

BOONE COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

SPRING NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2013

Welcome:

Even though I know many of you use the facilities at our club all year round, I always look at the publication of the Spring Newsletter as the unofficial kick off to another new year at the club. So in that vein allow me to welcome you to our new 2013 season.

We continue to refine our new website that was launched in 2012 and we hope that you will continue to use it to keep up on club activities and other news in between newsletters. Check back often for information on special events, range closings, service opportunities and other information of interest to the membership body. Please be sure to include <http://boonesportsmensclub.com> into your favorites directory of your browser and check it often.

Spring Cleanup Day:

We are scheduling a "Spring Cleanup Day" for Sunday, May 19th. 2013. We will start at 8:00 AM and are usually finished by 10:00 AM. Projects may include general clean up, fix up, and rake up around the property. We also use this time to service, machinery and stock up our supplies. If you can help, please stop out even if it's only for an hour or two. It will really be appreciated. Rolls and beverages will be supplied for all workers who come out and help.

Memberships:

As 2013 memberships continue to come in I see that many of the new applicants are first time members or have not been members for several years. Currently we seem to be experiencing a resurgence of people wishing to assert their second amendment rights and who are looking for a safe place to shoot.

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 or download the PDF version from the website at <http://boonesportsmensclub.com>.**

As usual 2013 membership forms are available from the normal 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. Also they will be on the new website mentioned above. It is always appreciated when members have their form completely and neatly filled out with all required fields filled in and legible. By using the website form you can just type in the information and print it out. If you are going to manually fill out a form, please print legibly. Without a legible name and address you may not get your newsletters or membership card. 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, Please remember Jim is a volunteer. Please give him several days to process your application and get your card to you by return mail.

All memberships run from January 1st. to December 31st. of the calendar year that is shown at the top of the membership application.

Exceptions:

- ❖ At the end of August, during the three days of our annual "Gun Show" in Boone we offer a special deal for anyone who has not yet become a member for that current year. Any new membership that is applied for during the three days of the show receive the balance of the current year plus the full next year for the same normal annual price.
- ❖ During the last three months of the year we offer a pro-rated membership for the remainder of the current year when a full annual membership is purchased for the next year.

Your membership includes complete access to all of the manual outdoor ranges on our club grounds including all pistol ranges, rifle ranges and archery ranges. Members receive a discounted rate for all games of Skeet or Trap shot during open shooting sessions.

All memberships are considered to be “family memberships” and cover the primary member of registration, spouse or partner and any children under the age of 18 yrs. still living at home. Authorized, family members must be accompanied by the primary member of registration while using facilities located on the club grounds. Minor children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult at all times while on club grounds. Any family members using the club facilities must be legally eligible to handle a firearm. This is a private club, but all applicable federal, state and local laws concerning firearms and firearm ownership still apply. Violations will result in immediate revocation of your membership.

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)

Calendar of Events:

May 2nd. our regularly scheduled Trap & Skeet will start and will run through the end of October. Hours will be 5:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. on Tuesdays & Thursdays. There will be pop & water available to shooters and guests for \$0.50 at the main clubhouse.

May 19th. / Clean-up day 8:00 A.M. – Until done (Rain or Shine)

July 20th. Jim Egeland, Tod Bertram & Scott Clark will be conducting a three gun Match from 8:30 AM to 2 PM. give or take. See additional information under the heading of Special Events on page four.

August 23rd, 24th. & 25th. will be the gun show at the 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) Check for updates on the website at (<http://boonesportsmensclub.com>).

Range Closings:

Please note that some or all of the ranges will be closed on the following days, for various reasons.

April 11th. The Civilian Police Academy will be meeting to shoot on the south pistol range from 5:00 PM till dark. The south range will be closed to other shooting for this period.

May 19th. / Until cleanup is done!

May 28th. & 29th. the south pistol range will be closed from 8:00AM till 5:00PM for Boone PD qualifications.

July 20th. 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. Check for updates on the website at (<http://boonesportsmensclub.com>).

Gun Show:

This year we have reached a milestone with our annual gun show. This will be our 10th. Annual Gun Show and will be held as usual at the Boone County Fairgrounds 4H Building. It is scheduled for Aug. 23 – 24 – 25, with set up beginning Friday morning, August 23rd. Help is needed with set up, as well as with other aspects during the show, and tear down after the show. 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.

The venue at the Fairgrounds is air-conditioned and will hold approximately 100 tables. We hope that you will support your club by coming out and bring a friend to check out the show. We have a very nice selection of good dealers that will be selling gun and gun related merchandise. This show represents our main fundraiser and all proceeds go directly to the Boone County Sportsman's Club to support operations and improvements to our facility.

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.

