

Windage

Benton Gun Club Newsletter

March 2008

Bylaws Meeting on April 7

The bylaws committee held its last meeting and has finalized the proposed bylaws changes. They are available for your inspection on the club website, or you may request a hard copy by leaving a message with your name and address on the club message line.

We will vote on the proposed changes at a special meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 7, at the Benton Inn. (Formerly the Ramada Inn, this is where we always meet.) This is NOT a regular club meeting. We are meeting to vote on the proposed bylaws changes only. A special mailing announcing this meeting was mailed out to all club members last week.

Range and Match News

We held a follow-up vote to consider last month's proposal to budget \$25,000.00 to make extensive changes to the plinking range. (See last month's newsletter for details.) The follow-up vote was successful.

A follow-up vote was also held to consider last month's proposal to donate the club's NRA membership rebate, in the amount of \$3,061.00, to the NRA-ILA. This follow-up vote was also successful.

In other news, the concrete pad has been poured for range 1. The berms have been installed and the target rails are under construction.

Finally, George Toney made a motion to schedule building of the target pit for the 600-yard range as the next item of range work to be done once the plinking range upgrades are done. After much discussion, the motion was tabled pending additional research and budgeting.

Special Work Days Planned

A motion was made and approved at the March club meeting to hold two special work days on March 29 and March 30 to do work on the new range 1. The start time for both work days is 8:00 a.m. Among other things, we need a welder, cutting torches, a tractor, and, of course, many volunteers! If you need more information or would like to help out, please contact Greg Sullivan. His contact information is on the club website.

IDPA Safety Officer Class

The club will hold an IDPA range safety officer class on March 29 on range 5, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The cost will be \$5 per person. For more information, please contact Pat Holsted.

Concealed Carry Class Planned

We would like to hold another concealed carry license class this year. We need to have 12 people signed up in order to hold the class. To get on the waiting list, please contact James Squires at 501-847-2147.

Ransom Rest Missing

Will the person who has the club's ransom rest please return it? Some other club members would like to use it. Thanks!

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.

Copyright © 2008, Benton Gun Club, Inc., P. O. Box 139, Benton, Arkansas 72018-0139.

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 Benton 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 eighteen new members at the March meeting. They are George Hamilton, James Ward, Stephen Pannel, Marty Ward, Danny Leath, Charles Manning, Timothy Huddleston, Scotty Schultz, Ken Clifton, Thomas "Mike" Lucy, Don Taylor, Jeremy Reeves, Josh Bishop, Jonathan West, Clark Tennyson, Russell Bass, Steven Adams, Bruce Watson. 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. III

by Pat Holsted

Range Etiquette: Do you have any?

With our membership at an all-time high the chances are good on your next trip to the range you will meet and shoot with fellow club members. So how do you make sure that your range trip is a good one for both you and any other members? I will outline a few tips to make your range experience a little better and to ensure you have a safe one.

One more time, let us go over the four laws of gun safety. You can never review these too much.

1. The Gun Is Always Loaded!
2. Never Point A Gun At Something You're Not Prepared To Destroy!
3. Always Be Sure Of Your Target And What Is Behind It!
4. Keep Your Finger Off The Trigger Until Your Sights Are On The Target!

So you just pulled up to the range and you find there are already members enjoying the range. Make sure that you have your hearing and eye protection handy. With members already on the firing line shooting you will find this a valuable tip to keep in mind. While you are unloading your gear try not to make any loud and unnecessary noise, and keep in mind that the other shooters are trying to concentrate on that perfect group. Once you have your gear set up and you are ready to

place your targets, wait for other shooters to finish their string of fire. Once they have completed and removed their firearm from the firing line and it is called "SAFE" by all present you are safe to go place your targets.

So, what if you are the current shooter? In between shooting strings make sure you are mindful of any other shooters that may have arrived during your shooting string and wish to go down range and place targets. No firearms are to be handled while other members are down range.

Make it a point to read the Range Rules and the posted signs at each range every time you come to shoot. This will make sure that you know what types of firearms may be used on which range. Also make a check list and place it in your range/gun bag and look it over every time you get ready for a range trip. This will insure that you do not show up at the range without all the proper gear. A few items that should be at the top of your list:

- Safety glasses for everyone.
- Hearing protection for everyone.
- Targets (paper plates, notebook paper, etc.)
- Staple gun and extra staples.
- Sand bags, blankets, etc. for rifle rest.
- Ammo (I have loaded all my stuff up a few times before only to leave my bullets on the loading bench)
- Coats, hats, etc. for the right time of year. You will find in the winter time it is always colder than you might think.
- Water and snacks.
- Small tool kit to tighten that scope mount or grip screw that may come loose.

This is just a small reminder list and forgetting any one of these items on your visit to the range could make your trip less than enjoyable.

Once you have had your fun and are packing up to leave the range, take one extra look around and make sure you have removed all targets, cans, etc. that you placed on the range. Make sure that you have picked up all your trash to include your brass and steel cases. If you do not reload just place it in a small pile on one of the benches and rest assured that someone else will use it.

Please make sure that you do not shoot the wooden upright post that the target boards are attached to. These are not targets and are very hard to replace. If you are shooting a shotgun make sure that you are considerate of other shooters that may shoot after you. The target boards are there for you to use and you can pattern your shotgun on them but please do not shoot 50 rounds of buckshot and destroy the targets boards. If you have any questions about what can and cannot be done please contact one of the club officers. You will find all contact info on the "Contact Us" tab on our web site, www.bentongunclub.org.

