

Windage

Benton Gun Club Newsletter

December 2008

Range and Match News

Club member James Squires made a motion at the December club meeting to purchase a target thrower for the shotgun matches. The cost is \$550.00, including shipping and handling. The motion was seconded and passed.

In other news, club member made a couple of match-related motions. He moved that the December speed steel match be cancelled, and that the carbine match be moved from December 6 to December 20. Both motions were seconded and passed.

New Club Secretary-Treasurer Sought

Our current (and long-standing) secretary-treasurer, Rex Gismond, is stepping down at the end of this year. We are seeking someone to fill this post for us in 2009.

We plan to post a job description on the club website, but generally speaking we need someone willing to dedicate the time to maintain the club finances and membership records. Computer skills are a must, and Benton residency would be a plus (since that's where the club post office box is). A retired individual would be preferred. We may also look at dividing the workload and splitting this office into two positions.

If you are interested in serving the club in this capacity, please contact one of the current club officers at the numbers listed below.

2009 Match Schedule

The 2009 Match schedule can be found on page three of this newsletter. As you can see, we have something for everyone. We hope you'll come out and join the fun in 2009!

2009 Renewals

The 2009 membership renewals have all been sent out. If you have not received your renewal form, leave your name and address on the club answering machine (315-3071) and another form will be sent to you.

Please remember that if you do not renew before the February meeting you will be considered a new member and will be required to pay the \$100 range maintenance fee when you rejoin. Club memberships are for a calendar year, running from January 1 through December 31.

If you're a new NRA member be sure to include a copy of your NRA membership card or the address label from your NRA magazine with your club renewal form. This is required to confirm your membership in the

NRA. If you don't include this information, your club renewal form will be returned.

From now through January the newsletter will be sent by regular mail only. If "NS8" appears after your name on the label then you have not taken the Range and Safety Orientation and will not be sent a 2009 renewal form. If a "9" appears after your name then the Club has received your 2009 renewal and a new gate key will be mailed to you during the last week of December. An "8" behind your name indicates that the Club has not received your 2009 renewal as of the date this newsletter was printed.

The front gate lock was changed to the 2009 lock on December 8, 2008. The 2009 gate keys will be mailed on December 22, 2008. The back lock will be changed on January 1, 2009. Try your 2009 key before you toss your 2008 key. The 2009 key is the reverse of the 2008 key. The 2009 key will not fit the 2008 lock, and vice versa.

Renewal checks for 2009 will not be deposited until January 2, 2009. January and February 2009 checks will be deposited when they are received.

Change Your Address? Let Us Know!

If you change your mailing address or your email address please let us know. The club secretary reports that a few 2009 renewals have been returned marked "Moved, no forwarding address." He's also noticed that some 2009 renewals have a different email address from the one we have on file. To ensure that you keep informed of club activities, please file a "change of address" request with the post office when you move, and let us know when you get a new email address.

New Online Feature Offered

We now have another way for you to keep up with what's happening in the club. We've started a discussion group, hosted by Yahoo.com. It's free and it's easy. Just

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Newsletter Editor: Craig Boyd. Send newsletter submissions and "for sale" notices to the club P. O. box.

www.bentongunclub.org

Range and Club Information Hotline.....501-315-3071

Club Meetings

Meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Econo Lodge in Benton (I-30 Exit 117).

Officers

President..... Paul Stiedle (517-0756)
Vice-President..... Pat Holsted (766-4942)
Secretary-Treasurer..... Rex Gismond (315-3071)
Range Maintenance Officer..... Bob Elrod (778-2165)
Range & Safety Orientation..... James Squires (847-2147)

go to the club web site at bentongunclub.org, scroll to the bottom and look for the "Subscribe to Benton Gun Club Online" box. Then enter your email address and click on the "Join Now" button. That's all there is to it.

Youth Director Wanted

We are looking for a person (or persons) to plan and coordinate youth-focused shooting and training activities for the club. If you would like to volunteer, please contact one of the club officers.

Please Observe All Range Rules

Anyone observed violating the club range and safety rules is subject to dismissal from the club. New members, make sure that you know what type of firearm may be used on each range. If you don't know, read your bylaws.

Shotgun shooters on the shotgun range (range 7) should use #4 shot or smaller. Shotgun slugs and shot larger than #4 are absolutely against the rules on this range, but may be used on all other ranges with the exception of the silhouette range (range 2).

Someone has caused severe damage to some of the target board posts on the plinking range. Hidden, motion-sensitive security cameras have been installed to find out who is doing this. James Squires once again asks that shooters PLEASE stop shooting at the posts. If you need a practice target, contact James and he'll get you one.

We'd also like to remind club members not to move target stands closer to the sheds or pads. All target stands must be placed directly in front of a designated berm or backstop. Failure to comply with this rule, or any other range rule, may result in revocation of your membership.

New Members

We welcomed eleven new members at the December meeting. They are Tom Godeaux, Edward Emrich, Ms. Lisa Armstrong, Ken Kaczmarek, Joseph Seljan, Jim Emery, Jay Wrinkle, Shon Simpson, Paul Dillon, Kenneth Brooks and Herbert Meawweather. Welcome to the club, folks!

