

ALLIANCE RIFLE CLUB

Hoffland Firing Line Through the Years

The Beginning

When Hoffland Range was first opened for shooting matches, it was set up for NRA Rifle Silhouette and IHMSA Pistol Silhouette. There was also some muzzleloading shooting done in the early years. For several years the club leased the land and in 1985 the first land purchase for the Hoffland Range was made.

In 1982 Alliance Rifle Club hosted IHMSA Pistol Silhouette and NRA Rifle Silhouette matches at Hoffland Range. NRA approved Highpower Rifle Matches were first held in 1983. The first Highpower Rifle Matches were shot at 100 yds.



For the first years the firing line was on the ground as you can see at left. Here Jean Scoggin is spotting for Dean Scoggin as they are competing in an IHMSA Pistol Silhouette Match.

To the far left you can see the target stands with berm behind it used for the NRA Rifle Silhouette competitions.

Shooters would use a piece of carpet right on the grass. No shade or protection from the sun. In the beginning only the big bore chicken targets had dirt berms behind them.

These photos show the firing line for the IHMSA Pistol Silhouette which was down range more than 50 yds. from the NRA Rifle Silhouette firing line. Right: Janice is spotting for Gene Rader.



(Photos taken 1985)



Shelia helps her husband Leon Dent while shooting at the 1985 NRA State Highpower Rifle Silhouette Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, 1985.

Shooting boxes with rifle rests were installed at each shooting position—chicken, pigs, turkey and rams.

Cement pads were added on each side of the shooting boxes so right or left handed shooters had a level shooting platform.

1985 Shooting Competitions at Hoffland Range

NRA Rifle Silhouette — 40 rds. Smallbore in morning; 40 rds. Highpower in afternoon

IHMSA Pistol Silhouette — 40 rds. Big Bore and 40 rds. Rimfire

NRA Highpower Rifle — 100 yds. slow fire and rapid fire

Just before the NRA Highpower Rifle Silhouette Championships a shelter was constructed behind the firing line to offer some shade for everyone competing or attending the match.



NRA
National Rifle Association

IHMSA
International Handgun
Metallic Silhouette
Association

Hoffland Firing Line Through the Years

1986

The west end of the firing line was raised. Formed with railroad ties and filled with dirt.

Here you can see shooters taking part in a Highpower Rifle Match. Several benches were placed behind the line for use of the shooters and spectators.



1987 was a big year for Hoffland Range improvements.

A common firing line across the full width of the firing line was built. Dirt was hauled from around Alliance to do this. Took 35 ten-yard loads of dirt hauled in by dump truck to fill the raised firing line. The frame work for the raised firing line was made with railroad ties and finished berm was about 12 feet by 150 feet.

Enough dirt was hauled in to build berms behind all the silhouette target positions. Light colored rock was purchased and spread by hand over the berms to create contrast with the silhouette targets. It took 2 ten-yard loads of white rock to do this.



Sept. 1987—A Highpower Rifle Match the next year at the same end of the raised firing line.

This time shooters are making use of the special shooting benches constructed and painted by club members. These shooting benches were designed for the pistol silhouette shooters to use in IHMSA competition.

Hoffland Firing Line Through the Years



1987

Shooting benches in use at an IHMSA Pistol Silhouette Match. During 1987 sixteen of the benches were built. This gave eight for the big bore and eight for the rimfire positions. Each one was 4 x 8 feet and 18 inches high.

