

Southern Minnesota Sportsman's Club Newsletter

For March 2017

COVERED AT THE APRIL, 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The board has approved two sanctioned events during the summer months which will allow for pistol shooting on the west 25/50 yard range. The She-Shooters Glock team will be practicing on this range on Monday nights and the Bullseye League will hold a summer session on Tuesday nights. Normally pistol shooting is not allowed on this range. You must be a member of one of these two groups to participate in these special events.

Some reminders from past newsletters that are still very relevant

SMSC is looking into expanding air rifle use. This last summer we opened our archery range one Saturday morning a month to a group of field target airgun shooters. If you don't know what that is (I didn't) here is an instructive video featuring some of the world's top shooters: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBqOyGwCWwk> We would like to set up more facilities for precision air rifle use. Air rifles offer the opportunity to have a good time with shooting sports but with a low noise level and almost no recoil. It is great for all ages of shooters. If you would like to get involved or have questions, please send us an email at clubmail@smsclub.org.

SMSC can now accept electronic payments. Check the membership page <http://www.smsclub.org/join/> for links to pay for new memberships and the cost of a badge, to renew your annual membership or to purchase a lifetime membership. The Range Manager is also able to accept credit and debit cards as are the team at the safety orientation meetings.

SMSC is looking for volunteers to assist in reviewing and updating the club's bylaws. If you would like to assist in this effort please send an email to clubmail@smsclub.org.

We are continuing to address issues with email messages to club members bouncing (that is, we send the email message but for any number of reasons, it isn't received by the intended recipient). If you received a postcard from us, please respond with your updated information. If you are reading this, it probably isn't a an issue for you so ask your friends if they also got the newsletter. If they aren't, have them send an email to clubmail@smsclub.org.

The May board of directors meeting will be held on May 11, 2017 starting at 7:30 PM at the SMSC clubhouse. We welcome all members to attend, ask questions and provide input. Also any non-members who would like to address the board with any business are invited to attend.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Range Cleanup/Fixup Day is May 6, 2017. Our annual range cleanup/fixup day is Saturday, May 6th from 8 am to about 1 pm.

We have several tasks and areas to clean so please come out and assist us. You know the old saw about many hands...

Since we are pushing the date back from where we normally do this, it could be a bit warmer but it's always a good idea to wear layers so you can peel them off as it gets warmer (to the extent allowed by decency and modesty).

There are many areas that we will be cleaning up and doing work so there are a lot of ways you can help. We will be raking up leaves, twigs and other debris from the property, repairing and making target backers, cleaning up the path and targets on the archery/air rifle range, repairing damage to the pistol range, installing new fence behind the plate range and cleaning and fixing up the indoor range.

If you can, bring equipment, as the club doesn't have enough to go around (that's the hope anyway). Be sure to mark your tools so that there's no confusion about whose they are. A mailing label with a layer of packing tape works great, a wrap or two of colored vinyl tape, or a sharpie all work great to id your stuff.

Depending on the type of work you'd like to do you might bring: work gloves, rakes, scoop shovels, eye protection always a good idea.

Tools to repair backers: 7/16" and 9/16" wrenches or sockets, locking pliers, cordless drill, cordless impact driver or a ratcheting wrench, 1/4" and 3/8" drill bits, ball-peen hammer. A utility knife is useful for cutting the cow mats. A table top drill press. A hand held grinder. Saw horses to make a temporary work surface. A 2 Lb. hammer. Reciprocating saw and metal cutting blades.

Tools for cleanup of the Archery/Air Rifle area: a wheelbarrow for clearing brush, a couple of trowels and torpedo levels to level out the target stands.

Coffee, donuts and water will be available in the clubhouse and pizzas should arrive around Noon for all who work. As is customary, the ranges will be closed on cleanup day except to those who worked, they will be allowed to use the range when cleanup has been completed.

I hope to see you there. If there are any questions, respond to this email or send a note to clubmail@smsclub.org

Fencing repairs are needed on the boundaries of our property. During recent sweeps of the club property it was noted that significant portions of our fence line are down. Some of this appears to have been deliberate with possible theft of wood from our land. What we need is an experienced crew to attack this problem. Professionals are certainly an option but as stewards of our funds it is one of my personal goals to source projects like this from within the club. It is of utmost importance that we pull new wire and secure our perimeter to keep people from wandering into harm's way. If you have experience with barb wire repair and would like to help out please contact: clubmail@smsclub.org.