Trap and Skeet:

2013 Trap and Skeet shooting will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays 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 Tuesday evening shoots & Mark Hasstedt and Loras "Woody" Woodard will run Thursday evening shoots. The times and days of operation are also posted at the gate. The price of a round for a member will remain at \$ 3.50 as established last year. Non-member rounds start at \$ 5.50 and drop from there according to the number of rounds shot. If you plan to come out closer to closing, you may want to contact one of the sponsors who conduct the shoots. If it's a rainy or an otherwise slow night, they shut things down early. On Tuesday nights you can contact Rick at (515)-230-0641 or Steve at (515)-230-2849. On Thursday nights you can contact Mark at (515)-212-0125 or Woody at (515)-289-3837. (Please be courteous, remember, they are volunteering their time!)

Archery Range:

There are currently no **organized** activities associated with the archery range. Members are encouraged to freely use this range so long as they do so within the guidelines of the club rules. Shooting towards the neighbors property to the south will not be tolerated & will result in revocation of your membership.

Bench Shooting:

Over the past couple of years we have extended the concrete shooting pads and provided more benches to the north in order to accommodate the greater number of members using these ranges. This year we will be adding one additional shooting bench to the others that we already have. Hopefully this will alleviate some of the congestion. We have also installed a 12yd. Target stand on the north pistol range that has proven to be very popular. There are some times when we have replaced the cardboard on a daily basis. Please again, do not intentionally shoot the 2x4 frames on any of the target backstops. It just puts the backstop out of service longer and costs more to maintain them.

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 and **pick up your trash** when done shooting and place them in the provided receptacle.

Special Events:

Currently there is scheduled on July 20th. a "Three Gun Match". Jim Egeland will be running the events for Hand Gun (9mm or larger). Tod Bertram will run the Shot Gun events for 7.5-8-or 9 shot only (no field loads). Scott Clark will conduct the Rifle events 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. Sign up will be at 8:30AM and shooting will start at 9:00 and run till approximately 2:00PM. The range will be closed to non-event shooting during that time. You can contact Jim Egeland at 515-290-1994.

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, 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 an officer or director. Only then we can effectively handle the problem. We will not act on hearsay information. We must have facts!!

Full-Auto Thinking On The Gun Debate

Somewhere someone pulls a trigger to commit a heinous assault on innocents and immediately media types, academics, politicians and entertainers from all corners of the country shoot from the lip in a simultaneous volley of nonsense. "We can all rest easier if we can just ban guns", they say. This is the type of groupthink, knee-jerk response that can only come from mystical thinking. This well worn chorus assumes that criminals, thugs, drug dealers, and the criminally insane will all become right as rain and turn into model citizens if only the rest of us will surrender our "God Given" right to protect ourselves.

A little time has passed since the tragic and senseless killing of 20 children and 6 of their adult guardians that took place in Newtown Connecticut. I was in hopes that the emotional fervor to "do something - anything" in response to this horrific act would have given way to a more measured national debate on what to do about the worship of violence in our society and the general decay of moral absolutes. Instead, the automatic response of media, politicians, academics and entertainers is to only call for gun bans. Some mild lip service has been given to mental illness, however that does not fit the antagonists long held template on private gun ownership. I never cease to be amazed that otherwise intelligent people are only able to come up with the intellectually feeble response to ban guns, as if a hammer builds a house.

To identify the tool as the problem rather than examine the training and character of the carpenter when a house falls down would be misguided. It's the same with the actions of people. You can't blame guns (The tool) for the poor character, spiritual emptiness and defective rearing of the person who might misuse it.

Only when we correctly identify the problem can we ever hope to provide solutions that have sufficient weight to make a positive change. Only when we understand our responsibility to each other, can we focus on solutions that work. The fact is that each of us has a moral responsibility to protect ourselves, and care for each other. It is not socially responsible of us to abdicate this responsibility to those who enforce our laws. Law enforcement can only act after the law has been violated. Often, sadly in the case of violent crime, it is too late by that time. So in that vein allow me to take steady aim on several areas that I believe have changed the blueprint by which we have built our American society over the last forty or fifty years.

Child development experts generally agree that the developing mind, as wonderful as it is, must be developed with care. You could say that the developing brain is subject to the old computer axiom expressed as "GIGO" or Garbage In = Garbage Out. Brain studies indicate that during the early adolescent years, a child's brain functions differently from that of an adult brain. The child's brain is guided more by the amygdala, portion of the brain when it is puzzling through problem solving challenges. Whereas when the adult brain handles these challenges it calls on the frontal cortex. The amygdala is responsible for more instinctual emotions including fear and aggression. This region is more primitive and develops earlier on. The frontal cortex controls reasoning and helps us to process consequences. It is more complex and develops later.

The conclusion is that brains that are developed under stress and fear and are subjected to complex social paradoxes are more likely to misread or misinterpret social cues. They are more likely to act on impulse, and engage in dangerous or risky behavior. They are also less likely to register empathy or to consider the potential consequences associated with certain actions.

