

NEWSLETTER ITEMS FOR MAY 2, 2014

SPRING WORK WEEKEND

Saturday, April 12th was a great weather day. We got a chance to catch up on a lot of past due painting. The sporting clays pellet shields, repairs on the HP number boards, and priming several structures. We need to go back soon and cover the primed areas. We didn't come close to getting it done though, so if you want to spend a pleasant day this summer, freshening the paint on the range structures let me know.

Ken Tarvin led a team to reinforce the sun shades on the East Range. The prairie winds were close to taking them to visit Dorothy in Kansas with the next windstorm.

Even though he hasn't had a workbond obligation for more than 25 years, Conrad Grims came out to clean up the ranch house, just 3 weeks after being released from a serious hospital visit.

We continue to work on cleaning up the old cow barn by the Sporting Clays entrance road. We had another 9 yard dumpster, and filled it up. We aren't done yet, but it is getting close. We still need to get rid of a great deal of corrugated roof metal and barbed wire. Do you know anybody who could help with this?

Last year Cindy Crowle noticed the ranch house shrubs were neglected, and this year spent all of Saturday trimming branches on trees and bushes – a whole hay wagon full.

We also did the usual target frame building for the Schuetzen range. With our growing membership, the backers are getting shot up at a faster than usual rate. It used to be that fixing them up twice per year was adequate. We may need to do it more often.

35 members came out on Saturday. With the new member orientation going on at the same time, the range was very busy. Not so on Sunday. It was cold and rainy. Only one member came out. Charles Clark. Painting was out of the question on Sunday, but we still were able to do some cleanup work; emptying trash barrels, etc.

Our next scheduled work weekend is in October but members can fulfill their work bond obligation any time and must do so before the end of October. There is always something to do! Contact Dave Paananen dpaananen@netzero.net for more information.

Thanks to all who came out!

SAFETY ISSUES

At the May 1 meeting of the Board of Directors CRC reached an unhappy milestone. The Board was forced to discipline a member for a serious violation of Club rules. It is unfortunate that such an action was necessary, we are all supposed to be friends and colleagues interested in preserving the Club and shooting sports for our future. The Board did not take this action lightly and took great pains to be sure that this and any future disciplinary actions will be fair and balanced.

CRC was founded in 1925 by a group of competitive shooters and grew through the years as a competitive club. The majorities of members have been serious shooters with most oriented toward competitive shooting with safe gun handling, range procedures, and conduct around other shooters second nature to them.

In more recent times, with the closure of many casual shooting venues such as public lands and some clubs being closed down, CRC has gained new members, many who do not have a background in safe gun handling and not been exposed to organized range procedures. This has created situations of members using the ranges in unsafe ways, not knowing or not understanding proper safe gun handling.

CRC requires all new members to attend a new member orientation before we allow them to use the facilities. This is to acquaint them with the proper safety procedures required on our ranges. Also to make them aware of the restrictions that our Adams County Special Use Permit set on us. These include, among others, no hunting, no shooting at night, and no firing of fully automatic guns. Violation of any of these could put our permit at risk.

Members are urged to politely question those not wearing badges (potential trespassers) and anyone doing things which appear to be violations of our rules or unsafe. We have had reports of shooters that have taken offense which has resulted in some angry confrontations. Confrontations where there are guns around are not good and should be avoided. Members must realize that the person questioning them is doing so with the best interest and safety of everybody in mind. **Safety is our most important consideration at all times.**

PLEASE remember that CRC's safety rules have been established for the safe and efficient operation of our 2000 acre property with seven ranges. The rules are set to allow our members to shoot firearms and make safe use our facilities. There can be many people on the property at any given time and you may not always know where they might be. Most of our safety rules are common sense safe gun handling, but also specific items that are particular to the individual ranges.

You have chosen to join us and we have welcomed you with the understanding that every member must follow the rules and get along with those around you as they are expected to be equally courteous to you. A serious accident could jeopardize the Club as well as having serious consequences to the person causing it.

The Club safety protocol is posted on the web site which is updated as changes are made to it. It is revised as new activities are introduced to the ranges or as new safety issues arise. It relates to the property as a whole and to each of our seven ranges and our many different sports. It is your responsibility to be familiar with it.

Know where every shot is going and keep every shot on the backstop!

LAND PURCHASE

CRC is negotiating with Linnebur Farms to buy 320 acres on the east side of our northern section and directly north of the East Range. We have been after this piece for a long time to protect the East Range and expand our safety zone. The property is ½ mile E – W by 1 mile N – S. It currently is planted to wheat in its north half and is fallow in the south half. There are two gas wells on the land but they belong to someone else and we will not have the mineral rights.

When we built the East Range the firing line was angled so that any bullets getting over the backstop, if fired straight downrange, would likely land on out property. But, bullets fired at an angle to the east might not and so we need this land for safety zone and to prevent development. We have offered a premium price and hope to close the deal in the next month. We will finance it with a loan as we did for the land where the East Range is, and do not anticipate any dues increase at this time.

INDOOR RANGE

The indoor shooting range at CRC described by Bob Lees at the annual meeting has been rejected by the investor group and their bankers. They have determined that we are too far from Denver and there is not enough lodging and restaurants nearby to support it. Their plans are to construct a shooting facility in the Denver metro area.

STEEL TARGETS ON H-P RANGE

Plans to install steel targets on the H-P range are proceeding. Mark Passamanack plans to place CRC owned targets on the east end of the backstop this week. Members may use their own targets so long as they are made of AR500 steel. Targets **MUST** be placed on the backstop in the impact area, and **NOWHERE ELSE**. Mark is working on the complete range rules for steel target shooting and these will be posted on the web site and published in this newsletter as soon as they are available and approved by the BoD. Until then steel shooters should contact Mark at markpcolo@gmail.com for any questions.

It has been suggested that steel shooters occupy the east side of the range and bulls eye shooters the west side if both are present at the same time. Please note too, that all other range rules remain in force, such as range in use flags up, long and short range days, etc.

There is interest in steel target shooting at 1200 yards. It looks like the landform will permit a 1200 yard target on the silhouette range but it will take some earthwork to open the line of sight and build a backstop. We will also need to look into the amount of county permitting that might be necessary. Incidentally, did you know that in WW I all the troops were qualified at 1200 yards? Shooting the Springfield or Enfield rifle with the ladder sight and military stock at that range must have been a challenge. This writer's Father recalled that after a day on the range, he was bruised from his shoulder to his knee from the recoil.