

Windage

Benton Gun Club Newsletter

December 2010

Range and Match News

A follow-up vote was held on last month's motion to extend the cowboy match to include a new discipline, lever action cowboy rifle, with shooting to be held on range one. This match calls for target rails to be installed at 50, 100, and 150 meters, arranged in such a way that the safety berm on the right side of the range will serve as a proper backstop. It will cost \$300.00 to install the rails. The follow-up vote was required because this constitutes a permanent change to the range. This second vote was successful and the motion has been approved.

A follow-up vote was also held on last month's motion to award the range one work to Marshall Hydro-Seed. (See last month's newsletter for details.) Many questions were asked, and there were concerns about the contractor's construction license. Marshall Kendall with Hydro-Seed stated that he would be taking that test after the first of the year. A question was also raised about the funding of the target frames for the pits, and David Mayfield stated that \$20,000.00 was being gifted from Central Arkansas Shooters Association for building the frames. Pat Holsted asked about getting another NRA grant, and asked that the range one plans be put on the web site for all members to view. After all this discussion a motion was made, seconded and passed to defer a follow-up vote on the range one plans until all of these questions can be resolved.

Speaking for range dirt work, Marshall Kendall with Hydro-Seed reported that the work on the range road has been completed, and that the parking lots on each range have been graded.

In other news, George Craig reported that the range trauma kits have been ordered. When they arrive we will purchase and paint the ammo boxes that will be used to store them.

In match news, a motion was made for the club to sponsor a basic rifle youth course, to be held on range 4B on January 8 at 8:00 a.m. The motion was seconded and passed. For information, please contact the BGC Youth Director, Culley Majors, at 870-260-2824.

A motion was also made by Ryan Reed to hold five 3-gun matches in 2011, on January 29, March 12, July 30, October 8, and December 10. These matches will require that ranges 1, 4B and 5 be closed for set up at noon on the day prior to the match day. These matches will have four to six stages, utilizing shotgun, rifle and pistol. The fee will be \$20.00 per person, which includes lunch on match day. The estimated cost to hold this match is \$125.00 to cover the cost of lunch and \$50.00 for materials. Match directors will be Ryan Reed and Pat Holsted. The motion was seconded and passed.

In other information, a motion was made by Ed Forte to have the club purchase training and informational DVDs and videos, to form a lending library for club member use. Club president Paul Stiedle requested that Ed obtain some more details, such as cost and what sorts of videos would be purchased, before we vote on it.

Bylaws Committee Meetings Scheduled

The Bylaws Committee will meet on February 15, February 22, and March 1 at 6:30 p.m. at Western Sizzlin' in Benton to discuss changes to our bylaws. All club members are welcome to attend these meetings.

If you would like to propose a change to the club bylaws, please send it to the club P.O. box or email us. You must include the specific wording of the change you want made to the bylaws. That is, quote the text of the section you want changed, amended with your proposed update.

2011 Match Schedule Published

The 2011 Benton Gun Club match schedule has been posted on the web site and can also be found on page three of this issue of the newsletter. You'll find plenty of opportunities for competition, in a wide variety of disciplines.

BGC T-Shirts For Sale

We are taking orders for Benton Gun Club t-shirts. If you are interested please go to our forum at <http://bentongunclub.org/smf/index.php?topic=642.0> for more information, or send an e-mail to Pat Holsted at patrick@shooters101.com, or call him at 501-766-4942.

2011 Membership Renewals Mailed

All membership renewal forms for 2011 have been mailed. If you haven't received yours, please leave a

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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 Hotline501-602-2228

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-PresidentGeorge Craig (351-4948)
Secretary-Treasurer.....Cheryl Craig
Range & Safety OrientationJames Squires (847-2147)
Youth Director.....Culley Majors (870-260-2824)

message on the club information line with your name and phone number or your email address, and we'll get back to you. Be sure to include your mailing address in your message, just in case it's changed and we haven't been notified.

NRA Membership Confirmation

Club members are reminded that if their NRA membership information changes, they need to send a copy of their NRA membership card or a copy of the mailing label from the NRA magazine to the club P. O. box. If not they will be sent an NRA renewal form for the following club membership year.

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 a club officer.

Change Your Address? Let Us Know!

If you change your mailing address please let us know. Some membership renewal notices and newsletters have been returned to us marked "Moved, no forwarding address." Each returned item costs the club 44 cents. To ensure that you keep receiving the newsletter and stay informed on club activities, please file a "change of address" request with the post office when you move, and let the club secretary know, too.

