

BOONE COUNTY SPORTSMAN'S CLUB SPRING NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2010

Welcome:

It has easily been one of the longest and snowiest winters in the recent memory of most Iowans. With a good case of cabin fever well established I am ready for some sunshine and green grass to brighten my spirits. One of my favorite places to be when it gets warm and sunny, are the well, manicured Skeet fields of our Sportsman's Club. We hope that each and every member will get out to use some facet of our facility. I hope that you will think of our club the way I do, as a refuge from the day to day. If you are a sportsman / hunter or an enthusiast of target and skill shooting please come out and enjoy one or more of our target ranges.

If anyone, especially new members, have any questions about how things are done at the club, please feel free to call or talk to any of the officers or board members. **We also wish to remind everyone to take a moment to review the rule book that the club sent out in 2009 and which has been mailed to each new member since. If for some reason you did not receive a rulebook, please contact Jim Moreland at 515-298-0682 to get one.**

Shooting Hours:

As we start a new shooting season we would just like to remind everyone to observe and honor our shooting hours, which remain unchanged from previous years. We are able to continue operations by the grace and good will that we show to our neighbors. Shooting hours are still **8:00 am to 9:30 PM. No after dark shooting** except trap and skeet under the lights. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** (Unless pre-approved by the board). We do have a lot of neighbors now and we are trying to take a pro-active stance on being neighborly.

Calendar of Events:

May 3rd. our regularly scheduled Trap & Skeet will start and will run through October. Hours will be 5:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. on Tuesdays & Thursdays. Again this year only pop and water will be available. **(No candy bars)**

May 16th. / Clean-up day 8:00 A.M. – Until done (Rain or Shine)

June 26th. Jim Egeland & Duane Ely will be conducting a three gun Match. The range will be closed to open shooting from 8 AM to 2 PM. See additional information under the heading of Special Events on page three.

August 27th. – 28th. & 29th. / Gun Show @ Boone County Fairgrounds. (Contact a club officer if you can help) This event requires a lot of people to ensure a successful show.

4th Saturday of every month / Defensive Pistol Match. (9:00 am start during daylight saving time)

Range Closings:

Please note that ALL ranges will be closed on the following days, for various reasons.

May 24th or 25th. The club will be closed for a period of time while the lawn is treated for weeds (weather permitting).

June 26th. The range will be closed for a three Gun Match, competition. (Closed from 8 AM to 2 PM).

May 16th. / Until clean-up day is done! The club will provide a lunch for all who come out and help during the morning hours. We start at around 8:00 AM and are usually done by Noon or 1:00 PM so come early. (Come out and help, it will go faster).

On rare occasions, other non-scheduled closings may become necessary for various maintenance and event reasons.

Gun Shows:

This year our club is putting on our 7th Annual gun show at the Boone County Fairgrounds. It is scheduled for Aug. 27 – 28 – 29, with set up beginning Friday morning, August 27th.

Help is needed with set up, as well as working the show, and tear down after the show. We also need help with making signs, selling raffle tickets, and performing security. If you can help your club with any of these projects, please contact Mark 515-212-0125. If you sign up and work at the show you will also be eligible for free admission to the show.

Please support your club bring a friend and check out the show. We have a very nice selection of good dealers on hand. This will be the 7th. year that we have held the show and it gets better and better each year. This show represents our main fundraiser and all proceeds go directly to the Boone County Sportsman's Club to support operations and improvements to the facility.

Trap and Skeet:

Trap and Skeet will be on Tuesday and Thursday starting in May, as in the past. The hours will remain the same; start time – 5:00 pm, and last round started no later than 9:00 pm, to be completed by 9:30 pm. Steve Gus and Rick Howell will run Tuesdays & Mark Hasstedt and Tom Snow will run Thursdays. The price of a round for a member will remain at \$ 3.00 until such a time our expenses force it higher. Non-member rounds start at \$ 5.00 and drop from there according to the number of rounds shot. If you plan to shoot, don't wait until 9:00 to show up, because if it's a dead night or rainy night, they might close early. (Remember, they are volunteers too!)

Archery Range:

We would like to remind everyone that the archery range has been turned to face east so that arrows will not end up on the neighbor's property. For safety reasons we remind all shooters that your arrows must be shot traveling to the East. This is the second full year with this arrangement, so it should be becoming second nature by now. Shooting towards the neighbors property to the south will not be tolerated & will result in suspension of privileges.

Special Events:

On June 26th. From 8:00 AM till 2:00 PM the pistol shooters will be hosting a “Three Gun Match. There will be events for Hand Gun (9mm or larger), Shot Gun (7.5-8-or 9 shot only), and Rifle in two classes (22 cal. & Center fire) – Bullets must be soft point/ ball ammo and nothing larger than 30-06. There will be a \$5.00 entry for each of the three events that you wish to shoot. The range will be closed to non-event shooting during that time. You can contact Duane Ely at 515-432-8413 or Jim Egeland at 515-290-1994.

Shot-gunners: We hope to arrange a “5 Stand” shoot some time during the summer but no date has been set as yet.

