

TRI-CITIES METALLIC SILHOUETTE ASSOCIATION

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

www.tcmsa.org tcmsa11@gmail.com

December 2013 Club Newsletter

Upcoming meetings: January 2 & February 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

It's been a while since we got a newsletter out. Those who write the newsletter have had a busy fall. We would love to have some help with this important club function. If you would like to help write the newsletter, or if you have the time and would like to completely take it over, contact club president Gaylord Baker at 628-9044.

We have reached the time of year when people start renewing early. Please hold off on sending in your money for the moment. The gate combination doesn't change until April 1, so there is no hurry. The gate combination won't be selected until sometime in January, so we can't send out new cards until then.

Another reason to hold off on sending in your renewal is this: there is a proposal on the floor for the January meeting to increase club dues. The current dues have been unchanged for 13 years. In that time besides basic inflation, our insurance premiums have increased considerably, including a large increase this year due to our increased membership. Other expenses like garbage collection, portable toilet maintenance, tumbleweed control, and expendable materials like lumber & cardboard for target frames have all increased considerably in that time too. We do have some savings in the bank, but we are looking for land to build a new range, and don't want to deplete our savings on basic operations. The current proposal would set the new dues at \$80 for new members, \$60 for renewals, and \$40 for renewals with a work party credit. Again, these rates are not final yet, they will be voted on at the January meeting, so please don't send in your renewal until we know how much it will be.

Also at the January meeting, we will hold elections for the 2014 officers & board of directors. Two of the six board positions terms are expiring, and all four officers terms expire as well. We have a couple of volunteers for the board positions, but would love to have some more, and we would love to have some volunteers for the officer positions. The current officers have been in place for some time, and while they have all volunteered to serve another term, none would complain if someone ran against them.

The officers are in charge of day to day operation of the club, and the board of directors is responsible for long term planning, and other duties as well. The requirements to serve on the board of directors are three years membership in the club, and current or previous participation in some sort of organized shooting. Any member can serve as an officer. If you are interested in serving, or know someone who does, come to the January meeting to volunteer or nominate a friend. With the club actively searching for new land and hopefully in the near future designing a new range, it could be an exciting time to be involved as an officer or board member.

At the December meeting, NRA Highpower Sporting Rifle Match Director Marlee Parks announced that the club's postal league team took 3rd place in the Northwest Regional postal league. In addition, club secretary Cosette Baker was the top female shooter in the entire league (while shooting iron sights in a discipline that allows scopes!), club president Gaylord Baker took 6th place overall in the open individual division, and Marlee Parks took 4th place overall in open individual, and was 3rd senior in the league. That's 3 shooters receiving awards on a 6 person team! We would love to put together 2 or more teams for next year. The discipline is open to any centerfire rifle weighing 9.5 pounds or less, and is shot standing, sitting, and prone, with 32 rounds for score. The league consists of 2 matches, fired sometime between June and September, and there will be several practice matches before we shoot for score. If you are interested contact Marlee or Gaylord for more info, or just show up at a match.

Attention match directors, hunter ed coordinators, and other event directors: the deadline for submitting your calendar requests for 2014 is December 15th. Requests should be submitted using the automated system on the club website. Event dates will be at a premium again this year, so get those requests in asap. Established patterns will be given first priority, after that it's first come first served. Please include in your request the start time of your event, approximate end time, and whether or not the range will be open to general shooting during your event.

We have not scheduled any work parties for the month of December. We are in the time of year when turnout for work parties is generally pretty light. Greg reports that there is some work to be done, but none of it is extremely pressing, so he will handle it when he has the time. If you need to get your work party credit out of the way, you can do so by taking on one or two of these minor projects. Contact Greg Hagen 545-4705 or Gaylord Baker at 628-9044 to volunteer.

We have not had any reports of any safety incidents lately, and that is excellent news! Keep up the safe shooting! We have completed the safety advisor pilot program for 2013, and we feel the results were helpful in keeping members & guests aware of the safety rules. The program coordinator has recommended that the program continue in 2014, so it will most likely start up again in the spring. If you would like to volunteer to be a safety advisor, it's a great way to get your work party credit. Safety advisors are allowed to shoot during their shift while the range isn't busy, so it's a great opportunity to get work party credit while shooting! To volunteer, contact Dave Baalman via an email to the club address, or at a meeting sometime between now and March.

There are a few lost & found items posted on the bulletin board in the sign in side of the rail car. If you are missing something, take a look to see if someone found it.

Remember guests are always welcome at the range, but you as the member are responsible for their actions. In the past a few rules violations have been committed by guests, so we want to remind you to take a moment to discuss the safety rules with any guests you bring to the range. The rules are posted on several prominent signs at the range, so it's easy to show them to your guests. It's also a good idea to look them over yourself if it's been a while since you went through orientation, so look for those signs the next time you are at the range.

If you need to renew your NRA membership, we have several recruiters in the club. You can save a few dollars over the regular renewal price by renewing with a recruiter. Ask at the membership committee table at a meeting and we will put you in touch with one of our recruiters.

Safe shooting & Happy Holidays! We hope to see you at the January meeting.

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