

April 2008 Renton Fish & Game Board Minutes



The meeting was called to order by Robb Wolfe at 7:05 PM on April 3rd, 2008.

Board Members in attendance:

Bob Hull
Brian Howard
Dave Reed
Georgia Coulter
Karen Jennings
Ken Williams
Robb Wolfe
Scott Johnson
Ted Pitt

Not in attendance:

Minutes:

The February and March Board Minutes were approved as submitted.

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Committee Reports:

Archery: Ted Pitt

- The range is looking good.
- New targets are needed and will be purchased later
- The 2008 budget was approved as submitted

ARCHERY

5 BAG TARGETS 80.⁰⁰ EA
400.⁰⁰

MISC HARDWARE FOR HANGING BAGS

75.⁰⁰

REPLACEMENT COVERS (5) 20.⁰⁰ EA 100.⁰⁰
IF NEEDED

Total 575.⁰⁰

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Trap / Bunker / Skeet: Bob Bracco & Ted Pitt

- There is a Sporting Clays event on the 13th.
- International practice is starting and will be every Saturday (excluding West Match) through August.
- The 2008 budget was approved as revised by Ted at the meeting. Below is the original submittal:

Sporting Clays		
Lumber For STANDS	500	<u>100</u>
Remote For RABBIT TRAP	375	<u>50</u>
NEW TRAP MACHINE APORTE	2000	<u>200</u>
Wobble TRAP LINCOLN	2000	<u>100</u>
MISC HARDWARE	200	<u>100</u>
		3075.
TRAP		
TRAP House DOORS & ROOF WORK	750	—
New TRAP Lincoln Wobble	2000	—
MISC REPAIR		750 —
		3500 —
TOTAL	7150	—

\$400 was added to each budget, increasing the \$2000 to \$2400 for the *New Trap Lincoln Wobble*. The approved total was \$7950

C.M.P: Bob Hull

- The March match had 2 shooters and \$14 was turned into the club.
- With the weather improving we expect a better turnout in April.

Conservation: Gary Emerson (absent)

- No report

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Cowboy: Brian Howard

- At the March match they had 40+shooters attend each day and turned in \$835 to the club.
- There will be Black Powder event at the May match. \$1205 has already been turned in for registrations.

Firearms Safety: Casey Clevenger / Bob Emerson (both absent)

- Jay reported that the March class was a success and the May class is full (25).

Grounds: LaMarr Hood

- We had to shore up the baffle system at the long range pistol side. Two posts had rotted off and the baffles were hanging down about 6 inches. We had shooters clipping them. We added two new posts and brought it up to the correct height.
- The Scout Troop who met with us last month came in Wed. night, before they came in to shoot, with 8 workers and worked from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. I had them spread chips on the 50 yard berm in the pistol range. Then, added chips to the short berm and filled in on the flat. By 8:00 pm, they were pretty wet as it started to rain when they arrived.
- I have a safety issue with Bay 7. Someone, we don't know who or when, has been shooting holes in the green fence on top of the berm. The bullets have impacted on the block wall in the pistol range. After we made this discovery last Thursday we got with Glenn and I met with Robb last Saturday, to look over the problem. We have closed down Bay 7, unless a sanction or approved match is scheduled. The wall needs to be reinforced before it can be used. A shooting policy needs to be written up for other organizations, (target locations, shooting positions and such), before they use it. Scott Johnson and Brian Howard agreed to mark the bay as being off-limits.

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IDPA: Robb Wolfe

- Reported that said they had 56 shooters at the March Match. After expenses \$515 was turned into the club.
- 1000 targets were ordered and delivered to the club at a cost of \$808.50
- The Single Stack Match was held on March 30th. 53 shooters participated and \$520 was turned into the club. It snowed quite a bit over Saturday night, so the berms were white. While lots of snow-melt dripped on us from the trees, there was not a drop of precipitation. Of the 53 shooters, about twenty stuck around to help tear-down, and results were available about ten minutes later.
- Don Lofgren (Renton Practical Shooters) brought up some potential safety problems in the action bays; *I have noticed the back walls in two of the bays have grown to look like a hazard and could use someone knowledgeable in these matters to assess and see if they are a safety problem. Excavation walls normally have a slope or some sort of brace. After today's very wet match, I thought I would ask you about it.*
Bay 3 back wall may present the most trouble. It rises about 20 ft at the highest, vertical at most of its face and in some places the top overhangs. There are also some trees that would go with any slide of the wall. If someone knowledgeable finds that it is secure enough, OK. But if not, some immediate action may be appropriate. Bay one back wall has a similar issue and should be checked, but does not rise as high. Also, the large tree on the wall between bay three and the safe area has lost some of its support and should be assessed.

LaMarr and I met with on the 29th and looked at the bays. We don't feel that there is any imminent danger, but his Monday crew will be cleaning up the impact areas in bays 1 - 3. They will be moving some of the dirt and rocks and digging some small trenches to re-route the water.