If you are a new club member and a new member of the NRA, please send a copy of your membership card or the label from your NRA magazine to the club post office box. This will enable the club secretary to update the files with your NRA number and correct expiration date.

Please note that all new members must attend the mandatory range and safety orientation before using the range. You are not a fully qualified member until you attend the orientation.

Also, don't forget that all new members are entitled to shoot in one club match per shooting discipline free of charge. Look over that match schedule, and come out and experience the fun of competition shooting.

News from the NRA-ILA

The following items come from the NRA-ILA web page, www.nraila.org. Reprinted with permission.

National Parks to Allow Right-to-Carry

Fairfax, Va. - The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), through the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has announced the final amended version of its changes to rules on carrying of firearms in national parks and wildlife refuges. DOI's move will restore the rights of law-abiding gun owners who wish to transport and carry firearms for lawful purposes on most DOI lands, and will make federal law consistent with the state law in which these public lands are located. The National Rifle Association (NRA) led the effort to amend the existing policy regarding the carrying and transportation of firearms on these federal lands.

"Today's announcement by the U.S. Department of the Interior brings clarity and uniformity for law-abiding gun owners visiting our national parks," said Chris W. Cox, NRA chief lobbyist. "We are pleased that the Interior Department recognizes the right of law-abiding citizens to protect themselves and their families while enjoying America's National Parks and wildlife refuges."

DOI announced the rule change today and will publish the new regulations in the Federal Register. The new regulations allow right-to-carry permit holders to exercise their Second Amendment rights on national park and wildlife refuges in those states that recognize such permits. The move will provide consistency across our nation's federal lands and put an end to the patchwork of regulations that governed different lands managed by different federal agencies. In the past, Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service lands allowed the carrying of firearms, while lands managed by DOI did not.

The NRA has long held that amendments to those regulations were needed to reflect the changed legal situations with respect to state laws on carrying firearms. Earlier this year, fifty-one U.S. Senators sent a strong bipartisan letter to the DOI supporting the move to make state firearms laws applicable to national park lands and refuges.

"These changes respect the Second Amendment rights of honest citizens as they enjoy our public lands," concluded Cox. "We applaud the Interior Department's efforts to amend these out of date regulations."

State "Emergency Powers" vs. The Right to Arms

After Hurricane Katrina, many New Orleans residents legally armed themselves to protect their lives and property from civil disorder. With no way to call for help, and police unable to respond, honest citizens were able to defend themselves and their neighbors against looters, arsonists and other criminals.

However, just when these people needed guns the most, New Orleans's Police Superintendent ordered the confiscation of firearms, allegedly under a state (*cont.*)

emergency powers law. "No one will be able to be armed," he said. "Guns will be taken. Only law enforcement will be allowed to have guns." (Fortunately, an NRA lawsuit brought an end to the seizures—along with a far-fetched denial that confiscation had ever been ordered. Following this, Judge Carl J. Barbier, presiding over the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, held New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin and Police Chief Warren Riley in contempt for "failure to provide initial disclosures and to compel answers to discovery" during NRA's injunction against the City for their illegal gun confiscations.)

Of course, no one condones the mindless violence of those who would loot a helpless city, or shoot at rescue workers. But one reason for the citizens to retain a legal right to arms, is precisely because the government has no legal duty to protect them. Legislative bodies can, and should, act to protect the self-defense rights of citizens at the times when those rights are most important.

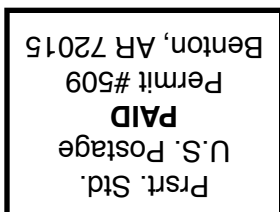
Unfortunately, many states have "emergency powers" laws that give the government permission to suspend or limit gun sales, and to prohibit or restrict citizens from transporting or carrying firearms. In some states, authorities are authorized to seize guns outright from citizens who've committed no crime--and who would then be defenseless against disorder.

The movement to change these laws is gaining speed. Just two months after Hurricane Katrina, the

Louisiana legislature--with only one dissenting vote--adopted a resolution declaring "the policy of the state of Louisiana to protect and uphold the citizens' right to keep and bear arms in their residences, businesses, and means of transport, and on their persons," condemning the seizure of firearms from New Orleans citizens, and announcing it planned to amend Louisiana's emergency powers law "to rectify the denial of these rights." Since then, 21 additional states have joined Louisiana by passing laws to protect the rights of law-abiding gun owners by prohibiting the confiscation of firearms during a time of emergency.

H.R. 5013, the "Disaster Recovery Personal Protection Act," passed the House on July 25, 2006 with a broad bi-partisan margin. The Senate version of the bill passed by 84-16. On October 9, 2006, President George W. Bush signed this legislation into law.

In the past, America has balanced emergency needs with respect for constitutional rights. Months before Pearl Harbor, the U.S. Congress passed the Property Requisition Act of 1941, which allowed the President, as a last resort, to seize needed war materials "upon the payment of fair and just compensation." Congress, concerned about the prospect of gun confiscation, included language to prohibit registration or seizure of privately owned firearms. America and its allies went on to win the greatest armed conflict in history. Today, Congress and the states should follow that lead.



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