

The Buffalo Bulls-Eye

The official newsletter of the
Buffalo Target Shooters Association
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THE SHOOTING SEASON IS OVER!!!

Although some hearty individuals will make their way to the Homestead Range over the next few months to indulge in their favourite sport, especially when we experience a chinook or two making the driving and the shooting a lot easier, most of us will hunker down until spring meets the Great Divide. Happy Holidays seems so innocuous so Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy Kwanzaa and to those who celebrated Diwali (this past October) the very best of the season to everyone.

BTSA had a very active shooting season this past eight months or so with continuations of our long-standing events, such as Holster Nights to the IPSIC nationals in July. Nick Lui's Young Guns were at the range very often, having loads of fun while we raised over \$1000 for the Alberta Children's Hospital once again. The executive have not yet laid out our calendar for next year but when we do in the next few months, we will once again mount a full schedule of events that almost everyone can take part in. Nor are we ignoring those of you who just like to come out on a nice summer day and plink or sight-in on the 100 and 200 meter ranges.

Although a lot of repairs and improvements were made this year, more are in the offing especially to our clubhouse which will have heating permanently installed and electricity. We plan more asphaltting and other improvements, especially a new rolling front gate that will be much more difficult to break into and a system of surveillance cameras to warn of any use of our facilities by non-members. Rules will be tightened about membership (even temporary membership with guest passes) to ensure that everyone is covered with insurance when they are on the range. We are looking at some way to extend our cell phone reception.

We are already registered with STARS air ambulance service and have a good set of first aid kits on the property but we plan to offer first aid training for members who use the range regularly to try to ensure a basic level of first aid for any possible accidents. We will be reviewing our Range Safety training to ensure that more of our members are able to be initiated into this very important activity and our new membership committee, which has already done a great job in launching a new computerized sign-up system will be looking at ways to make sure that range orientations are available on a regular and sustained basis for new members. At the end of January, when we know how many continuing members have re-signed for the new year, we will open up our

membership list again, aiming to maintain our topped up level for this year at about 600 members.

To do all of this, we have been operating with a Board and an executive that sometimes cannot meet because they do not have a quorum. It is a struggle, quite frankly, to get the volunteer person power we need to carry on all of our activities and our basic range and membership maintenance. To put it bluntly, **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS** from among you to help us run this club more efficiently. To expect six to eight already busy people to do all the work it takes to maintain the range, monitor safety, help with clean-ups and new construction and do all the rest of the required work is to expect too much. We are all shooters and love our sport, but we need more of you to help us out. So at the Annual General Meeting on January 14, please show up and volunteer for one of our several committees so that we can call on you in the upcoming season.

Happy New Year to all of you,

– *David Bercuson, Board Chair*

RANGE AND SAFETY UPDATE – IMPORANT READ

Fellow members – With the busy summer shooting season quickly approaching, it is important for you to know the board is continuing their hard work at making the facility safer.

We have begun a thorough inspection of the entire facility with a focus on how we can make the facility safer for its users. Part of the inspection includes working with the **IPSC nationals board** to ensure we meet the requirements for hosting their July match. The major areas of focus have been:

- **First Aid Kits:** We are gathering prices for new official Alberta #2 and #3 first aid kits along with a stretcher to be kept on site for use during matches. This includes club matches as well as sanctioned matches. We are also working with St. John's Ambulance to see if they can provide personnel for some, or all, of the nationals.
- **AED Testing:** We have an AED on site for use during club matches. It has been tested and is fully functional.
- **Berm Inspection:** Berms have been inspected and the board will be discussing improvements and modifications to existing berms to bring them to the highest standard possible.
- **Rocks:** Members are expected not to shoot at rocks. While not intentional, projectiles striking rocks are a common realization at BTSA. Typically, a ricochet goes unnoticed to those discharging the projectiles, but presents a hazard to themselves and those nearby. Every year the berms get "fluffed" using heavy equipment in common target areas to soften the berm and push away the large rocks however,

many still remain. This year we are planning to include rock removal in problem areas around the range during the range improvement days.

