



New OSA Buffalo River .308 Ammo

OSA provides the answer to a hog hunters' prayers by adding a new awesome .308 load firing a Sierra 135gn hollow-point at 3000 fps.



SIERRA has long been famous for the accuracy of its classic Match-King HPBT bullets which have won more target competitions than all target bullets from other manufacturers combined. Really serious varmint hunters simply dote on company's polymer-tipped BlitzKing bullets which have proved devastatingly effective for varmint/predator hunting even at extreme ranges. Recently Sierra introduced a new line of Tipped MatchKings which feature higher ballistic coefficients for increased aerodynamics in 69gn and 77gn .224, 125gn 168gn, 155gn and 175gn .308. But little praise has been lavished on Sierra's 135gn hollow-point .30 calibre bullet Outdoor Sporting

Agencies are loading in their proprietary Buffalo River .308 Winchester ammunition which is claimed to give fine accuracy coupled with reliable expansion over a wide range of game-shooting conditions.

Lightly constructed bullets that will expand satisfactorily at extreme ranges frequently disintegrate upon impact

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1 Testing was carried out on a benchrest at 100 and 200 yards with a Savage Model 10 with heavy barrel and Bushnell 4.5-30x50 Tactical scope.

2 While eminently suitable for ferals, don't discount this ammo's role on deer species up to red and rusa in size.



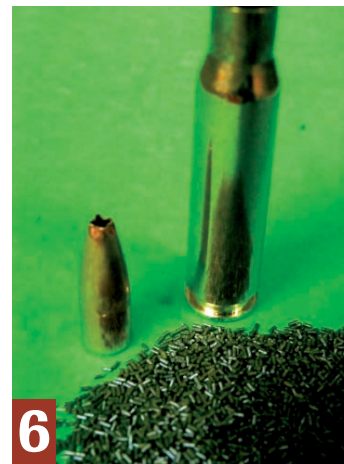
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3 Put up in good quality reloadable ADI brass carrying the OSA logo, the propellant is temperature resistant.

4 The new OSA Buffalo River 308 ammo loaded with a 135gn Sierra bullet is attractively packaged and the boar's head shows its intended purpose.

5 The large hollow point has a four-leaf clover for good luck and an aid to quick expansion and deadly performance.

6 The load gets 3000fps from a charge of 47.5gn of an ADI powder resembling AR2208 which gives remarkably consistent muzzle velocities.

with closely shot game, such as pigs, often inflicting nasty but superficial wounds. Toughening up the jacket will usually prevent the bullet breaking up, but this often results in a bullet that will not expand at all at longer ranges where velocity has dropped off markedly. Sierra solved the problem by giving their 135gn bullet a heavier tapered jacket with a massive clover-leaf shaped open-point and a large cavity underneath.

The copper-alloy jacket obturates to seal the bore against escaping gases, doesn't raise pressures too drastically, and, I have found, normally holds the bullet together when bone or muscle is struck on medium-size game such as feral goats and pigs and smaller deer species. The hollow point breaks open

on contact with the quarry, and entire forward section of the bullet bursts its jacket and then spreads outward and back. In other words the bullet forms a large "mushroom" and the greatly enlarged frontal surface and cuts a correspondingly large wound-channel through the game's anatomy. Too, air trapped in the cavity in the bullet's nose becomes highly compressed when the nose ploughs into the target, and this built-up air pressure greatly assists in promoting rapid bullet expansion.

A cavity in the nose of a small-calibre, high-velocity bullet often improves its accuracy, and such a bullet produces violent disruption of tissue - a very desirable objective in predator/feral eradication. This hollow-point bullet with a flat-base is intended for game shooting

and doesn't copy the streamlined boattail bullet so highly regarded for effective long range target shooting. But having a ballistic coefficient of 0.2750 it sure ain't any slouch in reaching out over 300 yards. When sighted in for a 225yd zero the bullet is 2.32" high at 100yds, on zero at 225 and drops 6.29" at 300, at which distance it still retains 2051fps and 1260 ft/lbs of energy. This is the most practical trajectory path.