The same goes for changed email addresses: please send us note when you switch email addresses so that we can update our records. 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).

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, may result in revocation of your membership.

New Members

We welcomed nine new members at the December meeting. They are Ted Aldrige, Michael D'Ambra, Hector Divino, Christian Frank, Bruce Lipe, Mark Premeaux, Joe Ray, Matthew Stinnett, and Albert Westbrook. 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.

NRA Strongly Opposes the Nomination of Andrew Traver to Head BATFE

(The following statement is from Chris W. Cox, executive director, NRA Institute for Legislative Action.)

The National Rifle Association of America strongly opposes President Obama's nomination of Andrew Traver as director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE). Traver has been deeply aligned with gun control advocates and anti-gun activities. This makes him the wrong choice to lead an enforcement agency that has almost exclusive oversight and control over the firearms industry, its retailers and consumers. Further, an important nomination such as BATFE director should not be made as a "recess appointment," in order to circumvent consent by the American people through their duly-elected U.S. Senators.

Traver served as an advisor to the International Association for Chiefs of Police's (IACP) "Gun Violence Reduction Project," a "partnership" with the Joyce Foundation. Both IACP and the Joyce Foundation are names synonymous with promoting a variety of gun control schemes at the federal and state levels. Most of the individuals involved in this project were prominent gun control activists and lobbyists.

The IACP report, generated with Traver's help, called on Congress to ban thousands of commonly owned firearms by misrepresenting them as "assault weapons," as well as calling for bans on .50 caliber rifles and widely used types of ammunition. The report also suggests that Congress should regulate gun shows out of existence and should repeal the privacy protections of the Tiahrt Amendment -- all efforts strongly opposed by the NRA and its members.

Traver also participated in an extremely deceptive NBC Chicago report (<http://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local-beat/Assault-Weapons-Surge-in-City-69620227.html>) in which he referred to "the growing frequency of gang members and drug dealers using heavy caliber military-type weapons" and described them as if they were machine guns: "Pull the trigger and you can mow people down." Traver and his agents provided the reporter with a fully automatic AK-47, with which she was unable to hit the target. He then said that stray bullets are "one of the main problems with having stuff like this available to the gangs."

As the Agent-in-Charge of Chicago's BATFE office, Traver knows that fully automatic firearms are not available through normal retail channels -- the opposite of what was implied in the report.

An agency involved in the regulation of a fundamental, individual right guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution should not be led by an individual with a demonstrated hostility to that freedom. For that reason, the NRA strongly opposes Andrew Traver to head the BATFE and urges President Obama to withdraw this ill-advised nomination.

Amtrak Prepares For Guns In Checked Bags

Railroad passengers on Amtrak should soon be able to once again transport firearms in checked baggage. The change is slated to begin on Dec. 15, the effective date of the amendment by Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., that forced Amtrak to accommodate gun owners. The

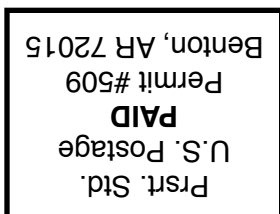
new service will only be available between stations where checked baggage service is currently available.

As when transporting guns on a commercial airline flight, gun owners should pack firearms unloaded and in a locked, hard-sided container. Ammunition should be stored in a manufacturer's box or in "fiber, wood, or metal boxes ... or in other packaging specifically designed to carry small amounts of ammunition." Unlike airlines, Amtrak also requires handgun cases to be stored inside a suitcase or other checked bag.

Also unique to Amtrak is a requirement (forced by a last-minute change to the amendment) that travelers notify Amtrak of their intention to transport firearms, at least 24 hours before departure. Notification must be by phone (not online), and firearms must still be declared upon check-in.

No matter how seemingly modest the change, and despite Amtrak's unique restrictions, it's still too much for anti-gun activists. In a story on ABCNews.com, Brady Center attorney Daniel Vice claimed, "the baggage car's not secure like a cargo hold of an airplane." Amtrak spokesman Steve Kulm rebutted the hysterical claim, noting that the rail service modified 142 baggage cars "to provide a secure, safe location for the firearms."

With airport security and airline baggage fees becoming more burdensome by the week, rail travel may become more appealing to shooters and hunters. The NRA will watch the new program closely to see if any new problems arise. In the meantime, travelers with questions should call Amtrak at 1-800-USA-RAIL or visit www.amtrak.com.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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