



Black Powder Report

"4 F" used to be a derogatory term for someone who wasn't quite up to snuff. To a black powder shooter, it is the type of powder that one would use to prime his/her "pan" on a flintlock rifle. This is the powder that is ignited by the sparks created by the flintlock, which then ignites the main powder charge in the barrel.

There are four types of black powder generally available to shooters. They are labelled 1F, 2F, 3F, and 4F. As the number increases, the size of the granulations of the powder decreases, but the pressure created in the barrel of the firearm will increase. One needs to select the correct powder size for the correct calibre and type of firearm. All pistols, and rifles under .50 cal, will generally use 3F. Rifles over .50 cal will use 2F, and cartridge rifles and cannons will use 1F.

Yes that's right, I said cannons. I bet you didn't know that some black powder types build and shoot their own muzzle loading cannons. I will tell you more about this in a future newsletter.

We held our last monthly shoot before the summer break on June 5. This was our annual "trail walk" within Range #7. 17 shooters had a really fun time shooting at metal clangers, bowling pins, clay pidgeons, and charcoal briquettes. We also tried cutting strings, straws, and playing cards in half. All in all, a really fun shoot.

Bev Burrus's chilli was better than ever, and I would like to take this opportunity

to thank her once again, for her continued support to the Black Powder shooters with her score keeping and by feeding us. Thanks Bev.

Our next shoot will be the "Jim Mortimer Memorial Musket Shoot" on July 23 and 24. This will be your opportunity to see how the rifles of the American Civil war, and the guns that helped build the British Empire are loaded and fired. This is a shoot dedicated to muzzle loading military muskets, and military black powder cartridge rifles. We would love to see lots of people come up to shoot, watch, or try a shot at this. Women and children are especially welcome.

That reminds me. Did you know that a lot of women learn to shoot well, much faster than most men? We don't usually advertise this, as we don't want to be embarrassed by our wives, girlfriends, sisters, and daughters, beating us at the shoots. So come on up ladies and help us make some smoke.

Answer to last month's trivia question: The 5 shot Colt Patterson revolver was the first commercially produced revolver in 1837. It was originally chambered in 28, 31, and .36 calibre, and was invented and patented by Samuel Colt in 1836.

Tim Wall

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