

89TH COLORADO RIFLE CLUB ANNUAL MEETING

The 89th meeting of the Colorado Rifle Club took place on February 22 at the Sheraton Denver West Hotel. The food was good and the cheese tray very good. About 120 members and guests attended and that is the biggest crowd we have had since our days at Captain Bligh's restaurant ten or fifteen years ago. Since we now have nearly 1200 members, we could still have a lot more participants in the meeting.

After dinner and the door prizes, expertly handled by Barney Higgins, who didn't draw his own name, there were several reports and presentations and the election of three directors. For the first time in many years, two new members joined the Board of Directors. Jim Brummerstedt had earlier resigned as Vice President and Director after more than ten years on the Board. In accordance with the By-Laws, the Board appointed Dave Panannen to fill his unexpired term. Dave has been our manager of maintenance for a number of years and has done a great job in that position. He will continue to do so. As a Director, he will have greater authority than previously as well as more thorough contact with the overall management of the club.

Martin Everitt decided to retire after about 30 years on the Board in several terms since 1967. He thanked the members for sending him to the Board so many times permitting him to participate in so many Club achievements over the past many years. Both Brummerstedt and Everitt were awarded plaques commencing their services. Steve Fowler was elected in Everitt's place.

Steve is an Aurora police officer who originally joined CRC as a cowboy action shooter. For the past several years he has served as the Range Director for the East range where most of our recently joined members are most active. At the Board meeting after the membership meeting, Cal Cooper was elected Vice President, succeeding Jim Brummerstedt. Dennis Reul was returned as President and Al Ashton continues as Secretary - Treasurer.

Club member and attorney Bob Lees made a most interesting presentation which, if the idea works out as proposed, could take CRC off in a whole new direction as well as protecting us from political pressure and assuring our long term prosperity. We will come back to this in another newsletter but briefly, he is working with a group of shooter-investors who want to build a very high tech indoor range that will be available to rent to law enforcement agencies for training. Since we have already been through the three-year permitting process, they can save a lot of time by leasing a piece of land from us on which to build. We would get an income from the range, and our members would get an opportunity to use their facilities. More importantly, association with law enforcement would insulate CRC from attacks by anti-gun people, and might help us in other ways. In the present, and likely near future political scene, we might well need that protection. The whole thing is in the earliest concept stage but the Board is interested and will meet soon to explore the idea.

Among other things, President Reul reported on overall Club activities for 2013, Al Ashton informed that we are in good shape financially and Cal Cooper discussed the construction works of the last two or three years aimed at reducing ricochets and improving the property in general. In 2013 Donna Kingcade had resigned as club bookkeeper and was replaced by Joanna Olsen, a member from Castle Rock who has her own bookkeeping business. She is coming up to speed, especially on the complex CRC membership data base. At the moment, we have about 1200 members, but we usually lose around ten percent of members for various reasons. At the Board meeting following the Annual Meeting, the Board decided that shooting on steel targets cannot be permitted on the high power range, effective immediately, for safety reasons. We'll go into that more thoroughly in the next newsletter, together with some other pressing safety issues. Members who want to shoot at long range steel targets can do so on the Silhouette range to 500 meters. The Board also voted to pursue a contract for cleaning and maintaining our toilets around the property.

For a long time we tried to maintain a monthly four page printed newsletter which was mailed to all members. That gradually became unworkable and excessively expensive at around \$1000 per month. Many members apparently were not reading it in any case. But, we need a way to communicate with members and for the members to communicate with the Board of Directors. The prohibition on steel shooting on the high power range mentioned above is one example of that need. We hope that members will read shorter news notes delivered electronically from time to time. We will still have to mail to the hundred or so members who do not have email, but that is a lot easier than 1200.

It is YOUR responsibility to be aware of what is going on around you. Your safety on the property might be involved. Rules do change occasionally, and other things happen that you need to know about. This electronic newsletter is CRC's official information organ and it fulfills the legal requirements imposed on club management to inform the membership. Once something is published in the electronic newsletter, members cannot claim ignorance of it and they may be punished for violating a published rule. We hope that does not happen!

To comment on any of the above, please use the contact form on the CRC home/contact page, www.crci.org.