Rifle & Pistol: Dave Reed

- Reported that said they had 338 adult and 33 junior shooters. Total turned into the club was \$4045

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Safety:

- No items other than the one LaMarr identified in Bay seven.

Membership: Jay Burleson

- There are 595 regular members and 55 senior members.

USPSA: Matt Kundrat

- The most recent monthly USPSA match was held on March 23rd. There were a total of 32 shooters and we turned \$387 into the club afterwards. Setup and takedown went smoothly; the match was well received even though the weather and range conditions were atrocious.
- Our next match is scheduled for Sunday April 27th. Setup for the match will take place on the preceding Saturday, April 26th.

Old Business:

- The Baffle committee (Ted Pitt, Tom Chandler and Dave Reed) is still researching options. Dave visited Evergreen to look at baffles, but they don't use them. Tom has visited Kenmore and Issaquah. The committee is reviewing the NRA Range Manual.
- Robb followed up on the feasibility of the club providing an "unload area" (providing a place for shooters to unload their weapons at the gate, rather than in their car). Karen had checked with the attorney to see if the club would have any liability and the attorney advised her that there could be an increased liability but we could follow up by asking the NRA and other clubs (who provide an area) if they have had any problems or issues. Robb provided the information to our attorney and he recommended that we not create an unload area near the club entrance. Below is his response:

I have reviewed the letters below. You did a nice job getting input. Well done.

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The letters helped me think this through a bit more. I was hoping that someone would say something profound about an unload area. I did not see it.

Below is my initial response. I would be glad to discuss this issue with you. My contact information also follows.

From a pure liability perspective (as opposed to what is practical or convenient for our members), the simplest answer is that guns must be UNLOADED AND CASED before coming to RF&G. Not unloaded in a car or in an unload area. Unloaded already when they arrive.

If the RF&G is willing to shoulder some increased liability risk, it may be helpful for some members to have a CCW unload area. The reason I say "more risk" is that not everyone that brings a CCW onto the range is a USPSA or IDPA trained person. Now, directed by the sign, the person goes to the unload area and has an AD because the person negligently did what RFG told the person to do. Lawyers get a hold of it and a mess ensues. When hands are on guns, AD risk increases.

In USPSA, the last command is "hammer down and holster" after "show clear." Simple enough but amazingly people get disqualified in competitions for going "boom" at that point. Do not ask me how, but I understand it happens. Will the unload area be supervised to prevent ADs and sweeping?

There is a famous Youtube video of a DEA agent who shoots himself in the leg after showing clear to a class of kids. He puts a 40 right into his leg. I bet next time he removes the magazine!

Personally, I would like to see an unload area. However, I only see it increasing risk exposure for the club. It appears a majority of clubs have concluded this too.

If some amount of increased risk is acceptable, then the unload area can be set aside. If the board wants to add this feature, an area which should be considered would be one of the bays on the pistol range so the gun stays pointed in a known safe direction.

I suspect this is not that answer you wanted to hear. By the way, I was caught off guard the first time I unholstered a CCW gun at a

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pistol range bay and was told it was against the rules! But I understand the concern and complied with Glenn's polite correction.

Based on this recommendation we will not pursue creating an unload area.

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- Regarding the potential sale of our current site and a new range development along Maple Valley Highway.
Jay Mezistrano asked the board to read the following letter:

April 2, 2008

Mr. Robb Wolfe and Board Members
Renton Fish & Game Club
17500 SE 144th Street
Renton, WA 98059

Dear Board Members of the Renton Fish & Game Club:

JayMarc Development would like to thank you for inviting us to speak at your March 2008 Board meeting. We would be honored to work with Renton Fish & Game Club, which is one of the most active fish and game clubs in Western Washington. We admire your dedication to firearms and outdoor safety, wildlife management and hunter education along with the work you do for Washington Outdoor Women and AA clay busters. Your 75 year history is a testament to the caliber of organization you run.

PROPOSED PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Due to challenging access for current members and increased residential development around the club site, the Renton Fish & Game Club has started an evaluation process to review prospective locations to relocate the club. We believe there are 3 primary goals and benefits behind moving the club from its current location and we list them below:

1. RELOCATE THE RENTON FISH AND GAME CLUB TO AN EASILY ACCESSIBLE LOCATION:

We have identified a 45 acre piece of property on Maple Valley Highway in Renton. This location will give the Renton Fish & Game Club an easy to find and very marketable address. It would eliminate the hassle and headache for members to navigate the backstreets of Renton's East Plateau, and with an estimated 50,000 cars a day traveling Maple Valley Highway, this location would provide high visibility and easy access to the Gun Club and even would give the organization free advertising.

2. BUILD A STATE OF THE ART FACILITY FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE MEMBERS:

This relocation will give the Renton Fish & Game Club an opportunity to build a state of the art facility for its membership and create a greater user experience for members to carry into the future. By building a new facility, the Renton Fish & Game Club will have an opportunity to update all gun ranges and redesign the facility to one that current and future membership will enjoy using. Along with the state of the art gun ranges, the future club house will

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give the membership a well-equipped place to hold fundraising events, membership meetings and also be a place to get together informally. Maintenance on a brand new facility will be minimal, thus saving money.

