

Windage

Benton Gun Club Newsletter

January 2008

Range and Match News

Work on the new 600-yard range continues. The sheds on the upper ranges will be coming down soon. Much of the dirt work has been completed. Please do not drive on the dirt pad. We don't want to have to redo that dirt work when it comes time to pour the concrete pad. Please be sure to call the club information line to make sure the range is open BEFORE you drive out to the range. (Choose option 4 to get the current status.)

In other news, a follow-up vote was held to consider last month's motion to allocate a budget of \$1,200.00 for the spring regional smallbore rifle silhouette match. The motion was confirmed.

Finally, a proposal (not a formal motion) was made to acquire another conex storage container for use on the 600-yard range. This container would be placed downrange and protected by a berm. It would be part of the protection for target pullers and also used for storage. The idea was tabled while we consider if other areas of the range need more attention.

Bylaws Committee Meeting

We have begun holding a series of meetings to discuss possible changes to the club bylaws. The first meeting was held on Monday, January 21. (Unfortunately, there was not enough time to get a notice out via the newsletter. The information was posted on the club web site and announced at the January club meeting.) Additional meetings are currently set for February 4 and February 18 at the Western Sizzlin' in Benton.

If you have suggestions for bylaws changes, please submit them to one of the club officers in writing, or bring them with you to the committee meeting. One item being considered is the implementation of a \$100 membership initiation fee, for all new and previous members, beginning in 2009.

Important Renewal Information

Your newsletter includes important information on the address label. If you see the letters "NS7" after your name it means that you have not taken the required range and safety orientation. You will not receive a 2008 membership renewal form until this requirement is taken care of. If an "8" appears after your name it means that the club has received your 2008 membership renewal form and you will receive your new gate key sometime during the first week of February 2008. If "07" appears after your name it means, the club has not received your 2008 membership renewal form as of the release date of the November newsletter.

Please note that this issue of the newsletter is being sent by regular mail only, so that members can view the address label and see their current membership status.

Renewal Forms Mailed

All 2007 members in good standing have been mailed the 2008 membership renewal form. If you have not received yours, please call the club phone number (315-3071) and leave a message with your current address and another form will be sent to you. The current deadline for renewing your 2008 membership is February 11, 2008.

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 should use #4 shot or smaller. Shotgun slugs and #2 shot are absolutely against the rules.

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.

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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 Ramada Inn 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)
Youth Program Coordinator.....
..... Chuck Anderson (602-2971 or 951-3066)

Range Subcommittee

Chairman..... Pat Holsted (766-4942)
Smallbore Rifle and Pistol Silhouette.....
..... Frank Bray, Jr. (653-0630) or Jim Wood (847-9244)
High Power Rifle..... Open
Pistol..... Larry Egger (803-9002)
Rifle, up to 200 Yards..... Open
Shotgun..... James Squires (847-2147)
Plinking Range..... Open

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 thirty-two new members at the January meeting. They are Jesse Horton, Anthony Simpson, James Simpson, Mike Petz, Dustin Hamm, Barry Wilson, Lance Robbins, Mike Allen, Tom Clemmons, Toby Stephens, Aaron Givens, Sergio Velazquez, Jeff Draper, Charles Phillips, Thomas "Witt" Lueken, Perry Meadough, Daniel "Jason" Draper, Jay Meeks, Robert Meeks, Paul Fowler, John Lessel, Frank Barksdale, Randall Price, David Mayfield, Michael Wulf, Lee Kendrick, Daryl Coleman, Homer Coleman, Daryl Coleman Jr., Luther Green, John Yearry, and Matt Hudson. 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.

The Shooters Corner, Vol. 1

by Patrick Holsted

For those of you that do not know me my name is Patrick Holsted and I am currently serving a second time for the office of Vice President of the club. I have met and shot with a lot of you members at club events and on the plinking range, but I know there are still more of you out there that I have not come to know yet. I am a newcomer into the shooting world. I was introduced to shooting in my youth but it was only for hunting and as much as I loved hunting I always wanted to do more but was never able to. When I joined the Army in 1994 I got in with a great bunch of shooters at the Ft. Bliss Rod & Gun Club. This was my very first introduction to competitive shooting but the problem was at this time I was on a very limited time and money budget. It was not until three years after moving to Benton that I heard of the Benton Gun Club. I came to one of the club meetings and joined that night and made my safety orientation the following Saturday.

It was about six months later in one of the newsletters that I read the club was putting on a Concealed Weapons Permit class so I joined up. At this class I met a lot of members and am still friends today with some of them to this day. They started talking about

this match called Falling Plates. Sounded fun to me but I was a little intimidated because some of the guys and girls could shoot.

