

December 2007 Renton Fish & Game Board Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Robb Wolfe at 7:00 PM on December 6th, 2007.

Board Members in attendance:

Ted Pitt
Robb Wolfe
Georgia Coulter
Brian Howard
Bob Hull
Bob Bracco
Ken Williams
Dave Reed

Not in attendance:

Karen Jennings (excused)

Minutes:

The November Board Minutes were not submitted and will be reviewed at the January meeting.

Committee Reports:

Archery: Ted Pitt

Has purchased new bags and fixed the bag on the long range. Will probably need to replace the long range bag with a bigger one.

C.M.P: Bob Hull

No matches until the fourth weekend of January 2008.

Conservation: Gary Emerson (absent)

Cowboy: Brian Howard

Had 25 shooters brave 38 degree weather and five inches of slush at the last match and turned in \$250 to the club

Firearms Safety: Bob Emerson

The next classes will be in the Spring of 2008

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Grounds: LaMarr Hood

Grounds Chairman Report, Dec. 06, 2007 Meeting 7:00 PM

1. We had some wood chips added to the pistol range in front of the 50 yard burm. Haven't had time to level them out yet.
2. I called Josh and his asphalt company sent out a truck and trailer of crushed concrete and the driver spread it on the road starting part way down the hill from the two hundred range down and around the 100 yard line and up to the 50 yard burm. Cost, we agreed on when they are unable to work they can come out and shoot at the range (like before).
3. We are going to start on the drain out at the 100 yard line. Pipes, backhoe, and rock will be delivered on Monday. and we will be working on that job Monday and Tuesday if needed.

IDPA: Robb Wolfe

Reported that said they had 72 shooters at the November Match. Total turned into the club was \$700

IDPA is requesting the use of the action bays on the 3rd Saturday each month. In August the request is for the use of the action bays on August 13 – 16 and the use of the pistol range on August 15th and 16th. The board approved the request.

Rifle & Pistol: Dave Reed

Reported that said they had 319 adult and 32 junior shooters. Total turned into the club was \$3350.00

Safety:

Glenn had a question about how to deal with senior shooters who may have become unsafe on the range. The guidance he was given by the board was to contact the member's family and speak to them about assisting the shooter while they were on the range. If that does not work out, they may not be able to use the range.

Trap / Bunker / Skeet: Ted Pitt / Bob Bracco

Bunker is closed until April.

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They went through twelve pallets for clays in record time.

At the last Sporting Clays event \$940 was brought in from the event and the food that Georgia prepared and sold.

There is a Continental warm up on Sunday, December 9th – Hot dogs and Chilly will be served.

Sporting Clays event have been scheduled for April, May June and August.

Membership: Jay Burleson

Just under 600 members. The last assigned member number is 2237.

Georgia suggested that we contact inactive members and see why they are not renewing. She will look into what it would take to contact them.

USPSA: Matt Kundrat

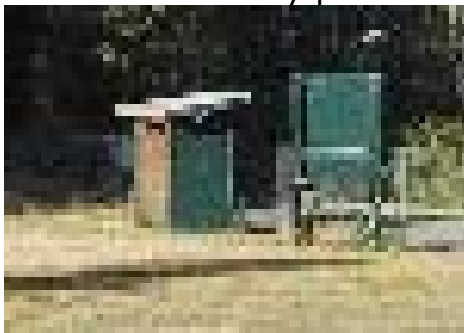
No November match. Next match will be in February.

USPSA is requesting the use of the action bays on the 4th Saturday (for set up) and 4th Sunday each month (February – October) for their matches.

The board approved the request.

Old Business:

Robb Wolfe asked that the club consider providing a place for shooters to unload their weapons at the gate (rather than in their car). Interlake currently provides a structure near their front gate –



Karen will check with the attorney to see if the club would have any liability if we provided an “unload area”. The discussion regarding this request will continue at the next meeting.

Robb Wolfe’s safety concern from the November meeting: At the October match three shooters were hit with shot from the skeet range while they were in Bay one. The hits were hard enough to raise a welt on one of the shooter’s cheek. Ted took the action to install additional belting so that the shot does not pass through.

Baffle Review –

Andy Stoupe provided the following report:

Current Baffles

The current rifle range uses wood baffles and an earthen backstop to control rounds. The wooden baffles are made of a series of closely spaced 3x beams that span between heavy timbers that run parallel to the firing lanes. There are posts located every few firing lanes that support the heavy timbers. The posts are connected to concrete footings with residential style, light gauge post bases.

The structure that supports the wooden baffles is not properly constructed. It is rigid in only one direction, along the length of the firing lane. It does not have any stiffness across the direction perpendicular to the firing lanes. The baffles on the pistol range are leaning perpendicular to the firing lanes.

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In technical terms, a structure should have lateral stiffness in two orthogonal directions in order to remain stable. This stiffness may be accomplished by using cantilevered posts or by providing a frame. Cantilevered posts are embedded in the ground like flagpoles to provide lateral stiffness. Frames are made of members connected to each other with a specific type of connection that develops lateral stiffness or rigidity. All of the current baffles lack either system.

Range Research and Current Design Standards

I did some research on range design and baffle design. I was able to obtain the NAVFAC (US Navy Facilities) Range Design Guide and the US Air Force Range Design Guide. I was also able to obtain a copy of the New South Wales Police Force Range Users Guide. The NRA also has a guide for range design that is available for purchase. I have printed out the three standards that are available on the internet and put them in a binder for you.