Bench Shooting:

As we get more and more members in the club, there is a potential for a problem of crowding on the 25, 50, and 100 yard ranges. Please be aware of shooters that are waiting to use the ranges. As soon as you are finished, please make room for the next shooter. Also, if multiple ranges are being used, make sure everyone ceases firing before walking forward to check your targets. Be sure to communicate with the other shooters.

As always PLEASE pick up **ALL** center fire rifle and pistol brass, and all shotgun hulls. Also as always, **do not shoot into the uprights, cross braces, or concrete pads** on the backstops.

Please **remove your paper targets** from the backstops when done shooting. Instead of doing the next shooter a favor, you are actually creating hard feelings with our neighbors when they find your targets in their yards the next day because the wind has blown it from the backstop. Our paper targets have actually been found over on the fairways of the Golf Course.

A Serious Problem: This club was founded as and remains predominately a paper target facility. We however recognize that it is a great temptation to collect unbroken clay targets from the Skeet fields to shoot at. They are colorful, they break nice and they offer some immediate gratification to the shooter who can see it break with some gusto.

We recognize this temptation and all that we ask is that you use good common sense about where you place these targets. If you must shoot clay birds with a rifle or pistol please place them so that your slug will impact in the lower ½ of the earthen berm. Do not hang them directly against the cardboard backstop. (The shards make big holes in the cardboard that requires it to be changed out more frequently.) Do not hang them in front of the wooden posts or rails as this causes undue damage to the wooden structures. Do not place them at the base of the posts as the posts are set in concrete that can cause a ricochet.

If you cant resist, using the clay targets, I recommend that you place them directly on the lower ½ of the face of the earthen berm or create a free standing wire frame that will hold the targets 3.5 to 4 feet off of the ground. Place it approximately 3’ in front of the cardboard target backstop away from the wooden supports. Now you can shoot the targets safely and without any unnecessary damage to the backstops.

Simply Stated: There are some members that feel that their \$60.00 membership entitles them to abuse the rules for their own selfishness and at the expense of everyone else. It has become a very serious problem in recent years for the volunteers that maintain the infrastructure at the shooting benches. It is more importantly a serious problem of safety and liability for the club. The results of wonton recklessness and stupidity are not the same as an accident. Accidents can happen in spite of our best efforts, we don't have to temp a disastrous result by being reckless or stupid.

There are still those who continue to place paper and clay bird targets in front of the wooden supports or the top rails of the target backstops and on top of the concrete that support the posts. This results in two conditions. Repeated shooting at these posts causes them to weaken and have to be replaced prematurely. (This is very expensive and doesn't take very long to happen) The second condition is an even more serious one. When clay birds are leaned against the base of the posts or are sat on top of the top rail, a condition is created where bullets can and do ricochet over the earthen berm behind the target backstops. Just beyond those berms are homes and people.

It is up to us all as members who care about this club to report any of this type of activity that you see. Make no mistake the board of directors and club officers are unanimous in the feeling that this activity constitutes recklessness and vandalism and it will not be tolerated. If you engage in these activities sooner or later someone will turn you in and you could be prosecuted as a vandal.

As is usual with most of these situations we recognize that the vast majority of our members are responsible, safe practitioners of the shooting sports and use the facilities at the club in a responsible manner. This is your club and we would like each of you to feel safe and comfortable when you are here. We want our club to be an affordable safe place for our members to enjoy for many years to come. We can't afford for a small hand full to spoil it for the rest. We must police ourselves if we are to be free of the occasional bad actor. If we don't the non-shooting public at large will.

Spring Clean-up Day:

This day is exactly as it sounds. We clean up, fix up, and rake up, service, machinery and stock up our supplies. Clean up day will be **May 16th** starting at 8:00 am. **We do need help!** It would be nice to see some fresh faces. Please stop out and help, even if it's only for an hour or two. It will really be appreciated. Lunch will be furnished for all workers who come out and help.

Club Meetings:

We do have club meetings every month throughout the summer and fall. Because of the lack of activity we usually suspend meetings for December, January & February. The meetings are on the second Monday of each month, at 6:00 pm, unless there is a conflict. To check on a meeting, feel free to call a board member. The meetings are usually held at the North building on the club grounds or at the Godfather's Pizza restaurant. All members are encouraged to attend. We value your input and new ideas.

Safety Information:

As we all know, safety is number one at our club! If you ever see anyone doing anything that is not safe, and we hope that you don't, please write down his/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 on club property to show their membership card. 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 parties and turn them in with your name to the officers or directors. Then we can effectively handle the problem. We will not act on hearsay information. We must have facts !!

Memberships:

2010 membership forms are available at several locations. You can get a form from the clear plastic box at the front gate to the club, by contacting one of the club officers, or by copying the one that is attached to this Newsletter. In order to make it easier for us to process your application, please print legibly. You know who you are! In order to expedite processing, please remit your membership to Jim Moreland. His address is at the bottom of the membership form.

QUOTATIONS FOR OUR TIMES

"I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them."

"The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government."

THOMAS JEFFERSON

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Dale Pfrimmer 515-432-7526

Secretary: Rick Howell 515-432-7970

Treasurer: Steve Gus 515-432-7772

V.P Memberships: Jim Moreland 515-298-0682

Board of Directors

Byron (Jake) Hull / Mark Hasstedt

Pete Lonergan