

NEWSLETTER 2023

We end the 2023 season with sadness as we remember E Board member, past club president and friend, Dave Burgess. Dave passed away suddenly this summer. He was a fixture at the club and an important part of the club operation. Most importantly, he was our friend. Those of you who joined the club over the past few years probably met Dave when you came for your orientation. He was one of the first to volunteer and always made himself available to help new shooters and old shooters alike. At the September business meeting, a plaque honoring him was dedicated. When passing through the clubhouse, take a couple of minutes and check it out. Dave's vacant E Board seat has been filled by Mr. Steve Nord, who will be running for the position in the October election.

As of September, the club census stands at 3862 members. With the club accepting 25 new members per month, new applications are now taking about 12 months to be accepted. Club dues are due by December 31st. Dues payments received after December 31st but before February 1st will be considered in arrears and will be charged a \$50 late fee. Members who have not paid as of February 1st will be removed from the roster and required to reapply as if they were new members. So please try to get your payment in as soon as possible. Not only will you avoid the cost and inconvenience of having to reapply, but your early payments allow the E Board to plan future projects.

We have commenced several upgrades and improvements to the club facilities. The biggest of these is the West range upgrade. This project is well under way after several contractor and permitting delays. The upgrade consists of a new, snail type backstop. This will replace the rubber block backstop which had become difficult and expensive to maintain. As of this letter, most of the construction has been completed, the backstop has arrived and we are waiting for the installation contractor to begin. We are anticipating that the range will reopen in the next couple of months. In the clubhouse, the restrooms have been remodeled and upgraded to comply with the ADA. At the outdoor ranges, we have completed projects to help with drainage and have upgraded our camera and security system. We also continue with day to day maintenance at all of our properties. The E Board is always looking at ways to improve the club facilities to provide the safest and most comfortable shooting experience for our members and there are several projects under consideration for the future.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the Twin County Pistol League bullseye matches will have resumed on Tuesday nights. This year the club fielded a team in the South Shore League through the summer and may continue with those matches on Thursday nights during the winter months, depending on the level of interest. These matches are open to all members and we are always looking for new shooters. If you really want to hone your skills, come down and see what it's all about.

Our Junior Teams continues to compete at a high level under the tutelage of Coach Kevin Winters. Several junior shooters have been awarded shooting scholarships at various collages and for the second time, we have had a shooter accepted to the US Military Academy at West Point. This is a part of the club that the E Board is very proud of and supports as much as possible. With that, we would like to recognize Midway USA. Larry Potterfield, the CEO, has established the Midway Foundation which provides support for the shooting sports. The Foundation has provided several grants to the Junior Team to assist with their expenses. Please keep them in mind when looking to purchase shooting equipment.

Our trap field operates every Sunday morning, weather permitting, starting at 10am. There are also many other types of matches that take place during the year. Keep an eye on our web site for announcements.

E Board member Toni Astore is leading the TRPC Women's Group. They meet the second Thursday of each month at 6pm at the club house. This group provides support and companionship for women who enjoy the shooting sports and exercising their 2nd amendment rights. If you are a woman shooter and have questions about the shooting sports or you just would like to hang out with other women who share your interests, check this out.

On the 2nd amendment front, we have made some progress with several court decisions that have been decided in our favor. However, at the state level, there are storm clouds on the horizon. During the last legislative session, House Bill HD.4420 was introduced. This bill has far reaching implications for all gun owners, to the point that it could make it illegal just to buy replacement parts to fix a gun that you already own. It outlaws whole classes of firearms without grandfathering those already in possession. We cannot emphasize enough how horrible this legislation is for gun ownership. The bill was slow walked into a committee and did not make it out in time to be voted on during the session. IT DID NOT GO AWAY. It is sitting there and can be revived at any time during the next session. There are several things that you can do, SHOULD do, to combat this legislation. Join GOAL and the NRA (You might not be happy with the NRA right now, but with their 5 million members, they are still the 800 pound elephant in the room.). Write your representatives. You might think you are wasting your time but they count hands and you need to be counted. Educate yourself and VOTE! It might seem futile but public support is the cornerstone of their political careers and they are looking for yours. If this bill passes, it will be the most restrictive gun regulations in the country. We cannot sit on the side lines for this one!

The President and the members of the Executive Board would like to thank all of our members for your support and confidence in allowing us to manage your club. We would also like to thank everyone who has volunteered to help over the past year and assure you that we will continue to do our best to give you the best shooting facilities we can. See you on the range!