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May 2014 Club Newsletter

Upcoming meetings: June 5 and July 3 (all meetings are at the Griggs Hunter Ed room @ 7pm)

Upcoming work parties: TBA on website (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. The lock combination has changed so make sure you've renewed your membership before heading out to the range.

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.

Flying the Flag at the Range: At last month's meeting a motion was made that the club fly an American flag at the range. At that time the motion was tabled for further discussion. After discussing this subject with long time club members Mike Fowler reported that there were problems in flying the flag at the range. Proper folding of the flag can not be insured and proper storage of the flag is not possible at this time. It was suggested an American flag could be flown at special events on the range or at matches. Clair made a motion the club do such, it seconded, and the motion passed.

MATCH REPORTS:

Bench Rest: No report. The next one is scheduled for April 26th. The April **Highpower Sporting Rifle** match had 7 shooters. The next match is May 17. The **Civilian Marksmanship Program** had 8 shooters. Check the club calendar for details. 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 Civilian Marksmanship Program (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.

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 next practice match of the year is in April (see above). 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.

The **Safety Advisor program** is up & running again for 2014. We could use a few more volunteers for the program, if you have been a club member for at least 2 years, or have attended at least 6 club sanctioned matches, or if you can demonstrate extensive experience in operating a firing range such as in the military or law enforcement, you are eligible to be a Safety Advisor. Safety Advisors simply spend 4-5 hours at the range during peak use hours, helping anyone who needs additional instruction on the rules or general safe shooting. Safety Advisors can shoot during their duty shift, and receive work party credit for their efforts. Shifts are 12-4 on Fri & 11-4 Sat-Sun, and you can shoot during your shift as time allows. If you are interested in participating, contact Dave Baalman or Wayne Rowett at a club meeting, or send an email to the club address.

The **ABATE motorcycle club** used our range as a stop on their Liberty Ride on April 19. Approximately 250 riders were there, and around 100 of them participated in the live fire event. Everyone had a good time, and there were no safety issues. Special thanks to the TCMSA Safety Advisors who helped out, as well as several other TCMSA members, employees of Columbia Gun Rack, and the ABATE club members who put all this on. Proceeds from the event benefit the Friends of the NRA, so we were glad to help out, and we have also picked up at least a couple of new members who saw the range for the first time during the event, so it's a win-win all around. Thanks also to our members who were at the range to shoot during the event, we had a lot of people to get through the course of fire in a short amount of time, so thanks for your patience!

Safety: The club has recently voted to make Empty Chamber Indicators (ECI's) **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** for all firearms whenever the range is cold, or for any firearms that are not in use, such as those in the racks or even in your vehicle. The club has purchased some ECI's for your use. They are available in the rail car near the sign in sheet, and are also available at club meetings, so if you don't have one, grab one and keep it for your use. The long portion of the ECI goes into the chamber of your firearm, so that everyone knows that there is no round in the chamber, and the flag portion sticks out of the action so that everyone can tell at a glance that the firearm is clear. There is a photo on the club website showing how the ECI's are used.

Board report: The board is still working on securing property for a new range but has nothing to report at this time. Steve Schlegel said Franklin County is still interested in seeing a new shooting range built.

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 AT THE RANGE:

More and more women are deciding to learn how to shoot and are joining the ranks at ranges throughout the nation. The following link helps to answer the many questions new female shooters might have regarding this sport. I might add that that the videos presented at the link are also useful to the male shooter as well. Take a gander:
<http://www.nrawomen.tv/love-at-first-shot/video/episode-1-first-trip-to-the-range/list/love-at-first-shot-episodes>.

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

TCMSA