



CRC NEWS

COLORADO RIFLE CLUB

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Article by Wayne Harris, photos by Mike Mcavoy



July 2023

On Saturday, June 17, 2023, we conducted our first ever Annual Membership Meeting held in the Summer. In the past this meeting was held in February as indicated in our pre-amended Bylaws.

We did not have any program or speeches this year but had an Open House for our new Clubhouse. Tours were given and everyone had many positive comments. The PickleChick, Angela Hall from Strasburg, catered a pulled pork sandwich lunch with beans, macaroni salad, and coleslaw.

We had some 103 people enjoy our lunch and 32 regular members voted in our annual election of three Board Of Director (BOD) Members. Dennis Reul, Eron Ahmer, and Bill Hall have been reelected to serve another three year term with no write in candidates indicated. The BOD decided to keep the same officers as before with Wayne Harris as President, Sherri Stuska as VP, and Dan B. Harris as Secretary/Treasurer.

Of the six matches scheduled that day, the XTC Match on the HP Range and the Steel Challenge Match on the East Range had to be cancelled because of the wet/muddy range conditions. While we were closing the Clubhouse about 2:00 PM we received another downpour and 0.3" of rain.

It was announced that we currently have some 1,950 active members with a membership cap of 2,000 members. When the cap is reached prospective members will be placed on a Wait List.

The event was a great success and lots of people staying around to talk and eat. We look forward to our next Annual Membership Meeting to be held about the same time next year.



GRAVEL ROAD PROJECTS

Photos and article by Wayne Harris

The week of May 15 we had a road grader from Guernsey Construction arrive onsite and they started to regrade our roads. The roads were getting very rough, and we had a lot of washboard. Thankfully the roads were soft due to all of the rains we had received.

On Monday May 22, we had a 3 cubic yard articulated end loader arrive and a skid steer loader. We added some more soil fill to the Clubhouse parking lot and graded it in preparation of the new gravel. On Tuesday May 23, the soil was still damp, but we were able to receive our first load of gravel. We received from three to seven semitruck loads of gravel (26 ton each), three times a day for 4 days. In total we received 57 semi-truckloads of gravel weighing some 1,611 tons and costing \$47,000. For every \$300 worth of gravel taken from the quarry we paid about \$450 for hauling it to the CRC.

We were also able to conduct some fine grading and complete the parking lot and HC access to the basement of the Clubhouse. We also raised the firing line for the LRPR Range and completed four target berms on that range.



The Smallbore and Schutzen ranges

Photo by Mike Mcavoy

LONG RANGE PRECISION RIFLE (LRPR) RANGE PROJECT

Photos and article by Wayne Harris

We currently have the new firing line graded (gravel in the next phase) and all of the target frames set to hang our targets. The AR 550 steel targets have been delivered and stored. At each station we will have a three steel targets being sized to one, two and three minutes of angle. Some of the steel has been installed as we have been delayed by the wet weather. The Range was not flooded by Bijou Creek, but you could hear the rushing water from there.

We will have a frame for paper targets at 100 Yards, and then swinging steel targets set at 400, 550, 700, 850, 1,000 and 1,150 yards. You will need some good glass on your rifle to see the 10" round steel target at 1,000 yards. The top cross bar is some 8 feet above the ground which is a good thing as the grass is now over 3 feet tall. As mentioned before this will be a great year for grass, weeds and goatheads.

The LRPR committee has reviewed and has accepted the following list of rules for the startup on this range. We hope to be able to shoot later this summer and maybe have a match or two later this year. Keep watching for more information.

LONG RANGE PRECISION RIFLE RANGE RULES 06-22-2023

In addition to the General Range Rules which apply everywhere on the CRC property, the following rules are specific to the Long Range Precision Rifle (LRPR) Range area.

