

2016 NEWSLETTER

THE BOSS' COLUMN:

We lost our good friend Hoot Gibson this year. Hoot was a member of the Board of Directors for the Whittecar Range for almost 25 years. He was active in range affairs right up to the very end. We'll miss him!

It is my pleasure to formally thank all of our volunteers who dedicate their time to helping in the office, putting up firewood, repairing and improving the facilities and helping with sight-in. My thanks also goes out to the Board of Directors. These dedicated individuals spend countless hours insuring that the Whittecar Range runs smoothly and safely.

Tammany, who runs the office and Fred, our Caretaker are both essential to the overall success of our facility. These two greet the public and carry out daily operations. They both administer their duties very efficiently. My personal thanks to Fred & Tammany.

In 2015, we logged 12,412 individual visitor days. This doesn't take into account the substantial use by our local law enforcement organizations. As you can see, we are very busy. Consequently, upgrades, repairs and maintenance are substantial and require a greater portion of our operating budget. This year, we intend to submit another grant request to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Grant proposals were reviewed and prioritized at the annual meeting on January 14, 2016.

In addition, we have numerous groups that utilize our facility. This includes matches and events such as the Bench Rest Shooters, Big Bore Matches, Bitterroot Blasters, (IPSC), Boy Scouts, and Concealed Carry Classes for both Women only and co-ed instruction, Cooper Firearms, Cowboy Action Shooters, Hunter Safety, Scheutzen, Twenty-two Bench Rest and Varmint Hunters.

In order to accommodate all of this activity on a public range, the Board operates under two basic philosophies. The first is that we endeavor to minimize our membership dues down to an amount that allows us to fully operate and maintain a small excess for emergency repairs. The second is that a public range needs to be available to the general public during business hours. This is why we very rarely will allow any group to have exclusive use of the facility. The Board makes a substantial effort to having at least one pistol bay and one rifle bay open to the general public at all times. The most time consuming portion of our monthly Board meetings are dedicated to scheduling events.

Let's hope that 2016 will be another safe year.

JIM McCORMACK

FEEDBACK FROM OUR ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting was conducted on January 14, 2016. Elections were conducted and there were no major changes to the Board of Directors. The names of all board members are posted in the office.

The results of our annual financial audit were presented at the meeting. A copy of the final report is posted in the office for review by the membership.

The Board of Directors is considering applying to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks for a matching grant. We are trying to receive funding for some improvements to both rifle ranges. The 300 yard range needs some structural and drainage improvements. An addition to the 100 yard range that will provide an opportunity for rimfire matches is also being considered. Everything however is dependent upon how much working capital is available. Whittecar will have to expend the entire amount for any project before matching funds are approved by FWP.

There were numerous requests for special events this year. Special events reserve specific ranges for either matches or classes. This effectively renders those specific ranges unavailable to the general public during the scheduled event. Please check the schedule located on the web site or check the office calendar for days when events will occur. We also place our special events notices on our bulletin boards.

JIM McCORMACK

TREASURER'S REPORT 2016:

Although 2015 is not quite finished as I write this, the continued growth of the shooting sports overall and Whittecar Range specifically, is evident. Some examples we rely on annually to gauge usage is what are called "Shooter days". This represents the number of shooters we had on the range during any given year. The Shooter days in 2013 was the first year we broke 11,000 in our history with 11,011 people using the range. This year, which only includes the numbers through the end of November (due to deadline constraints for the Newsletter) are 11,913 Shooter days. By the end of December we will easily exceed 12,000 days of participation; another record. If you are into statistics

and realize the range is over 40 years old, the rate of growth in recent years is staggering.

During this hectic year we spent money on several significant projects; some you may see, some are more invisible but just as critical to the facility. You may have noticed for example the continuation from last year to increase drainage on the 100 yd rifle range. The physical range runs downhill to the benches, not an ideal direction for rain/snow melt. To redirect this gravitational flow, John Marshall, a long time Board member, designed a system of drains and channels to handle the water buildup. With "shovel" labor from Board members the work was essentially completed in two days minimizing impact on shooters. More grading, movement of paving blocks and other things were also expensed on this project. Total project cost was about 600 dollars and it is already working as designed.

