

THE BUFFALO BULLS-EYE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
BUFFALO TARGET SHOOTERS ASSOCIATION,
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RANGE UPDATES

Lots of exciting things going at Homestead, where APRA has made huge progress in development of new range facilities. The new range will add a 100/200 metre centrefire range and new 50 metre pistol bays.

Even better news is the fact that BTSA is taking on stewardship of this range. The range will be a common-use range, open for use by APRA members from all member clubs, but BTSA will administer the range, which gives us the opportunity to organize and manage events and activities focused on the needs of you and other BTSA members.

The ranges are open now, but have no amenities yet. There are no shooting benches, target frames, etc., but they will be put in place as early as possible next spring when the shooting season gets really active.

Meantime, the status of Steve Johnson Range remains in flux. APRA is still in negotiation with the city about the long-term lease at SJR but in the meantime it's business as usual at SJR. The calendar on the APRA website will continue to provide updates as to the days and hours SJR is open. We'll keep you posted on this.

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DUES INCREASES – RENEW EARLY TO SAVE!

To support BTSA activities and improvements at the new range facilities at Homestead, BTSA is increasing its membership dues, by \$25/year, effective January 1, 2012.

Individual membership dues, including APRA membership will increase to \$175. A family membership will increase to \$220. You can avoid this increase by renewing your membership before the end of the year. We must have payment in hand, either via EMT or through the mail, by December 31, 2011.

Also effective January 1, 2011, APRA is implementing a one-time Range Improvement Fee of \$100 **for new members only**. If you're a renewing APRA member you do NOT have to pay this fee. But if you let your membership lapse for a year, and come back, you will be treated as a new member.

2011 SHOOTING EVENTS – A BIG SUCCESS

Children's Shoot, Holster night, Hunter Group, Turkey Shoot and IDPA events all contribute to a busy year for BTSA.

Well, early darkness and cooling temperatures and snow have brought to an end our formal program of shooting events for 2011, but it was a very busy and enjoyable year.

Our 18th Annual shoot to raise funds for the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation generated \$3,673 for the charity, which means we're nearing almost \$40,000 in donations we've made to this group. Thank you to everyone who collected pledges, pledged funds and volunteered to help make the event another success.

Holster night on Mondays at Homestead continued to be a popular event, drawing nearly two dozen shooters some weeks. The Monday events were supplemented by several IPDA shoots at Homestead co-presented with the Alberta Tactical Handgun League (ATHL), which introduced a bunch of new shooters to our club.

The Wednesday evening Hunter Group gave rifle shooters a chance to sight in their hunting rifles and test them out at longer distances on the fullbore range at Homestead. And we rounded out the year with our annual Turkey shoot. The 25 or so shooters who came out had a chance to win a turkey (Co-op gift certificate), and we also had a chance to try out the new 100/200 metre centrefire range, as it was roughed in and bermed by that time.

2012 will be an even busier year for matches, thanks to the new range facilities at Homestead, so you'll have lots of chances, and no excuses not to show up at our events. Details of the 2012 program will be provided by email and, of course, you can always keep current by checking the calendar on the APRA website at www.albertarifle.com.

BTSA AGM – JANUARY 15

A more detailed email will follow, but mark your calendars for our AGM, taking place 10 a.m., Sunday January 15, once again at the Crestmont Community Hall. The APRA AGM will follow.

RANGE UPDATES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Back to Homestead, though.

Effective stewardship of the new ranges by BTSA will require a commitment from ALL of our members. We will need you to help with construction of amenities, including a clubhouse, with maintenance and in volunteering. We'll be putting out calls for volunteers, so watch your email.

As mentioned, the new ranges will be common-use facilities, and are being constructed to support rimfire and centre-fire rifle, up to .338 Lapua, handguns of all calibres, black powder and even shotgun. The configuration of the ranges has been set to allow for safe movement, during specific events, on the ranges, to support "run 'n' gun" IPSC and IDPA-type events. Events will be booked on the calendar, but BTSA will ensure the range is available for casual use to allow you to work up loads, sight in, or practice.

We'll likely have a range orientation day early in the year, once the snow clears from winter. NOTE: To avoid a wasted trip, check the APRA calendar before driving out to see which ranges are closed for scheduled events.

Key Access to Homestead

Access to the new ranges, and other ranges, at Homestead are controlled by electronic key. You will need a key to access the range outside of times set for scheduled shoots. Keys cost \$100, which is a refundable deposit.