1. Any safe rifle may be used on this range below 50 caliber BMG case size and below 3200 fps velocity. No Steel Core or Armor Piercing is allowed on this range. No pistols or shotguns shall be used. Large calibers like 338 Lapua, 300 Norma and 408 Cheytac are allowed but please only shoot at steel 700 yards and further to preserve club targets.
2. The first person at the range is the designated Safety/Range Officer (RO). Shooters upon arriving should coordinate with the RO on cease fires to place/paint targets. RO will verbally call "range is cold" prior to cease fires and "range is hot" once all people are safely behind the line and before fire commences. RO will designate new RO when he/she is leaving, ideally one of the most recent arrivals to the firing line.
3. During cease fire periods all rifles must be grounded or racked with the actions open, and magazines removed. An Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI) must be put into the open actions of all rifles. Do not handle any firearms for any reason during cease fires.
5. Note that rifles of this class may also be fired on the Silhouette Range to 700 meters or on the Schuetzen range at 100 or 200 yards or on the High Power Range up to 1,000 Yards.
6. A driveway has been laid out in semisolid soil. Care must be taken if you leave this path as the Bijou Creek bottom is very soft and sandy. You may get stuck and thus require closing of the Range.
7. Whenever anyone goes down range safety cones with signage needs to be set out on the firing line. Do not move equipment or rifles to firing line if cones are placed on firing line.
8. All firing shall be conducted from the firing line. No one is allowed to be shooting anywhere other than the clearly marked firing line.
9. During Phase One for the LRPR Range, shooting will only be allowed on the preset targets out to 1,150 yards. There are future plans for additional ELR (Extremely Long Range) targets.
10. During Phase One no one other than the Range or Match Director is allowed to set up their own targets.
11. Shooters are encouraged to sight in utilizing the 100 Yard paper target and then dial in their scopes for longer distances. Shooters are permitted to place their own PAPER targets on the 100 yard zero board for sighting in and limited load development. No steel targets can be placed at the 100 Yard backstop.
12. No vehicles are allowed to be parked on the firing line or down range during live fire. Parking is allowed South of the firing line.
13. Permanent targets are set at 400, 550, 700, 850, 1,000 and 1,150 Yards for shooters use. Do not shoot any other objects or wildlife or stray cattle.



NEW BOOKKEEPER

by Wayne Harris

Jalinda Gieck has been our Bookkeeper since April 26, 2021. She has worked to reformat our QuickBooks and has closed the Club's books for 2020, 2021, and 2022. She has kept track of our clubhouse expenditures amounting to some \$1.2 M. Our sweet-talking Secretary Dan B Harris had convinced the retired employee of the Colorado Springs municipal department that we were just a small club with no employee and very few bills every month. Dan went on to secure a million dollar loan and set up a plan to pay all the subcontractors directly who were working on the clubhouse.

Jalinda assisted in the switching our funds from two banks and consolidating our assets to First Bank. She helped us set up new credit cards, debit cards, and move our investment account to a new broker. She paid invoices daily and kept our books in order. She is also assisting us with our new membership database that we created in 2020 and has answered many member's questions.

Jalinda has introduced us to Debra Wagner from Colorado Springs. I understand she kept the books for her husband who has an excavating business in the Springs. The Wagner's had recently sold a motel that they had renovated and ran for several years and Debra needed a new project. I have talked with Debra, and she is looking forward to working with the CRC. Jalinda lives about a mile from Debra, and they walk and play golf together. Debra will be in training with Jalinda until the end of July. We will still have the same mailing address and continue to send all questions to bookkeeper@crci.org.

Jalinda has been a great asset to our club, and we all hope that she will have more time to improve on her golf and pickleball game. Jalinda you will be missed but we look forward to working with Debra.

WEBSITE CAMERAS

Many of you had noted and then reported to us about the issues with our six range cameras that are linked to the website. A "notice" had been posted on the videos indicating impending disruptions of service. After a period of time the links went dead.

For many years we had been utilizing a third party vendor to take our streaming videos and provide us with a link which we could add to our website. This service was free but, as with all good things, the provider determined he could make some money from this service. Researching the "notice" provided we found that the vendor was registered in Cody, Wyoming. They were requesting 4 euro per camera per month for the link. The cost was acceptable, but I just hated sending someone our credit card information and them not accepting dollars. What could possibly go wrong?

This type of service is way above my pay grade, so I enlisted the assistance of others. My son the IT Manager said if we wanted the service, we should just pay the people as is a very specialized operation. Member Arthur Brunton who worked for Level Three said we could provide this service inhouse. We all agree for now, after proper research, to pay for this service while Arthur researches if we can provide the service inhouse.

The good thing about our outage is that we have found that a lot of people rely on our cameras to verify range conditions. Thanks to everyone for your input and we apologize for the down time.

