

The Villages Airgun Club

Equipment Suggestions

What to consider:

Price: What price range are you considering? Keep in mind, that like most things, you get what you pay for.

- < \$100 will buy an air gun, but it won't be very accurate and won't last long.
- \$200-\$500 will buy a decent quality novice gun. It will be fairly accurate and consistent. If you are considering buying a gun for occasional shooting, this may be the range you consider.
- \$800-\$1500 will buy a good quality competitive gun. It will be accurate and consistent and will last a long time with little maintenance.
- \$1800+ will buy a true competition gun. It will be extremely precise and consistent, and will last decades if taken care of.

There are sometimes good, and often very good used guns for sale on The Villages Airgun Club website.

The three elements of an airgun that determine the precision:

Sights: For rifles, diopter (peep) sights are by far the dominate sight on competition air guns. Higher quality sights will be more consistent and precise. For pistols, good quality open (iron) sights work well, but most competitive shooters are using reflex sights, which can be mounted to most handguns.

Air Pressure Regulation: Regardless of the propellant charging method, most of these guns use air to drive the pellet. Consistent air pressure results in a consistent shot, so guns with better air regulators will shoot more consistently.

Trigger: This may seem out of place, but a good trigger makes all of the difference between a cheap gun, a good gun and a great gun. Good quality competition guns have two-stage adjustable triggers, that are extremely easy to fire.

There are other things, like barrel rifling and suppressors, that may also be considered, but most of those features are less important for our purposes.

Three primary types of propellant:

CO2: CO2 Guns use small, inexpensive replaceable cartridges for power. CO2 guns are inexpensive and primarily entry level, although there are some decent mid-range CO2 guns.

Pump: Pump/Lever air guns have a lever for pumping air into a cylinder. They come in single or multiple pump versions. Pump guns are not as popular as they once were. New models come in a variety of quality levels, from entry level to mid-range competitive. Note that prior to the introduction of PCP, high quality pump guns led the competitive circuits, so a good quality used pump gun can be very competitive in The Villages.

PCP: PCP guns have a pressurized (2000+ psi) tank. This type of guns come in all price ranges and quality levels. Good quality PCP guns can be extremely precise. Unlike CO2 and Pump, they do require a refilling method. Most competition air guns on the market today are PCP.

What to buy?

Novice level guns to consider:

Daisy 753/853 – single pump lever rifle. You can buy a new Daisy 753S from Pyramid air and other distributors. Or, the Airgun Club works with the Civilian Marksmanship Program and can get good refurbished 853 rifles for much less. The 853 and 753 are virtually identical.



Beeman AR2078 – CO2 rifle. Available from Amazon and other retailers.



Crossman 2300 – is a good quality CO2 pistol. It comes in a 2300S version that adds competition sights and adjustable trigger. They are available from Amazon and other retailers.



Daisy Model 599 – PCP gun is a little more expensive but a good entry level competition gun. It is available from Champions Choice and other distributors.



Crossman Challenger – is another good quality entry level competition PCP gun, and is available from Amazon and air gun retailers.



Midrange level guns to consider:

Feinwerkbau (FWB) 500 – is a good quality, competition ready PCP rifle. It has good quality sights and a smooth adjustable trigger.



AirArms S400 – is another good quality, competition ready PCP rifle. Like the FWB 500 it has good sights and a nice trigger action.



Air Venturi AV-46 – is a good quality, competition ready single lever pump pistol. As previously mentioned, most add a reflex (red dot) sight for competing, but if that's not your interest, this gun comes equipped with competition level iron sights.



Hammerli AP20/AP20Pro – is a good quality PCP pistol. It comes with good sights and trigger, and a reflex sight can be added for more accuracy.



Competition level guns:

There are quite a few excellent quality, true competition airguns available today. They are all PCP and primarily from FWB, Anschutz, Walther, Pardini, Steyr and Morini. If you are interested in a true competition gun (rifle or pistol), come to one of the ranges, talk to the club members and see what they are shooting. If you see a gun online you are interested in, odds are we have one of them in use in the club that you can look at.



Keep in mind, that in order to shoot at one of The Villages ranges:

The gun must be a **.177 pellet gun**. **No BB guns, No larger caliber guns, No airsoft guns.**

Only wadcutter (flat front) pellets are allowed; pointed pellets are not allowed.

Also, if you are considering joining The Villages Airgun Club, and want to compete, **scopes are not allowed**.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact an Airgun Club member. We love to talk about airguns.

The Villages Airgun Club website: www.airgunclub.org

Websites for equipment: www.pyramidair.com, www.championschoice.com, www.amazon.com