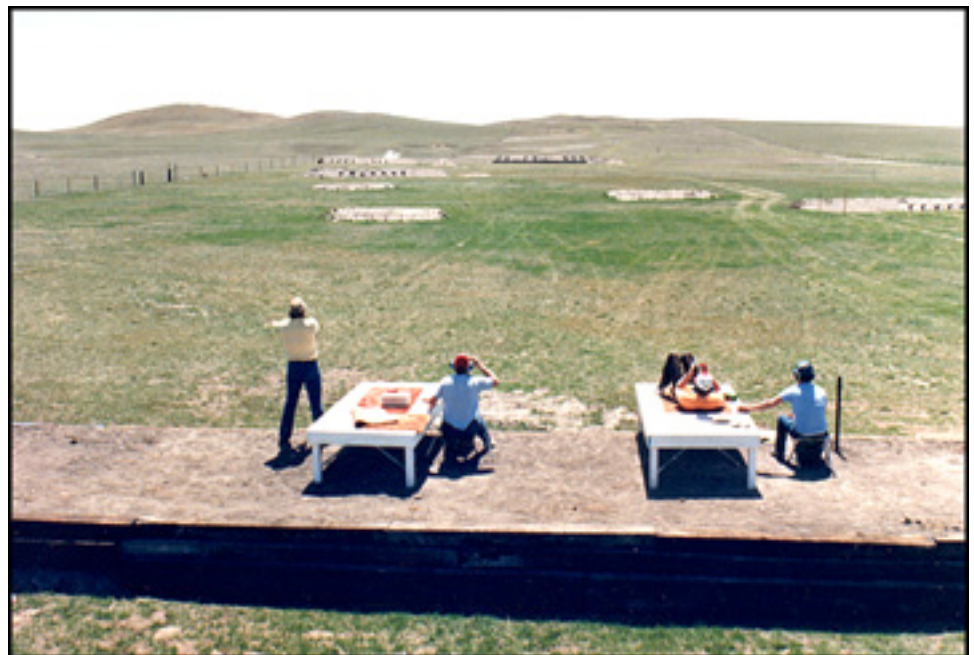
Looking down range you can see the big bore chicken, pig, turkey and ram stands and berms. To the right you can see one of the rimfire target stands.

Categories were Production, Revolver, Unlimited and Standing in both big bore and rimfire. 4-gun Aggregate awards were for high score from the combined scores of the four categories.

A major project of 1987 was moving the pistol silhouette firing line back so that there was a common firing line. This took lots of work for the members plus help from Burlington Railroad. With help from Burlington we were able to get the extra dirt necessary to build up the firing line and place berms behind the silhouette target stands.

Moving the firing line meant all the target positions had to be moved and berms placed behind them.

Eight new shooting boxes had to be built and placed along the new raised firing line for use at the rifle silhouette matches. These had a hinged lid, cradle to hold a rifle and box to hold ammo.



Here you can see the standing position and Creedmore position used in shooting the other categories of IHMSA Pistol Silhouette.

July 22-24, 1988

Region 8 IHMSA Regionals

Just a small portion of the firing line during the biggest IHMSA Pistol Silhouette Match at Hoffland. Each shooter had a shooting bench with carpet. Beside each competitor was their spotter/scorer. This part of the firing line shows the rimfire competition.



Region 8 IHMSA Championships held July 22, 23 and 24, 1988 at Hoffland Range was the biggest Region 8 Championship held up to 1988. In three days 298 guns went through the big bore and rimfire firing line—setting a record. Over 90 shooters from Wyoming, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota plus shooters from New Jersey and New South Wales, Australia compete.



July 22-24, 1988

Region 8 IHMSA Regionals

Looking along the rest of the firing line. Here the big bore matches are being shot.

Two shooters could compete at each of the silhouette positions of chicken, pigs, turkey, and rams.



1988

For the NRA Smallbore Rifle matches target stands were made that fit into pipes at the correct ranges.



In 1986 a train car was brought onto Hoffland Range and placed next to the shelter behind the firing line. This was used as a registration and scoring room and for storage.

Next year it was jacked up and leveled and steps were added. New windows were installed and everything cleaned up to use it as a Stat/Club house.

Later on a box car was placed in position behind this train car. It is used for storage.



Donations were made to the Alliance Rifle Club to make it possible to pour cement on the Firing Line.



The first pouring was done on the east end of the firing line to get ready for the June 3 and 4, 1989 NRA Regional Smallbore Rifle Prone Championship.



