
NORTH SPORTSMAN'S CLUB

From the President

Hello to Everyone,

It's that time of year again, leaves are turning, cooler weather and the start of hunting season. Things are going well at our club. Our membership has grown to 362 paid members and new members are joining every week. I think this speaks volumes about the quality of our club and members. To that point, there are a few things I'd like to remind all members of.

The rules and regulations of the club are in place to protect the club and it's members, as a member you need to understand that nothing in the rules is intended to make shooting here any less enjoyable or discriminate against any members. Range Safety Officers (RSOs) are the club's representatives on the range and have an obligation to enforce and up hold the rules. Their intent and purpose is to have a safe and efficient range. If a Range Safety Officer is not on the range, it is your obligation, as a member to follow the rules. If there are any rules that you as a member do not agree with or understand, I would be happy to discuss them with you. That being said there are a few things that are not being done by a few members using the club. It may be a case of members not being aware of the rules or they simply have an occasional case of "Brain Fade". The range rules are posted on the rifle range and the trap range and are available on the web site. I would encourage everyone to review the rules. If you are a new member, the rules were provided to you and reviewed at your new member orientation.

Some of the things that have been a problem are the following:

Eye and ear protection are required whenever members are on the ranges. This rule is in place to protect you from hearing loss and possible injury. Eye protection needs to be safety rated glasses, normal sunglasses will not protect you from impact injuries. This rule applies to anyone on the range, not just the shooter.

Shooters are required to police their firing points after shooting and remove shot targets. This rule is basically common sense. Cleaning up after yourself is common courtesy, the next person using the range shouldn't have to pick up someone else's mess !!

Club Officers

President: John Hudson
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Vice President: Gary Rizzo
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Secretary: Kyle Jones
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Treasurer: Gene Pierson
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Sgt At Arms: Walt Ellmaker

Membership: Maureen Knittel
315-668-0350

Board of Directors

Bill Benedict 315-561-3192

Bill Burnell 315-668-9287

Greg Jones 315-530-3024

Chris Nutter 315-416-3984

John Knittel 315-440-3466

Visit us on the web at: <http://www.northsportsmansclub.net>

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Club Mailing Address:
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Membership Renewals:
Maureen Knittel
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All shooters at the rifle range must sign in and out and document the approximate number of round fired. This rule is intended to accomplish a couple of things. First, it gives the club a record of the number of range users and the ability to monitor how much lead is accumulated in the berms. It also assures us that range users are members, and lastly can be used as a reference, should there be a question about something that occurred on the range. The use of the range by non-members is a huge liability issue, not to mention the fact that you pay dues and are entitled to range use and the supplies that maintain the ranges. Why would you want to pay for someone else to use your facility?

All targets must be attached to a backstop as provided, and only paper targets may be used. Failing to attach targets to a backstop or using targets other than paper targets could very likely lead to a ricochet. There has been more than one club that has had to endure the nightmare of an errant shot landing in their neighbor's house or property. The subsequent legal battles have destroyed some of these clubs. The use of silhouette type targets is forbidden at many clubs because of the "public opinion" implications of their use. Our club allows their use, but they must be removed from the backstop after use.

Birdshot and Buckshot are not allowed on the Rifle Ranges. The use of birdshot and buckshot on the rifle range destroys the wooden target frames. A patterning frame is available on the trap range. This rule also applies to pistols that shoot birdshot rounds. Shotgun slugs are allowed on the rifle and pistol ranges.

Centerfire Rifles are not to be shot on the Pistol Range. The berms on the pistol range are intended, by design, to stop pistol velocity ammo. Centerfire ammo rapidly destroys the integrity of these berms.

Alcohol use: No Member may use the Ranges if under the influence of alcohol or drugs. There has been some recent discussion about shooters drinking alcohol during trap shoots. The ATA and club rules prohibit shooters from shooting after consuming alcohol. It has been a past practice to allow shooters to drink after they have finished shooting. Our club does not serve alcohol, but shooters have been allowed to bring their own to the club. The Board of Directors has discussed this issue with Dave Shafer, our trap captain, and has decided that the situation will be monitored by him, and any decisions made by him regarding this practice will be supported by the board.

Club Security The main gate, rifle range house and club house doors all are equipped with locks. The combination to these locks is printed on the back of your membership ID. If you are the last one to leave the facility, please lock the doors and gate. The main gate lock can be a little difficult to lock. To lock it you need to turn the lock to the combination, then close the lock and spin the dials. The main gate should be left unlocked on Fridays (or Thursday nights for Friday to allow the trash pick-up. Any other time, the gates and doors should be locked when the last person leaves.

And now all the good stuff:

As I said earlier, we now have over 300 members and continue to grow, our club has gained a reputation as one of the best in the area and we should be proud of that. The club continues to offer public out-reach programs. We hosted two 4-H youth rifle programs, hunter safety courses, open trap practice, a public sight-in day and star gazing events. All of these were made possible by the volunteer efforts of our members.

Club Calendar

Nov 9 – Meetings 6:30, 7:30 PM

Dec 14– Meetings 6:30, 7:30 PM

Dec 26- Game Dinner / Bragging Rights Shoot

*Note: Board meetings are now scheduled the same day as regular membership meetings – they start 1 hour earlier

We recently had a gun raffle which resulted in over \$ 4,00.00 profit to the club. Special thanks goes out to Greg Jones for running the raffle and to all who helped sell tickets. We had 7 winners, 5 people won firearms, 1 rangefinder and 1 cash prize. We are installing snow cleats on the range roof this season (no more climbing over the snowbank to get to the range.) The clubhouse floor has been painted and it looks great. We are buying walk-off mats for the clubhouse to keep some of the snow, ice and salt off the floor. The new sign out front looks really nice and it allows us to post announcements of up-coming events. Thanks to John Knittel for all of his work on this project. We continue to work on covering the pistol range. The trap team closed out another successful season and is planning the winter league. The October membership meeting began the nomination process for club officers. Nominations are open during the November and December meeting, and voting will take place at the December meeting. The power gate to the rifle range needs to be replaced, because winter is soon upon us, this will be done in the spring. In closing, I want to thank all of our members whose efforts keep this club running and all of you for your membership. We have a great club and a great membership, let's all do our part to keep it that way.