These manuals describe three types of ranges. There are open ranges where there is no attempt to stop rounds. This type of range is on a large piece of ground with controlled access. There are semi-closed ranges where there is a limited attempt to stop rounds. Then there is a closed range where provisions have been made to keep all rounds from escaping the site.

All of these resources require a closed range when the range is located in an urban area. A closed range is a range that has overhead baffles to stop or redirect stray rounds back into the firing line. The firing line has a backstop of a sufficient height to stop stray rounds and also has a bullet catcher near the top to stop ricochets from going over the backstop.

The firing lane has soft earth berms to catch shallow angle ricochets from being directed over the backstop. The sides of the range also have earthen berms or angled surfaces to direct stray rounds toward the backstop.

The current standards for baffles are that the baffle should be set on an angle so that rounds are directed downward toward the ground. The military no longer allows vertical baffles.

Baffles must be arranged so that there is no visible sky between the baffles from any possible firing position in the lane, including standing, benchrest and prone. The baffles should overlap each other by at least 8" considering all possible firing positions. Baffles must stop all rounds that are allowed on the range. Baffles should have a sacrificial surface and air space in front of the impenetrable surface to prevent bullet fragments from ricocheting toward the shooting positions. The baffles

must extend a distance behind the shooting positions to catch inadvertent discharges due to weapon mishandling and range rule violations.

Current Range Baffle Problems

A miss-directed round may impact as few as three 3x beams before escaping the baffle system. I examined the outmost wood beam on the baffle system. It had multiple penetrations through it indicating that rounds have left the range. While the baffles reduced the energy of the round, they did not contain it.

The baffle structure on the pistol range is leaning. It lacks a sound lateral system that I described above.

The existing baffle system does not satisfy the need for a closed range. If the current baffle system were rebuilt in kind, it still would not satisfy the requirements for a closed range.

Recommendations

I recommend that the Board establish a multi-year program to upgrade the pistol/rifle range to a closed range.

The city of Renton has surrounded the range since it was first built. We are now completely surrounded by an urban environment. Unless we recognize that fact and take active measures to transform our range into a closed range, we are at risk of being shut down. All it would take is one stray round, an angry and litigious citizen, and a politician.

We will need to address the following items necessary to create a closed range: a new baffle system for each range, a bullet stop at the top of the backstops, shallow earthen berms on the rifle firing lanes, and side berms for both ranges.

I recommend that we complete the following table that lists the relative risk reduction created by building an item and its estimated cost in order to help the Board prioritize and budget for the upcoming work.

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| Improvement | Relative Risk | Reduction Estimated Cost |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Closed baffle system on pistol range | | |
| Closed baffle system on rifle range | | |
| Bullet catcher on pistol backstop | | |
| Bullet catcher on rifle backstop | | |
| Shallow berms on lanes on rifle range | | |
| Side berms on ranges | | |

I did not spend much time reviewing the lumber quote for materials to rebuild the current baffle system. After I reviewed the information about closed ranges, I could not recommend rebuilding the wood baffles in kind.

Karen (in an email) recommended that we look in the NRA Binder that the club bought (and Andy references) before getting any estimates. The binder cost us several hundred dollars, and to her knowledge has never been used. Jay has access to the binder

The board formed a committee to work with Andy and determine the appropriate next steps.

The committee will consist of Ted Pitt, Tom Chandler and Dave Reed. They will report back to the board at the January meeting.

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New Business:

Rick Breneman has asked for the use of the action bays on December 16th for a .22 match. He will collect \$10 per shooter and the match will be open to IDPA and USPSA members.

The board approved the request.

Cel Alveraz has asked for the use of the action bays on January 27th for a .22 match. He will collect \$10 per shooter and the match will be open to IDPA and USPSA members.

The board approved the request.

The Board approved Bob Sluder "Bearbritches" request to park their cowboy trailer at the club and put a for sale sign on it. *But only for 60 days.* Then whatever they get for it, eight, or around nine thousand dollars, they would give 10% back to the club. That would be approx. eight or nine hundred dollars. We would put a lock on the hitch, set the alarm and leave a key with the office. We would also put up a flyer box with pictures in front of the trailer.

Details on the trailer:

We have about twenty five thousand dollars into the trailer with the gun racks, rifle racks, carpet, Chrome wheels, tantrum axle, ramps, alarm system, bathroom, awnings, converters, batteries, custom built cabinets, desk, insulation, heating, air conditioning, DVD, TV, two way radio, electric brakes, flood lights, 12V and 110V, and a whole lot more.

King Count Police contact the range and informed us that some fourth graders from Briarwood Elementary had opened an unlocked window on the action bay stat shack and removed a plastic jar that was partially filled with live rounds. They had taken the jar to school... The officer asked if the club wanted to press charges but the board did not want to. Instead, Bob Emerson will contact the officer and see if we can get the children into a Hunters Education class.

Glenn asked the board for approval to purchase an additional camera system for use on the rifle and pistol ranges. The board approved the request with a limit of \$2000.

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Elections

Board Member candidates:

Scott Johnson

Bob Bracco

Dave Reed

Brian Howard

Results:

Scott Johnson

Dave Reed

Brian Howard

Sergeant At Arms:

Liz Reed

Secretary:

Robb Wolfe

Good of the Order:

Ted Pitt recently competed in the five stand and punched into the Master class – Congratulations!

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:24PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Robb Wolfe