

Boone County Sportsman's Club

2011 Fall / Winter Newsletter

October 15, 2011

Editors Note:

As I start writing to you about the wrap up to the year's activities, it is fitting I suppose that we are experiencing an extended string of days with temperatures in the 60's with even a frost warning for the northern part of the state. I consider that to be unusual for mid to late September even in Iowa. This stands in stark contrast to the prolonged stretch of temperatures in the mid and upper 90's that we were experiencing not very long ago in June and July. Much of August was mild with many days in the upper 70's and lower 80's. It seems to me that somehow this year, everything is earlier than tradition would normally dictate. If this trend follows suit, we will probably have our first snow in October. I don't even want to think too much on that prospect.

We officially kicked off our spring this year with a very successful Clean-Up Day and were able to get many much-needed projects done. With a nice group of you coming out to help, we were finish up before noon. Many hands make light work. Afterwards, as is our custom, we retired to the clubhouse for Chili and Venison, Summer-Sausage. Thank you to everyone who came out to help.

Please remember that the shooting benches and the archery ranges are available to the membership year round. Just because the Open trap and Skeet shooting is almost done for the year does not mean that you cannot use the rest other facilities.

Happy hunting and have a great fall.

Rick Howell – Secretary, B.C.S.C.

Pistol Shooters:

Jim Egeland and Todd Bertram are running defensive pistol matches on the 4th Saturday of every month. In October there will be an exception to this for unforeseen circumstances. In October they will shoot on the 17th. instead of the 24th. They would be happy to have you come out to shoot. You do not have to be a member to shoot in one of these matches. 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 Todd, or another club officer. Be prepared by bringing the minimum required safety equipment with you Shooting glasses and hearing protection are required at all times. These shoots are run as a cold range. No loaded guns allowed until directed by the range officer in charge.

Archery Range:

Fall typically marks an increase in the number of shooters using the archery ranges on the South end of the property. There are currently no organized activities scheduled for the archery range. If you use these facilities we just ask that you respect the target backstops and conduct your shooting safely. There is not a range officer present so the responsibility falls on the individual to be safe and observe all prudent safety practices as outlined in your rule book. Our goal is to provide a safe place for all members to come and shoot.

Bench Shooting:

In the past couple of years you may have noticed that we have made a number of improvements to the bench shooting area. There has been the addition of new cement shooting pads, new gear benches and shooting benches. We have also cleaned up many of the problematic muddy areas by putting down crushed asphalt in those areas.

Because this area sees the most activity throughout the year it is very important that each person who uses the shooting benches be hyper vigilant about following all of the safety rules. While we want all of our members to have fun at the range we also must recognize that being a gun-owner and shooter carries with it a great responsibility. You must know that each and every shot will be arrested by the earthen berm behind your target. No shot should ever result in a bullet that leaves our property. You are responsible for every shot you take, no one else can be.

Please also be courteous of other shooters at the benches. Work together so that everyone can shoot and check targets safely. A little communication goes a long way towards seeing that everyone has a good experience. Everyone using the benches and all observers must wear eye and hearing protection at all times. This constitutes the bare minimum of personal protection at the range.

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, write down his or her license number and leave at once. Then please call one of the officers or directors listed on the sign at the gate and let them handle the problem. Each member was issued a copy of the rules in 2009 or when you became a new member, if that was after 2009. There should be no excuse for not following the rules; they are for everyone's physical protection and to protect the future existence of our club. We recommend keeping your copy handy and to review it every so often. A great deal of thought and attention has gone into its compilation.

Also, as paid up club members, everyone has the right to ask anyone to show their membership card. (Be sure to check that it is for the current year). 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.**

Reminder: Because the shooting benches get such heavy use, it is likely that you will encounter from time to time, others using the range or ranges that you want to use. If you are unable to use a different range 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 shooting buddy!! Remember that we all support this club with our dues because we all have a common interest in the shooting sports.

Gun Show:

August 26th. - 27th. - & 28th. 2010 were the dates of our eighth annual gun show. We had a very respectable turnout of people through the doors. The numbers were significantly larger than last year for each of the three days of the show. Still, there is nothing like rainy weather to bring people out to a gun show. These dates seem to produce weather that is just generally too good to entice some people away from their other fall projects. Careful cultivation of this event has helped us to gain a reputation for conducting a high quality & very desirable show! If you didn't come this year put it on your calendar for next year for sure.

