

Windage

Benton Gun Club Newsletter

December 2009

Range and Match News

Range 4A is almost complete, with only a few more small items to be completed by the contractor. Hopefully those items will be done by the time you read this. Pat Holsted is handling a few other items, like the signs and range rule postings, that he hopes to have completed in the next week or so. The wood for the target boards has been ordered. We anticipate that this range will be open right after the first of the year.

In other news, a motion was made to install swinger targets on range 3. However, no details (such as cost or a vendor for the targets) were provided, so we couldn't vote on it. The motion was amended to simply look into what it would take to have these targets installed. The amended motion was seconded and passed, and Paul Stiedle volunteered to do the required research.

A motion was also made to hold a three-gun match on January 30, 2010. The motion was seconded and passed. (Details below.)

Next, a motion was made to pay a contractor for regular range maintenance. The contractor will handle routine tasks like trash pickup, target board replacement, grass trimming, etc, and will be paid \$100.00 per trip to the range. (Weekly at first, but probably less often once they get caught up.) The motion was seconded and, after a vigorous and extensive discussion, finally passed. Please note that this is a maintenance item and is therefore not subject to the follow-up confirmation vote requirement.

The last motion was to form a planning committee to research and propose a strategic five-year plan for the future of the club. All phases of the plan will be submitted to the club members for consideration and approval. The motion was seconded and passed. George Craig will be the committee chairman. If you would like to help out, please contact him at 501-351-4948 or via email at craig@aristotle.net.

And last but not least, the new Conex storage container we approved last month has been purchased and installed at the range.

New Range Phone Number

The number for the club information line has changed. You can now get club information, range status, or leave messages for us at 501-332-5558 or 877-332-5558.

January Three-Gun Match

The club will hold a tactical three-gun match on January 30 at the range. This will be an action-style pistol, rifle and shotgun match. Shooters will use all three guns for most of the stages, but some of them might be rifle- or shotgun-only stages. The rules and

CoFs are posted on the club forum at <http://bentongunclub.org/smf/index.php?topic=173.0>. Please note that the ranges will be closed on January 29 for match setup.

New Target Boards on 3 and 4B

Pat Holsted reports that there have been requests for more target boards on Range 3 (Plinking Range) and Range 4B. At present on Range 3 we have two target boards at 50 yards, three target boards at 100 yards and two target boards at 175 yards. Pat is going to get bids to place new target board posts at both 50 and 100 yards. "What I plan to bring up at the January meeting would be to have a contractor set metal sleeves that a 4x4 post could be set into," said Pat. "I have a drawing that will show how many of each at each distance." Pat's drawing for Range 3 can be found on the club website at <http://www.shooters101.com/images/BGC/Range3Quote.pdf>. The drawing for Range 4B can be found at <http://www.shooters101.com/images/BGC/Range4BQuote.pdf>

So in the end, when completed, Range 3 would have four 8-foot target boards at 50 yards, four 8-foot target boards at 100 yards and two 8-foot target boards at 175 yards. Range 4B would have two 8-foot target boards at 25, 50 and 100 yards. In addition pat also plans to have an AR500 Steel Buffalo on Range 3 at 100 and 175 yards and on Range 4B at 100 yards.

If you have any questions, please contact Pat at patrick@shooters101.com.

New Website Feature

Our website, bentongunclub.org, now features a forum, for discussing anything related to the club. There are separate areas for each match. You'll find a link on the front page of the site.

Membership Renewal Notice

It's membership renewal time. Please keep the following information in mind:

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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.....501-332-5558

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

PresidentPaul Stiedle (517-0756)
Vice-PresidentPat Holsted (766-4942)
Secretary-Treasurer.....Bryan Hendricks (467-8866)
Range Maintenance Officer.....Bob Elrod (778-2165)
Range & Safety OrientationJames Squires (847-2147)

1) 2010 renewals were mailed out by the end of October. If you didn't receive yours please call the Club phone and leave your name and address.

2) The label on your newsletter will show the status of your club membership: "NS9" after your name means that you have not had your Range and Safety orientation and you will NOT receive a 2010 renewal until this is done. A "9" after your name means that the club has not yet received your 2010 renewal as of the print date of the newsletter. A "10" after your name means that the Club HAS received your 2010 renewal and your club membership is in good standing.