1. SECURE A LARGE RESERVE OF MONEY FOR FUTURE GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY:

The land the Renton Fish & Game Club currently owns is near prime for residential development on the Renton East Plateau. The revenue generated by selling this property will allow the Gun Club to purchase a piece of property of a different zoning that will better meet the needs of the membership of the Gun Club. This revenue will provide enough cash to purchase the new property without any need for financing, completely pay for the construction of your new facility and put a substantial amount of money in the bank for the future security and sustainability of the Renton Fish & Gun Club.

In closing, we would like to thank the members and board of the Renton Fish & Game Club again for the opportunity to present our proposal. We look forward to continuing our discussions with you and working together toward a successful relocation to a new site that will ensure the success of the Renton Fish & Game Club and continue its rich investment in its membership, associations and the community. Please let us know how you would like us to proceed.

Best regards,

Jay Mezistrano

Marc Rousso

The Board voted and decided to not pursue selling the property.

- Ted Pitt requested that we provide a club membership, two ten round punch cards and 500 rounds of shotgun shells to our neighbor (Gary) who used his equipment to place the ecology blocks along the North fence. The board voted and approved the request
- Georgia Coulter suggested that the club donate \$500 to help cover expenses for one NJROTC Rifle Team member to attend the JROTC National Championship at Fort Benning, Georgia. The Board approved the motion.

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- At a previous meeting Robb Wolfe asked if the Board had considered increasing the daily rage rate for non-members (currently \$10). Glenn provided the data he gathered regarding what other local ranges are charging. There was a concern that we need to keep the correct balance between members and non-member income to maintain our non-profit status. Karen suggested that an audit committee be formed to review what we charge for all services (range use, ammunition, targets, etc). The board approved Karen's suggestion and the following people volunteered to be on the committee:
Ben Kapwlka
Karen Jennings
Ted Pitt
Georgia Coulter
Ken Williams

New Business:

- Effective April 1, 2008 the **Summer** hours for the club will be:

Wednesday through Sunday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

The **Winter** hours (November 1 – March 31) will be:

Wednesday through Friday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Saturday and Sunday 9:00 AM to 5:00pm

Karen will order new signs to be placed on the club entrance sign.

- There will be an Action Bay clean up gathering on Saturday, July 26th. This will conflict with the USPSA setup. So the setup will have to take place in the afternoon.
- Jackie asked for the mower blades to be sharpened. Ted will follow up with her.
- Karen asked that the next time we plant trees that they be planted along the South property line to block the view of the houses from action bay seven. Georgia does have some cedar trees and will plant them there.

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- Ken Williams won the Continental High Overall Shotgun trophy. This is the fourth year in a row that he has one it. The trophy is being displayed in the clubhouse.
- There was discussion as to whether we are charging enough for ammunition at the shotgun range (we net five cents per box). Georgia and Jay will research what the price should be and bring a recommendation back to the board.

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- Scott Johnson's requested the rental of four of the Action Bays for May 10th, 2008. This is a repeat of last year. They did a breakfast with some instruction & then went to the range for some shooting. The Board approved his request.



April 3, 2008

Renton Fish & Game Club
Board of Directors

This is a request for use of up to four of the Action Bays on Saturday, May 10, 2008. As part of men's ministries at East Renton Community Church we would like to do a 2nd introduction to handguns and the opportunity to shoot in competition. We are not charging a fee for the class, other than to cover the cost of ammunition used. I asked Jay about the "Action Bay range fee", he told me \$25 per Bay or \$100 for all the Bays. We will gladly pay the \$100 fee, & thank the club for it's use last year.

We would have each participant sign the usual waivers and incorporate the IDPA New Shooter Orientation material with emphasis on safety and operation as a Cold Range. I anticipate that most of the actual shooting would be standing and shooting from a stationary position. Last year we did have one IDPA type stage. If I recruit the help, I would like to do two such stages this year.

We might have 40 to 50 men, with the typical variety of no experience to guys like Craig Martin and I who have been shooting IDPA for ~6 years and actively serving as Safety Officers for the last four years. We may have a few minor age young men, who will need to have a parent or guardian who is also participating. We will limit this to "no younger than 12, or high school age and up."

As I see it, this would **not** be an exclusive group, with a Closed Class to any other participants. We welcome other participants.

I do know there are at least four of us who are currently members of RFGC. I would personally hope out of this to recruit several more people into RFGC and IDPA.

Thank you,

Scott R. Johnson
Member #108, Director

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Items to follow up on at a future meeting:

- Membership - 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 later.
- The permit for the storage shed is waiting for the final signatures from the County.
- Ben Kapwlka asked if we were advertising at the local gun stores. Right now we are now. Karen offered to work with Ben to update the flyers and then place flyers in the local stores. Ben also will research placing an advertisement in the Washing Arms Collectors monthly magazine and having an information table at their monthly meeting in Puyallup

Good of the Order:

- None shared.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Robb Wolfe