Another but less noticeable expenditure was on the Caretaker residence. New windows throughout the home replaced 45 year old frames that were designed for living in the deep South, not Montana. The work is nearly finished and Fred and Barbara have told us the difference is amazing. No drafts, the stove actually uses less wood and the level of comfort for our full time folks has greatly increased. To date, the cost of this project is 2100 dollars.

Finally, during the year we ordered more road base for bay floors, walkways on the rifle ranges and moved more dirt to support berms. Combined with normal maintenance and monthly bills we are staying ahead financially of projects as they occur. For a non-profit organization, that is ALWAYS good news! With your continued support, we will keep it that way.

ROD HUFF

Secretary/Treasurer.

WOMEN & GUNS:

Women Only - Introduction to Defensive Handguns, a 2 day class, will be offered twice at the Whittecar Range in Hamilton. Class 1 will be April 30 and May 14, 2016. Class 2 will be August 27 and September 10, 2016.

The first day is designed to assist you in choosing the right handgun for you. There will be discussions on handgun safety, basic operation of revolvers, semi-automatic handguns, and the cartridges used in each type of handgun.

Handguns will be provided so that you may handle the different types and models. Ammunition will also be provided for a live fire session on the range. A self-defense book (specifically for women), will also be provided. We will also address, in a general manner, the legal aspects of the use of deadly force.

There will be a lapse of two to three weeks in order to allow the student to purchase a firearm and become familiar with its operation for the conclusion of training on the second day. Students must provide their own ammunition for day two.

The second day will consist of live fire training. The emphasis will be on safe gun handling. All exercises will consist of basic defensive shooting drills and training techniques. We will discuss the different types of ammunition available and their uses.

We will conclude the discussion on the legal aspects of the use of deadly force.

Upon successful completion of the second day, this training will suffice as the required safety class for application to the state for a concealed carry permit.

The class is limited to 10 participants.

For an application or further information call Lee at 642-3590 or Jim at 777-5779 or write Box 159, Victor Mt 59875.

COWBOY ACTION

A Note from the Bitterroot Buckaroos: 2016

Bitterroot Buckaroos: We are a cowboy action shooting club which is basically a four gun competitive shooting sport using firearms typical of those used in the taming of the Old West. The firearms generally used would be two single action pistols, a pistol caliber lever action rifle and an older model shotgun. We shoot at steel targets using lead ammunition. Each contestant adopts a shooting persona, a cowboy alias, and dresses appropriately adding a fun aspect to the shooting matches. Cowboy action shooting is a family sport with age based categories ranging from under 13 to over 80. In 2016 we will be having our regular monthly match on the first Saturday of each month. We will have regular practice on the third Sunday afternoon for new shooter orientation and skill building. We will hold an annual shoot, Ambush at Canyon Walls, on Labor Day weekend. Spectators are always welcome at our matches (just bring eye and ear protection). Our members are very welcoming and will help you learn the sport should you want to participate. For more information check out www.BitterrootBuckaroos.com, www.sassnet.com, or email us at BitterrootBuckaroosMt@gmail.com.

Whittecar Bench-rest 2016

We will be holding 4 matches again this year:

April 3, 2016 annual Easter egg Shoot

May 7, 2016 100 & 200 Yd. Hunter Class

May 8, 2016 300 & 200 Yd. Varmint for score

June 12, 2016 100 & 200 Yd.

July 2, 2016 100 & 200 Yd. Hunter Class

July 3, 2016 100 & 200 Yd. Varmint for score

We will be shooting NBRSA rules for Hunter Class & Varmint for Score. Classes will separate but will be fired at the same time. The course of fire will be 1 warm up and then 5 record targets with approximately 1/2 hour between relays at each

yardage. The targets are the red 6 bull targets that can be purchased at the Range Office.

