

TRI-CITIES METALLIC SILHOUETTE ASSOCIATION

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

www.tcmsa.org tcmsa11@gmail.com

September 2013 Club Newsletter

Upcoming meetings: October 3 & November 7 (all meetings are at the Griggs Hunter Ed room @ 7pm)

Upcoming work parties: Sept. 15 (maintenance chair Greg Hagen 545-4705, work parties start @8am)

General Announcements

We had an election at the September meeting, and Don Cooper was elected to fill the vacant seat on the Board of Directors. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to fill the spot! To those who weren't elected and to anyone else who is interested in helping out with the operation of the club, remember that all 4 officer positions and 2 of the 6 board positions terms will expire at the end of December. We would love to have you volunteer to take one of those positions at that time. There are also other opportunities to help operate the club besides the officers & board, we can always use more help with the membership committee, new member orientation, writing the newsletter, range maintenance, etc. If you are interested in any of these items come to a meeting or call an officer to volunteer.

Our intro to competitive shooting event was a huge success. We had around a dozen club members from TCMSA and the Touchet Gun Club acting as coaches, and 30+ participants who all seemed to have a good time. Many expressed an interest in competitive shooting, in fact we've already had a couple new shooters come to a match. Thanks to all the coaches and participants, and a huge thanks to the NRA Foundation for providing the ammo for the event.

We have a few rounds of .223 ammo left from the grant, but not enough to put on another event. In keeping with the theme of introducing new shooters to competitive marksmanship, we have another offer. If you have never shot in a match but are interested in trying it out, you can borrow a rifle from one of our regular competitors, and use the ammo from the NRA Foundation grant to shoot a regular match, free of charge. The next opportunity to shoot a match is the September 21st NRA Highpower Sporting Rifle match. If you are interested give Dave Baalman a call at 528-0813 and he will get you all set up.

There will be a work party on September 15, starting at 8am. We will be taking care of some tumbleweeds and installing some new benches in the pistol area, along with the normal work party stuff like general cleanup, building target frames, and general maintenance. If you would like to get your work party credit out of the way for the year before the weather gets lousy, this might be your best chance, so we hope to see you there.

There are several new rifle racks mounted to the backs of the rain canopies, and in the shotgun and pistol areas. If you are using more than one long gun and need to get one off of your bench, put it in the rack instead of setting it on the shelf pointing along the firing line. The racks are built to accommodate a normal long gun, but they also have a second barrel rack down lower to accommodate a shorter carbine, and there is a bungee cord across the front to keep your rifles in place even if there is a big gust of wind. Thanks to Gaylord Baker & Mike Fowler for building & water sealing the racks!

Our second hunter sight in day for the year will be Saturday, September 28th, 9am-1pm. If you or anyone you know needs some assistance in getting a hunting rifle sighted in, this is a perfect opportunity. There is no charge for the event, and is open to anyone, member or not. We can also use more people to act as coaches, and you will get work party credit for helping out. Contact Ray Vollert at 783-8120 for more info.

Our joint effort to host an air rifle program with the American Legion has hit a snag. Apparently the Legion post cannot host events with children in the same building that they have a liquor license without putting the license at risk. They are still interested in getting a youth program going, and quite a few of

our members have expressed interest in both a youth program and an adult league, so we will be looking for a suitable location to set up an air rifle range. If you know of such a location, contact Gaylord Baker at 628-9044. The space required would be at least 50 feet by 50 feet, and obviously the more space the better.

You may recall that a couple of years ago the club purchased a mobile office trailer to act as a clubhouse. We thought we had all the permits in line, but at the end of the process discovered that due to various permitting issues, we could not move it out to the range. The church we bought it from has been nice enough to continue to store it for us, but they are now in the process of building a new church building and moving, so we will have to do something with the trailer soon. We continue to look for land to build a new range, but even if we found a new range tomorrow, the chances of it being ready to move the trailer to in time are pretty slim. We would like to find either a place to store it or to sell it outright and get our money back out of it. If you or anyone you know might be interested in buying it or have a place we could store it long term, contact Gaylord Baker at 628-9044.

One of the most common issues reported by the Safety Advisors is people shooting from well behind the firing line in the pistol area. Shooters are using the picnic tables and portable benches as bench rests, which is not a problem except that they are not moving them up to the firing line. Take a look next time you are at the range and you will see a board in the ground in the pistol area that delineates the firing line, your muzzle must be at or in front of that line when firing. At the next work party we will be putting a couple of small benches along the firing line in that area that can be used as a bench rest, or to place your ammo or gun case on. We will also leave some gaps in the benches so you can still shoot standing, sitting or prone without the bench being in the way.

We have reached the time of year when range use gets very heavy just before the general hunting season. With that added use comes more opportunities for safety problems. Please be aware of what you are doing and which way your muzzle is pointing, don't handle firearms at all while the range is cold, and stay behind the firing line while the range is hot. If you see anyone being unsafe or violating any club rules, please take a moment to politely talk to them and let them know. If they don't straighten up, fill out an incident report form and contact a club officer and we will take care of it.

Safe shooting!

TCMSA
PO Box 4587
Pasco, WA 99302-4587