

Boone County Sportsman's Club

2009 Fall / Winter Newsletter

October 30, 2009

Editors Comments:

With the conclusion of another successful season soon under our belt we can say that we saw good participation from all quarters. We have approximately 300 members to date and the Bow, Pistol, Rifle and Target fields saw energetic use throughout the year. Due to some good fortune and favorable timing we got a good price on our annual purchase of clay targets. As a result of this were able to hold the cost of shooting Trap & Skeet to the same level again in 2009. This is a big expense for our club and we are always trying to do all we can to keep the price per round of shooting as low as possible.

It has been nice to see some new faces out for open Skeet & Trap shooting. Several are becoming Tuesday & Thursday regulars. Of course we are always happy to see our regular shooters and we certainly appreciate their company and their loyalty to the club.

We would like to invite our rifle and pistol friends to join us on Tues. & Thurs nights for some clay bird shooting; you will find it an excellent way to sharpen your skills for fall bird hunting as well as a great way to pass the time with friendly people. We have informal open shooting at 5:00 PM, May through October. On any given night you are sure to encounter shooters of all skill levels as well as those who are willing to help get you started.

We are fortunate to have this beautiful, private facility here in our own back yard and we encourage all of our members to take full advantage of the different activities (Pistol, Rifle, Bow and Shotgun) that our facility offers. We also encourage you to invite others who are responsible sportsmen or shooting sports enthusiasts to become members for the coming year.

You will notice that we now have a beautiful new lighted, flagpole that was donated by the Menefee family in honor of the many years that Craig Menefee spent serving, promoting and enjoying this club. We have also installed new granite benches by the flagpole to create a very pleasant setting in which to rest between rounds.

The pistol and rifle shooters will also notice the new cement and equipment benches that have been installed behind the shooting benches. A new smaller target backstop has also been provided for those who want to shoot at shorter distances. We have placed additional chipped asphalt around the new cement and other places in order to control the mud and standing water.

Again this year as usual we owe a large portion of the credit for the attractive appearance of the club and grounds to board member Jake Hull. Jake spends many hours mowing and grooming to keep the place looking nice for the rest of us.

The 2009 season at the club has been a very successful one. We hope that you have enjoyed the many opportunities to come out and participate in your preferred venue. As you hit the fields and timber in pursuit of game this fall please be safe. We will see you again in 2010.

Rick Howell – Secretary, B.C.S.C.

Memberships:

If you have not become a member for 2010 yet, please take note that a blank 2010 membership application form is attached for the convenience of anyone who needs one. **PLEASE YOU MUST PRINT LEGIBLY.** If you check the NRA box, you must provide your NRA number. **No Exceptions. NRA numbers are not kept on file by the BCSC from year to year!**

The gate combination will change on Jan. 1st. 2010. Memberships for 2010 will remain the same price as last year despite ongoing increases in almost all aspects of operation. (NRA Member \$ 50.00 / Non-NRA Member \$60). **The reason for the difference is that the NRA helps us with our insurance costs based upon the percentage of our members that are also members of the NRA. You must provide a CURRENT membership number in order to qualify for the reduced annual dues. No Exceptions!** You can become a member of the NRA by going to <http://membership.nrahq.org/>

You may renew your membership to the BCSC in one of four ways.

1. Fill out the application and mail it with your check to the address on the application and your membership, card will be mailed to you.
2. Catch an officer out at the club anytime you see one there, or on regular Tuesday or Thursday trap & skeet nights May through October. When you turn in your application and appropriate membership fee you can receive a temporary membership card. (good until you receive your regular card in the mail).
3. If one of the above won't work for you, Steve Gus has agreed to take applications and issue temporary memberships at Bacon Jewelers, but you may have to be patient and wait for him to finish with customers first. If this gets abused, it will be discontinued.
4. Get a membership application from the clear plastic box at the front gate, fill it out & send it with your check to the address at the bottom of the form. Your card will be mailed to you.

Since you never know if Steve may be taking an afternoon off or may be on vacation, your best bet is to mail in your application early. Most of you know ahead of time if you intend to join. Don't wait until the day you want to sight in your rifle or shotgun just prior to hunting season.