Patrick Holsted

501-766-4942

E-mail: patrick@shooters101.com

News from the NRA-ILA

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

Bush Administration to Propose New Rule Regarding Right-to-Carry in National Parks

Fairfax, Va. - At the request of the Bush Administration and 51 members of the United States Senate led by Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID), the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prohibition of firearms on agency land will be revised in the following weeks. The National Rifle Association (NRA) is leading the effort to amend the existing policy regarding the carrying and transportation of firearms in National Parks and wildlife refuges.

“Law-abiding citizens should not be prohibited from protecting themselves and their families while enjoying America’s National Parks and wildlife refuges,” said Chris W. Cox, NRA chief lobbyist. “Under this proposal, federal parks and wildlife refuges will mirror the state firearm laws for state parks. This is an important step in the right direction.”

These new regulations, when finalized, will provide uniformity 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, only Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service lands allowed the carrying of firearms, while National Park lands did not.

The current regulations on possession, carry or transportation of loaded or uncased firearms in national parks were proposed in 1982 and finalized in 1983. Similar restrictions apply in national wildlife refuges. The NRA believes it is time to amend those regulations to reflect the changed legal situation with respect to state laws on carrying firearms.

The effect of these now-outdated regulations on people who carry firearms for self-protection was far from the forefront at the time these regulations were adopted. As of the end of 1982, only six states routinely allowed citizens to carry handguns for self-defense. Currently, 48 states have a process for issuance of licenses or permits to allow law-abiding citizens to legally carry firearms for self-defense.

The move for regulatory change by the Administration will restore the rights of law-abiding gun owners who wish to transport and carry firearms for lawful purposes in most National Park lands and will make the laws consistent with state law where these lands are located. Fifty-one U.S. Senators from both parties sent a letter to the Department of Interior late last year supporting the move to render state firearms laws applicable to National Park lands.

“These changes will respect the Second Amendment rights of honest citizens, and we look forward to the issuance of a final rule this year,” concluded Cox.

Legislation to Improve and Modernize BATFE is Introduced

Two bills considered in the last session of Congress as H.R. 5005 and H.R. 5092 have been combined, improved, and re-introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives as H.R. 4900 – the “Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Reform and Firearms Modernization Act.” H.R. 4900 is cosponsored by Congressmen Steve King (R-Iowa) and Zack Space (D-Ohio) who sent out a "Dear Colleague" letter on February 27.

The combining of these two bills into the improved H.R. 4900 represents the NRA’s latest efforts to pass legislation that will make it easier for lawful gun owners and dealers to comply with federal law and regulations, while ensuring that those who break the law are punished accordingly. This bipartisan bill also serves as a vital step toward modernizing and improving BATFE’s overall operations. The bill would roll back unnecessary restrictions, correct errors, and codify longstanding congressional policies in the firearms arena, and is a vital step to modernize and improve BATFE operations.

Of highest importance, H.R. 4900 totally rewrites the system of administrative penalties for licensed dealers, manufacturers, and importers of firearms. Today, for most violations, BATFE can only give a federal firearms license (FFL) holder a warning, or totally revoke his license.

As a result of BATFE abuses and its raid on a Richmond gun show in August of 2005, the House Crime Subcommittee held oversight hearings and congressional investigations in the spring of 2006 which led to the introduction of BATFE Reform legislation in the 109th Congress by then subcommittee chairman Howard Coble (R-NC) and ranking member Bobby Scott (D-VA).

H.R. 5092, cosponsored by 152 congressmen, was passed on suspension in the U.S. House of Representatives by an overwhelming bipartisan majority of 277-131, but time ran out before it could be considered by the Senate.

Please be sure to contact your U.S. Representative at (202) 225-3121, and urge him or her to cosponsor and support H.R. 4900, the “Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Reform and Firearms Modernization Act.”

Supreme Decision

On March 18, 2008, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in District of Columbia v. Heller. The Court announced its decision to take the case in which plaintiffs challenge the constitutionality of the District’s gun ban last Fall. The District of Columbia appealed a lower court’s ruling last year affirming that the Second Amendment of the Constitution protects an individual right to keep and bear arms, and that the District’s bans on handguns, carrying firearms within the home, and possession of loaded or operable firearms for self-defense violate that right.

In March, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit held that “[T]he phrase ‘the right of the people,’ when read intratextually and in light of Supreme Court precedent, leads us to conclude that the right in question is individual.” The D.C. Circuit also rejected the claim that the Second Amendment does not apply to the District of Columbia because D.C. is not a state.

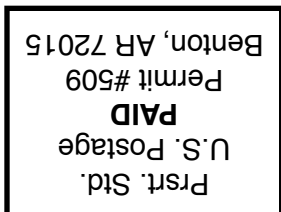
The case marks the first time a Second Amendment challenge to a firearm law has reached the Supreme Court since 1939.

For more details, please visit the NRA-ILA website at this link: <http://www.nraila.org/heller/>

Register To Vote or Register Your Guns!

With the 2008 campaign already well underway, it is critical that gun owners and gun rights supporters are registered to vote in advance of respective deadlines. Make no mistake, opponents of our freedom will be working hard over this next year to gain momentum they need to attack our rights. It is critical that we as gun owners are registered to vote and that we most assuredly vote on Election Day.

To assist you in registering to vote this year, NRA-ILA has a number of tools available. To print a voter registration application that you can complete and return by mail, please select your state from the drop-down on the left or visit: <https://ssl.capwiz.com/nra/e4/nvra/?action=formhere>



Benton Gun Club
P.O. Box 139
Benton, AR 72018-0139