June 3 and 4, 1989 NRA Regional Smallbore Prone Championship

Here is the first big match to use the newly poured cement firing line.

The pistol silhouette shooting benches came in handy to hold shooting supplies for the competitors.

Summer 1989

One of the goals for a long time was to have a covered firing line.

During a Sunday Work Day club members put in 40 power poles along the front and back of the firing line. It took heavy equipment, many volunteer club members and a long day of work.

The plan was to use the poles as supports for a cover over the firing line. Later some of the poles were removed and in 2001 a cover of heavy gauge steel supported by steel girders was constructed over a portion of the firing line.



Summer 1989

Poles were set in place along both sides of the firing line.



1990 Shooting Competitions at Hoffland Range

NRA Rifle Silhouette — 40 rds. Smallbore in morning; 40 rds. Highpower in afternoon

IHMSA Pistol Silhouette — Rimfire, Field, Big Bore and Cowboy Rifle

NRA Highpower Rifle —

80 rd. Reduced National Match,

100 yd. rapid fire, 200 yd. slow fire

3rd Annual 100 Shot Offhand Match and Winter Highpower 100 yd. slow fire

NRA Smallbore Rifle — 1600 Prone Rifle, 3-Position Rifle

Nebraska State Junior Olympic Rifle Camp



**Sept. 9 and 10,
1989**

**NRA State
3-Position and
NRA State Prone
Smallbore Rifle
Championships.**

Hoffland Firing Line Through the Years



2001 Work Party

Cover Added to a portion of the Hoffland Firing Line.



A special raffle was held to raise the funds to pay for the cover.

The raffle prize was a buffalo hunt. The name of the winner was drawn at the Sept. 23, 2001 Gun Show.

(Photos by Don Sheldon)



Hoffland Firing Line Through the Years

May 2003 on the firing line with shooters at the Mid-West BPCR. Championships.

BPCR
Black Powder Cartridge Rifle
38/55 and larger
Long Range: 700, 800, 900, 1000 yds.
Buffalo Gong Match 225 to 965 yds.



This is at the May 2003 Mid-West BPCR Championships from in front of the firing line on the east end looking north.

(Photos this page by Jim Ford)

Below: Front of the firing line looking west during a BPCR Match. Shooting under the covered portion of the line. Photo taken May 2004.

2006 Military Rifle Matches

Military Gong from 100 to 700 yds.

Military Silhouette at steel targets
100, 200, 300, 385 and 500 yds.

Mid-Range 200, 300 and 600 yds.
from the berms at targets in the pit

Long Range at 800 and 900 prone
and 1000 yds. from benches
using the pit





May 2004 Mid-West BPCR Championships. Looking towards the east along the firing line.

(Photos of Mid-West BPCR Championship by Jim Ford)

A view from behind the firing line showing the cover.

2008 Shooting Competitions at Hoffland Range

**Siege at Stalingrad,
Military Rifle,
Military Long Range,
Military Gong,
Military Silhouette,
Mauser Challenge,
Military Fun Day,
Buffalo BPCR,
Varmint,
Lever Gun Big Bore and .22,
.50 BMG Cartridge
Mid-West BPCR
and Sagebrush BPCR**



**2008
Stalingrad Match**

Jan. 19, 2008 Military Rifle Match. This is the Siege at Stalingrad Match held in January each year.

Military rifle gong match with stock military rifles that were manufactured before 1942.

Here the shooting benches are being used. Shelter awning added to west end of the firing line. *(Photo by Chris Ford)*



Hoffland Firing Line Through the Years



Photo above shows shooters taking part in the 9th Mid-West BPRC Championship held May 1, 2 and 3, 2009. It was a cloudy day with cool temperatures. There was a very good turnout with 89 shooters the first day of competition and 93 shooters on the second day. *(Photo by Royce Brown)*

Improvements done June, 2009

During the summer of 2009 a septic tank was put in place at Hoffland Range.

In the future a new restroom will be added.

(Photos by Bob Engelhaupt)