You can't rear children to be noble adults when you train their minds with ignoble experiences. In today's culture we don't think anything of allowing our young children to witness ultra violent entertainment from a plethora of sources. They have access to movies and games that can arguably be difficult to process for the mature adult. It's not wise to expose young people whose brains are still laying down formative neuron-pathways to those violent experiences. The higher cognitive, social & emotional functions are all being developed in the brain during the child's teens through the early twenties. The developing brain is constantly storing experiences by which it will measure a way to navigating the world within which it lives.

Unrestrained access to all forms of anti social music is another contributor. The ears of our young people are often bombarded with musical lyrics that can be satanic in nature and or ultra violent. Much of counter culture music disrespects the sanctity of life and shuns respect for proper authority. These are the messages being piped directly to the brain.

I would submit that this unhealthy social cocktail, often leads to depression, social awkwardness, role confusion and a general anxiety over how to relate in normal society. I think that a good case can be made that children who are raised in households with disengaged parents, who allow their children to seek their own pathway to interpretation of the world are more likely to suffer damage to their psychological development than those children who are actively nurtured and protected from those corrosive influences. When you combine these manufactured experiences with actual violence in the home or elsewhere in the child's environment, chances are that he or she is going to act out in some very destructive ways. In short, a child's developing mind is not the same as an established adult mind in its ability to filter out what is destructive and apply proper value responses to all that it experiences. Children need to be nurtured not assaulted.

Our culture is fixated on pornography, drugs & alcohol, sensory stimulation and self-image. Our children are trying to navigate the best pathway to merge into normal society. Young people who feel inadequate in any of these areas often escape into manufactured worlds of fantasy where they can control their environment and the ultimate outcome of the experience. The gaming world can further isolate young people who are emotionally fragile. Violent games give them permission to be aggressive and control outcomes through violence. First person shooter games serve to desensitize the individual to the sanctity of life by rewarding body counts and giving bonus points for head, shots. They promote rage and revenge as viable means of getting respect. All of this is conducted in an environment that is designed to look and sound ultra realistic.

We talk about mental good health like it is naturally occurring. You either have it or you were born without it. I would submit that we are all a product of our early experiences, good or bad. Much of what makes up our mental state is established in us at an early age. No discussion of mental health can be productive unless we acknowledge that we can shape it by our view of what is socially acceptable and what is not. Through discipline and restraint society can have a positive influence on the state of the mental health of future generations just as we have had a deleterious effect on the state of mental health as we see it today. Yes, I just said that we as a society are responsible for enabling much of what exists as anti-social mental disorder. We simply need to determine to put our children back under our care and protect and nurture them through their early developmental years. We could reverse this trend in a single generation.

For now it is true, that we need to do a better job of identifying persons who are mentally disturbed to the point of being dangerous. We need to provide adequate supervision and treatment for those among us that are mentally ill. We need to deny them the opportunity and means (as much as is possible) of inflicting harm on others. We must also establish a pathway by which they can be restored to society if they can be returned to mental health. But we cannot and must not let fear allow us to impose undue restrictions on the rest of society out of an unreasonable desire to stop all bad things from happening. That fear in and of itself must surely be viewed as a mental health issue.

You cannot ever identify let alone stop all bad or defective people from acting out in violence any more than you can eliminate everything that can be used as a weapon from this earth.

Once you give someone the power to decide who is dangerous and who is not without a limited, well-defined and demonstrable set of criteria, you give them the power to wage war on you. The broader that you construct those criteria the more likely it is that they can be used to punish the innocent. The narrower you make these guidelines the more chance there is that dangerous people will fall through the cracks. You must always err on the side of personal liberty even if it means that there remains some measure of risk. Risk is a part of the human experience and is always preferable to tyranny. This is the premise under which our system of Jurist Prudence operates. An individual is innocent until proven guilty by a preponderance of the evidence. Better that ten that are guilty be released than that one who is innocent should be convicted. Liberty and freedom are just that precious!

So what are we to make of all of this? We must reassert our right to defend ourselves. We must dedicate ourselves to partake of our rights with responsibility. We can and should do a better job of keeping firearms away from those individuals whom it can be convincingly demonstrated, pose a danger to others. We can and should determine to re-construct a set of social norms that holds individuals accountable for their destructive behavior and recognizes individuals for their willingness to shun base behavior in favor of those things that elevate society as a whole. Your Grandparents instinctively knew what these things were. They started with what elevated the family. And what promotes the family is generally good for all of society. When we stopped recognizing Biblical teaching as our authority for daily living we took away the foundational document for principals like Honor, Fidelity, Honesty, Truth, Sacrifice, Love, Fairness, & Productivity. On all of these things hang our freedom and by the observance of all of these things are our rights secured. We as a society cannot be great unless we as individuals once again seek wisdom from God instead of slavishly worshipping our own self interest, deceitful emotions and fickle desires.

Rick Howell

CLUB OFFICERS

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Board of Directors

Byron (Jake) Hull / Mark Hasstedt