3) If you check "YES" on your renewal form concerning email, that means that you elect to go to the club web site and read the club newsletters there, instead of having it mailed to you. We will no longer be delivering the newsletter via email.

4) The gate lock will be changed on January 11, 2010.

5) Any member that does not renew before the February 8, 2010 club meeting will have to rejoin as a new member and will be required to pay the \$100.00 range maintenance fee.

Any Day Is A Work Day

There's no reason to wait for an official work day to help keep the range in shape. Please help police it. If you see someone leaving behind some trash, ask them politely to pick it up. Sometimes all it takes is a gentle nudge to help people remember that we are all responsible for the condition of our range.

Range property continues to be destroyed on all ranges. Club members are reminded that they are equal owners of club property, and this continued destruction is costing all club members. If you see someone destroying club property please get a license plate number and contact one of the club officers.

We are also looking for some young, strong maintenance people to help keep the range in shape. A lot of the folks who do the regular care of the range are getting older and they can't do all of this hard work forever. If you're interested in helping, please contact club president Paul Stiedle.

Change Your Address? Tell Us!

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.

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 12 new members at the December meeting. They are Charles Sanders, Charles Haymes, Joshua Gwin, Joshua Halpain, Felix Normand, Martin Robinson, Frank Orrell, Edmund Hurst, Charles Sullivan, Mason Sickel, Kelly Higgins, James Brown, Jr. 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.

Bipartisan Majority of U.S. Congress Signs Amicus Brief Supporting NRA's Position in Pivotal Supreme Court Case

Fairfax, Va. -- An overwhelming, bipartisan majority of members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the

U.S. Senate have signed an amicus curiae, or “friend of the court,” brief supporting the NRA’s position that the Second Amendment is incorporated against the states through the Fourteenth Amendment. The amicus brief, bearing the signatures of 251 Members of Congress and 58 Senators, was filed with the U.S. Supreme Court today in the case of McDonald v. City of Chicago.

Last week, the NRA filed its brief with the Supreme Court as Respondent in Support of Petitioner in the McDonald case. The NRA brief asks the Court to hold that the Second Amendment applies to state and local governments through the Fourteenth Amendment.

“The framers of the Bill of Rights and of the Fourteenth Amendment never intended for the Second Amendment to apply only to some Americans in certain places. Gun owners across the country are grateful for the support that so many members of Congress are lending to this crucial effort to ensure that the Second Amendment applies to states, not just federal enclaves,” said Chris W.

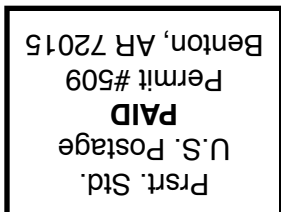
Cox, NRA chief lobbyist. “I would especially like to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of former United States Solicitor General Paul Clement in authoring this historic amicus brief, as well as U.S. Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) and Jon Tester (D-MT), and Congressmen Mike Ross (D-AR) and Mark Souder (R-IN) for their work on this important effort. This brief

boasts the most signers of a congressional amicus brief in the history of the Supreme Court -- breaking the record set just last year in the Heller case.”

In September, the Court agreed to consider the McDonald case, on appeal from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. That court incorrectly claimed that prior Supreme Court precedent prevented it from holding in favor of incorporation of the Second Amendment. The NRA believes the Seventh Circuit should have followed the lead of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals’ decision in Nordyke v. King, which found that Supreme Court precedent does not prevent the Second Amendment from applying to the states through the Fourteenth Amendment’s Due Process Clause. As a party in McDonald, the NRA is actively involved in this case and believes the NRA brief makes a clear and strong case in favor of incorporation of the Second Amendment. Cox concluded, “It is our sincere hope that the Supreme Court will follow the Constitution’s true meaning and hold that the Second Amendment applies to all law-abiding Americans.”

Chicago has had a handgun ban and other restrictive gun laws in place for 27 years. Oral argument is scheduled for March 2, 2010.

Read the brief at http://www.nraila.org/media/PDFs/litigation/mcdonald_ac_congress..pdf.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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