



TRI-CITIES METALLIC SILHOUETTE ASSOCIATION
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September 2017 Club Newsletter

Upcoming meetings: October 5 and November 2, 2017 (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 2017 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: Dues: It is \$80 to join with renewals at \$60, or \$40 if you participated in a work party in the last year. If the renewal is late (after July 1st) you will need to rejoin at \$80. You can mail your renewal to the club address during Jan/Feb to save from being on long lines during meetings, or come to a meeting to renew but face the lines. 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.

TCMSA wants you to know: We are all responsible for safety at the range. If you see someone breaking the rules, take a moment to remind them. If they don't straighten up or you feel like they are disregarding what you are saying, fill out an incident report form & pass it on to the officers, we will take care of it.

President's Column:

With the Tri-Cities area inundated with smoke and poor air quality for a month and a half, I want to stress the importance of fire safety on the range. The issue that keeps coming up is the use of steel core ammunition on the range. It is obvious that steel core ammunition has been used on the steel targets. **DON'T SHOOT THE STEEL TARGETS WITH STEEL CORE AMMO.** That is how fires are started. **Remember: The use of steel core rounds on the steel targets is never allowed. There is a magnet next to the warning system control box to check your ammo if you are not certain if they are steel core.**

Additionally, if you haven't been to the range lately, there is a new sign in counter with sign in sheets for members and a second sign in sheet for guests. We need to capture the numbers on guest usage of the range and also bring to the guest attention that the member NEEDS to instruct the guest on range rules. There is a box on the desk that has copies of the range rules, please take one. Again, please be cautious on the range, it is very dry, we do not need a fire! **Smoking is prohibited forward of the firing line.**

Club Matches:

The August **Bench Rest** competition match saw 6 competitors and 1 fun shooter out to enjoy a warm day with mild but variable winds, which made for "interesting" shooting as conditions kept changing. The Sept. 25th match will be the WA. State HBR Championship match. Feel free to come out and learn from some of the best shooters in the NW! As the 3-gun shooters are having great success using firehose to suspend steel targets, I am trying it as backing material on the benchrest target holders; after a single match it looks promising. Will also be using some of the leftover firehose to hang a small number of steel swingers around the range for general use. Bob Birney

Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) Match: CMP match for August 5th was cancelled because of the unhealthy air quality due to the smoke. The September 9th match had 11 shooters, 9 CMP and 2 any rifle/any sights. The next match is scheduled for October 7th. The match is open to any military rifle and the course of fire is 50 rounds for record plus ammo for sighters. The match set up is 7:30am and starts at 8:00am and costs \$5.

100 yard .22 rimfire Match: The match on August 12th had 19 shooters, including two women and one junior shooter. The September 9th match was cancelled, again due to unhealthy air quality because of the fires. The next match is October 14th. Any .22 LR rifle and any sights. There are six different classifications, so if you are shooting a 'plinker', you will not be shooting against an unlimited rifle. Lots of fun and the best attended of all matches on our range. The course of fire is 40 rounds plus unlimited sighters. The match set up is 7:30am and starts at 8:00am, and is free.

Hunter Sight-In Days:

The Range is open to the public for sighting in rifles on Sat Sept 9th from 10-3 and on Sun Sept 17th from 9-2. Club members will be volunteering to assist hunters to get their rifles sighted-in and on target. This event is free to the public. Volunteers should bring scopes, sandbags or any equipment helpful for sighting in a rifle. You get work party credit, and can shoot during the lulls. If you'd like to help, contact Ray Volert at 539-8984.

Safety Committee Report: August was a busy month during the Safety Advisers shifts. They assisted 185 members at the range. There were 20 range rules that needed teachable moments for a 10.8% non compliance rate which was the highest this year. Probably due to getting close to hunting season and seasonal members using the range. The two largest issues addressed were handling firearms during a cold range and no safety glasses.

Please remember that no handling during a cold range includes cased and uncased firearms to and from a vehicle. Everyone should wear safety glasses. You may know your firearm and ammo are safe but you never know about the person at the bench next to you!! We also continue to have people go in front of the concrete benches during a hot range. Clean your firearms from the breech and do not pick up your brass that is in front of the bench. The brass can wait until a cold range.

The first concrete bench at the right hand side canopy has a sheet of plywood on the ground for members who need assistance walking. A SA reported it being covered with steel cases which could cause an unsafe walking surface. If you are a steel case shooter and won't police your brass please do not use this bench.

September will most likely be a busy month also. If you have not been to the range recently please review the range rules available in the trailer. If everyone works together we can continue to have an accident free safe range to enjoy our hobby.

The following is the safety report from Mark Kimmell and Pat Kirk on Sept. 3. Just wanted to let members know that the safety advisers do much more than keep the range safe.

Mark arrived at 6 am to prep range. Removed targets from all backer boards and checked backer boards for replacement. Painted all steel gongs flat black. Picked targets and other trash off range. While it was cool Mark sighted in two rifles at 200. When Pat arrived he picked up OP steel cases and Pat dumped the garbage barrels.

Between Pat and I we covered each end of the range. One gentleman and his wife had a jammed 9mm and we assisted clearing it.

I am going to get some wooden doweling of different sizes for different calibers and store them in the sign up trailer by the ramrod Kelly Hector provided. Basically stayed both shifts to make sure range was safe. Had one firearm on back table and one guy in front of the firing line during a hot range. Mark Johnson 509-308-5335

Reminder: Members are responsible for all the guests they bring to the range. Additionally, every member is accountable for the condition of the range.

Board Report

The August Board meeting centered on a discussion of a proposal to have a black powder rifle match with the organizer. The discussion included safety protocols, backstops, and how the match would be run. The organizer is going to meet again with the Board for more discussions. The Board agreed we should put some steel targets up for general use by members and to request some changes to our strobe light system to make the status of the range more obvious to both users and people driving up to the range. Land acquisition continues to be topic the Board is attempting to make progress on.

Bob Birney

The top 5 ways to carry off-body... https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/top-five-ways-carry-off-body/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170804_FridayDigest_133g&utm_campaign=/blog/top-five-ways-carry-off-body/

To receive the newsletter by email, be sure to send in your address on the webpage. 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. You can use the contact us link on the website at: <http://tcmsa.org/contact-us/>.

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

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