

## Colorado Rifle Club

# Newsletter

September 22, 2014

### **STEEL TARGETS ON HIGH POWER RANGE**

Mark Passamanack reports that the steel target supports have been installed on positions 20 and 21 on the H-P range. CRC targets will be stored in the pit. Members may use their own or the CRC steel but are reminded that personal steel MUST be AR500 grade to reduce the possibility of ricochets. Remember, steel targets MUST be set on the backstop and nowhere else on the range. Signs summarizing the range rules for steel will be installed.

### **LINNEBUR LAND PURCHASE**

As reported in a previous news letter, the purchase of 320 acres north of the East Range has been completed. The BoD has looked at several options for using the land. Due to recent changes in farm prices and the Conservation Reserve Program, it appears more advantageous to farm it rather than attempt to put it in CRP as we have done earlier. We have accepted a proposal from Progressive Farms, a respected local operation, to lease the land to them for farming. They hope to improve the soil by adding organic material as well as using some new farming practices which will eventually improve the yield and the quality of the soil. In the land purchase contract we received half the wheat harvest for this year. Our share amounted to about 1500 bushels which are currently in storage but will be sold soon and could net the club around \$8000.

Progressive is aware that the land is in the fall out zone behind the East Range. They will not do any operations on weekends but may be out there on weekdays when shooting in progress. Members must be especially careful to keep ALL shots in the backstops.

We have been informed by the NRCS that we must perform "Mid Contract Management" of the CRP portion of the east range to maintain the quality of the grass. There are several options for this which includes cattle grazing the land. Since we don't have cattle to graze, we have selected the option of cutting the grasses for hay. Progressive Farms is making arrangements for cutting the hay. Because of the heavy rains this summer, haying crews are backed up and cannot make the deadlines for this year. They will perform the required cutting early next summer. This will require some range closures at that time.

### **EAST RANGE PLATFORM**

The elevated platform in bay 7 of the East Range will be completed shortly which will offer action shooters another challenge. Members must be very careful to avoid getting bullets over the backstop or side berms from this elevated platform. Please also use caution on the stairs.

### **600 YARD BENCH REST PROPOSAL**

Jim Brummerstedt reported that a range at Pueblo has been closed stranding a group of 600 yard bench rest shooters who have been attending the matches there from several nearby states. He has proposed to place 15 benches on our 600 yard range to attract a new group of shooters to our events. The benches will be placed behind the current prone firing line for an actual distance of about 605 yards. The setup will be similar to the 1000 yard bench rest firing line but without the overhead roof. The sight line over the benches from the 800 and 900 yard firing lines been verified. The project will cost around \$20,000, including some additional benches for the Silhouette Range. This was deemed a worthwhile addition to our facilities and will add another venue for events. Jim has been authorized to proceed with the project.

## **SAFETY ISSUES**

Recently a shooter dropped a handgun which discharged hitting the shooter in the foot. Fortunately, due to the light load in use, there was no injury beyond a bruise. Safety Officer Steve Fowler was present and handled the incident. Several points of interest developed from it which members need to know. **Match Directors please note:**

- All shooting injuries **MUST** be promptly reported to the Sheriff.
- Hospitals or Doctors **MUST** report shooting injuries which they treat and the authorities will investigate
- When notifying the Sheriff, be sure to specify that the shooting was **ACCIDENTAL** and whether there was any injury. Otherwise, the local SWAT team is likely to appear with possibly unpleasant results. The Sheriff will come in any case.

Another group, whose purpose is to attract novices to the shooting sports, while emphasizing our shooting traditions and second amendment rights, was observed to be violating some CRC safety and range rules. They were to be placing targets on the backstop positioned such that bullets might not impact the backstop. The people functioning as range officers are CRC members but were lax with the safety rules for target placement on the range on which they were operating. This could set a wrong example because in teaching novices, safety must be the first consideration. We have met with them to assure that the group is aware of target placement to have all shots impact into a berm. Whether casual shooting or an organized event, targets must always be placed such that all shots impact into a backstop.

Each of our ranges has its own special characteristics and each of our sports has its own unique rules. We are in the process of posing signs on each range highlighting those special points. Bill Stark has posted such a sign on the Silhouette Range. He will get the signs made for the other ranges and the Range Directors will assist him with the text for the signs. The CRC Protocol is on the CRC web site for reference.

## **OTHER ISSUES**

Fall work weekend will happen on October 4 and 5. All ranges (with a couple of exceptions) will be closed those days. Range and Match Directors, as well as members who have noticed maintenance needs should contact Dave Paananen [dpaananen@netzero.net](mailto:dpaananen@netzero.net) as soon as possible so that he can get materials and schedule the work. Members are reminded that their work bond must be fulfilled by October 31.

The main gate has been an issue ever since we opened the property in 1990. The BoD is looking at electronic gate controls such as keyboard or magnetic card swipes as possible solutions. Members knowledgeable in these equipments are urged to contact Pres. Reul with suggestions.

## **WEB SITE**

We remind members to always check the Colorado Rifle Club web site [www.crci.org](http://www.crci.org) before venturing to the range. Check for current announcements and any possible range closures that may be posted. Also, check the weather page which is continuously updated for the current weather conditions at the range.