

## F-Class

F-Class, so named for its Canadian founding father George Farquharson, (A Kamloops, BC Shooter) is a fullbore discipline that owes its roots to TR shooting, and began with simply adding a scope to what was previously an iron-sight TR rifle, and shooting with the aid of a bipod. This was to permit aging shooters the ability to compete when eyesight and muscle control made TR shooting physically too demanding.

Far from being a sport reserved for the aged and infirm, from those humble beginnings, the sport has grown like wildfire into one of the most popular fullbore sports around the world. This is a competitive and challenging sport with targets being half the size of a typical TR Target. Like TR, this sport is shot prone (disabled shooters can be accommodated in other positions). The object is to place shots in the middle of the target, with scores diminishing the further from the center your bullet impacts. Each shot is marked by a target marker working under your target. Unlike benchrest shooting, where group size is important, the aim is to hit the bull's eye.

In terms of the equipment used, the majority of what is used in F-Class closely resembles what you would buy at your local gun shop, and indeed, the sport of F-Class has become so popular, that there are commercially made rifles specifically for F-Class that are quite affordable in comparison to some of the customized rifles used. Furthermore, the results can be excellent.

Recently, The BCRA adopted a new classification specifically for the benefit of shooters that wish to come out and try F-Class using just a factory sporting or hunting rifle! The new "Factory Sporter" Class allows new shooters to come out and try the sport, using a standard sporting/hunting rifle. You will be "competing" against other shooters in the same class, shooting at a much larger target and shooting shorter strings. In short, if you have a bolt action rifle, you can come and try this addicting and fun shooting sport!

In BC we shoot between 300 yards and 600 Meters, in the rest of the shooting world, competition can be held at distances up to 900M. Matches are held throughout the spring and summer in Chilliwack, Nanaimo, Mission, and Kamloops.

Those that would like to know more about F-Class shooting are encouraged to contact F-Class Director Ian Hames at [riflebarrels@telus.net](mailto:riflebarrels@telus.net). In addition we are now holding annual F-Class introductory clinics to allow those who are completely new to competitive shooting a chance to learn what the sport is about and actually compete against other brand-new F Class shooters in a mini-match. Organized F-Class Matches (combined with TR shooters) are held throughout the spring and summer in Chilliwack, Nanaimo, Mission and Kamloops. Those that would like to know more about F-Class shooting are encouraged to contact F-Class Director Ian Hames at [riflebarrels@telus.net](mailto:riflebarrels@telus.net)

Here are the different classes of F-Class rifles...

F-CLASS TR or "FTR"

223 or 308 (or military equivalent 5.56 or 7.62 NATO) using any bullet weight.

- Maximum 8.25Kg weight of rifle and all attachments
- Any Sight (iron or optical)

- Can be used with Bipod and rear bag or sling, no front Benchrest style shooting rests allowed
- Any safe trigger weight
- Matches are fired single-shot, no loaded magazines

#### F-CLASS OPEN

- Any Non-Magnum calibre up to 8mm
- Any sight (Optical or Iron)
- Maximum weight 10 Kg or 22 lbs (combined weight of rifle and all accessories that recoil with the rifle)
- Bipod or front rest (Forestock cannot be wider than 76mm if used with a front rest)
- Any safe trigger

#### FACTORY-SPORTER (F/SP)

- Any factory-made bolt action firearm, with original unmodified factory barrel and action
- Any type of sight
- Front rest, front bipod or bags permitted along with rear bag
- Maximum weight of 12 pounds with all attachments
- No muzzle brakes or compensators (ie Remington VTR)
- See the rules on the BCRA website for more details on the FSP class.

All Classes permit a rear bag, but cradles that support both ends of the rifle at the same time are prohibited.



Richard Dreger of Kamloops BC shooting his 6 BR Norma and winning the 2009 Provincial Championships



Getting ready to shoot at 400 M in Chilliwack



Two shooters typically share a target, alternating fire and keeping score for each other. Close friendships are easily formed and a new shooter can learn a great deal shooting beside on of the “seasoned” shooters that love to welcome new shooters aboard!



F-Class is a terrific sport for improving precision shooting skills. Here a BC Tactical shooter participated in an F-Class match with his .308 tactical rifle – a perfect fit for FTR class.



Vokes Military Rifle Range, Chilliwack, BC. Without a doubt the most beautiful rifle range in the world