

# American Radio Rifle Course

## Gear Suggestions

The *American Radio Rifle Course* is essentially Front Sight's 4-Day Practical Rifle Course. General course information can be seen at <http://www.frontsight.com/courses/practical-rifle-training-four-day.asp>

Many people have asked about what equipment to bring. Here is a partial list. (Links to some accessories are provided at the end of this article.)

**Primary Weapon:** This is a rifle course. Bring one! While Front Sight says, "any gun will do if you will do", the *American Radio Rifle Course* is focused on training with a **combat** rifle. Please insure that your rifle is a modern repeating magazine-fed rifle of the kind typically associated with combat operations. Examples are the; AR-15, CAR-15, M4, M1A, Socom 16, Socom II, AK-47, HK91, SIG 556, FN FAL, XCR, etc. If you have TWO such rifles it may be a great idea to bring both. [Make sure you have a sling for both.] Guns sometimes go down under extended operation and if so it'll be nice to have a back up handy.

**Magazines:** Three are required. I'd suggest bringing as many as 6 or 8. They should be functional and in good condition; not old and rusty (yuck).

**Slings:** A sling on your rifle is what a holster is to your pistol, and it's mandatory at this course. There are many different styles made by hundreds of manufacturers. Front Sight instructors will teach you how to effectively use whatever sling you bring. I prefer a "single point" sling, but that can sometimes require a small modification to your rifle and is typically only used for lighter rifles such as the AR series or the XCR. A "3-point sling" is another option (especially if you're shooting a heavy .308 rifle). Whatever sling you select, please try to keep it within the broad category of a "tactical sling" as opposed to a sling intended for hunting.

**Optics [glass]:** There are quite a few on the market these days. You can shoot the course with iron sights so there is no "need" for optics. It's your call. The most trusted names in combat optics today are Aimpoint, Trijicon, and EO-Tech.

**Weapon-mounted Light:** This isn't a requirement but it's darn near required in a practical sense. The Low-light/Night portion of the course is shot on Sunday night and is not a large part of the curriculum, but it's a heck of a lot of fun and a good learning experience.

If your rifle has picatinny rails you're in luck. If not, you can probably find a rail you can bolt onto your handguard and then mount a light on it. You can do a web-search for "weapons lights" and see a lot of different choices. Surefire is considered the best on the market. If you can't mount a light on your weapon then make sure you have a hand-held tactical light. Again, Surefire is considered the best on the market. Remember you're shooting a rifle at some distance, so a \$10.00 LED flashlight from K-Mart will be of little value in punching that light out so you can identify a target 40 yards away (or more). A budget hand-held light like the Surefire G2 Nitrolon runs about \$36.00.

**Range Clothing:** Wear comfortable clothes. It will likely be quite warm by late May, but it's the desert so you never know and you should plan for the possibility that it may also be cold. Most folks wear "fatigue pants" or "BDU pants" or "tactical pants" on the range. They're comfortable (loose), durable, and have lots of pockets, which you'll find handy during training. Shirts run the gamut from t-shirts to

tactical shirts and everything in between. Be prepared to “layer” your clothing if it’s cold or the wind gets bitter (and it gets windy often in the desert).

Most people wear boots, but people also wear tennis shoes. You’ll be standing the better part of 4 days so make sure your shoes are as comfortable as possible for extended time on your feet.

Most people wear an “instructor’s belt”, also sometimes referred to as a “rigger’s belt”. These are great belts but any **wide, thick, sturdy**, belt will do. I made the same statement before the pistol course and some people still showed up wearing ½” dress belts that one would wear with slacks. (Want to guess who didn’t do very well?) You’re attending a \$2,000.00 course; don’t be cheap when it comes to basic gear like a belt. Get the right thing!

Bring a hat! A boonie hat is recommended for its wide brim and ability to vent heat. It’s also a good idea to bring a kerchief-type item to wrap around your neck and keep the back of your neck from getting roasted! I use a big shemagh. [Google it!] Sunscreen will be your best friend.

**Secondary Weapon:** If you’d like to wear a sidearm during this course, that’s fine, but Front Sight does not permit tactical thigh holsters. You can wear a tactical thigh holster if you put only a “blue gun” or a “red gun” in the holster during the course. If you’re wearing an ordinary belt holster, or a holster on a tactical vest, etc., then you can wear a sidearm during the course. Regrettably, Front Sight will probably require that the sidearms be unloaded during the course, but we’ll see how that plays out.

**Magazine Pouch(es):** Got to have ‘em!!! There are a ton of manufacturers and a ton of different designs. Find the one that works for you. It must hold a minimum of 2 magazines. I would suggest that you select one that you might actually fight from. That will increase the value of your training.

**Dump Pouch:** Highly recommended! You’ll be wanting a place to dump magazines as you burn through them and trying to get them back into a mag pouch when the pressure is on can be a real pain in the \$%&! As an alternative, your BDU cargo pockets will work, just not as well.

**Town Clothing:** Bring some! We’ll be getting together in the evenings and dusty, sweaty, stained, or torn-up range clothes are not suitable. I’d like to remind everyone that Nevada is an “open carry” state and when you attend American Radio functions in the evening in beautiful downtown Pahrump, you are encouraged to wear your sidearm, so it is suggested that you bring a holster appropriate for a night on the town ;-). You may also want to bring a concealment vest/windbreaker because we have been known to pop our heads into a bar on occasion and wearing guns in the open in a bar is generally a poor idea.

### **Tactical Gear:**

**Pads:** You will be shooting from positions such as kneeling and prone [on your belly]. You will be assuming these positions rapidly and repeatedly. A good pair of kneepads and elbow pads is recommended.