- Fencing: Fence panels were delivered to the range last year and plans are in place to install them between the new 25m range and the BDX 270 range to prevent people from unwittingly walking into the 25m range while it is in use. Please avoid the area south of the 50E range until that time.
- *STARS: We have applied for and been given a STARS number that will be posted at the club.*
- Welcome/Safety Sign: As part of our capital expenditures, provisions for a new sign have been secured. This sign will be attached to the east side of the clubhouse and be visible to visitors as they enter the facility. The purpose of the sign will be to communicate the safety plan, provide emergency contact information, the club's dedicated STARS number with instructions for emergency response, RCMP contact info, etc. We are planning on having the sign designed and installed prior to the nationals.

The safety committee would gladly appreciate help with any of the above initiatives. Please contact Derek at derekbanera@gmail.com if interested.

Derek Banera, Range Safety Chair

YOUNG GUNS – ACTION SHOOTING LEAGUES - GREAT YEAR!

This year I've had the pleasure of directing 2 highly successful BTSA programs: Young Guns, our youth shooting program and Action Shooting League, our program to introduce shooters to the basics of Action Shooting.

Young Guns

- With Young Guns, we have held 6 Young Gun Shoots, 4 on our range with between 30 and 50 youths participating per event. One will be a recurring annual Youth Competition, the "Annual BTSA Stampede Young Guns." While each event is different, shooters can expect a variety of stages that test basic skills Basic Run and Gun, Steel plates, and static bullseye.
- With generous support from our long time supporter, J.R. Cox, we also held 3 Young Guns Action Shooting Clinics at The Shooting Edge. There, small groups of students practiced basic "Run and Gun" in a classroom setting with trainer firearms. J.R. and the Shooting Edge, as always were also extremely supportive of the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation Shoot, donating a full membership as a prize as well as bringing out "Truck Norris" to support the event. A large contingent of Young Gun shooters participated to support that excellent cause.

Action Shooting League

- With our Action Shooting League (ASL), we held 15 events on every Monday between Spring and Fall with 10-30 participants. ASL is member driven, and while most of our members wish to shoot in a multi-gun format, we intentionally design stages such that anyone with as little equipment as a pistol

can participate. We are intentional in running the program to be as inclusive as possible, accommodating beginners and high level competitors.

- I am very pleased to introduce a group of BTSA members I believe will be rising stars in the Alberta (and international) 3-Gun scene: Team “Nameless 3-Gun”, who has been a mainstay and major supporter of many BTSA programs. If you see this highly energetic group of young men on the range, be sure to give them a shout out. Already, they have started to dominate the local 3-Gun circuit and I am excited to see them make a name for themselves Provincially, Nationally, and Internationally.
- There is a near bottomless list of volunteers I wish I could thank for their continued support in running these programs. Hard working, strong, committed members and supporters who are passionate about the shooting sports and about our club - none of the programs I direct could be possible without your efforts. I can’t say enough how thankful I am to all of you and I say with all earnestness, you are the ones who made this all possible.
- One particular member worth highlighting is my good friend Chris Siever, who has managed BTSA Memberships for the past 8 years. Membership is perhaps the most critical component of BTSA’s administration, and the task of processing and managing over 500 applications per year is absolutely staggering. Please be sure to join me in giving Chris a big thanks for his dedication and service to both this portfolio, as well as being a mainstay volunteer to many other BTSA programs.

Thanks to you all, and I hope to see you on the range soon!

For all our new members – RANGE ORIENTATION

The Buffalo Target Shooter’s Association requires that all users complete the Range Orientation & Safety Briefing before they are given full access to the range facility. This requirement is to ensure that every member who uses the range knows the rules and what is expected of them. This helps us continue to keep the range safe for ourselves, other users of the range, and other users on the APRA facility.

The Range Orientation covers basic procedures such as gate etiquette, guest pass usage, and target placement, as well as the basic safety and conduct expectations of all members. Part of the orientation is a walk around the entire facility, where we acquaint everyone with the usages, acceptable calibers and special procedures associated with each portion of our facility.

After the walk around, we head back to the clubhouse where you will write a test designed to challenge you and make you recall important elements of the orientation. The tests are marked at the facility, and you will leave with the access codes. You should allot approximately 2 hours for orientation; It takes approximately 1 hour to complete the information portion, and the balance is the test and marking. Once you

have completed the test and received your codes, you are welcome to use the facility and go shooting!

BTSA on the Web: www.btsa.ca

For queries, email: info@btsa.ca

IMPORTANT – *all communication from the Club is via email to our members and through our website. Please note any changes in mailing address and email contact information must be sent to: info@btsa.ca.*

BTSA IS ON THE APRA WEBSITE – www.albertarifle.com