



the Sportsman Newsletter

Official publication of the Wildlife Committee of Washington
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President's Message

Volunteers

Thanks to all those that volunteered to help out this month.

Events

The NFL Alumni Charity shotgun event went very well. Those participating had a lot of fun at a well run match and the charities for children received quite a bit of money. Thanks to the members and the employees who made the event a success. Photos of the event are posted on our web site.

The Archery Big Game 3-D Shoot is coming up quickly (July 13/14) and they can use some more volunteers to help out with the event. You don't have to be an archer to help out with this important club event.

The local chapter of the Ducks Unlimited will be having their annual dinner, auction, and shotgun shoot hosted by our club on Friday, July 18th. Should have some information posted at the shotshack in the near future. This is a fun event and the proceeds go to protect quacker habitat. Mark it on your calendar.

Reminders

The Club holds a good many matches. Check the calendar every month to see which areas will be closed to general use so you won't be disappointed after trekking out to shoot.

Improvements

We are making some minor improvements at the shotshack which should spruce up the place a bit. Some new doors and a remodeled kitchen area. The mess should not last too long and will be nice when finished.

Repaired the berm separating Range #1 and shotgun and did some hydro-seeding to stabilize the work. This too should look good in a few weeks. At the same time we also made some improvements to the shotgun

parking lot which allows a little more parking and more maneuver room.

Mining

The periodic mining of lead at the shotgun range has begun. and will continue for several weeks Please be considerate of the equipment and the effort so that this may be accomplished as quickly as possible. Removing the lead is part of our good stewardship efforts to lessen the impact of our activities on the land under our control.

Range Office

The Range Office has more inventory than you may realize. And it orders and stocks most of those items that our shooters need.

One of the new group of items we are carrying is for the new .17 calibers which are becoming popular. We now stock cleaning rods, patches, and ammo to keep the folks with this new gear supplied.

Additionally we have a bunch of VHS videos which you won't find in your normal video store. A deposit is required, but the rent is cheap. There are titles covering all manner of shooting, care and cleaning of firearms, hunting, self-protection, firearm disassemble, archery subjects, trap shooting, hand-loading, care and cleaning of game, etc. Check out this readily available resource of knowledge.

Work Party

The Range Committee takes advantage of the archery 3-D event range closures to perform maintenance work on the rifle and pistol ranges, like re-painting the red ceasefire markers. A good weekend to come on out and help out.....help the archers.....help the Range Committee.....let's see your smiling face.

Carl Brattain

ITS YOUR CLUB, GET INVOLVED!



Legislatively Speaking

by Joe Waldron

People ask me occasionally why the gun lobby isn't more supportive of various gun control proposals. The fact that most gun control laws fail either the logic test or the cost-benefit test doesn't appear to satisfy the questioner.

It all boils down to an issue of intellectual honesty. Proponents of most gun control laws claim that all they want is this one little law, this one infringement, just to make America safer. In fact, "gun safety" is the new cover term for gun control. The next time someone asks you to support this or that "gun safety" proposal from Washington Ceasefire, or Handgun Control Inc (now the Brady Campaign or Brady Center), ask them how many certified gun safety instructors they have in their respective organizations. The answer is a big, fat, zero, because it isn't about safety, it's about control.

Two recent examples will illustrate why there is no incentive for gun owners to talk about "reasonable" gun control laws.

In early June, a Kirkland boy was caught with his mom's .357 Magnum revolver at school. The boy had threatened several people with the gun, and he was charged with several felonies. Then his mother was charged with reckless endangerment (RCW 9A.36.050) for failing to adequately secure her revolver.

A major portion of the news reporting on the incident was devoted to calls for some form of gun storage, or "child access prevention" law. Similar laws have been proposed in Olympia for the past six years, and all have failed to pass. Why? Simple. It's already against the law to do ANYTHING that creates a substantial risk of death or serious injury to another person. That law has been used in the past, and will continue to be used

when warranted, to prosecute people who do dumb things, or who fail to do the right thing under the circumstances.

The only reason certain people want a "child access prevention" law in Washington is to pass another gun control law, another law that demonizes guns and gun owners.

One other point here: if the law they wanted had been passed, it couldn't be used here anyway. It only applies to LOADED guns left where a child can access them. In the Kirkland case, the revolver was unloaded – the boy took the ammunition separately and loaded it himself.

Nine years ago, Congress passed a "ban" (actually a prohibition on the future manufacture) on so-called assault weapons. In order to get enough votes to pass that bill, gun control advocates in Congress had to provide a list of "good" guns that would not be subject to such a ban. That list, more than 400 gun models in all, is written right into the 1994 law.

Two months ago, Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) introduced H.R. 2038, a new assault weapon ban bill that adds millions of now-legal firearms to the prohibited list, including M1 carbines, Ruger Mini-14s and -30s, and dozens of other legal guns. It has a section that specifically prohibits any semiautomatic firearm originally designed for military use, even if it is suitable for competitive marksmanship events. Hear that, you high power rifle shooters?

H.R. 2038 also requires that all "grandfathered" (legally-owned) "assault weapons" may only be transferred through a licensed dealer – no more private sales. And it would also prohibit providing such a firearm to any juvenile. There goes your junior high power rifle program.

The point here is, again, intellectual honesty. The same people who told you nine years ago that they would never come after your "good guns"

now want these guns banned.

The next time someone asks why we don't support this or that "reasonable" gun control law... now you know why. The gun grabbers will never stop until the private possession of ALL firearms is prohibited.



Shotgun hours of operation are:

Normal hours

Mon 5-9pm Members Only

Tues 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Wed Noon to 5:00 pm

Thur 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Sat 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sun 10:00 am to 5:00 pm