

2026 NEWSLETTER

THE BOSS' COLUMN

The 300 yard range is in dire need of a facelift. We are currently working with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks for federal Pittman/Robertson funding. An Environmental Assessment was out for public comment and is now under review. A complete Engineering Review will be conducted hopefully in the near future. Monitor the Board meeting minutes on the website for current information regarding this process.

Once all the required assessments and reviews are completed, actual work will finally begin. This is going to be a very disruptive process for us. The construction can only be completed during the period when the weather is favorable. Unfortunately, this is also our busiest time of the year. The 300 yard range will have to be closed in order to accommodate the upgrades.

Our Vice President, Dave Hedditch has dedicated numerous hours of personal time trying to move this project forward. He deserves our thanks for all of his efforts. We have some very generous supporters and donors. These individuals support the Range with money and volunteer work. I would like to thank them publicly: Massa Home Center, Montana Conservation Elders, Todd Klein, Francis Eadie, Matt Scott, Mark Hawes, Dan Ashmore, Rod & Sandy Herrick, the Franklin Family, the Benson Family, Doug Brownlee, Frontier Guns & Ammo and the Axman. These are only our most recent supporters and I apologize if I missed anyone. We will be recognizing our supporters with a plaque in the office. Thanks to all for your generosity.

Jim McCormack

Secretary/Treasurer Report 2025 Finances

Total Income: \$ 104,079.09

Total Expenses: \$ 90,774.43

The completed 2025 audit is posted on our bulletin boards on the website and in the office.

RIMFIRE RANGE RULES

These rules are on a video that is available for review in the front office. Everyone will be required to view this video **ANNUALLY** prior to using this range. We have been experiencing significant damage to the overhead baffles because individuals are not properly aligning their target backers so that all rounds impact the steel plate at the rear of the range. Failing to align your backers properly is a violation of our range rules. Range violations will result in significant consequences.

FEEDBACK FROM OUR ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting was conducted on January 8, 2026. Elections were held and there weren't changes to the Board of Directors. The names of all Board Members are posted in the office.

The results of our annual financial audit were presented at the January meeting. A copy of the final report is posted in the office and on this website for review by the membership. There is also a synopsis in the Secretary/treasurer's writeup above. We approved all previously submitted special events for 2026. To date, there are over 83 scheduled special event days for this year. Please check the schedule located on the web site, (whittecarrange.com) or check the office calendar for days when events will occur. We also place our special events notices on our bulletin boards. People can still request a date for special events by submitting a special event form 30 days prior to their event.

In 2025, we logged 11,535 individual visitor days. We also scheduled approximately 100 special event days such as matches and classes. Our income and expenses for 2025 are posted on the office bulletin board.

JIM McCORMACK

SAFETY

It is a requirement for everyone who enters our facility to **ANNUALLY** view a short safety video prior to issuing either any membership or allowing day use. This means everyone, no exceptions. Our Caretaker will make this video available upon checking in at the office.

You will notice that we have safety rules posted on the open bays and the Rimfire Range as well as the covered rifle & pistol bays. Please review and follow them.

As range members, you have a responsibility to identify range safety violations and to bring these violations to the immediate attention of range personnel. Whether or not you personally confront someone for a rule infraction is a personal choice. Just remember that sometimes people make honest mistakes & yelling at them doesn't

accomplish anything except making them angry. It is however, very important that you notify us with the information that we need to follow-up. All too often we don't find out about a safety issue until it is too late to take action.

You will notice that Board members will be wearing their Range Safety Officer hat while present on the range. Their instructions must be complied with immediately. There is no room for error here! SAFETY is our major priority. Serious or repeated violations **WILL RESULT IN EXPULSION!**

Jim McCormack

Bitterroot Buckaroos Old West Shooting and Social Club

Our low-key monthly matches are on the **first Saturday of the month**. Visitors are always welcome (with eye and hearing protection). We start at 10 am and shoot until we are done just after noon.