She Shooters: The She Shooters is for women only. This is an exciting, topic driven class that meets several times a year to explore, discuss and practice just about any aspect of shooting imaginable. (I understand that there is also chocolate and diet soda.) This month She Shooters is meeting at the SMSC clubhouse from 6:00 - 9:00 PM on Thursday, March 30th.

Project Appleseed is holding a weekend event at our club the weekend of April 29. This is a great way to learn American history, and how to shoot like a marksman using open sights (optics are allowed, even required for old folks like me). You can learn more about Project Appleseed at their site: <http://appleseedinfo.org/> and you can register for the April event at SMSC at http://appleseedinfo.org/wp-search-states-location.php?locationid=213&id_event=5314

There are many other events including member shooting at the indoor range listed on the club calendar at <http://www.smsclub.org/calendar>.

NON-CLUB EVENTS

Have an event related to shooting sports or archery that you'd like to have included in an upcoming newsletter? Send an email to clubmail@smsclub.org.

RANGE INFORMATION

Range Hours:

0800-SUNSET MON-SAT

0900-SUNSET SUN

For sunset time each day, go to: <http://sunrise-sunset.org/us/rochester-mn>

Every member is responsible to know, follow, and enforce firearms safety and all posted rules at all times.

To keep everyone safe, members who violate any posted range rule will receive a warning on their first offense. The second offense will result in range access suspension until review with Board for the purpose of reaching a decision regarding when to allow access again.

Do not let anyone through the gate with you, either coming in or going out, other than your immediate family or your ONE personal guest. **Every member must badge in and out.** Your SMSC ID badge should be visibly displayed at all times inside the fenced-in (range) areas.

Eye and ear protection is required at all times for everyone inside the fenced-in area.

You must also badge out of the range! This is to help ensure we know who is using the range. Be sure that you do not allow anyone to “tailgate” when entering OR LEAVING the range. Everyone should badge in and out. Do this for your own protection.

Security cameras have been installed, and are fully operational. These have already helped to make the range safer and have greatly reduced the amount of damage done to the range. Be sure you read the posted rules and follow them!

Before driving out to the range, be sure it is open by checking out the on-line calendar at <http://www.smsclub.org/calendar> to ensure that no special event is scheduled.

Change in membership details: *Membership is for the member ONLY. The member's spouse or partner, sharing the same address, per information on their driver's licenses, and their children or grandchildren under age 18, living at the same address, are allowed on the range with the member for no additional charge. Spouses or partners, with the same address, may have their own badge for range access if they pay the badge fee (\$10), complete the Safety Orientation, and provide a completed Waiver.*

Club WiFi guest password is “clubhouse” (without quotation marks).

You are responsible to keep the club notified of your current email address. The club uses email and the web site (www.smsclub.org) EXCLUSIVELY to communicate with members. If your email address changes, please notify us via email at clubmail@smsclub.org. We use email

to notify members of their renewal date. If you do not have a valid email address on file, you will NOT be notified. This newsletter is also emailed, and it is published on the web site. It contains information you need to know. Without email, you must go to the club's web site to stay current on important club business, rules, etc.

Safety orientation class dates and times are on the calendar at www.smsclub.org. Classes are not necessarily always on the same day each month, nor will classes always be held at the same time. Our next class is Thursday, April 6, 2017.

You may purchase a lifetime membership. The current price is \$1500. The fee was raised in February of 2015, and announced at that time.

Your thoughts and ideas on how the club may be more useful or "user-friendly" to members are appreciated. PLEASE SHARE YOUR IDEAS WITH US at the monthly board meeting or by emailing them to: clubmail@smsclub.org Communications to SMSC or its Board of Directors should also be sent to this address.

Your 2017 board of directors and officers: (Terms expire 12-31 of the stated year.)

Brian Rognholt (2018), President
Mike Woodcock (2018), Treasurer
Anthony Deveau (2017)
Gerad Welch (2018)
Matt Mattingly (2017)
Peter Brooks (2019)

Dean Black (2019), Vice-President
Michael Swenson (2019), Secretary
Dale Meyer (2017)
Hilary Melville (2019)
Mike Toth (2017) - AWAIR Mgr
Scott Groth (2018)