

TRI-CITIES METALLIC SILHOUETTE ASSOCIATION

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April 2013 Club Newsletter

Upcoming meetings: May 2 & June 6 (all meetings are at the Griggs Hunter Ed room @ 7pm)

Upcoming work parties: April 21 (maintenance chair Greg Hagen 545-4705, work parties start @8am)

General Announcements

The list of officers & board members has been moved to the club website to save space on the newsletter. If you need to contact an officer, you can find their phone numbers there as well. www.TCMSA.org

Our new reactive steel targets have been installed. Thanks to Sam Kniveton for spearheading the project, thanks to JC Steel Targets of Prescott, WA for building them for us and giving us a great deal on them, and thanks to everyone who helped install them. These targets are there for your use, so enjoy them, but please do not abuse them. NO steel core or armor piercing bullets are allowed on steel targets. Also note that the targets in the pistol area are for pistol calibers only, so no rifles on them please.

We have been informed that our application for an NRA Foundation grant has been recommended for approval. We don't have the money yet, but we will be preparing for it so that when it arrives we will be ready. Our intent is to host an introduction to competition shooting on June 1, starting at 12pm. This event will be open to anyone who wants to attend. Several of our members will be donating the use of their match quality firearms for attendees to try, the club will be donating targets and other equipment, the Touchet Gun Club will be donating the use of some of their 3-gun equipment, and all the ammunition will be paid for through our NRA Foundation grant. This event will be free of charge to anyone who attends (shooters need not be members of the TCMSA, all are welcome), however we ask that shooters limit themselves to disciplines that they have not competed in previously. We will also be needing some volunteers to help put this event on. Match shooters are especially needed to act as coaches, but we can use anyone who wants to help, we will need people to help with advertising, signing shooters in, and overall coordination of the event. Anyone who wants to help should contact Dave Baalman via email at dpbaalman@msn.com or at a general membership meeting.

The club has recently been contacted by the local chapter of the American Legion regarding a possible cooperative effort for an air rifle range. The American Legion has a national youth air rifle program, and the local chapter has plenty of space in their meeting hall to set up an air rifle range, however they don't have enough members interested in participating to sustain such a program. They have asked if our club would be interested in setting up the range, and having some of our members act as coaches for youth air rifle training and competition. Our club would also then be able to set up some adult leagues shooting the National Match Air Rifle course. At the April general membership meeting, the club voted to authorize the officers to meet with the Board of Directors of the local chapter of the American Legion to work out the particulars of this arrangement, and we will have a final vote on the project once we work out who's insurance will be covering the events and who will be paying for the range equipment. In the meantime, if you are interested in shooting air rifle in an adult league, or have a youngster who would like to try the youth program, or simply would like to offer your opinion or help out, contact Gaylord Baker at 628-9044.

With the better weather comes heavier range use. If you see any trash laying around, or targets that are not being used, please do us a favor and put them in the trash barrels.

Fire Prevention Reminders

Attention smokers: please remember that smoking is not allowed beyond the firing line. Also please note that we have set up several butt cans for you, one in the pistol area, one near the flag pole, and one near the CMP firing line. Please use them for your butts, and if you feel we need a few more, feel free to bring out a metal coffee can or some other appropriate container, put a shovel full of sand in it, and put it where you think it needs to be, just make sure it's against one of the canopy poles or something so it isn't a tripping hazard, and make sure it has enough sand in it that it won't move around in the wind.

We have reached the time of year when the fire hazard can be extreme. Don't smoke down range, don't shoot steel core bullets at steel targets, and don't do anything else that can cause a fire. If there is a fire at the range, call the fire department immediately, and make sure to send someone to open the gate to let them in.

Range Safety Reminders:

With the heavier range use during the good weather and our ever increasing membership come more opportunities for people to forget or violate the range rules. Remember that the rules are posted at the range, so there is no excuse for not knowing them. We are all responsible for range safety, so if you see someone violating the rules it is your **DUTY** to speak up. There is no need to be belligerent, most likely they have just forgotten the rules. Please just take a moment to nicely remind them of the rules. If they don't straighten up, you need to fill out an incident report form. The forms are located in the rail car near the sign in sheet, get all the info you can and then call an officer, bring the form to a meeting, or mail it to the club address.

The rules that seem to be the ones most likely to be broken are (paraphrasing for space and clarity):

Rule 26: *Don't handle firearms **AT ALL** while the range is cold.* This includes cased firearms. If the range is cold, don't touch it at all.

Rule 27: *No one will be beyond the firing line while the range is hot.* If you brass falls beyond the firing line, you will have to wait until the range goes cold to pick it up.

Rule 23: *All firearms should remain cased when being carried to/from the firing line.* If it's in a case in your car, leave it in the case to carry it to the line. If it's not in a case, point it in a safe direction.

Rule 2: *Don't point a firearm at anything you are not willing to shoot.* Keep those muzzles pointed downrange. Don't put your firearms on the shelves behind the firing line pointing at other shooters.

Membership & Renewal Info:

If you haven't renewed your membership, you are locked out! The gate combination changed on April 1, and you must pay your dues for the 2013 club year to get the new combination. Dues are \$50 per year, or \$25 if you attended at least one work party in the last renewal cycle. You can renew by mail (PO Box is listed above), or come to a meeting (meeting info is listed above). If you come to a meeting to renew, please arrive early so we can take care of you before the meeting starts.

We have had a lot of new members in the last few months. It's also renewal time, so the membership committee has been very busy. If you joined or renewed recently, please bear with us, it will take a while to get your membership cards mailed out. If you mailed us your renewal and have found yourself locked out because you haven't received the new card, send an email to the club address (listed above), we will confirm that we have the correct address for you and get you the combination ASAP.

If you have moved recently, changed your phone number, or changed your email, please make sure we have your up to date info so we can keep in touch with you for special announcements etc. Just send an email to the club address listed above and we will update your contact info right away.

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