We do our best to help new shooters to get started in the sport. We strongly advise that you come to a shoot and talk with us about equipment before you buy. We welcome recreational shooters or those who are looking to be top competitors. Come see what it's all about!

We host an annual shoot, **Ambush at Canyon Walls**, the third weekend of September. Our shoot has grown every year, but we have reached the limit of the classroom to seat everyone. This year we shot from a full-sized covered wagon, through the doors of a stage coach, and from the wheel house of a steamboat. We enjoyed a banquet at the Elks Lodge to top it all off.

What is cowboy action shooting? We celebrate the history and mythology of the old west in a competitive shooting sport. No need to buy a horse because all our gunfights take place with both feet firmly planted on the ground. All you need are two single action pistols (with appropriate holsters), a pistol caliber lever action rifle and an older model shotgun. We shoot at steel targets using lead ammunition. Each contestant adopts a shooting persona, a cowboy alias, and dresses appropriately adding a fun aspect to the shooting matches. Cowboy action shooting is a family sport with age-based categories ranging from under 13

to over 90.

We also shoot 1911's in a spin-off event called **Wild Bunch**. For Wild Bunch, a 1911, a pistol caliber lever action rifle, an older model shotgun or Model 12 is needed.

Our club includes memberships for non-shooting members. We are, after all, a shooting *and social club* and we have dinners and potlucks during the year. It's a great activity for couples or families.

Check out our web site WWW.BitterrootBuckaroos.com or call May B. Shecann for information. 406-531-4116

Women & Guns 2026

UPDATE

Women Only - Introduction to Defensive Handguns, a 2 day class, will be offered at the Whittecar Range in Hamilton. Day 1 is scheduled for APRIL 18TH and day 2 is scheduled for May 9th, 2026.

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. We will also address, in a general manner, the legal aspects of the use of deadly force.

There will be a lapse of two to three 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. Students must provide their own ammunition for day two.

The second day will consist of live fire training. 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 conclude the discussion on the legal aspects of the use of deadly force.

Upon successful completion of the second day, 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 Jim @ 360-8392

Whittecar Bench-rest 2026

April 18 & 19, 2026, 300 yard bay, 8AM-5PM

July 4 & 5, 2026, 300 yard bay, 8AM-5PM

For bench rest information call Harvey Uttinger (530)941-7306

TUCKER SHOOT LOOKING FOR SHOOTERS

Match starts at 0900.

Any 6 MM to 30 Cal rifle that doesn't have a heavy varmint barrel.

Any rest.

Scope to 6 ½ power.

Distance: 100 yds.

Where: Whittecar on the 300 yd range.

Requires a minimum of 32 shots plus sighters. We shoot at a total of 30 tgts with the last

tgt being a 3 shot group.

Each tgt is worth \$.50 for a total outlay of \$15 if one doesn't win a tgt. If you win a tgt, each

shooter pays you \$.50. There is also a \$10.00 range charge.

If interested or have questions, call Dave Hedditch, 406 360 3283

VARMINT SHOOT

**First and third Tuesday of each month
LOOKING FOR SHOOTERS**

**First Tuesday Varmint shoot is for 22 centerfire
rifles.**

**We shoot 100 yds, five shots plus sighters and 200 yds, five shots plus sighters,
four relays
and a three-shot group tgt at each distance on the last relay. Total shots
required for this
shoot is 46 plus sighters.**

**Any rifle that can be shot from your shoulder qualifies though we shoot from
the bench.**

Any scope.

Any rest.

**Cost is \$16 plus \$1.00 per tgt and each person shoots 8 tgts plus a three shot
group at each
distance. The winner of each tgt is paid \$1 per shooter. ALL money is paid out
except for
\$10 range fee which is included in the \$16. The winner of the aggregate score
at each
distance is paid \$3.00 per person. Total cost is \$26 with \$16 paid out to shooter
winners.**

Third Tuesday varmint shoot is any caliber.

