

Windage

Benton Gun Club Newsletter • December 2006

UNITED WE STAND

Renewal Reminder

If you see "07" behind your name on the address label the club has received your 2007 membership renewal. If you see "06" behind your name then the club has not received your renewal form yet. If you see "NS6" behind your name you have not been sent a renewal form because you have not taken the range and safety orientation yet. If this is in error and you have taken it, please send a copy of your 2006 membership card (front and back) so we may update the records.

Range Land Sale Proposed

Don't let that headline scare you. We're not talking about the whole range, just one little corner of it.

The Sardis Water Association is interested in acquiring approximately one acre of our land in order to install a water tank that will service the rapidly growing community surrounding our property. They would pay us \$7,000.00 for the land and pay all closing costs. They were already in negotiations with Alcoa, and had completed a survey and environmental impact study, before someone realized that Alcoa no longer owned the piece of land they were interested in. That's when they contacted us.

The spot they're interested in is the perfect location and elevation for their needs. It's located along Mount Olive Cutoff, approximately 3/10ths of a mile from Mount Olive Road. This plot of land is located to the south of our existing firing lines on the lower ranges. Because of the terrain and its location directly on the road, it's a piece of land that we would never be able to put a range on anyway. It would not interfere with any of our existing ranges or with the future 600-yard range.

If you're interested in taking a look, the acre is already marked on all four corners with rebar capped with a yellow surveyor's marker labeled "PL8 1467." There are also T-posts at each corner marked with day-glow surveyor's tape. The dimensions are 200 feet frontage on Mt. Olive Cutoff, 213 feet on the western side, 200 feet across the back, and 215 feet on the east.

This proposed sale was presented to the club in a motion made at the December club meeting. In discussion before the vote, the consensus was that this would be a good way to serve the community. The motion was approved, but the sale cannot go through unless approved by 75% of the entire club membership.

SWA will cover the costs of mailing information about this proposal to all of our members, along with a postage-paid ballot for you to record your vote on and then send back in.

The information will also include a map showing the exact location of the land they want to buy.

If you have any questions about this proposal, please contact one of the club officers.

Range and Match News

A motion was made and passed to hold a prone center-fire rifle match, to be held on the fourth Saturday of the month from noon to 2:00 p.m. We have scheduled four matches at this time, on February 24, March 24, April 28, and May 26. More dates will be added if there is enough interest.

This match will allow any repeating rifle (any rifle that holds more than one round), with any sights and any rest, as long as it is fired from the prone position. Contestants will fire from 100 yards and 200 yards. Additional types of rifles may be added in the future if there is sufficient interest.

The entry fee will be \$3.00 for club members and \$5.00 for non-members. The match directors are George Toney and Pat Holsted. Please contact them if you are interested in participating.

Match Directors: the 2007 plaques are now in the shed. If you have any leftover 2006 plaques, please turn them in.

Finally, you'll find the complete 2007 match schedule on page three of this issue. We hope you find something you like and will come out to the range to try a match with us.

American Legion Seeks Members

Benton Post #19 of the American Legion is seeking war-

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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 Hotline501-315-3071

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 (888-2930)
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)

Range Subcommittee

Chairman Pat Holsted (766-4942)
Smallbore Rifle and Pistol Silhouette, Falling Plate Rifle...
..... 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

time veterans who are interested in affiliating with this worthwhile organization. Annual dues are \$17.00. For more information, please contact BGC club member Bobby Joe Parker at 501-315-6303 or 501-860-4440.

BGC Patches Purchased

Our currently supply of embroidered BGC patches is getting low. These patches are given out free of charge to all new members. A proposal was made at the December meeting to purchase an additional 1,000 patches at a cost of \$820.00. The motion was approved.

Special Olympics Event Proposed

Paul Stiedle was contacted by a representative from the Arkansas Special Olympics, to see if we would be interested in hosting some sort of benefit event. It's entirely up to us to determine what sort of event it would be. As you may or may not know, all proceeds from such an event would remain in the state. If you have ideas or would like to help, contact Paul at 888-2930.

Webmaster Wanted

The club is looking for someone to maintain and update the club website. Pat Holsted is acting as the interim webmaster until a volunteer is found. If you have experience with web site maintenance and are interested in helping keep the club's web site up to date, please call Pat at 766-4942.

Club Info Line Is Not A Hot-line

This is just a little reminder to let you know that the club information line is not monitored around the clock. It is checked daily, but please be aware that it may be a while before someone has a chance to listen to your message and get back to you.

Safety Re-Orientations Required

As mentioned previously, the club is requiring all members to go through the safety orientation again. The range has changed a lot in the years since the orientation sessions were begun, and it was felt that everyone could use a refresher.

The re-orientation will be required for all members who were in the club as of May 2005. (Any members who joined after that have already received an updated version of the orientation.) Members will have until the end of January 2007 to retake it. You **MUST** have your membership card with you when you take the orientation.

Please check your address label on this issue of the newsletter for your re-orientation status. If you see "06" after your name, it means that you have taken the orientation. If you see "NS06" after your name it means that you have **NOT** taken the orientation and you will not receive a 2007 membership renewal form. If you think there has been a mistake, send a copy (front and back, showing the safety officer's signature) of your membership card to the club P. O. box.

