

October 2018 Club Newsletter

Upcoming meetings: November 1 and December 6, 2018 (all meetings are at the Griggs Hunter Ed room @ 7pm)

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

General Announcements

By-Law Revision:

At the January 2019 meeting, the club will vote on an amendment to Paragraph 1 of Article III in the By-laws.

The current paragraph reads, “Regular members: Any citizen of the United States eighteen (18) years or older, who may legally own a firearm under the laws of the United States and the State of Washington, may become a member of this organization after filling out a membership form, payment of the usual dues and initiation fees, providing proof of current membership in the National Rifle Association, and on a vote of Regular members in good standing at a regular meeting.”

The Board proposes revising the paragraph to read, “Regular members: Any citizen of the United States eighteen (18) years or older, who may legally own a firearm under the laws of the United States and the State of Washington, may become a member of this organization after filling out a membership form, payment of the usual dues and initiation fees, providing proof of current membership in the National Rifle Association, and on a vote of Regular members in good standing at a regular meeting. *The Board has the authority to place limits on membership and place controls on range access.*

The Board feels these changes bring the Policy Book and By-laws into agreement. For years, membership in the club required attending a safety orientation prior to receiving the gate combination. The Board designed and revised the safety orientation to address changing safety issues that occur at the range. While this was approved by the membership in the Policy Book, it was not added to the By-laws. This corrects that oversight. Another consideration is the possibility for prospective members to demonstrate required skills like ensuring fired projectiles stop in the berm. The safety and related issues at the range are increasing and, this would allow the Board to cap membership. The current membership is about 900 and may be approaching the limit of the current facility.

TCMSA wants you to know: Be sure to stay behind the firing line when the range is hot. The firing line is the front edge of the concrete benches, extended each way across the whole range. If your brass or some other item falls in front of the line, you need to make the entire line cold to retrieve it.

President's Column:

Twenty members came out for the September 29th work party. The tumble weeds from the firing line to 100 yards was cleared. Member Eugene Jenkins came out with a backhoe and cleared material from the creek bed on both sides of the new culvert. He also spent time rebuilding the 7 yard, 25 yard and 50 yard berms. Other general maintenance performed included policing steel cases and replacing target frames.

Speaking of steel cases, every work party is faced with cleaning up more and more of them. The existing magnet used to clean them up is not easy to use. The Club has purchased two long handled magnets with quick release triggers that are easier to use. These will be mounted to support posts for all to use. Please clean up you steel empties.

It is requested that if someone cannot make the work parties and wants a work party credit that the following job can be done: The door frame on the locked side of the trailer needs to be rebuilt. They can contact me for additional information.

100 yard .22 LR Competition:

The September 8th Competition had 23 participants, including 2 women and 1 junior. As in the title, we shoot at 100 yards, shooting from the benches with rest or bipods, on the ground with a sling, and on the ground with F Class bipods. Your choice of irons sights or scopes. A spotting scope is also helpful. The course is 40 rounds for record plus unlimited sighters. As always, this one is free. Bring your spouse. Bring your kids. Everyone has fun at this one. The next one is October 13th, set up at 0730, shooting starts at 0800.

Service Rifle Competition:

The September 1st CMP Competition had 11 shooters. This competition is open to any service rifle from any nation. The rifle can use either iron sights or a scope up to 4.5 power. If shooting higher power scopes or modified rifles, you can shoot in the any/any classification. You will need 50 rounds for record plus sighters. We follow most of the rules, the deviation is that we allow anything for an alibi, you get to shoot all your rounds in all positions. The next Competition is October 6th, set up at 0730, shooting starts at 0800, and the cost is \$5.

Bench Rest Competition:

September saw TCMSA holding its final registered NBRSA match of the year, hosting the 2018 WA State VFS Championships. Sixteen shooters from across the State and Idaho arrived to see our standard conditions this year, windy! We measured the wind at 14mph before the match started and it did not let up during the match, increasing and switching throughout the day but the 30+ mph fun held off till after we were done shooting. In spite of the wind, of the 16 shooters, 6 shot perfect scores at 100 yards. With 6 "Xs" I did not personally have a prayer of taking home a trophy. Two hundred yard competition was also tough but the "Troll in the Hole" (who hides in the trench behind the 100yard berm) was the real factor by keeping shooters guessing how the wind was going to affect impact points. Bottom line - EVERY one had a great time. As usual, we owe a great big THANK YOU to the target setters for keeping things rolling in a timely manner.

In October we start our Club matches. That means the start time is 10 am, but setup starts at dawn. Shooting protocol will remain the same but no trophies will be awarded, just bragging rights, and equipment rules are simpler. We shoot a single distance during Club Matches, with the choice of 100 or 200 yds commonly made the morning of the match. Rules are basically "run what ya brung" as long as it's safe and not disruptive to the shooter next to you. Remember, Match Director has final decision authority on rules but we have never had a problem. If it is capable of shooting one-half MOA, you too can be in the hunt for honors of the day. - Bob Birney

Safety Committee Report:

During September the Safety Advisers worked 46 hours assisting 184 members with 30 contacts made for safety or rule issues resulting in 16% teachable moments. Not making firearms safe for a cold range was the most common issue addressed with 13 contacts. All firearms should have the magazine out, action open with an empty chamber before the line goes cold. Use of an empty chamber flag is preferred. With the exception of August which had only half the days covered, every month this year has had more contacts for safety or range issues than last year. If anyone has any suggestions for turning this trend around next year please contact me.

The program will end the first week in October for the year and we encourage all members to be vigilante about safety and range rules at all times.

At the meeting two members reported to me that people are shooting cross range at the steel. There are steel targets at 100/200 for the right and left side benches. The steel at 100/200 should not be shot from the 50 and 25 yd benches. Just move your stuff so you are inline with the steel.

I have ordered some hats that will be for sale next month. The proceeds will go to the range development fund.

We would like to encourage members that only use the range infrequently to review the safety rules available online or in the trailer before you start shooting.

Remember: Steel targets should be set at a minimum of 15 yards for safety reasons!

Stay informed: Go to tcmsa.org and in the upper left hand corner sign up for our newsletter to receive it and special announcements by email. Also always check the calendar before you go to the range.

We also need more members to volunteer as safety advisers. Contact me for more information.

Mark Johnson 509-308-5335

If you're looking for a safe combination travel/range hard case, this one might be what the doctor ordered. It's called the Case Cruzer. It comes in different gun configurations: professional and standard. **Check out the review at:** <https://www.usconcealedcarry.com/a-foregone-conclusion-how-to-safely-transport-four-guns/> **and the company website at:** <https://casecruzer.com/> under "Gun Carrying cases."

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