

WHITTECAR RANGE NEWS

588 BLODGETT VIEW DRIVE

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WWW.WHITTECARRANGE.COM

THE BOSS' COLUMN

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Jim McCormack

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Marvin Eder

Pete Berube

John Marshall

Dave Hedditch

Lee Riffel

Tim Thomas

Well, another busy year is over. Thanks to our volunteers, event directors and Board members we scheduled quite a few events in 2009. Not everyone is pleased with the number of activities going on, especially during the spring and summer seasons. In that vein, I would like to discuss the Board's philosophy.

We are dedicated to provide an opportunity to as many shooting disciplines as we can safely accommodate. We need to be united as a shooting fraternity so that we can hold on to the freedoms that we cherish. Our dilemma as a Board is also to provide access to the general public. We have decided that one rifle range and one pistol range will always be available to the public no matter which discipline schedules an event.

We strongly encourage law enforcement to utilize the facilities on Mondays and Tuesdays when the range is closed. They have been very cooperative working with us in that regard. We also do not schedule any events on the rifle ranges during sight in season (Labor day to general season).

Please check the web site (whittecarrange.com) for scheduled events for the 2010 season. It is also a good idea to call the range office at 363-7078 because sometimes we receive requests on short notice.

Have you met our new caretakers Dan and Deborah? They are still learning their duties so please be patient. Please make them aware of any problems or concerns that you have.

If you haven't been to the range for awhile, you will notice several changes. We now have a new meeting room for formal class room training. We still need furnishings and storage but the facility is fully functional. There is now pavement behind both rifle ranges and the area over by the pistol bays has a new layer of gravel. We now have four pistol ranges with the addition of the west side open bay and the division of the covered pistol bay. We utilized grant money for all of these changes. If you have ideas for range improvements, we would like to hear them. Board meetings are at 7:00pm at the range on the second Tuesday of the month except for the month of August.

A special thank you to the following people for your hard work this year:

1. All of the Board members
2. Rod and Vicki Bodine
3. Volunteers Ken Stevens, Bill Juddock, Ken Payne, Mike Spreadbury, Joe Nicol and Michelle Blackwell.



The Boss' Column continued

There are also some local businesses that support us year in and year out. My personal thank you to
Bitterroot Trading Post in Hamilton
The Axmen in Missoula—Brian Allen
Marvin's Excavating
Ted Chavez Concrete
Donaldson Brothers
Blahnik Construction
Turnkey Construction
Square B electric.

Please support these local businesses and let them know that you appreciate what they do for Whittecar.

Have a safe year everybody!
Jim McCormack
President

Safety:

With an increase in range use, an elevated concern for safety is a priority. We've been able to keep our day use and membership fees reasonable because we endeavor to maintain our expenses at a minimum. This will certainly change if it becomes necessary to hire a permanent range officer. The only way to avoid this is for everyone to keep range safety at the forefront of their actions while using the facility.

We've had several instances of totally inappropriate gun handling behavior. We recently had a negligent discharge where an individual shot a hole in the roof while the paddles were down and the firing line was closed. WE CANNOT TOLERATE THIS TYPE OF BEHAVIOR!! You have to make us aware of safety violations immediately so that the Board can deal with the offenders. This means notifying the caretakers while the person committing the safety violation is still on the property. The Board will follow up with the appropriate action. You have to be our eyes and ears and report violations of the range rules.

Thank you for your cooperation

Jim McCormack
President

Hunter Class Bench Rest:

2009 was a pretty good year. We still seem to lose a shooter for each new one we get so the number of shooters stays the same. None of the Salmon, Id. shooters were here but a number ofshooters came over from Washington to shoot with us this year. Another of the Darby shooters made the jump to Hunter class and is learning the game well.

All of the first place plaques stayed in the Bitterroot this year with Tammany Jetter winning the Montana State Championship held here in June.

Looks like the matches will be continuing in 2010 with matches on:

April 4 2010

May 2 2010

June 5 and 6 2010 Montana State Match

July 11 2010

The Darby bunch will be shooting their normal matches and since the turkey shoot was a success we will likely have another one this year. If there are ideas for the turkey shoot, matches or those wanting to get into bench rest shooting let me know and we will be glad to help in any way we can.

Bench rest won't teach you how to hold a rifle but it will teach you more about hitting a little target a long way away than any other type of shooting.