We are always interested in helping new shooters enjoy shooting and learn what it takes to hit a very small target a long ways away. In April our Easter egg shoot is a robin's egg malted milk Easter egg on a nail 300 yards away with no sighters, wind flags, and no mirage boards. Every shot counts and fewest number of shots wins, the winner is usually 1 or 2 shots.

Bench rest is one of the best ways to learn how to shoot this range and will answer your questions why "this rifle shot great last time, but won't hit anything today" Whittecar is a very difficult range to shoot on, there are almost always wind, mirage, and light changes to deal with. Each **WILL** cause the bullet to hit a different place. Another thing that **WILL** cause a change in bullet impact point is how the rifle is held. These are things that many shooters think little about but are an important part of bench rest shooting.

For those who would like to do some competitive shooting without many formal rules, Dave Heddich will be shooting a form of varmint for score match again this year. They shoot a 5 shot match at 100, 200 & 300 yards on the 1st Thursday of the month for 22cal. and below and any cal. on the 3rd Thursday each month. Dave can be reached at 406-360-3283 for information. Also the Darby "one shot" group is still shooting on the 3rd Wednesday and is open to anyone that wishes to shoot. John Germann is running these shoots.

For more information call Jeff Jetter 777-5326 Weekends or after 9 Pm or John Germann 363-0102.

Air Rifle Bench-rest Match

Quiet and inexpensive, we shoot 25 shot targets in 20 minutes @ 25 meters. We shoot Springer Class and PCP in light and heavy varmint. On a calm day, we may shoot a 50 yard target just to mix it up. The Range opens @ 8AM and we try to start the first match by 8:30. Normally, we have three matches shooting three 25 shot targets for 75 shots total. That's a lot of shooting! We are done by 1:00 or 2:00 PM. For questions, please call PETE BERUBE @375-0050.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers: President: Jim McCormack, Vice President: Jeff Jetter,
Secretary/Treasurer: Rod Huff

Directors for one year: Dan Ashmore, Lee Riffel, Marv Eder, Pete Berube

Directors for two years: John Marshall, Rick Royer, Tim Thomas

????????? Frequently asked questions

How do I schedule an event for my group? Pick up an Event Form in the office and submit it to the Range no later than the Board meeting immediately prior to your event. We recommend at least one month ahead in the event there is a conflict.

When does the Board hold their meetings? The annual meeting is the second Thursday of January. The annual meeting is for all members. Monthly Board of Director meetings are the second Thursday of each month. The vast majority of meetings are conducted at 7PM in the Range meeting room.

How come Range X, Y or Z is closed to the public today? Usually a range is closed because a match or class is in progress. These events are scheduled in advance and subject to the approval of the Board. As a matter of policy, we will not close ALL rifle ranges or ALL pistol ranges. One rifle range and one pistol range must remain open to the public during normal business hours. The schedule is posted on our website and on several Range Bulletin Boards. Please call the range at 363-7078 if you have questions.

Is it ok to shoot my new whiz bang firearm on this facility? We do not prohibit the use of any firearms at Whittecar. However, we ask that if you are going to shoot full auto or practice with a 50 caliber that you bring your own backers. Please do not shoot our steel targets with your 50. Shotguns are allowed but you cannot shoot aerial targets. We are not set up for trap, skeet or sporting clays.

Can my child shoot at this range? Children under the age of 18 MUST be DIRECTLY supervised by an adult at all times.

When is the range open? We are open to the general public on Wednesdays through Sundays all year except for holidays. We open for business at 8AM but closing time varies depending upon the time of year and the available light. Seasonal hours are posted as seasons change.

Can I volunteer to help with range activities? We maintain a list of people who wish to help us in the range office. Please speak to either Tammany or Fred and they will get your name & phone number and ask about which activities that you are willing to help. We sometimes need people for a work detail, cleanup or to fill in at the office.

What's your web address? www.whittecarrange.com