James Squires will be at the range to give the re-orientations on the first and third Saturday of each month at

2:00 p.m., and on the second Saturday of each month at 11:00 a.m. In addition, the following people are also administering re-orientations, and will be available after club matches: J. L. Squires, Jr., Leroy Squires, Rex Gismond, Mark Boeckman, Pat Holsted (at noon following the monthly IDPA matches), Paul Stiedle, Larry Morgan, John Watkins, and Bill Morris.

To make arrangements for retaking the safety orientation at some other time, contact James Squires at 847-2147.

NOTE TO THOSE WHO ARE GIVING ORIENTATIONS: After you give a member the re-orientation, please sign and date the back of his or her membership card. We need this as a double check in case an attendance sheet is lost.

Please Observe All Range Rules

Someone has been using high-powered rifles on lower range 2. This range is for **smallbore rifles only**. 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.

We'd 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.

Also, if you decide to burn trash in the barrels on the range, please check first to make sure a state, county or local burn ban is not in effect.

New Address? Let Us Know!

If you change your address, telephone number or e-mail provider please send the changes to the club post office box or e-mail us at bgc139@yahoo.com. You can also submit updates by calling the club information line at (501) 315-3071 and leaving a message with your name and a description of what you want changed. This will allow the club secretary to update the club files so you won't miss something important.

Also, if you were expecting to get this newsletter by e-mail but instead received it in your regular mail, then either we don't have your e-mail address on file or the one we have for you is incorrect. If you would like to get the newsletter by e-mail, or if you want to switch back to regular mail, please send a message to us at bgc139@yahoo.com and we will change your newsletter delivery method. However, please note that for the next few issues the newsletter will be sent via regular mail only.

New Members

We welcomed 21 new members at the December meeting. They are Jason Alexander, Ralph Bergin, Carl Bores, Victor Brown, David Cloud, Robert Davis, Louis Giblin, William "Randy" Harrington, Harold Harrison, mark Hodge, Dewayne Icenhower, Charles Lancaster, Jim Norris, John Page, Charles Payne, James "Steve" Perry, Brian Sanders, Thomas Smith, Brian Talkington, Jerry Whitlock, and Mary Wright. 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 a required 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

Here's some news from the NRA ILA news page, available on the Internet at www.nraila.org. This information is provided as a service of the National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action, Fairfax, VA.

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Anti-Gunners and .50 Cal. Rifles: Same Song, Different Gun

Anti-gun groups and Rep. Jim Moran (D-Va.) are making far-fetched claims about crimes they believe might be committed with .50 caliber rifles.¹ Urged on by such speculations, CBS and CNN recently aired unbalanced, irresponsible stories portraying the rifles as "too dangerous to be in the hands of private citizens" and "a clear and present danger to the public safety."² Instead, the facts are:

* .50 caliber rifles have existed since the 1860s. Those that use modern .50 cal. ammunition have existed for a half century. Those that anti-gunners attack now have existed since the 1980s.

* .50 caliber rifles are virtually unheard of in crime. Modern .50 caliber rifles are too large, heavy, and expensive for

most criminals. They generally measure 4-5 feet in length, weigh between 22-34 pounds, and cost thousands of dollars. The VPC has identified only two crimes in the U.S. since 1992 in which a .50 caliber rifle was fired.

* Most .50 caliber owners use their rifles for long-range target shooting competitions. Long-range matches have been common for more than a century. For 20 years, the Fifty Caliber Shooters Association has been the nation's leading exponent of .50 caliber marksmanship competitions.

* Modern .50 caliber rifle ammunition was invented in the 1920s. Despite anti-gunners' claims, Mk211 .50 cal. rounds are not available to the public, but are restricted to military use only.

Anti-gunners are just trying to manufacture an issue to rejuvenate their gun-banning agenda, which collapsed last year when Congress allowed the Clinton Gun Ban to expire, after independent studies for Congress showed that the ban had been a mistake.³ The Congressional Research Service's report also exposed anti-gun groups' false claims about the ban.⁴ Ultimately, anti-gunners always want to ban something—all handguns, small handguns, semi-auto rifles, pump-action shotguns, .50 cal. rifles, or varmint-caliber pistols. But whatever the gun, anti-gunners' rhetoric is always the same.

1. Violence Policy Center: www.vpc.org/terror.htm; Brady Campaign: "News Release," 2/14/05; Freedom States Alliance: www.50caliberterror.com; and Moran: "Dear Colleague" letter, 1/10/05.

2. CBS "60 Minutes," Jan. 9, 2005; and CNN "Paula Zahn Now," Feb. 17, 2005.

3. Urban Institute, "Impact Evaluation of the Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act of 1994," 3/13/97; Koper et al., "Impact of handgun types on gun assault outcomes," Injury Prevention, Sept. 2003; Koper et al., Report to the National Institute of Justice, An Updated Assessment of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban, June 2004.

4. CRS Report for Congress: Semiautomatic Assault Weapons Ban, Dec. 16, 2004.

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2007 Renewal Info Inside

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