



www.tcmsa.org tcmsa11@gmail.com

August 2015 Club Newsletter

Upcoming meetings: September 3 and October 1 (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 has been changed. To receive the new gate combination, you must rejoin and re-attend orientation. You must attend a meeting to do this. Renewals before July 1st are \$60, and \$40 if you have attended a work party. In the future, 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 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.

TCMSA wants you to know: You must get positive confirmation from everyone BEFORE you make the range cold. It's also a good idea to look up & down the line one more time after you blow the horn & turn the strobes on to make sure everyone is clear that the range is cold.

Match Reports: Gaylord said the 7/4 CMP had 11 shooters. The 7/11 .22 match had 22 shooters. The 7/18 SHP had 8 shooters. The 8/1 CMP had 9 shooters. The next .22 is 8/8, the next SHP is 8/15, and the next CMP is 9/5. Randy said the 7/25 HBR had 11 shooters-it was a WA. St. Championship. 8/29 is a Factory Varmint match and 8/26 will be a Factory Hunter match. It's \$10-all are welcome. You can use any factory rifle. Gaylord reminded that Pasco PD will be using the range on Aug 12 and 26-both Weds. The range will be closed from 8-11 and 1-6. Observing is not prohibited-but not any cameras/photos/media posting for officer safety.

Board Report: Dave Baalman said the board met a week ago. They addressed 4 issues. 1-another problem w/an instructor holding unscheduled classes; this will be handled soon by the board. -2-Franklin Co.is going to add another access to Juniper Dunes, this may be helpful for us finding a useful lot/acreage. We'll try to get preliminary info on where they plan to cut in.-3-a safety item-will be addressed in S. A. report. -4-a rules interpretation question-that will be addressed in new business.

Safety Committee Report: Dave Baalman said attendance was down during S.A. shifts-probably due to heat. There were 58 shooters w/5 teachable moments; 1:12. For the 2nd month-there were no 'handling when cold' issues. Gaylord shared the incident that occurred when he was at the range. A member arrived at the range, nodded acknowledgement to him, and supposedly the other two benches shooting. He then hit the buzzer and proceeded downrange. After about 10-15 yds., a shooter at one of the benches fired a .22. He had hearing aids, had not seen the member down range, nor heard the buzzer. He was alarmed when he did see him after he fired. The shooters at the other bench were also confused by the sudden trip downrange. When he came back, Gaylord spoke to him. He had not heard the .22 due to his ear muffs. He thought the 'nodding' to the benches was enough. Gaylord reminded him that 'personal' contact was needed w/ all shooters on the line before the range could be made cold. All shooters need to agree. The buzzer is a 'final alert', looking for the thumbs up from all-and the strobe designates COLD.

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

The **safety advisor program** has begun. Let Dave Baalman 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 said no clean-up scheduled. Will probably not be one until Sept. when it's cooler. We'll need tumbleweed cleanup. Gaylord said the range is scheduled to be mowed/possibly sprayed on Wed, Aug 19th. We don't know how much time they'll need. We will plan on closing the range from 8-3 to be safe.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS: Ray Volert reminded that Hunter Sight-in days will be Sun. Aug 30th and Sat Sept. 12th, from 9-2. Helpers should come a bit early to set up. He has called his past volunteers. He can always use more help, and volunteers get work party credit. If interested, see him after the meeting, or contact him at 539-8984.

Bob Byers said he found the 3-gun equipment needed for \$4928.15. A motion was made and 2nd for the purchase; approved. There is an open Sat on October 24. The range will be closed from 8-2. Roy shared he is getting official info from Mark re: obtaining grant funds for a 3-gun trailer-as Touchet received. They will look for a trailer w/ramp and side door.

Special announcement from the TCMSA Board of Directors:

Recently we've had a question posed to the officers & board asking for official interpretation of the existing club rules: *Is it within the rules to draw from a holster at the range?* This subject is not directly addressed in the rules, but several other areas of the rules apply. Rule #2: "Never point a gun at anything you are not willing to shoot or destroy", and rule #3 "Never place your finger on the trigger or inside the trigger guard until your sights are on the target" seem to apply. We see no way to draw from a shoulder, cross draw, belly band, or small of the back holster without pointing your firearm at the rest of the shooters on the line. It is therefore our official interpretation of the current club rules that drawing from a holster is only allowed if: it is from a strong side or ankle holster, AND the firearm never sweeps anyone on the line including the person drawing, AND the shooter's finger stays off the trigger until the sights are on target AND the finger is removed from the trigger before attempting to holster the firearm.

That being said, we STRONGLY SUGGEST that this is not something you should try for the first time at the range with a live firearm. Drawing from a holster is all about muscle memory, which should be developed at home with an empty firearm through hundreds or even thousands of repetitions before you ever try it live. We also suggest you use some judgement on how quickly you should be drawing. You can't miss fast enough to win a gun fight, and you aren't doing well if you start off with a hole in your leg from your own gun, so keep it at a reasonable speed.

NEW MEMBERS: Before the new members were called, Greg recognized Bob Birney-waiting to rejoin. He shared with the members that Bob had been a past president, instrumental in creating the Club Board, active in improving our club. Welcome back.

Before the closing, Mark Johnson wanted to share his experience w/ Practical Edge Shooting.com. He took their 'Basic Handgun' class-\$190. He said he learned so much-through classroom, demo, and range training. He's sure even seasoned, long-term shooters will learn something new.

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

TCMSA