you shoot 1000 yard?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	35.1%	177
No	64.9%	327

How can it be improved responses:

- Lots of different answers –
- ✓ More shooting – aggregates – use 600 yard format
- ✓ Allow all rifles to have muzzle breaks
- ✓ More matches and more shooting
- ✓ Review DQ rule

BR Shooters Responses 1000 Yard Shooting

If you shoot 1000 yard now, do you favor a multi-target aggregate as opposed to the shoot-off?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	56.5%	108
No	43.5%	83

If you are a shooter not now in the 1000 yard discipline, do you favor a multi-target aggregate as opposed to a shoot-off?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	68.6%	105
No	31.4%	48

Survey “takeaways”

- Benchrest “brand” is alive and well
- Shooters want more ranges close to home
- **There is a body of shooters that WANT to shoot benchrest**
- Application of rules should be consistent
- Minimize organizational “politics”

Possible Actions

- More one day matches in group?
- More aggregates at 1000 yards?
- Factory Class?
 - ✓ Appeal to varmint hunters
 - ✓ Simple Rules!
- Keep AR Class
 - ✓ Secure sponsorship?
- OTHER

Growing Benchrest

Challenge	Response
Steep learning curve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal mentor program • Formal IBS schools (such as Tawvas) • Benchrest "clinics", such as Bob White's in New Jersey
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At a match, many shooters will loan a rifle and equipment to newcomers to see if they like it • No more costly than most competitive shooting, but certainly not cheap...
Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IBS web site has been redesigned for easier navigation • Produce a simple no-nonsense, but authoritative, guide to benchrest in .pdf format with web hot links • Added "contact us" to IBS web site – and then send information via email

Growing Benchrest

Challenge	Response
Invisible sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post "benchrest flyer" at local ranges, gun shops, Gun shows • Issue press releases – could be effective in small town rural newspapers
Possible Barriers to New Shooters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benchrest has some of the finest people you will find ANYWHERE, but.... • We should ALL strive to maintain an open and friendly attitude toward new shooters • Make them feel welcome – we were all new shooters at one time • While at the local range, offer to let other shooters that show some interest to shoot your rifle

BR Shooters Responses

Are you in favor of a single centerfire benchrest sanctioning body?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	64.8%	313
No	35.2%	170

Comments or Questions?