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### March 2014 Club Newsletter

Upcoming meetings: April 3 and May 1 (all meetings are at the Griggs Hunter Ed room @ 7pm)  
Upcoming work parties: February 23 (maintenance chair Greg Hagen 545-4705, work parties start @8am)

#### **General Announcements**

Remember that beginning with April 1st, 2014, the new dues will be \$80, \$60 and \$40. Renew now to get the old prices. Current dues (\$60 for new members, \$50 to renew, and \$25 to renew with work party) will remain in place until March 31, 2014. The new gate combination doesn't go into effect until April 1, so you don't have to worry about getting locked out. We will mail out cards in a big batch in the first or second week of March, so that we don't have to go to the post office every day.

And again, please don't send us a check on March 30 and expect your card to arrive before April 1. All USPS mail in the Tri-Cities now goes through Spokane, so it can take up to a week for mail to come to us, and make the return trip to you, and again we won't be going to the post office every day. Remember the membership committee members are all volunteers with day jobs, and we are a club not a business.

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As mentioned, the 2014 club calendar is up on the website. As always, it may be updated as new things come up, but we hope these changes will be minimal. Be sure to take a look at the calendar before you head out to the range, and pay special attention to which events allow general shooting while the event is going on. We don't want you to waste your time or fuel driving out to the range if you won't be able to shoot.

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There is a work party scheduled for Sunday, March 23. The shotgun area is filled with clay pigeon droppings. In addition, they will make target frames. It overall needs a good, general cleanup. If you still need your work party credit and can't make the March 23 date, don't worry. We will likely have at least one more work party between now and April 1. Watch the newsletter, the club website, or come to a meeting to find out when. If you can't make a regular work party or if your physical abilities prevent you from doing physical labor, contact an officer and they will assign you something that fits your schedule or abilities. Officer phone numbers are on the club website, or just come to a meeting and ask the people at the front of the room.

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**MATCH REPORTS:** The Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> HBR match had 14 shooters, and pretty good weather. The Feb Highpower was the same day as JC Steele match, so only 5 showed up. Two had to leave early, so match was called off-due to 20' weather, with wind chill well below that. The next match is April 5<sup>th</sup>. March 15<sup>th</sup>, 8 am will be a Sporting Rifle match. It's 32 rds for score at 100 yds, any center fire rifle under 9 ½ lbs. New shooters are always welcome at any of our matches, and many of the regulars at any of the matches are more than willing to offer advice, loan out equipment, or answer any questions you might have. If you are interested in any of our match disciplines, there is a brief description of each one on the club website, along with some links to various governing bodies for each discipline. If you want some more info, come out to a match, spectators are always welcome, or send an email to the contact us link on the club website, and we will put you in touch with one of our regular match shooters who can answer questions & help you get started.

Due to popular interest, we have added a second discipline/division to the CMP matches. Now in addition to the CMP service rifle match, which is open to any iron sight service rifle issued by any military in the world, or the civilian equivalent of that rifle, we will be adding the NRA Highpower any rifle any sight division. NRA Any/Any is fired on the same targets as CMP, with the same basic rules, the only

difference is as the name implies, it's open to any rifle you want to bring, no matter the sight system. We are just shooting for bragging rights anyway, but splitting into 2 divisions will hopefully increase interest in this already popular discipline, and since both divisions are shot on the same targets & under the same rules, it's really a no-brainer. So if you have a space gun or a 700 match rifle or grandpa's old .30-30, bring it out and have some fun! We shoot the national match 80 round course of fire, plus sighters, in standing, sitting, & prone positions. Entry fee is only \$5.

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On the subject of match shooting, the club would like to field at least one team again this year for the Northwest Postal League in NRA Highpower Sporting Rifle. A team consists of 6 shooters, with the top 4 shooters counting in the club total score, and each shooter also competing individually for top scores in the league. We would really like to have 2 or more teams, so if you are at all interested in this discipline, please come out and join us. The first practice match of the year is in March. This discipline is fired from standing, sitting, and prone positions, with 32 rounds for score plus sighters. Any rifle weighing not more than 9.5 pounds is eligible to compete, with any sighting system. Entry fee is only \$3.

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The Safety Advisor program needs more volunteers, and will start up again July 1<sup>st</sup>. Dave corrected that due to sign-in figures, it needs to start by April 1<sup>st</sup>. That's been the start of a higher volume of shooters. You need to have been a club member for at least 2 yrs, and be well versed on club rules/guidelines and safety. This is also a work-party job. Shifts are 12-4 on Fri-Sat-Sun, and you can shoot during your shift as time allows. Theron said he's still doing training, and at 6 pm, before next month's meeting, there'll be videos to view for anyone interested. In addition, more Safety Advisors are needed for the ABATE ride on April 19<sup>th</sup> (10:30 a.m. - 12:30 pm) to help control the many shooters that will be visiting our range for this event.

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It was reported that at the JC Steele match-120 PNW top shooters, **that there was an accidental discharge in the parking lot.** This shows that even the best, most experienced shooters can make a mistake. **Safety needs to always be uppermost in all our minds.**

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If you are getting this newsletter by US mail, please take a moment to get us your email address. Just go to the club website and enter your email in the subscribe link at the top left corner of the home page. You will then receive an email confirming your subscription, there is a link in that email that you need to click to confirm, and you will be all signed up. If you receive the newsletter by both US mail and email, please let us know so that we can drop you from the US mail list. Either send an email through the contact us link on the website at <http://tcmsa.org/contact-us/>.

#### WITH REGARDS TO SAFETY:

Never let your guard down. Case in point, watch the video via this link (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3UPK53GrI8>) to realize that even police chiefs can have a real bad day if you relax around guns. THE FOUR UNIVERSAL SAFETY RULES... **Treat all guns as if they are loaded, Never** let the muzzle cover anything you are not willing to destroy, **Keep your finger off the trigger** until your sights are on the target, **Be sure** of your target and what is beyond your target. Amen.

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Stay warm, keep your powder dry and we'll see you at the range!

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