Get all the news and photos at
<http://crci.org/>

NEW CLUBHOUSE

Article by Wayne Harris, photo by Mike Mcavoy

On March 20, 2022, we had the groundbreaking ceremony for the new clubhouse. Excavation started the first week of April and we had the building enclosed and temporary heat in November 2022. The last major site improvements being the gravel parking lot which was completed in May and the rock mulch landscaping that was completed on June 15 between many rain events.

We requested our Final Inspection on June 28, 2023, and we failed with a few minor deficiencies such as the need for HC Parking signs and weather stripping for our attic access door. A new inspection will be requested after the Fourth of July at which time we plan on receiving our Official Certificate of Occupancy (CO).

Our original construction cost estimate was for just over a half a million dollars but then the County required us to build to commercial standards. Then the pandemic hit, and concrete prices doubled, lumber prices tripled, and we had a supply-train-induced shortage of everything. At the time of construction, we had a cost estimate of \$1.2 M which we were able to beat although our schedule went to heck in a basket. Our General Contractor James Davis was great to work with and our local subcontractors would return his phone calls unlike the questions raised from us mere mortals. His assistance and knowledge cannot be understated.

Moving forward, the South main-level restrooms and showers will be open 24/7. Think hot and cold running water and warm toilet seats. We have a lady from Bennett who will be cleaning the clubhouse twice a month in the Summer and once a month in the Winter. She cleans several other commercial businesses and the Kiowa Sporting Clays facility. She is Steve Kincaid's neighbor, but I informed her on our walk through that I would not hold that against her.

Access to the control room, the upstairs classroom, the great room/kitchen, and basement can be accessed by a Reid card and utilizing the five card readers that we have installed. We can assign the dates and the card holder who can access one or all of these three areas. To date we have prepared Reid cards for some 45 people being Match Directors, Range Directors, the BOD, and a few contractors. We will be conducting 20 minute long orientation classes noting how to use the cards, how to request scheduling the facility, how to operate the lights, fans, fireplace, thermostats, kitchen appliances, and how to leave/closedown the clubhouse. New clubhouse rules are being prepared for the BOD review. We will be making additional announcements on when the orientations will be conducted.

We have eight cameras inside and outside of the facility which run when motion is detected. Our security contractor has indicated we have adequate video storage for about a year. Some of these live cameras will be added to the website in the future.



WEATHER IN 2023

Article and photos by Wayne Harris

In the 35 years that I have been a member of CRC I have never seen such strange weather. Normally in the winter we get some snow and drifting but in 3-5 days it has generally melted and the ground freezes at night. This year we have seen some heavy snows and it stayed for weeks. We even had to hire a contractor to move snow to access some of our ranges.

Of the first 20 events scheduled this year some 18 had to be cancelled because of weather. We had some major flooding of the Bijou Creek. At the 96th Ave Bridge, the normally dry creek was almost a quarter mile wide. We have lost several hundred yards of barb wire fence south of the Archery Range. We also have reason to believe that a lot of our 3-D archery targets might now be in Nebraska. We tried to organize a search and rescue party for the missing targets, but the creek bottom is still covered with water.

Then in April the rains started. According to our East Range weather station the Club has received lots of rainfall being some 0.3" in April, 6.11" in May, and 7.24" in June. The normal annual rainfall is some 10" a year and this is not counting the feet of snow we received last winter.

The forecast is for a very soggy month in August so watch our weather station for information before you come out to the CRC facility. If you see mud or standing water do NOT try to drive through it. Your four wheel drive may be able to get through it but the ruts you leave behind will need to be cleaned up by our volunteer members. Be courteous and do not play in the mud.





ADS FOR MEMBERS FROM MEMBERS

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Must take all. \$50.00. Brighton Colo

Steve Speak
303-358-6049
speaski@gmail.com



For sale
SIG SAUER M400 .223. 16" barrel. Absolutely
very clean, excellent condition. Soft case with
shoulder/hand strap, 4 mag pockets and 1
separate pocket. Manual. Magpul grip and
handguard. Plus 1000 rounds .223,
Remington, Federal. Will use FFL. \$1400.

Contact Warren,
Mobile 720-357-7816.



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Deadline for the next newsletter: August 31

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