

PSC NOTES

January 12, 2015

Happy New Year and please join with me in welcoming the new one, the last one was a tough string.

As a start I'd like to mention some members that have been critical to the work of the club, in some cases for several years. There are about 75 members responsible for keeping the place upright and five of them deserve our thanks for what they have done for us: EB members Jerry Prouty, Steve Rupp and George Hart are all leaving the board. I'd like to note that George timed out on our term limits of three consecutive terms, so for him and the other two gentlemen, when you see them try to remember to thank them.

Maureen O'Reilly, our former treasurer and Gary Powell our former secretary did not run because we changed those two positions from elected offices to EB members selected by the EB. Maureen keeps thanking me; I don't know what that is all about. But seriously folks, thank 'em when you see 'em. And to try to fill the shoes of the retiring members, Scot Buessow will take on a three year at-large EB seat, Bill Bruce will represent the shotgun area and Larry Scott will represent the Rifle/Pistol area. These gentlemen and their already serving colleagues are the connection of members to the administration of the club. So when the mood to question or approve or heaven help us complain, wakes you in the night, these are the people to see, the next day though.

We have hashed over a lot of the elements of 2014 month by month so I won't do that here but I would like to remind you of some of the bigger elements. I believe and have stated the belief that we have three critical things (the critical few) to focus on to keep our club fully functional. The first: no money no mission. We have to charge appropriately, spend carefully, and keep track. Second, we have to be safe or we will face consequences and would face being shut down. We have to look safe or outside observers will see us as unsafe and we would face being shut down. Third, we have to operate with the realization that we are an activity that is legally regulated about 178 ways from Saturday afternoon and to successfully navigate that maze we have to know the rules, work to change them when they don't make sense, and to follow them when they do and to know the difference. In 2014 we hit all three pretty hard.

The Executive board spent much of its time in the second and third quarters of the year in a major overhaul of our financial processes. The treasurer, Maureen O'Reilly and the newly instituted finance committee were very involved but work from all of the EB was critical to getting the project done. The project was put in place to update many of our procedures that had been in place for a very long time and with increased activity, oversight and interest by government agencies we really needed a streamlining. The visible outcomes of the financial review are that the internal reports to EB members will be in a changed and more user-friendly format and keep us more up to date inter-month. You as members may see some changes as well.

Over time each of our shooting areas has had to solve their own problems as they arose so as you might guess from range to range things are done a little differently. That's great when we are talking about unique safety issues but less than great when finances are handled differently. For instance, in very short order if you shoot shotgun you will see a different sign-in form, one where each shooter signs in and we can track attendance against revenue and also have verification that he or she recognizes the risk of shooting sports. Each of the areas will look very much alike in their financial procedures and we

(the EB) think we will all be better off for it. We will continue to work on improving our processes and speaking to that purpose we have split the jobs of treasurer and book-keeper and have hired an outside professional book-keeper.

Our government involvement has been widely documented, here, in club meetings and in the press and I'll spare you the repeat. The take-away from the effort are that we have a revised county ordinance, one that replaces the old one which has been in place since the middle '90s, and we now have the requirement to apply for a permit. Many of you have probably heard our position that we initially opposed the permitting process but with advice of counsel, accepted that the county had the legal right to do it so our direction was to get an ordinance and a permit process that was doable. We have achieved that but it is going to give us some sore muscles as we stretch to do some things differently than we ever have before.

Many of you have asked about future work around the club regarding re-worked ranges or enhanced sound or safety work. We have thought it best to hold off and not spend any serious money until we knew what our obligations were going to be. We are at that point right now and will be developing range improvement projects in the first quarter.

On the safety issue, this can be a short paragraph which I consider a very positive thing; we have had a couple of events that bear mentioning however. In the last year we have had three guns destroyed because of improper hand loads, two pistols and a rifle, and of course there is the trophy rifle that has been hanging over the sign in sheet on the rifle range for about two years now from a different cause. This is a safety item in the most personal and private sense. Although there were no injuries besides minor burns, sunburn level I am told, this is still potentially serious. We have no plan to baby-sit anyone or do anything foolish about restricting hand-loads but for crying out loud, use your head. Always use a known source and if anything even squeaks wrong get rid of it, and from my personal perspective, ditch the whole lot, it's cheaper than a new pistol and certainly cheaper than an ER visit.

Last item, membership. As of the beginning of last week we have 109 prospective members on our waiting list. The membership cap is 750 and last year we accommodated over a 100 from the waiting list but it was a bit shorter in 2013. We lose members every year because a significant portion of our membership is military and we lose some due to job changes. There are other reasons too, but transfers are major. Neither I nor our membership chairman can make any prediction about the number of openings we expect. I know of two, but that isn't much help.

As always if you have items that you think the club should have on its agenda I look forward to hearing from you. In the meantime stay safe.

Doug O'Connor
President
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