We will be putting on our "Ninth Annual Gun Show" at the end of August of 2012. We anticipate that we will continue to conduct the show on the Friday, Saturday & Sunday preceding Labor Day weekend, At the Boone, Fairgrounds. That would make the dates of the show the 24th, 25th. & 26th. Of August 2012. Please put it on your calendar and don't be afraid to volunteer!

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

Mark wanted me to express his deep appreciation to the many people who helped him with the set up, tear down and everything in between. So a great big 'THANK YOU' to: Rick Allen, Stan Abrahamson, Tom Duitsman, Duane Ely, Dennis Garland, Brian Heck, Karen Howell, Rick Howell, Jake Hull, Quebin Jimenez, Kenneth Kennedy, Ryan Kennedy, Pete Lonergan, Gen McManimon, Maury Miller, Jim Moreland, Justin Moreland, Melvin Newton, Matt Pederson, Dale Pfrimmer, Brian Smith, Tom Snow, Derek Thompson, Glen Thompson, Tim Wood & Loras Woodard. The list is long, of the number of people that it takes to put on a great three day, show of this type. The contributions of each of you are greatly appreciated. With a list this large it is always possible that someone was overlooked. If you helped and your name is not listed here please know that all of the contributions of time and effort were equally appreciated.

Memberships:

If you have not become a member for 2012 yet, please take note that a blank 2012 membership application form is attached for the convenience of anyone who needs one. **PLEASE YOU MUST PRINT LEGIBLY AND DON'T FILL OUT ANYTHING BELOW THE LINE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.** 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 one year to another!**

You must be a member for 2012 in order to use the facility after January 1st. The Gate combination will change on that date. We have been very fortunate to be able to keep the cost of membership steady for many years now and again in 2012 it will remain the same as in the past. (NRA Member \$50.00 / Non-NRA Member \$60) Even though we are an all, volunteer organization, the cost of operation is very high and going higher each year. One of the bigger costs is the cost of insurance. We appreciate all that the membership does to keep the club financially in the black.

For the benefit of new members that do not know; the reason for the different membership costs is that we are insured through the NRA. They give us a break on the cost of our insurance based upon the number of our members who are also NRA members. The larger the percentage is of our members that are NRA members the cheaper our insurance is. We gladly pass the savings along to those who help us to keep the cost lower. You must provide a CURRENT NRA 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/>

B.C.S.C. Memberships can be obtained in any of the following ways.

1. Fill out the attached 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 up 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.
5. In 2012 we hope to have a brand new web site up and running so that you can download an application from there. This site will also be the source of all manner of other club information. The site is currently under construction but the domain name will be (boonesportsmensclub.com.)

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. If there are any changes a revised page or a new booklet will be sent to you.

Trap and Skeet:

As usual we provided a full schedule of open Trap & Skeet on Tuesday & Thursday nights from the first of May till the end of October this year. Open Skeet & Trap shooting has been sporadic with good numbers some nights and low numbers on others. I think that the weather has played a significant role in how many shooters we have on any given night. On those nights many of the world's problems were solved through the collaborative efforts (B.S. Sessions) of those in attendance. Hardly a topic of note was missed and solutions to all were expounded upon freely. Some nights were like being transported back to a "General Store" of the early 20th century. I'm thinking about setting up a checkerboard next to the potbelly stove & spittoon. Oh and by the way we also found time to break some targets.

As usual we will continue to shoot Trap & Skeet on Tuesday nights through the end of September and on Thursday nights through the end of October. Remember that Mark will be preparing Chili for the second to last night of scheduled open shooting on Thursday night, October 20th. If there is bad weather he will move chili night to the 27th.

Mark has also expressed an interest in hosting some open shooting through the winter as weather permits. If you are interested in being notified when Mark is going to have the ranges open, please contact Mark Hasstedt at 515-212-0125 and he will get your contact information so that he can get in touch with you.