**Gloves:** If you imagine that you’ll wear gloves “in the field” wear them at the course, at least part of the time. If you’ve not worn gloves while shooting it may be an eye opening experience for you. Better to have that eye opening experience on the range than in the field.

**Thigh Mounted Mag Pouches:** While thigh-mounted handgun holsters are prohibited at Front Sight, a thigh mounted magazine pouch is fine.

**Tactical Vest:** Wear it if you imagine you’ll fight in it. Test it at the range, not on the street!

Tactical Vest w/ Soft Armor: Wear it if you imagine you'll fight in it. If your vest is designed for soft armor, put it in! Test it at the range, not on the street!

Plate Carriers: Wear it if you imagine you'll fight in it. Test it at the range, not on the street!  
NOTE: Plate carriers are notoriously floppy and unstable without the hard armor plates so if you plan to fight in a plate carrier get the hard plates [yes, I know they're expensive] and put them in. Train like you'll fight!

Chest Harness: Wear it if you imagine you'll fight in it. Test it at the range, not on the street!

Load Carrying Equipment: Wear it if you imagine you'll fight in it. Test it at the range, not on the street!

The following is a list of websites that sell some of the items discussed in this gear list. It is NOT a complete list of websites that offer this kind of gear, nor is intended to be so. It is courtesy list provided for your convenience. Many items can be found simply by performing a quick web-search.

Slings:

[http://www.attackopgear.com/Merchant2/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Store\\_Code=AO&Category\\_Code=Tactical-Rifle-Slings](http://www.attackopgear.com/Merchant2/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Store_Code=AO&Category_Code=Tactical-Rifle-Slings)

Mag Pouches:

<http://www.skdtac.com/index.asp?PageAction=VIEWPROD&ProdID=97>

<http://www.skdtac.com/index.asp?PageAction=VIEWPROD&ProdID=183>  
<http://www.skdtac.com/index.asp?PageAction=VIEWCATS&Category=283>

[http://www.attackopgear.com/Merchant2/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Store\\_Code=AO&Category\\_Code=MOLLE-Pouches-Ammo](http://www.attackopgear.com/Merchant2/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Store_Code=AO&Category_Code=MOLLE-Pouches-Ammo)

[http://www.rstacticalgear.com/cat\\_magazine.cfm](http://www.rstacticalgear.com/cat_magazine.cfm)

Thigh Mounted Magazine Pouches:

[http://www.rstacticalgear.com/pd\\_bds\\_tactical.cfm](http://www.rstacticalgear.com/pd_bds_tactical.cfm)

[http://www.tacticalgearstore.com/pd\\_cqb\\_solutions\\_2.cfm](http://www.tacticalgearstore.com/pd_cqb_solutions_2.cfm)

Belts:

<http://www.usgalco.com/HolsterP3.asp?ProductID=2845&CatalogID=254> 1 ½"

<http://www.usgalco.com/HolsterP3.asp?ProductID=2810&CatalogID=254> 1 ½"

<http://www.usgalco.com/HolsterP3.asp?ProductID=1693&CatalogID=256> 1 ¾"

<http://www.usgalco.com/HolsterP3.asp?ProductID=3360&CatalogID=256> 1 ¾"

<http://www.highspeedgearinc.com/proddetail.asp?prod=HSG%2DRIG>

[http://www.rstacticalgear.com/pd\\_tag\\_riggers.cfm](http://www.rstacticalgear.com/pd_tag_riggers.cfm)

Dump Pouch:

[http://www.rstacticalgear.com/pd\\_omega\\_elite\\_dump.cfm](http://www.rstacticalgear.com/pd_omega_elite_dump.cfm)

[http://www.rstacticalgear.com/pd\\_bds\\_tactical\\_ultimate.cfm](http://www.rstacticalgear.com/pd_bds_tactical_ultimate.cfm)

[http://www.rstacticalgear.com/pd\\_spent.cfm](http://www.rstacticalgear.com/pd_spent.cfm)

Chest Harness:

[http://www.rstacticalgear.com/pd\\_spent.cfm](http://www.rstacticalgear.com/pd_spent.cfm)

<http://www.highspeedgearinc.com/proddetail.asp?prod=HSG%2DWARV1>

<http://www.blackhawk.com/product1.asp?P=55CR00DE>

<http://www.blackhawk.com/product1.asp?P=55CO00>

Tactical Vest:

[http://www.rstacticalgear.com/pd\\_tag\\_cross.cfm](http://www.rstacticalgear.com/pd_tag_cross.cfm)

Plate Carrier:

<http://www.highspeedgearinc.com/proddetail.asp?prod=HSG%2DWAS>

[http://www.tacticalgearstore.com/pd\\_bds\\_tactical\\_simple\\_stack\\_rig.cfm](http://www.tacticalgearstore.com/pd_bds_tactical_simple_stack_rig.cfm)

Load Carry Equipment (LCE):

[http://www.rstacticalgear.com/pd\\_special\\_operations\\_equipment\\_light.cfm](http://www.rstacticalgear.com/pd_special_operations_equipment_light.cfm)

Weapons Lights:

[http://www.surefire.com/maxexp/main/co\\_disp/displ/carfnbr/93/sesent/00](http://www.surefire.com/maxexp/main/co_disp/displ/carfnbr/93/sesent/00)

Handheld Lights:

[http://www.surefire.com/maxexp/main/max\\_segment\\_listing/displ/strfnbr/6/sesent/00](http://www.surefire.com/maxexp/main/max_segment_listing/displ/strfnbr/6/sesent/00)

<http://www.lapolicegear.com/blnitali.html?gclid=CNerxJCYuosCFSUeGAodwjP62g>

Concealment Vest:

<http://www.lapolicegear.com/5tave.html>

[http://firearms4less.com/catalog/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=28](http://firearms4less.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=28)