

2025 NEWSLETTER

THE BOSS' COLUMN

You will notice that we have a new shed that will expand our classroom and scoring room opportunities. This new building was made possible by a generous donation from the Benson family dedicated to Tony (10 shot Tony) Molina. We also submitted a Friends of the NRA grant application to offset some of the costs. There are a few items remaining to be completed but the facility will be up and running by the end of March, 2025. We need to supply the facility with furniture and install our wood stove which provides a backup to our electrical heating system.

The 300 yard range is in dire need of a facelift. We are currently in negotiations with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks for federal Pittman/Robertson funding. This process is going to take a considerable amount of time and effort. We should be receiving a Memorandum of Understanding, an Environmental Assessment and a complete Engineering Review in the near future. Our Vice President, Dave Hedditch has dedicated numerous personal time trying to move this project forward. He deserves our thanks for all of his efforts.
Jim McCormack

Secretary/Treasurer Report 2024 Finances

Total Income: \$ 104,731.35
Total Expenses: \$ 97,169.84

The completed 2024 audit is posted on our bulletin boards 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 9, 2025. Elections were held and there were several 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 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 2025. To date, there are over 93 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 2024, we logged 11,518 individual visitor days. We also scheduled

approximately 112 special event days such as matches and classes. This doesn't take into account the substantial use by our local law enforcement organizations. Our income and expenses for 2024 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 annual shoot is limited by the number of camping spots we can provide at the range. If anyone knows someone close to the range with open pasture that would be willing to host dry campers for a weekend, please contact us and we will see what we can work out.

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 Wild Bunch events based on the movie. For Wild Bunch, we shoot 1911's, a pistol caliber lever action rifle, and older model shotgun.

Our club includes memberships for non-shooting members. We are, after all, a shooting and social club and 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 2025

Women Only - Introduction to Defensive Handguns, a 2 day class, will be offered three times at the Whittecar Range in Hamilton. Class 1 will be March 22 and April 5, 2025. Class 2 will be May 24 and June 7, 2025. Class 3 will be August 23 and September 6 2025.

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 2025

April 6, 2025, 300 yard bay, 8AM-5PM
May 3 & 4, 2025, 300 yard bay, 8AM-5PM
June 1, 2025, 300 yard bay, 8AM-5PM
July 6, 2025, 300 yard bay, 8AM-5PM

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

TUCKER SHOOT LOOKING FOR SHOOTERS

Third Monday of Each Month

Formally Darby One Shot

Match Starts @ 0900

Any 6mm to 30 cal rifle that doesn't have a heavy varmint barrel

Any rest

Scope to 6 ½ power

Distance 100 yards

Where: Whittecar Range 200 yard range

Requires a minimum of 32 shots plus sighters. We shoot at a total of 30 targets with the last target being a three shot group

Each target is worth \$0.50 for a total outlay of \$15.00 if one doesn't win a target. If you win a target, each shooter pays you \$0.50. here is also an \$8.00 range fee.

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

VARMINT SHOOT

First and third Tuesday of each month

LOOKING FOR SHOOTERS

FIRST THURSDAY Varmint shoot is for 22 centerfire rifles

We shoot 100 yards, 5 shots plus sighters and 200 yards, 5 shots plus sighters, four relays and a 3 shot group target 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 \$14 plus \$1.00 per target and each person shoots 8 targets plus a 3 shot group at each distance. The winner of each target is paid \$1.00 per shooter. All money is paid out except for the \$8.00 range fee which is included in the \$14.00. The winner of the aggregate score at each distance is paid \$3.00 per person.

THIRD Tuesday Varmint Shoot is any caliber.

We shoot at 1, 2 and 300 yards. Each target at each range is scored and the winner at each range is paid \$1.00 by each shooter. We have a total of three relays. 15 per relay plus sighters. The last relay includes a 3 shot group target at each distance which requires 21 shots total plus sighters, (15 shots plus 6 shots for group). Any caliber rifle. Any rifle that can be shot from the shoulder though we shoot from the bench. Any scope. Any rest. Cost is \$14.00 plus \$1.00 per target. The max this would cost if one lost every target & group would be \$26.00 which would include the \$8.00 range fee. All money less the \$8.00 range fee is paid out. He winner of the aggregate score at each distance is paid \$2.00 per person. If all this sounds confusing call or e-mail me. Dave Hedditch, 406-360-3283; 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 one year: Kathy Love, John Marshall, Jeff Jeter, Jeremy Hayes

Directors two year: Lee Riffel, Paul Henstridge, Harvey Uttinger

????????? 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