

Range membership. Should there be a limit?

I asked this question at tonight's monthly meeting and now I am asking you. Should we place a maximum number of members can join the Club? At what point do we reach a limit where there are too many members using the range and we are unable to keep the range maintained? We ended 2008 with 786 members and as of the February we have 698 members. On average we gain 50 members per year. Some years more other years less.

The reason I ask you this I believe we may be at that point. After looking at the rate the Range especially the Plinking Range has deteriorated over the last two years I think we may be over utilizing the Range.

With still ongoing construction projects taking a large amount of the Club's funds each year we are not able to spend the amount needed on maintenance needs of the Range. I hope that once the new Short Plinking Range is completed it will help expand the number of members our facilities can accommodate. But I think we need to look to the future and know that at some point we need to have a limit so as we can continue to offer a great maintained and well up kept range for our current members.

Another topic that was discussed was at what point the Club would be completed with new construction so a majority of our funds from the yearly dues would be able to go to maintenance. This is a hard question to answer because every Member has a different vision on where the Club is and where we could be. I will name a few projects that I have heard other members talk about during my conversations with them. One of the most requested projects has been restrooms with running water. Others have been adding pits and more shooting positions to Range 1 so the Club could host 600 Yard Prone Matches or Across the Course Matches. And others have talked of one day having our own Club House with power, water and other amenities to host our monthly Club meetings. Also I have heard members ask about being able to have the roads paved, maybe having a low and high house on the Shotgun Range to hold Trap Matches. And others have stated they are completely happy with the status of the Range as it is today.

I would like to think that in the next 7 to 10 years we would be able to have all of these projects completed and many more. But even then there will still be some point that we might over utilize and deteriorate the Range.

Please let me or the other officers know how you feel about this. You can find all of our contact info on the Club's website [www.bentongunclub.org/contactus.html](http://www.bentongunclub.org/contactus.html)

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