

Welcome to the Shooters Corner. Vol. III

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, 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 shooting line and it 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 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 over it 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 comes 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 others shooters that may shoot after you. The target boards are there for you to use and your can pattern you 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 can not 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.

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