We will probably need to purchase a truckload of targets again before next summer. By watching the pricing between now and then, we hope to lock in a price that is reasonable. The price that we have to pay for targets and transportation is a major factor is the price that we have to charge to shoot a round of Trap or Skeet. Currently the cost to shoot a twenty, five shot round of Trap, Wobble Skeet or regular Skeet will remain at \$3.00 for members and raise by \$0.50 to \$5.00 for nonmembers. In the grand scheme, this is a very reasonable rate. Other facilities in the area charge much more. It is one of the main focuses of the Officers & Board of Directors to keep the cost of shooting as low as possible, thereby allowing for more people to be able to afford to come out and shoot.

Steve Gus & Rick Howell ran the Tuesday night Skeet shooting and Mark Hasstedt, and Loras "Woody" Woodard took care of the duties on Thursday nights again in 2011. They will fill those positions again next year. They look forward to seeing all of our shooters return when we start up again in May of 2012. We encourage you to invite new shooters to come out and experience these informal games. It is a great way to spend an evening. All skill levels of shooters are welcome from first timers on up.

We held our sixth annual Mike Schmidt Memorial shoot on Tuesday night, September the 20th. It was a best out of "50 shot" fun shoot, for bragging rites and your name on a permanent trophy that is displayed in the clubhouse. This year conditions were a little breezy but the temperatures were perfect. This year David Lee and Keith Brace each posted a score of 48 during regular competition. David went on to post an additional score of 50 out of 50 and was declared this year's winner. Congratulations David Lee on a nice performance. Thank you also to all of the competitors who came out and shot. The club catered in BBQ Pork sandwiches, Baked Beans and cookies for everyone that came out. Thanks also to The Schmidt family and especially Mike's wife "Dianne" for their contribution to a fun evening of competition and good food.

Club Hours:

In order to be thought of as a good neighbor, our club has adopted 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 or 9:30 PM. We do not allow limited light shooting except by permission from the board of directors. Please be courteous. 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.

Post Script

Recently something has come to my attention that I would like to share with our membership. As sportsmen we are often called upon to do our part to protect the environment. It is often up to us to sound the "Clarion Call" that alerts the public to act against threats to our natural resources. I have recently been made aware of one such alarm, raising situation

According to dhmo.org, Dihydrogen Monoxide (DHMO) is a colorless and odorless chemical compound, also referred to by some as Dihydrogen Oxide, Hydrogen Hydroxide, Hydronium Hydroxide, or simply as Hydric Acid. Its basis is a highly reactive Hydroxyl radical, a component known to mutate DNA, denature proteins, disrupt cell membranes and chemically alter critical neurotransmitters. The atomic components are found in a number of caustic, explosives and poisonous compounds such as sulfuric acid, Nitroglycerine and Ethyl Alcohol.

Historically the dangers of (DHMO) have been considered to be minor and manageable. Recently agencies such as the Food & Drug Administration (FDA), Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) have been raising concerns and creating public awareness to the real and daily dangers of Dihydrogen Monoxide in the United States.

Each year (DHMO) is linked as a causative agent in many thousands of deaths and is a contributory factor to many millions upon millions of dollars in damage to property and the environment. (DHMO) is also found to be a major component of acid rain. It contributes greatly to soil erosion. It leads to many millions of dollars in infrastructure repair due to accelerated metal corrosion. Climatically it is associated with the formation of Cyclones, Hurricanes and can exacerbate the effects of Severe Flooding.

You can find out more on this threat by going to <http://www.dhmo.org/facts.html>. I hope that you will help me to raise the alarm about this killer. You may already know more than you think about this chemical solvent. It is known by the molecular designation (H₂O) and is commonly referred to by most of us as water.

Were you drawn in by the arguments? Were you alarmed that such a substance was as yet unregulated? Were you taken in by the clever way that truth and facts were presented to give the impression that a benign and useful naturally occurring substance was an immediate threat to the environment and in fact, life as we know it? Did you fall for the scam?

