

Bench rest is a valuable tool for sighting your rifle

By HAROLD HARTON
Special Contributor

A number of years ago, my late friend Skeet Skaggs had a shooting range on his ranch near Briggs. Each year, deer hunters would show up to zero their rifles before deer season. Most of the time, they had no idea how to proceed with the process and would ask Skeet to shoot their rifle.

One afternoon I showed up and offered to help Skeet, since there were about a dozen hunters waiting to get their rifles zeroed.

At that time, there was no bench rest from which to shoot, so Skeet was shooting from the prone position using sand bags to rest the rifle on. His shoulder took quite a beating since he was shooting everything from a .250-3000 to .30-06 and even a .35 Remington thrown in, and just about everything in between. When Skeet got up to take a break, I noticed his shirt was bloody at the shoulder. Those rifles had beat the blood out of him!

In order to zero, Skeet knew he had to take as much of the human element out of the process as possible. He used the sand bags at front and rear to minimize the movement of the rifle at the time the trigger was squeezed.

Shortly after this incident, Skeet, with the help of some of us, built a bench rest from which to shoot. This made controlling the rifle and the recoil factor more acceptable.

The bench rest is a valuable tool for prairie dog shooting, too.

A great new product is available called Stable Table, made by Battenfeld Products and marketed by Caldwell Shooting Supplies. Not only is it a great steady rest for zeroing the rifle but also for the prairie dog hunt, as well as long-range shooting. It swivels 360 degrees for fast action in any direction. It is a fine, stable and strongly built piece of equipment. I guarantee you will be very pleased with it.

You can get yours at Nocked & Loaded Archery and Guns, right here in Lampasas.

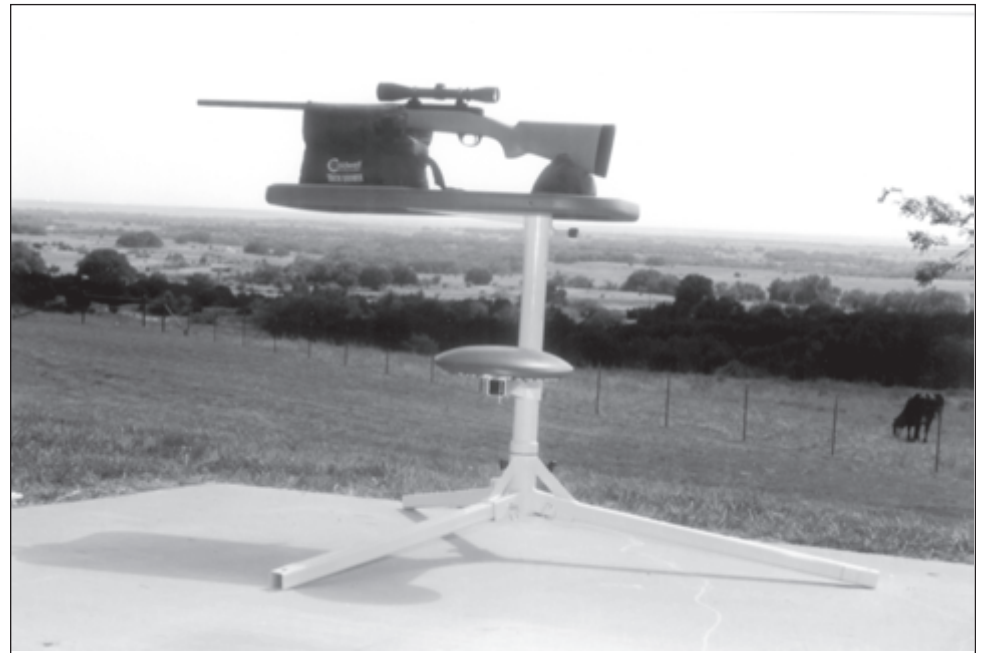


PHOTO BY HAROLD HARTON

Stable Table is a great steady rest for zeroing the rifle but also for the prairie dog hunt, as well as long-range shooting.

Harold Harton is a veteran outdoorsman and photographer, and a longtime contributor to the Lampasas Dispatch Record.



Adamsville VFD's 42nd Annual Deer Hunter's Bar-B-Que

At the Adamsville Community Center
Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009

5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

BBQ Brisket, Sausage, Beans, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw & Desserts
Adults: \$8 Children Under 8: \$5

Rifle Raffle!!!

Remington Model 710*

Bolt Action 30-06 • Bushnell 3-9 w/variable scope

Chances are 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5

(You need not be present to win. *Winner must pass Federal background check)

Live Auction! (Donations are welcome)

Tickets available at the door.

For more info. call (512)768-3960 or (512)556-8889

KEEP US IN
YOUR SIGHTS



- ★ Good Clean Deer Corn
- ★ AntlerMax Deer Products
- ★ M-G Apple Deer Pellets
- ★ Deer Feeders Batteries

**Country Acres
DEER BLOCKS**

*Your local distributor for the
Nationally Acclaimed
Antlermax Deer Protein
Plus, all your Farm & Ranch Supplies*



Parina Mills, Inc.

**HERRMANN FEED
& SUPPLY, INC.**

503 SOUTH PECAN • LAMPASAS

556-5762/556-5212

MONDAY-FRIDAY, 8 A.M.-6 P.M.; SATURDAY, 8 A.M.-1 P.M.

Welcome Hunters to Lampasas County!