

Wind Zeroing

An accurate wind zero is of critical importance on ranges where there is not always a constant breeze coming in from one side. ie. Belmont, when wind can change from a Westerly to an Easterly direction. I've witnessed many good shooters come undone when the "Belmont lunch time slop" occurs ie. the sea breeze takes over from the land breeze. This is a very common occurrence during the Queens in August.

If your sight is correctly zeroed you are much better prepared to deal with conditions where the prevailing wind stops to nothing or goes through zero to come in from the other direction.

There's no point in attempting to judge the wind exactly, if you don't have a sight and zero that you have total confidence in.

We are fortunate to have a well set up 25 yard (approx) range here at Belmont. If there's any doubt that your rifle may not be perfectly zeroed, it's time well spent to visit the 25 yard zero range to confirm. If it's prior to a fixture, your coach could well appreciate it, believe me!

Set Up

Firstly set up zero target using either a plumb bob or a spirit level. I prefer the plumb bob but that's personal choice. **** I cannot emphasise the importance of a perfectly vertical zero line! ****

Set up mat, scope and ammo box etc. exactly as you would on the main range.

Once in position, ensure NPA (Natural Point of Aim) is achieved – this is most important. Ensure sight picture is acceptable also.

For some reason – even the best of shooters sometimes can have a bit of trouble putting consecutive shots through the same hole on the zero range. A tip shown to me by James Corbett is to place a rolled up towel under front forearm to assist the hold.

I've seen some shooter's on the zero range attempting to sort their zero's using bipods, sandbag, no slings and the like... the pitfall with this method is that when they go to shoot off their elbows on the main range, the zero could be different to what it was on the zero range. This is due to the recoil varying from one method to the other.

****Tip – It may be a good idea to zero with the same projectile as you will be shooting with on the main range.**

I found out a while back whilst zeroing, that the old 144 grain projectile varied greatly to the 155's that I was using at the time I haven't done any comparable research on the various 155 grain projectiles that are now available, however I was only told recently that the zero of the 155 grain BJD HBC does differ to the 155.5 Berger.

Method

The quickest way to confirm zero is to fire 2 consecutive shots on what you believe to be true wind zero. It's preferable that both shots form one round hole or close to it.

****Tip – it's always a good idea to be above 300 yard elevation to save the aiming mark from being distorted.****

Adjust the sight the calculated amount to hit the zero line. Fire as many shots as required until you are confident of zero (usually 3 or 4 shots).

"Bear in mind that 1 MOA (minute of angle) or 1 point, will move your shot ¼" at 25 yards approximately."

Adjust scale plate on wind arm. The rifle is now wind zeroed.

Useful Exercise

In addition to the above procedure, this quick and easy exercise checks the sight is zeroed, upright, square and working perfectly.

Fire 2 shots on what you perceive to be zero wind, around the 400 – 500 yard mark. Assuming they form as close to one hole as possible, adjust the sight the calculated amount to hit the zero line. Fire a shot.

Then set elevation 20 points up and 10 points right, and fire a shot.

Next set the sight to 10 points left and fire a shot.

The last 2 shots fired should be exactly level.

Lastly, move sight to original setting where you started – ie. back to zero wind and 20 points down.

Fire a shot, this should go through the already made zero hole.

Leigh Marett
Natives RC
March 2014

