

# TRI-CITIES METALLIC SILHOUETTE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 4587, Pasco, WA 99302-4587

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## May 2013 Club Newsletter

Upcoming meetings: May 2 & June 6 (all meetings are at the Griggs Hunter Ed room @ 7pm)

Upcoming work parties: TBA (maintenance chair Greg Hagen 545-4705, work parties start @8am)

### General Announcements

As discussed in the last newsletter, the officers will be meeting with the American Legion in early May to discuss the possibility of setting up an air rifle program. This program would be a cooperative effort between the American Legion and TCMSA, and could include youth programs, an adult league, and maybe more. We don't know all the particulars yet, but if you are interested in participating, contact Gaylord Baker at 628-9044.

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We are glad to see that the new steel targets on the range are getting a lot of use. Unfortunately there is already a hole in the 50 yard popper. The cost to replace the target will be around \$100, so we will be leaving it in place until we know that we don't have a problem. We would like to think that this was done by accident, so we will remind everyone to make sure at all times that you know what type of ammunition you are shooting. Steel core bullets can cause damage to the targets, and can cause sparks that can start a fire. Steel core bullets are common in imported ammo, as well as some domestic ammo such as Wolf. To test for steel core bullets, touch them to a magnet, if they stick, they are steel. There is a magnet on the range master's stand near the flagpole.

Armor piercing ammo can go right through the steel targets. These are typically military surplus, and often have color coded bullet tips. NATO surplus ammo with black, red or white tips are usually armor piercing, or a combination round that is both armor piercing and incendiary or tracer. Bottom line, if it's military surplus and has a colored tip, it's probably banned at our range.



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We have not yet received our NRA Foundation grant money. With this money we will be putting on an event called "Introduction to Competitive Shooting." It's currently scheduled for June 2, but it looks like we will have to postpone it for a while so that we have time to arrange for everything after we get the money. We may want to wait until fall when the weather is better, we will set a firm date sometime after we have the money in hand. If you are interested in helping out with the event, or would like to shoot, contact Dave Baalman at [dpbaalman@msn.com](mailto:dpbaalman@msn.com), he will put you on an email list to be updated when we know more about the schedule.

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If you receive the newsletter by US Mail, please take notice: it costs **\$150** each month just in postage to send the newsletter out, not to mention the cost of printing it. We would like to have you sign up to receive the newsletter by email, you will receive it days earlier than you do now, and there is the added benefit that if we need to get in touch with the club on short notice, the easiest way is to send out an email to the entire club. An example of this is when we installed the steel targets, we had less than a day's notice that the range would be closed for several hours to install the targets, but we were able to get word out to over half the club by email. So we will make you a deal, if

you send us your email address, we promise not to give it to a bunch of spammers, and we promise we will do our best to send out club wide emails for important notices whenever we can.

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Another notice if you receive the newsletter by US Mail: if we have an email address attached to your name in the club database, we will begin using that email address for you starting next month. This will include the newsletter, special announcements, etc., and you will no longer receive the newsletter by US Mail. So if you gave us an email at some point, but it may have changed since, be sure to give us a new one. You can send an email to the Membership Coordinator at [tcmsal1@gmail.com](mailto:tcmsal1@gmail.com), be sure to include your name so that we can attach your email to the correct person in the club database. And don't forget to check your junk or spam folder until you receive an email from us with the newsletter. If it does show up in your spam folder, be sure to add the webmaster account to your trusted email list so you don't miss out on any special announcements.

### **Special Board of Directors Announcement**

If you have been to a meeting lately you have noticed that we have a lot of new members. Many of these new members have never shot at an organized facility before, and can be a bit overwhelmed by the amount of info we try to teach them in a limited time in new member orientation. Because of this, and because of increased range use, the board is recommending a new program to help new and old members alike, and increase safety at the range. We don't feel that there is a safety issue at the range right now, but with the number of members we have now, and no end in sight to the new members showing up every month, we feel we should be proactive and set this up before there is a problem or incident.

Our proposal is pretty simple, but before everyone gets too excited, realize that this is NOT a move toward going to range officers like Rattlesnake. Instead what we are proposing is to have a volunteer at the range during peak hours only to act as an advisor. All members will still have to go through orientation, and all members will still have the gate combination and be able to shoot during any daylight hours after they complete orientation. The volunteers would just be another member at the range, however we would ask them to walk the line on occasion, talk to other shooters, and help them understand the rules when needed, answer any questions, and generally just help everyone follow the rules and be safe. We will be making an official recommendation to create the program at the May meeting, and will be passing this off to the Safety Committee. We will be asking the Safety Committee to come back with a formal proposal on how to run the program and a list of what costs if any will be involved, and will put it up for discussion and a vote of the membership at that time. We would like to keep the discussion on this topic to a minimum at the May meeting, since we don't really know what the Safety Committee will come up with for a proposal right now. We will have an announcement in a future newsletter to let everyone know which meeting we will be discussing this at, so please hold your comment for that meeting, or better yet, if you have an opinion or an idea, we would love to have you volunteer for the safety committee so you can help shape the program. We will need several volunteers to help get this program off the ground, so if you are interested in helping out, contact Greg Hagen at 547-4705, or talk to him at the May meeting, or send an email to the club address.

For now we will be starting this as a pilot program, and hope to have it in place by fall, when range use gets heavy right before the general hunting season. After that, we will revisit it to see if we want to continue as is, make any changes, or drop the program.

Safe shooting, see you at the May meeting!!!

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