Well I decided to show up for my first Falling Plate Match and I left all my guns and gear in the car because I wanted to walk around and see if I knew anyone and to scope out what kind of guns and gear the other shooters were using. I was just so scared that if I pulled out my stock Ruger MKII I would be laughed off the shooting line. As it turns out the Ruger was in strong attendance that day along with many other finer guns but I started to feel a little better about the match and I was starting to have fun. Well by the end of the first match I had shot a 32 of 48 and a 36 of 48 on the any-sight match using the same stock Ruger MKII. Now these scores were not even close to the top shooters I was like a kid in the candy store for the first time. I was in the last relay and after I saw how the match was run and the distances you were shooting at targets I was thinking to myself I would be lucky if I got 22 or 23.

Now I left this match and the first thing I started on was to go online and start looking for after-market parts to get a smother and more crisp trigger on my Ruger. I also added an after-market muzzle break and new sights. I was thinking to myself I am now ready to go do some shooting. I showed up at the next match ready to shoot and all I see people getting ready to shoot with are center fire pistols. I quietly walked over to the match director and ask what gives? He proceeds to tell me that every other month they rotate from center fire falling plate to rim fire falling plate. I dropped my head down and started walking to the car to go home. The match director comes over to me and ask where I was going, I told him all I had to shoot with was this Ruger MK II pistol. He laughs a little and says come on over here you can shoot one of mine I have plenty of ammo and we would love for you to shoot with us. This was the beginning of a new friendship.

This was a whole side of shooting I had never experienced before. These were some of the nicest people I have ever met and they would do everything in their power to make newcomers feel welcome and to get them to shoot. We would have people show up to the matches and say oh, we are just here to watch and more than one person would say it's only \$3.00 to shoot the match and \$25.00 to watch. Then the next thing you know they were bringing extra ammo and guns for the newcomers to look at to find one that fit and shot good in their hands

From this match I started shooting IDPA and I am the current IDPA Match Director. I am also a Certified IDPA Safety Officer and a Certified IDPA Safety Officer Instructor. I really love the action shooting sports whether it's an IDPA match a tactical two-gun math, or three-gun match. But just as much as I love these action sports I enjoy meeting the members at the range and learning a little about them and what they think of the club. Lots of times I hear, "Hiis is great, I love it." Other times they make recommendations on things they thing would make the club a better and safer place. These are

the things I want to hear. This is your club and if the Officers of the club do not know what you are thinking then we don't know just how we are doing in our jobs. For our job is to work for you. And to make sure that this club is run in such a manner that the membership deems fit.

Well, I just wanted to use this first column to let you know a little about me and how you can contact me for any club related questions or concerns.

In next month's column I will go over the current state of the club with all the construction that has been taking place and where I hope the club will be in the next 5, 10, 15 and 20 years.

Patrick Holsted

501-766-4942

E-mail Patrick@shooters101.com

News from the NRA-ILA

Here are some news items from the NRA Institute for Legislative Action (www.nra-ila.org). The following items are copyright 2007, National Rifle Association of America, Institute for Legislative Action. Reprinted with permission.

Briefs Filed in D.C. Gun Ban Case

As the date for Supreme Court argument in District of Columbia v. Heller approaches, the filing of briefs has begun. The District filed its brief last week. In addition, various "amicus curiae" (friend of the court) briefs were filed with the court.

U.S. Department of Justice Brief

Gun owners are understandably dismayed about the brief filed by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

Although the DOJ brief was filed on the same day as "friend of the court" briefs supporting the District of Columbia (DC), it does not support DC's position but rather its own unique point of view—a view with which the NRA still disagrees.

The District is asking the Supreme Court to reverse the decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals and find that the Second Amendment does not protect a broad individual right. DOJ is supporting a different view—that the Second Amendment does protect an individual right, and that the case should go back to the lower court to apply a different standard of review. DOJ suggests applying a lower level of constitutional scrutiny than the Court of Appeals adopted. The NRA disagrees and believes the lower court's ruling should be upheld.

NRA believes that the right to arms is a fundamental right; as with other fundamental rights, laws restricting that right deserve the highest level of scrutiny. The NRA and those seeking to overturn the gun ban believe that the scope of the Second Amendment is clear. Contrary to DOJ's suggestion, this case is not about felons or machine guns. This case is about law-abiding people who want handguns and long guns for self-defense. The total ban on self-defense gun ownership in D.C. is so severe that it should be found unconstitutional under

any level of scrutiny, and we will make that point in our "friend of the court" brief when it is filed next month.