If you are interested in a key, please send a request to info@btsa.ca.

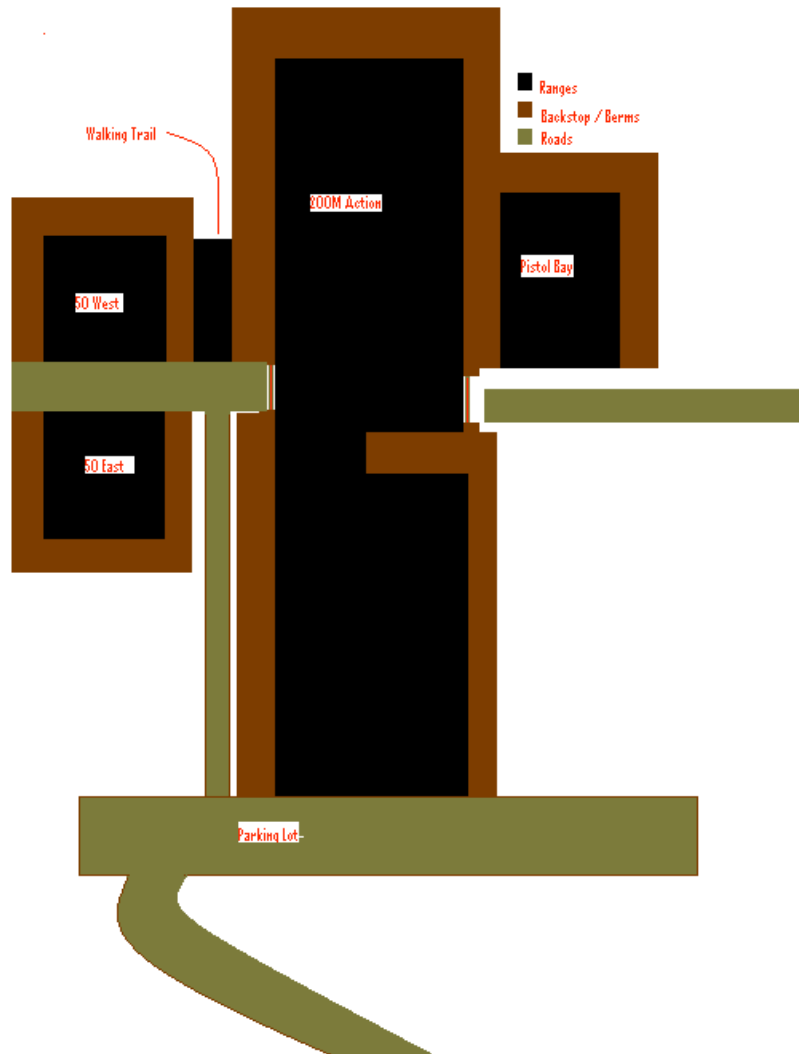
A key to access the range is a privilege, not a right, and BTSA will be screening requests before approving key release. As a club, and on behalf of APRA, we want to support safe and respectful use of the range, and we need to have confidence that our keyholders will live up to the expectations APRA and BTSA have of their members.

The better the executive knows you...if you've been out to BTSA events, or have had a chance to chat to other BTSA members while using SJR...the higher the confidence in your application, and the faster we'll be able to respond to your key request.

RESPECT THE RANGES – REPORT PROBLEMS

Caretaking of the APRA ranges is everyone's responsibility. Clean up after yourself, respect and share the ranges with other shooters, and report any abuses, especially on the public range. If you see inappropriate or unsafe behaviour use the incident form (sample accompanies this newsletter) to note the date, time and other information, preferably with photos and submit it to the BTSA executive at info@btsa.ca and we'll let the APRA know.

MAP OF NEW “BTSA” RANGES AT HOMESTEAD



Access to the new ranges is via a new gate just past the entrance to the fullbore range. That will take you into the parking lot. Additional gates, flags and signage will help ensure that all of the ranges can be used simultaneously safely. A full set of range rules and safety procedures will be provided shortly. In all cases, it is your responsibility to ensure the range is clear and safe to use.

BTSA COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

All BTSA members are advised that in an effort to control expenses and increase the efficiency of communications with members, the Executive of the Association has approved a change to the Association's communication policy. All communications to members will be by e-mail. The only exception will be for members who specifically request communications by mail. If you wish to receive BTSA notices and communications by mail, please ensure that we have an accurate record of your address, including postal code. IF YOU MOVE, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU KEEP US UP TO DATE.