

December 2018 Club Newsletter

Upcoming meetings: January 3 and February 6, 2019 (all meetings are at the Griggs Hunter Ed room @ 7pm)

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

General Announcements

Annual Elections at Annual Meeting: January 3

Vote on Proposed By-Law Changes: Append the following sentence to Article III, Paragraph 1, "The Board has the authority to place limits on membership and place controls on range access."

TCMSA wants you to know: Eye & ear protection is required when the range is hot for anyone in front of the parking pipe. It is also strongly suggested anywhere at the range when the line is hot. Remember it's hard to shoot well when you are blind, and hearing loss is probably the only disability in the world where everyone around you gets mad at you for being disabled.

President's Column:

Elections for your Club Officers, two Board positions and changes in the bylaws will take place during the January 3rd Club meeting. The bylaw changes will allow the Board to control the number of members and change the New Member orientation to quarterly instead of monthly. The quarterly Orientation will be on Saturday, requiring 2 hours in the Griggs classroom and 2 hours at the range for practical training.

The day after Christmas is generally a busy day, trying out the Christmas presents. This year December 26th is a Wednesday, and remember, if you decide to go to the range and the weather is decent, it may be busy. It is important to share the benches and communicate with others for cease fires.

We have continued to add to the number of magnets for picking up steel cases, the intention is to have one on every post. The only issue is that Harbour Freight only gets 3 at a time. It will be another month to be full.

100 yard .22 LR Competition: The November 10th Competition had 20 participants including 2 women. Any .22 will work, and you will shoot in the classification for your rifle. The classifications are Plinker, Sporter, Unlimited, Junior, Prone with sling, Prone with bipod/rest. Iron sights or scope. Bring 40 rounds for record plus sighters. The Competition is free, just show up. Winter hours are setup 0830, shooting at 0900.

Service Rifle Competition: The November 3rd competition had 8 shooters participating. The next Competition is January 5th. This competition requires 50 rounds for record plus sighters. Any service rifle from any nation can be used, so break out those Mausers, Mosin Nagants and Springfields. Of course most use an AR, M1s and m1As are also used. You can use a scope of no more than 4.5 power on your AR for CMP rules or shoot the Any/Any class with any rifle and any sights. Winter hours are setup at 0830, shooting at 0900.

Gaylord

Bench rest Competition: The October benchrest match had 12 competitors and weather ranging between still fog to mirage to mild breezes, just enough to keep some of us guessing. But not all were guessing as 4 perfect scores were shot and the guy who shot 249-21 is still wondering why.

Our next match is the Saturday morning after Thanksgiving so you'll have time to sleep off the tryptophan, get the hardware out, and come join us for a morning of fun. *Bob Birney*

Safety Committee Report:

A club member shared this story with me about his time at the range last weekend:

"I was in the pistol area and was ready to head home, needing only to retrieve my targets first. I walked the line asking to go cold, and when I approached a gentleman shooting in the rifle area at bench #10, I noticed that he was shooting 2 different rifles. He had one in a cradle on bench 10, and one sitting on an open hard shell case on bench 9.

As I approached, he apparently decided to switch rifles, moving the one on bench 10 to bench 9, placing it on the open case and pointing properly downrange. He then picked up the other one, and I realized it had been sitting pointed toward

the parking lot. I reached him just as he put it in his cradle, and I asked him if it was a good time to go cold. He said yes and stepped back, leaving the bolt closed and the magazine in the gun. I told him he would have to remove the magazine and open the bolt before we could go cold. He removed the magazine and I realized the magazine was loaded. He then opened the bolt and ejected a live round (from a rifle that had just moments before been pointed at the parking lot).

After coaching him on needing to lock the bolt open (which he wasn't apparently going to do), I pointed out to him that the rifle **should not** have been pointed at the parking lot and further **should not** have been loaded with a live round in the chamber while not being fired on the line, and especially while pointing in such an unsafe direction. He said "sorry, but this is probably the last time you'll see me here anyway, I really just don't like shooting here." I said I thought that was probably a good idea, but in the meantime he would have to follow the rules. After that I walked away to go make the line cold before I said something less professional.

As I type this now, I realized that I didn't think to check his other rifle. It may well have been sitting with a mag in it and a live one in the chamber, but I was so distracted by his utter disregard for the rules or for any common safety that the thought didn't occur to me. This is a good example of why before the line goes cold it should be a common practice to walk the line informing other people and checking to make sure firearms are made safe."

We are also having issues with people either not knowing or not caring if they are shooting steel core bullets. Please check your ammo with a magnet to be sure it is not steel core when shooting at club supplied gongs. If you are shooting cheaply priced ammo or steel cased ammo it is probably steel core and is not be shot at the gongs.

After the meeting on Dec. 6, a member told me when he arrived at the range earlier in the week there were 9 people shooting and not one of them had put up the range flag. Perhaps our "new hands on" orientation at the range should apply to current members also.

We need more Safety Advisers for next year. You get a \$25 dollar gift certificate for each shift worked and it counts as your work party credit. You will meet people and get to see a lot of different firearms which many guys will offer to let you shoot.

There still seems to be confusion for some as to the operation of the range warning system.

The system works as follows:

The red flag must be hoisted to indicate the range is active. The stations at the pistol range, 50 yd line, flag pole and the cap (Civilian Marksmanship Program) line (the far left area of the range that is graveled with no benches) all operate individually for the strobe light, as they are not interconnected. **If you turn on the strobe at a station you must return to that same station to turn off the strobes.** The signal for a cold range is one long blast of the horn and turn on the strobes and the signal for a hot range is two long blasts of horn and turn off the strobes. There is an instruction placard at each station if you are in doubt. Often times members will make the range cold, retrieve their targets and then immediately leave. When you leave other members do not know at what station you turned on the strobes. **If you are the member operating the strobes for a cold range, please stay at the range and make it hot.**

The club purchased several personal use magnets for picking up steel cases. They are hanging on posts spaced down the line. Also please remove your used targets as this time of year they get wet falling to the ground, then the wind blows them up the hill and someone has to walk around picking them up during a work party.

TCMSA caps are available just in time for Xmas. They are \$15 each and five of that goes to the range development fund.



You can purchase them from me at the meetings and matches.

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.

Mark Johnson 509-308-5335

So, what is the best caliber to carry? You'd be surprised! Check out the article and video at:
<https://www.getzone.com/know-the-facts-the-best-handgun-caliber/>

To receive the newsletter via your email, go to the club website and enter your email in the subscribe link at the top left corner of the home page. 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. Contact us at: <http://tcmsa.org/contact-us/>.

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