**We shoot at 1, 2, and 300 yds. Each tgt at each range is scored and the winner
at each
range is paid \$1 by each shooter. We have a total of three relays. 15 shots per
relay plus
sighters. The last relay includes a 3 shot group tgt at each distance which
requires 21 shots
total plus sighters. (15 shots plus 6 shots for groups).**

Any caliber rifle.

**Any rifle that can be shot from the shoulder though we will shoot from the
bench.**

Any Scope.

Any rest.

**Cost is \$16 plus \$1.00 per tgt. The max this would cost if one lost every tgt &
groups would
be \$28 which would include the \$10 range fee. All money less the \$10 range fee**

is paid out.

The winner of the aggregate score at each distance is paid \$2.00 per person.

If all this sounds confusing, call or email me.

Call Dave Hedditch, 406 360 3283 or send an email to drh29@bitterroot.com

SCHEUTZEN

For those that are interested in historical offhand rifle competition and are history buffs, join the Bitterroot Schuetzen Society for a period correct Schuetzen match.

Schuetzen is the sport of offhand rifle target shooting using antique or replica single-shot rifles. Competitors typically use Ballard, Sharps, Remington rolling-block, Stevens 44 or Winchester high- or low-wall rifles — or modern-made replicas of these designs equipped with magnified tube or Iron tang sights.

Pat Bowland and Kevin Erickson are hosting monthly matches featuring these great old single shot rifles every 4th Saturday February through August with the Montana State Championship held on the 4th weekend in August. Most matches are shot offhand at 200 yards with some bench-rest thrown in for us old guys. We shoot some 100 and 200 yard .22 shot matches also. There is a Bitterroot Schuetzen Society page on Facebook where match schedules and winners are posted along with some great photos. The Whittecar Range calendar also posts the Schuetzen schedule. For more information, Pat can be reached @ 406-550-0293 or message us on the FB site.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers: President: Jim McCormack, Vice President: Dave Hedditch
Secretary/Treasurer: Tim Thomas

Directors two year: Kathy Love, John Marshall, Jeremy Hayes

Directors one year: Lee Riffel, Paul Henstridge, Harvey Uttinger. Jeff Jeter

????????? Frequently asked questions

How do I schedule an event for my group? Pick up an Event Form in the office or off of the web site. Submit it to the Range no later than the Board meeting immediately prior to your event. We recommend at least one month ahead in the event there is a conflict.

When does the Board hold their meetings? The annual meeting is the second Thursday of January. The annual meeting is for all members. Monthly Board of Director meetings are the second Thursday of each month. The vast majority of meetings are conducted at 7PM in the Range meeting room. Although we encourage members to attend the monthly Board meetings, these meetings are administrative in nature and only elected Board members can make motions or vote on those motions.

How come Range X, Y or Z is closed to the public today? Usually, a range is closed because a match or class is in progress. These events are scheduled in advance and subject to the approval of the Board. As a matter of policy, we will not close ALL rifle ranges or ALL pistol ranges. One rifle range and one pistol

range must remain open to the public during normal business hours. The schedule is posted on our website and on several Range Bulletin Boards. Please call the range at 363-7078 if you have questions.

Is it OK to shoot my new whiz bang firearm on this facility? We do not prohibit the use of any firearms at Whittecar. However, we ask that if you are going to shoot full auto or practice with a 50 caliber that you bring your own backers. Please do not shoot our steel targets with your 50. Shotguns are allowed but you cannot shoot aerial targets. We are not set up for trap, skeet or sporting clays. Rapid fire is restricted to the Franklin, (200 yard) Range.

Can my child shoot at this range? Children under the age of 18 MUST be DIRECTLY supervised by an adult at all times.

When is the range open? We are open to the general public on Wednesdays through Sundays all year except for holidays. We open for business at 8AM but closing time varies depending upon the time of year and the available light. Seasonal hours are posted as seasons change.

Can I volunteer to help with range activities? We maintain a list of people who wish to help us in the range office. Please speak to Doug and he will get your name & phone number and ask about which activities that you are willing to help. We sometimes need people for a work detail, cleanup or to fill in at the office.

What's your web address? www.whittecarrange.com