No longer will memberships be issued from anyone's home address !!!

All current members were mailed a new Rule Book in June 2009. Please hang on to it, as we will only be sending them out to new members in the future.

Gun Show:

August 28th. - 29th. - & 30th. 2009 were the dates of our sixth annual gun show. For the sixth consecutive year we have substantially exceeded our previous years attendance and revenues. This year we tried TV advertising in addition to the radio and print ads that we have done in the past. We continue to refine and target our advertising dollars and solicit some of the best dealers in and around Iowa. Careful cultivation of this event has caused us to gain a reputation for conducting a high quality & very desirable show! We will be putting on our "Seventh Annual Gun Show" at the end of August of 2010. We anticipate that we will continue to conduct the show on the Friday, Saturday & Sunday preceding Labor Day weekend. That would make the dates of the show the 27th, 28th, & 29th of August. Please put it on your calendar and don't be afraid to volunteer!

We would like to say "thank you!" to Mark Hasstedt for organizing this event and all of the people who volunteered to made this year's show another great success !!

Trap and Skeet:

We had a very active Trap and Skeet shooting season this year. We had from 15 to 30 shooters out most Tuesday & Thursday nights, weather permitting. We also saw the addition of a number of new shooters who have become regulars over the course of the season. It is good to see the game gain fresh support.

Last year it looked as if we were going to need to increase the cost of shooting a round of Skeet & Trap in 2009. Because we were able to take advantage of a fortuitous market dip in the cost of birds we were able to make our annual purchase at close to the same cost as the year before. We were also able to arrange a better rate on the transportation from the supplier. As a result we were able to keep the cost at the same level as it had been for the past couple of years. While many other of our expenses are increasing, we will do our best to keep the (per round) cost of shooting at the current level as long as we can.

The cost to shoot a 25 shot round of Skeet or Trap will remain \$3.00 for members and \$4.50 for nonmembers. Other facilities in the area charge much more. I trust that we all realize how lucky we are to have this fine facility with its variety of target games that can be played.

Steve Gus & Rick Howell ran the Tuesday night Skeet shooting and Mark Hasstedt, and Tom Snow took care of the duties on Thursday nights in 2009. They look forward to seeing all of our shooters return when we start up again in May of 2010. We encourage you to invite new shooters to come out and experience these informal games. It is a great way to pass a summer evening and does not require a \$20,000.00 investment in a Kreghoff.. Dad's old pump will do just fine for starters.

Pistol Shooters:

Jim Egeland and Tim Fitzgerald are still running defensive pistol matches on the 4th Saturday of every month. They are having from 10 to 15 shooters come out during any given monthly shoot. If you own a 9mm or larger handgun, and are interested in defensive pistol shooting, or just want to see what it's all about, feel free to stop out and check out their matches. Visitors are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Jim or Tim, or another club officer.

Archery Range:

Fall typically marks an increase in the number of shooters using the archery ranges on the South end of the property. We would like to remind archery people that we made some changes to the range last year. Please be aware that we now are shooting from the West to the East. This has become necessary to keep arrows away from buildings and people on our neighbor's property. Please bear with these changes, as we certainly want to keep on good terms with others in the area.

Bench Shooting:

The portion of our facility that receives the most use continues to be the benches for 25, 50, and 100 yard shooting. We continue to see a large number of different shooters using the benches and are pleased that they do so. We will continue to improve the three ranges, striving to keep decent backstops for your targets. Again this year we have added additional concrete in order to alleviate the muddy conditions around the benches. We have also added some new gear benches behind the shooting bench stations to hold you cases and other equipment.

Again, please be careful not to shoot at or hang your targets on or near the wooden supports as designated by the orange paint on the front of the target supports. This will help us to keep the cost of maintenance, materials and volunteer, man-hours to a minimum. Jake gets understandably grumpy with such inconsiderate foolishness. Let's see if we can rectify this problem or at the least reduce it to a much more manageable level. Seriously this is a real problem for our club!

