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March 2015 Club Newsletter

Upcoming meetings: April 2 and May 7 (all meetings are at the Griggs Hunter Ed room @ 7pm)

Upcoming work parties: Consult our website (maintenance chair Greg Hagen 545-4705)

General Announcements

The 2015 club calendar is up on the website (see link above). 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.

Membership reminder: The gate combination will change on April 1. To receive the new gate combination, you must renew. Dues are \$60, or \$40 if you participated in a work party in the last year. You can mail your renewal to the club address, or come to a meeting to renew. Also please remember that our membership committee is made up of volunteers, and all of them have day jobs, and remember that all mail in the Tri-Cities now goes through Spokane, so make sure to send in your renewal early so you don't get locked out.

Note: There has also been a policy change starting this year: you must renew before July 1 or you will be considered a new member, meaning dues will be \$80 and you must go through new member orientation again.

Match Reports: There were 12 shooters at the Feb. 28th HBR match—perfect kite weather. The next match is the first registered match of the year—Mach 28th. Shooting starts at 9. Range closed 9-4, or so. Board President Gaylord said the Feb 7th CMP/any-any match had 7 shooters. The next match is 3/7 at 8 am. Also, 3/14 at 8 am is the .22 -100 yd match and 3/21 at 8 am is the Sporting Hi-power match at 100 yds. These matches continue thru' Oct. The Range is open.

Safety Committee Report: Dave Baalman said there'd been no gun-related safety incidents. However, on the 1st Saturday of the month, there was an unsafe practice noted by another member on the range where a guest (or member) had hung rotating metal silhouettes (intended for 9mm ammo or above) on a target frame in the pistol shooting area where the cardboard had been shot out (thus allowing free rotation of the metal targets). It was noticed that the metal targets were too close to the firing line. Bullet shrapnel could be heard whistling by by other members at the firing line. The owner of the metal targets was informed of the hazard and he promptly ceased firing at it and repositioned the targets further away (when the range went cold) to allow for safety.

There was a minor injury from a clay pigeon thrower. Please keep hands clear of mechanisms and read all the instructions. He will re-start the Safety Advisor program in late April/early May. Anyone interested to volunteer, contact Dave. He'd also welcome anyone interested in taking over the S.A. coordinator position.

Reminder: Members are responsible for all the guests they bring to the range.

Also from the floor a member said that the buzzer can't be heard in the shotgun area. He shot, and was then confronted in person by those who'd gone cold. The club was informed that Mike, our member, go-to electrician is aware of problems with the alarm system and is working on it. The speaker in the shotgun area faces downrange; if needed, the pole will be rotated to re-direct the sound toward the shotgun area.

The **safety advisor program** will resume in the spring. This is better than some, but not the best. Let Dave know if you're willing to volunteer. You get work party credit, and a \$25 gift card for each shift—Griggs, Sportsman's, Ranch & Home. Safety advisor volunteers need to have been a member of the club for at least 2 years, or have shot in at least 6 club sanctioned matches, or otherwise be able to demonstrate extensive experience in operating an organized firing facility, such as military or law enforcement experience. Safety advisors are at the range on Fridays & weekends during peak use hours, and can shoot during their shifts. The main duty is just to watch the line and educate any members who need some extra coaching on the rules or general safety. If you want some more

information or want to volunteer, contact Dave Baalman at 783-4141, or Wayne Rowett at 783-4470, or send an email to the club address.

Range Report: Greg Hagen reported that a range clean-up is scheduled for March 22nd. We need 5 gal buckets to clear the shotgun area, rakes, and propane burners to burn tumbleweeds. We will also use the magnet for steel, replace target frames and cardboard, and do the usual range maintenance.

OLD BUSINESS: Dave Baalman reported that the .22 matches started last year have been free. He proposes that they continue to be free this year also—until the match details and rules are determined. It was 2nd, and accepted. From the floor it was suggested that there be a 'donation' can for members that would like to contribute. That was also accepted.

NEW BUSINESS: Club president Gaylord reminded that tomorrow, the 6th is the Friends of NRA banquet. From the floor a member stated he had 4 tickets for the banquet that couldn't be used. He's selling them for \$45 ea...the original cost of the tickets. It was reported that on the 6th of February, overall, the Friends of NRA Banquet raised about \$20,000!! This doesn't take into account all the money earned from the ticket sales for all the raffled items.

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The good news is...the NRA has won a victory on stopping the Obama administration from banning the M855 military ammo used in common AR-15 rifles...the bad news is... it's temporary, because the BATFE has said it will not ban the ammo due to the opposition it has encountered for now...meaning we've not heard the end of it yet. Read the NRA report here: <https://www.nraila.org/articles/20150310/nra-forces-obama-to-wave-white-flag-on-proposed-ammo-ban-for-now>

And more on the subject here: <https://www.nraila.org/articles/20150306/anti-gunners-lie-to-promote-batfe-ammo-ban>

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

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