

BOONE COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CLUB SPRING NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2011

Welcome:

Greetings and salutations to each of you. I hope that each of you and your families survived the winter healthy and well. Spring is easily my favorite time of the year and I am excited to begin shooting more Skeet at the club again. I guess living in Iowa makes one appreciate spring more so than folks that live in more moderate climate zones.

As the days get longer and the temperatures start to rise the club begins to see more and more activity of every type. Our membership rosters have grown to record highs. In 2010 we had a total of 333 registered members. This year we are well up over 200 already. We may well set another record this year. I suspect that there are several reasons for this growth. Firstly we have been doing a better job of promoting the club in the community and elsewhere. Secondly we have become more visible through our financial and in kind support of other worthy community organizations. Lastly we are keenly aware that the recent debate and attention given to the new "Iowa Carry" law and its more even application statewide has created many new shooters. Those individuals are in search of a safe and legal place to practice and become more comfortable with their chosen defensive weapon.

With all of these new members using our facilities, it becomes even more important that we all are courteous and patient with each other. Some may not be familiar with appropriate range etiquette. Some may use questionable safety practices. Please share your knowledge and be helpful and courteous to these new shooters. If you do everyone will have a better experience. Remember safety above all else.

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 should have 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.**

Memberships:

2011 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. Without a legible name and address you may not get your newsletters or membership card. 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. As with all of the positions at our club, Jim is a volunteer. Please give him a few days to process your application and get your card in the mail to you.

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 in the fall. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** (Unless pre-approved by the board). We do have several 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 15th. / Clean-up day 8:00 A.M. – Until done (Rain or Shine)

June 25th. Tentatively, Jim Egeland & Scott Clark 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 26th. – 27th. & 28th. / 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 some or all of the ranges will be closed on the following days, for various reasons.

April 7th. The Civilian Police Academy will be meeting to shoot on the south pistol range from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. The south range will be closed to other shooting for this 3 hour period.

April 26th & 27th. The north range will be closed from 8:00AM till 5:00PM for Boone PD qualifications.

May 15th. / 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).

May 17th & 18th. The south pistol range will be closed from 8:00AM till 5:00PM for Boone PD qualifications.

May 23rd. The club will be closed in the morning from 8:00AM till noon so that we can spray for weeds. In case of high wind or rain this will be done instead during the same time period on the 24th.

June 25th. The range will be closed for a Three Gun Match, competition. (Closed from 8 AM to 2 PM).

On rare occasions, other non-scheduled closings may become necessary for as yet unscheduled maintenance or event reasons.

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 15th** 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.

Gun Shows:

This year our club is putting on our 8th Annual gun show at the Boone County Fairgrounds. It is scheduled for Aug. 26 – 27 – 28, with set up beginning Friday morning, August 26th.

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 at 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 8th. 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 Loras “Woody” Woodard 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:

It has been several years now that the archery range has been turned so that shooters are sending all arrows to the east. There should be no reason for anyone to shoot in any other direction. It was turned to face east so that arrows will not end up on the neighbor's property. East is the only safe direction for your arrows. This is the third full year with this arrangement, so it should be a non-issue by now. Shooting towards the neighbors property to the south will not be tolerated & will result in revocation of privileges.

Special Events:

Currently there is scheduled on June 25th. From 8:00 AM till 2:00 PM 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 Jim Egeland at 515-290-1994.

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 as quickly as possible. 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, by leaving them, you are actually creating hard feelings with our neighbors. Usually, they find your targets in their yards the next day because the wind has blown it from the backstop. Some paper targets have actually been found over on the fairways of the Golf Course.

Bla, Blah – Bla, Blah – Bla, Blaaah

It's a shame but it seems that this section remains one of continuing necessity. Over the years I have spent a fair amount of ink begging and pleading with a very small minority of our membership to start conducting themselves in a manner more aligned with the conduct and actions of fully mature adults. Adults understand that responsibility and accountability are watchwords that control the decisions that they make. They understand that the world does not exist solely to provide for their distraction and entertainment whatever the cost to others. They understand that there is always a price to be paid for irresponsible behavior. In spite of our growth in membership I believe we are making some small amount of progress against many of the more egregious problems that we have had to deal with over the years. Sadly there are still a small number who refuse to use personal restraint when choosing what is and what is not an appropriate target. They still refuse to police the area of their mess when they have finished shooting. They consider that their convenience is more important than preserving the integrity of the structural timbers on the backstops.

At this club the vast majority of our members expect people who own and use firearms to be able to conduct themselves as adults. The use of firearms is a serious business and should be reserved for sober serious minded individuals. Our members trust that they will not have to pay more in membership fees in order to pay for the destructive activities of selfish irresponsible children. This is a reasonable expectation. They anticipate that they will be sharing the ranges with serious minded people who are disciplined enough to conduct themselves safely and within the rules of the club. They understand that the very existence of this club depends upon each member conducting themselves with safety as their highest priority.

To the 99% of our members who conduct themselves as grownups we say thank you for making our club a great place to come to. Please do not think that any of this rebuke is aimed at you. To the remaining 1% or less who insist on acting like petulant spoiled children, grow up. The rest of us are tired of picking up after you and paying the tab for your selfishness. You know who you are!

There are still a few individuals that feel that their membership fee entitles them to abuse the rules at the expense of every other member. It has become a very serious problem in recent years for the volunteers who maintain the infrastructure associated with the pistol and rifle ranges. It is more importantly a serious problem pertaining to safety and liability for our club. The results of wonton recklessness and stupidity are not the same as an accident. Accidents can and occasionally do happen in spite of our best efforts. We don't have to temp a disastrous result by being reckless or stupid. We will most likely never be able to rid ourselves of every bad actor within our midst. With this in mind we must all remain vigilant in order to circumvent major problems before they become serious. Each member can help by observing and reporting activities that are either illegal, unsafe or slovenly.

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 Godfather's Pizza restaurant. All members are encouraged to attend. We value your input and any new ideas.

Safety Information:

As we all know, safety is our number one priority 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 !!

Community Engagement:

Again this year our club has been able to set aside \$1,500.00 to be donated to a worthy Local or County based organization. For the second year we are pleased to donate the funds to the BOONE COUNTY FAIR BOARD. This money was donated for the purpose of purchasing another batch of 8' tables, which are used by groups and organizations when they rent the 4H Building for their events. Many of the tables that they currently have are old and in very bad shape. We are very pleased to be able to give back to the community in this way.

QUOTATIONS FOR OUR TIMES

“ Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It would be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end for they do so with the approval of their own conscience”.

C.S. LEWIS

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