Finally, while NRA strongly disagrees with many of the arguments in DOJ's brief, there are a few areas of agreement. Notably, DOJ agrees that the Second Amendment protects an individual right, and that it applies to the District, even strongly hinting that under the lower "heightened scrutiny" it supports that D.C. laws could be unconstitutional. This was not the position of the previous administration. In fact, Clinton administration Attorney General Janet Reno and Solicitor General Seth Waxman, along with other DOJ officials from the Clinton administration have filed their own brief in support of the District, arguing that there is no individual right at all to possess guns outside of government service.

DOJ also recognizes that the Second Amendment protects a right to self-defense, and that the right to arms was a pre-existing right protected, but not created, by the Constitution.

If you would like to express your opinion of this brief directly to DOJ, please call the Department's Press Office at: (202) 514-2007. You may also contact DOJ by clicking here.

Hoping Something Will Stick To The Wall: Gun Ban Groups' Briefs

Nearly two dozen briefs have been filed with the U.S. Supreme Court by individuals and groups supporting D.C.'s bans on handguns, having a gun assembled within the home, and carrying a gun within the home.

On the whole, the briefs misrepresent the text and history of the Second Amendment, and misrepresent the Supreme Court's past decisions relating to the Second Amendment. They falsely claim that D.C.'s gun laws have reduced crime, falsely claim that upholding the appeals court's decision will necessarily lead to invalidating many other gun control laws at the federal, state and local levels, and falsely claim that if the amendment protects an individual right to arms, the Court should let elected officials ride roughshod over the right anyway. Many of the briefs cite questionable studies conducted by researchers that support gun control, and that were paid for by foundations that endorse gun control.

The briefs can be viewed at www.gurapossessky.com/news/parker/pleadings.html, but here are some highlights:

* Former Clinton Administration Attorney General Janet Reno and various former Johnson, Carter and Clinton administration Justice Department officials say that D.C.'s bans should stand because "Congress has enacted a series of statutes regulating firearms possession and use"—though, as they also point out, "gun violence continues." They also falsely claim that the notion that the Second Amendment protects a right of a state to have a militia "is amply supported by the Second Amendment's text, drafting history, and historical context." In fact, there is nothing of the sort in the text or

history. Even D.C. is not claiming that the amendment protects a “state’s right”; rather, it is claiming that the amendment protects a right of a person to be armed only when serving in a militia.

* The NAACP says, “nothing has changed in regard to the Second Amendment that would justify this Court in radically departing from its jurisprudence here.” Fair enough. In *U.S. v. Cruikshank* (1876), the Court said the right preexisted the Constitution. In *Presser v. Illinois* (1886), it said gun control cannot have the effect of disarming the citizenry. In *U.S. v. Miller* (1939), it said that the militia consists of individuals “bearing arms supplied by themselves.” And in *U.S. v. Verdugo-Urquidez* (1980), it said “the people” means the same thing in the Second Amendment that it means everywhere else in the Constitution.

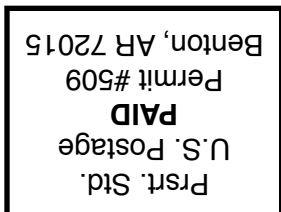
* The American Academy of Pediatrics, Children’s Defense Fund and several other groups “dedicated to ... removing handguns from homes and communities across the country,” urge the Court to uphold D.C.’s gun bans “regardless of whether the Second Amendment protects the right to possess guns for private purposes,” because, they say, “handguns are more lethal than other types of firearms” and “the dangers of handguns cannot be overcome by gun safety instruction.”

* The Brady Center and some law enforcement groups admit, “There is no question that the right

protected by the Second Amendment extends to ‘the people.’” They argue, however, that “the question is how that right is defined ... Under the ‘militia purpose’ view, the Second Amendment guarantees an individual’s right to keep and bear arms to the extent the person is engaged, or seeks to be engaged, in the conduct sanctioned by the text, i.e., possessing and using arms as part of a well regulated militia.” The Court of Appeals rejected this view, and thoroughly explained why it did so.

* The Violence Policy Center says—incorrectly and irrelevantly—that “the handgun industry has shifted production from revolvers to high-capacity semiautomatic pistols, the modern handgun is designed for superior lethality, the ammunition capacity of handguns has increased dramatically, handguns have higher caliber ammunition designed for increased lethality, [and that] handguns used today are more concealable.”

The brief for those seeking to overturn the D.C. laws will be due on February 4; friend of the court briefs supporting their side will be due a week later. We’ll keep you up to date as the case progresses.



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