General information & safety:

Safety is the responsibility of each and every member using our facility. In addition to performing your activities in a safe manner you should also be aware of those around you. If you ever see anyone doing anything that is not safe, and we all hope you don't, write down his or her license number and leave at once. Then please call one of the officers or directors and let them handle the problem. Also, as paid up club members, everyone has the right to ask anyone to show their membership card. (be sure to check the expiration date). Our club is for paid up members only! If any member has a complaint about something that has happened at the club, get us names or license numbers of the errant party or parties and turn them in with your name to an officer or director. Then we can effectively solve the problem before it gets out of hand. We will not act on hearsay information. We must have facts ! **In past years, we have revoked about one membership per year for misuse of the range or chronic disregard for the rules.**

If you come out to the club and someone is using the range you want and you are unable to use the other ranges for whatever reason, talk to that person. They might be almost done or invite you to shoot with them. Be flexible and friendly, and you might just make a new friend !! Remember that we all support this club because we all have a common interest in the shooting sports.

Problems !!!!

Shotgun Hulls & Brass: We still have the same old problem of certain people not cleaning up after themselves. Please pick up all of your spent shotgun hulls and brass on all ranges ! This still seems to be more of a seasonal issue. It seems that the people who sight in their shotguns for turkey and deer season feel that they do not have to pick up their empty shotgun hulls. Please, Pick up your empty hulls !!!!

Backstop Damage:

Please do not place targets or clay birds on or in front of the backstop framework !!!!

There is no excuse for this to keep happening. The posts and frames are clearly marked with orange paint. The center areas are large and offer ample room to place targets without putting them in front of the frames. We understand the temptation to pick up clay birds and use them as targets, but please do not hang them from the posts or set them on or near the wooden framework of the backstops. This has been a problem for many years and it needs to stop. Most likely this is the work of just a few inconsiderate shooters. You know who you are. The posts are expensive and require a considerable investment of time to replace. Also please remove any paper targets so that they will not come loose in the wind and blow around creating a mess.

Club Hours:

In order to be thought of as a good neighbor, our club has regular shooting hours. Shooting starts no earlier than 8:00 AM and **ends at dusk or no later than 9:30 PM, which ever comes first** ! The one notable exception to this rule is in September and October when we shoot skeet under the lights on Tuesday and Thursday nights till 9:00 PM. We do not allow limited light shooting except by permission from the board of directors. Non adherence to these hours will not be tolerated. Many from the non-shooting public would not come to our defense and likely would help condemn us if we were to be seen as a nuisance. Anything we can do to be seen as a good neighbor in the community will assure that we can continue to operate within this community for years to come.

Club Rule Book:

We updated the club "Rule Book" this year with a couple of new additions and some clarifications of existing rules. This was sent out to every member in June of this year. Please retain the copy that you were sent as a handy reference. A new rule book will not be sent out to renewal members every year. They will only be sent out with new memberships. This will continue until such time as there are sufficient enough changes to warrant printing a new booklet. We recommend that you occasionally reacquaint yourself with the rules so that you can remain in compliance with them! Ignorance of the rules is no excuse.

Post Script

Fall is a wonderful time of the year to enjoy all of the outdoor opportunities that Iowa has to offer. Whether it be the camaraderie of a group hunting Pheasant, the still quiet of a duck boat or the solitude of deer hunting from a tree stand, Iowa takes on a special beauty this time of year and the beauty of Iowa fields and timber is only enhanced by the anticipation of seeing game.

Remember to conduct your hunt safely and be sure to respect the landowner, his property, and the law. These are the responsibilities of every sportsmen when he or she take to the field.

We value all of our members and never want to learn that a club member was hurt or worse. Be safe, and we will see you again in the spring.

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Dale Pfrimmer 515-432-7526

Vice-President (Pistol): Jim Moreland 515-432-7989

Secretary: Rick Howell 515-432-7970

Treasurer: Steve Gus 515-432-7772

Board of Directors

Byron (Jake) Hull / Mark Hasstedt/ Pete Lonergan