By Richard Kohn and Glen Wong

Are you looking for a fun and challenging match to shoot in a friendly environment with your .22 tactical rifle? Look no further! The Rio Salado Sportsman Club, located in Mesa, Arizona, has a .22 Tactical Rifle match on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month starting at 5:00 pm.

This match consists of four stages (two are speed with movement, one is pure speed from one location, and one that is longer range – up to 100 yards). Targets are steel/reactive and shots are taken in from described positions and around/through different props.

The stages are designed by myself, Richard Kohn (Match Director), and Glen Wong (co/assistant match director). This match is part of the Tuesday Night Steel Division (division director is Mickey Darren) of Rio Salado Sportsman’s Club.

The equipment necessary to shoot the match is any safe rifle that shoots .22 long rifle ammunition. Three high-capacity (20-plus round) magazines are recommended (you might be able to get by with two).

Ruger 10/22s are the most popular, with Smith and Wesson M&P 15/22s being the next most popular. The remaining rifles are AR-15 conversions, dedicated AR uppers and rifles from ISSC, GSG and SIG-Sauer. One shooter even shoots a Lakeside Machine belt-fed 22.

The Ruger 10/22s are moderately reliable. The high-cap mags from Ruger (available from Dillon) have improved the reliability of these rifles. The Smith and Wesson M&P 15/22s seem to be the most reliable out of the box. The M&P will accept AR-15 trigger parts and other AR accessories, some of which are available from Dillon.

You will shoot in one of two divisions: scope or iron sight. The iron-sight division is restricted to iron sights, no red-dot sights are allowed. The scope division has no restrictions. Some shooters use multiple sights, a scope and a red-dot sight. They use the scope for the long-range targets and the dot for up-close targets. The Millett DMS-1 one-to-four power scope (available from Dillon) is the most popular at this time. Scopes from Leupold, Burris, Bushnell and BSA are used in the match also. Red-dot sights by themselves are very successful on the close-range stages but not on the long-range stage.

We don’t have any restrictions on accessories at this time. The match is new, less than two years old, and is still evolving. Some of the shooters use muzzle brakes although they have shown no advantage. However, they do make it easier for the clock to pick up the final shot. Some shooters use bipods, although we usually provide something to rest the rifle on for the long-range stage. The short-range stages (stages 1-3) are usually shot standing.

Ammunition is one of the most important variables for reliable functioning of the .22 rifles. Federal 550 bulk and CCI Stingers are popular choices. A few of the shooters use ammunition from Aguila, Wolf and Eley. Some people use a combination of ammunition: bulk .22s like the Federal 550 for the short-range stages and high-accuracy .22 ammunition like the Eley Sport for the long-range stage.