JEFF JETTER
Match Director

RANGE FRIENDS AND SPONSORS

The Board of Directors want to thank the following local businesses that have supported Whittecar Range in many ways

BITTERROOT TRADING POST
DONALDSON'S CONCRETE
MONTANA SIGN COMPANY
HAMILTON PACKING COMPANY
BITTERROOT GLASS
BJ'S FAMILY RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE
BOB WARD SPORTING GOODS
THE COFFEE CUP CAFE
COFFIN GUNSMITHING
CUSTOM TRUCK OUTFITTERS
DEEP WOODS TAXIDERMY
DON'S HOME CENTER AND BUILDING SUPPLY
RAINBOW BAR AND POKER ROOM
VALLEY UNITED INSURANCE SERVICES
TURNKEY CONSTRUCTION

WOMEN AND GUNS

Women Only - Introduction to Defensive Handguns, a 2 day class, will be offered twice in 2010. Class 1 will be held on April 10 and May 1. Class 2 will be held on August 21 and September 11.

The first day is designed to assist you in choosing the right handgun for you. There will be discussions on handgun safety, basic operation of revolvers, semi-automatic handguns, and the cartridges used in each type of handgun.

Handguns will be provided so that you may handle the different types and models. Ammunition will also be provided for a live fire session on the range. A self defense book, specifically for women, will also be provided.

There will be a lapse of approximately 3 weeks in order to allow the student to purchase a firearm and become familiar with its operation for the conclusion of training on the second day.

The second day will consist of live fire on the open bay. The emphasis will be on safe gun handling. All exercises will consist of basic defensive shooting drills and training techniques. We will discuss the different types of ammunition available and their uses. We will also address, in a general manner, the legal aspects of the use of deadly force.

Upon successful completion of both days classes, this training will suffice as the required safety class for application to the state for a concealed carry permit.

The class is limited to 10 participants. For an application or further information call Lee at 642-3590 or write Box 159, Victor Mt 59875.

LEE RIFFEL
BOARD MEMBER

PISTOL RANGE OPEN BAY SAFETY

MEMBERS USING THE OPEN BAY PORTION OF THE PISTOL RANGE MUST PLACE THEIR TARGETS WITHIN 10 FEET OF THE BERM AT THE NORTH END OF THE BAY. THIS IS NECESSARY TO INSURE THAT NO BULLETS GO OVER THE TOP OF THE BERM.

ALL RANGES FLAGS DOWN SAFETY

WHEN THE FLAGS ARE DOWN ALL SHOOTERS ARE TO MOVE BEHIND THE PAINTED LINE ON THE CONCRETE FLOOR. THERE WILL BE NO HANDLING OR TOUCHING OF GUNS UNTIL THE FLAGS ARE RAISED.

ALL RANGES CASED GUN SAFETY

WHEN GUNS ARE BROUGHT TO THE FIRING LINE IN CASES OR CONTAINERS THOSE CASES OR CONTAINERS MUST BE PLACED SO THAT THE GUN MUZZLE IS FACING DOWN RANGE BEFORE THE GUN IS REMOVED

CARDBOARD BACKERS

Ever wonder what those little hooks are for on the 100 yard targets? There are two on the bottom cross members 4 x4 and two on the top member 4 x 4. A piece of cardboard exactly 42 inches high and at least 36 inches wide out to 48 inches wide fit the bottom hooks. The top hooks can be rotated 90 degrees. The top of the cardboard is pushed against the top cross member and the top hooks are rotated back down to lock in the cardboard. Why? Here are my reasons for using this system.

1. I have my labeled targets pre-mounted on the cardboard before I come to the range.
I walk out, lock in my cardboard backer and I am ready to shoot.
2. I don't have to staple my targets to a backer that is full of staples.
3. I don't have to find a spot not full of holes to mount my target.
4. I take my cardboard backer home with me, take off my targets, study them, then mount new targets for my next trip to the range.
5. The range office has cardboard for sale if you don't want to find your own. We make it easy!
6. Cardboard is free to the range, however the range charges \$3 or \$4 for a piece of cardboard (depending on the size) precut to fit the hooks. This gives the range a little more income to fund more projects.
7. One piece of cardboard will last for years.

If anyone has any other suggestions to make things easier for the shooters at the range or can help the range make more money or save money, please give your suggestions to the range manager and he can present them to the board at the monthly board meetings or you can call me at 360-3283 or e-mail me at drh29@bitterroot.com

The range is a non profit organization. The money the range makes is used to make the range a better place for one to shoot. If you haven't visited the range in the last year you will notice some wonderful improvements. The range has a web page. We have a new six position 100 yard range. We have more blacktop parking area. We have a new classroom/meeting room being built which will be ready for occupancy in a few weeks. Visit and see the improvements.

Dave Hedditch
Board Member

The events calendar will be found on the Whittecar Range website (whittecarrange.com). Due to the many events that are scheduled as the year goes on it is suggested that you check the calendar for range availability.