OSA seems to have reached the quite reasonable conclusion that all desirable qualities cannot be successfully incorporated in a single game bullet for Australian conditions. Based on this supposition, they chose the Sierra 135gn hollowpoint with tapered jacket and large cavity. These bullets are real killer-dillers, and give the most reliable and all-around satisfactory performance of any .308 bullet we've previously seen used on feral animals.

On the western plains and in semi-open mountain country shots at goats and pigs often average a bit farther than they do when you're sneaking through lignum or brushy gullies. One time, several years ago, I sat and pondered how far my average shot had been and under what conditions it had been taken. For pigs the average range was, I believe, right around 30



Buffalo River ammo proved capable of averaging around a 1/2- MoA for seven 5-shot groups at 100 yards.

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metres in cover and no farther than 150 metres in open country. Cross gully shots at goats can vary a lot, but I believe that I've taken few shots over 200 yards.

Of the various .308 loads I've used for this type of shooting, I think the 135gn bullet has a definite edge on any others. The 150gn load which I've used a lot is good too, but the 135gn has a somewhat flatter trajectory and more shocking power and gives a somewhat higher percentage of one-shot kills on ferals.

This is important when hunting fallow deer particularly if the game has been spooked and is moving. Unless they are hit hard they can often run a considerable distance. Back in the 1960s I found that the 110gn Hornady bullet in my .270 was sheer dynamite on fallow, and the 135gn .308 seems to have just as sudden an effect. The new OSA load makes up in speed what it lacks in bullet weight. It kills just as well as the 150gn bullet and on light and medium game gives a higher percentage of one-shot kills. This theory hinges on the

question of which is more important, velocity or bullet weight. I'll go along with velocity, since every time I got one of those vicious 135gn bullets in the chest cavity of an animal the size of a goat the kill was instantaneous.

The new OSA .308 ammo comprises a special mix of local components - ADI cases and primers topped with an premium U.S bullet. The 135gn Sierra bullets are seated on top of a charge of 47.5gn of an ADI powder - most likely AR2208. This is a good feature since ADI's powders are formulated to give consistent internal ballistics over an extreme temperature range (5 to 125 degrees F). The charge is balanced to achieve maximum safe velocities resulting in vertical bullet displacement at

typical hunting distances being greatly reduced. This is possible because with OSA ammo peak pressures are minimally affected by extreme temperature variations, something confirmed by muzzle velocities which averaged 3012 fps and varied by only 15 foot-seconds!

Not owning a rifle in .308 and wanting to find out just how accurate this hunting ammo really was, I borrowed a specialist 6.8kg outfit from my good friend Dave at the Hill End General Store. Tested in his Savage Model 10 FCP MCMillan with heavy 610mm barrel topped with a Bushnell XRS Elite Tactical 4.5-30x50mm scope, OSA's new .308 ammo produced excellent accuracy and consistent velocity with seven 5-shot

groups running 0.445, 0.541, 0.493, 0.553, 0.757 and 0.543 for an average of 0.553 in. OSA's new Buffalo River .308 load performed like target ammo rather than a hunting load. Having three cartridges left after sighting-in and firing seven 5-shot groups at 100 yds, I shot them at 200 yds and got a 1.40 in. group.

Handloaders will appreciate having excellent once-fired brass. After resizing, the average weight of the .308 brass was 174.5 grains +/- 1/2gn which compares pretty well with Federal and Norma brass, both dimensionally and weightwise.

OSA's Buffalo River .308 ammo then, utilises a medium-weight bullet driven at moderately high velocity. Without producing excessive recoil, good quality hunting rifles shooting this load should be capable of producing sure-killing hits between 200 and 300 yards - probably farther than the average hunter can reliably effect a hit with any rifle and any ammo. ☒

BALLISTICS BUFFALO RIVER .308 WINCHESTER

Range (Yds)	Muzzle	100	200	300	400
Trajectory (inches)	-1.50	+2.32	+1.22	-6.29	-49.0
Velocity (fps)	3000	2660	2344	2051	1779
Energy (ft/lb)	2698	2121	1648	1260	949

This is the most effective trajectory path for the 135gn bullet. It allows a dead-on hold on feral animals out to 300 yards.