These are the same tactics being employed by radical environmentalists; animal rights groups and the anti gun lobby to control and skew the discussion over the use of lead ammunition. The anti hunting and anti gun groups have found useful allies within these organizations. They are employing many of the same tactics and practices used in the DHMO section above. Their goal is to create fear and anxiety among Law Makers and Regulatory Agencies as well as to poison the well (No pun intended) of public opinion and to stifle logic driven debate. This battle is being elevated beyond the reach of logic, into the realm of emotion driven fear. It ignores science and empirical evidence. It is very hard to combat the irrational responses of the reflexive, emotion driven intellect. But this is where we find ourselves today. The anti's say that a lead ban is just a matter of time. Well, that may be true, but not just because they say so. We can turn the tide.

I have been a sportsman and around sportsmen for most of my 57 years. I have always found sportsmen as a whole to embrace the very essence of environmental, stewardship. They care about the responsible management of habitat and wildlife through controlled and humane hunting practices. They understand that they have a responsibility to preserve and protect the resources of habitat and game and to maintain it in a healthy condition for future generations. Most hunters, sportsmen and outdoorsmen welcome reasonable and thoughtful regulation as necessary. They see it as the legitimate role of government to over see resources held in the public trust. They understand that doing so is in the best interest of the preservation of their chosen sport. What we cannot allow is for bureaucrats with questionable motives and bad information to regulate out of existence a time honored and historically respected management tool like hunting. I see expansive regulations on lead ammunition such as have been instituted in California, Canada & elsewhere as a calculated attack on hunting and gun ownership.

In 1991 the US Government instituted a nationwide ban on the use of lead shot for the hunting of migratory waterfowl. I don't think that there are many who would not agree that there is good science to support the toxic effects of lead when absorbed into the tissues and bloodstream of warm-blooded animals. Lead absorption can affect the peripheral nervous system (especially motor nerves) and the central nervous system. Lead causes the axons of nerve cells to degenerate and lose the protective myelin coating that surrounds them. The research is abundant and clear as to the toxic affects. The research is also clear that migratory waterfowl do ingest spent lead pellets along with other small gravel to use for the grinding of food in the ventriculus of these birds. It is also clear that the main source of the lead shot found in the gizzards of harvested birds comes from the bottoms of ponds lakes and other bodies of water used by the birds along the migratory flyways.

So now you are asking yourself, whose side are you on anyway? I think that I stand squarely with most sportsmen and hunters who recognize that there are real threats to the environment that must be addressed, and there are purely agenda driven ones that must be defeated. These new threats do not come with scientific proof of danger. They only come with an abundance of falsehoods, conjecture and disinformation that is designed to create fear and a panicked response. The agenda here is to extend this ban to include all lead ammunition that is used for any sporting purpose. The claim is that it damages the environment, is causative in global warming and is a hazard to all forms of life large and small.

The facts to this point are that lead is a naturally occurring metal found abundantly in the environment. It is in the soil and it regularly comes into contact with our water supply. The hazards associated with lead in the environment are largely by its limited contact with sensitive living organisms. Lead must be ingested and metabolized in order to do damage. The environmentalists and animal rights people would have you believe that the mere presence of lead in the environment poses an eminent risk. They want to eliminate the use of lead shot and bullets for any and all purposes, including hunting, fishing and target shooting. The anti gun folks are willing to capitalize on this in order to drive the cost of these activities up to a point where they become impractical to continue. The facts to date are, that with the exception of hunting waterfowl over water very little impact is made on the environment by the use of lead bullets and lead shot. Much of the damage associated with the use of lead shot for the hunting of migratory birds prior to 1991 has now been mitigated and reversed by sedimentation and the passage of time.

I would never suggest that anyone who is so inclined or convicted, not use one of the alternative types of ammunition that are commercially available. I would never tell a fellow hunter that he or she should not be able to make those conscience type decisions for him or herself. What I am suggesting is that we cannot allow special interest groups and politicians with malevolent or self-serving motivations to mandate bans on the basis of fear and prejudicial thinking. Sound scientific examination and facts must carry or bury any particular assertion in the debate for it to be valid.

Well that's my 4 or 5 cents worth. We can't allow the devastation of our sport with all of its far-reaching implications to be decided on the whims & fancies of our enemies. Remember that the next logical step for them is to hold sportsmen liable for the cleanup, through special fees and taxation. Much is at stake. I would like to hear what you think.

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