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Official Monthly Newsletter of the NRS

By the NRS

for the NRS

From the Section Coordinator

As we go into the last half of our NRS season and I begin to reflect back upon all the different aspects of our shooting sport within the NRS, all the questions I have fielded and all the issues which have arisen. Yet the basics are still the same for all our clubs.

Without our volunteer participation, we are nothing. It is each and every one of us working together to create these shooting experiences and from forming clubs to holding matches that make us what we are.

But that is also our most difficult problems still today. A lot goes into forming a club and making all this happen. There are many opinions and suggestions on how and what to do. But please REMEMBER that the most important thing is to participate!!

Get together for your meetings, discuss ideas, express your concerns, volunteer to help out, show up for match setup, stay for tear down, help in the fixing props or cleaning up the range. This is an all volunteer sport and cannot be supported without your help.

We are comprised of many different people, with many different individual schedules. But there are numerous opportunities to help make this sport successful and your clubs active. As I have come from a beginner shooter, and slowly worked my way up to your Elected Volunteer SC, become classified in all USPSA divisions including provisional, competed in the smallest matches from Boone Iowa to the Area championships, it is clear the only reason we can exist is to participate.

We need your help and participation. The more help we get the better it is for everyone, the better our clubs become and the better our matches are. No matter what you are able to do, please consider helping out at some level of your sport. Because it is your sport; and it relies on your participation to succeed. Just like stage analysis, the amount of time we actually press the trigger is very short compared to how we got there. These chores need your help so we can all press that trigger just a little bit more.

We need your participation!!

Gene R. Pipinich
 NRS SC/06

Calendar

Bozeman

August 5, 2006
 Northern Rockies Section Championship
 September 2, 2006--Special Classifier

Billings

Aug. 19th Club match - plus long gun side stage

Bigfork

Matches are always scheduled on the 4th Saturday of each month
 March thru October
 Aug 26 Sep 23 Oct 28

Present format for all matches is 5 stages, 100 to 120 rounds total, with one stage being a classifier submitted to USPSA

Missoula

August 13~~Special Classifier with 4 classifiers and 1 club stage
 September 10 - Club match w/ 1 classifier and 4 club stages

Club

Rep

Advisory

GAS - Bozeman

The Northern Rockies Section Championship is right around the corner. We are all getting very excited for a fun and challenging match. Please remember if you can pre-register it will help us to anticipate how many competitors we are going to have at the match, this will help us plan accordingly. Also please remember to dress accordingly for the match, it could get very hot and we want to ensure everyone has a fun and safe match. Bring Sun screen.

In September is our second special classifier for the year. The stages will be posted shortly. Hope you can come out and join us for our matches and practices.

Please also keep in mind that all of the clubs need your help on Setup, match day and tear down. It makes it more enjoyable for everyone, especially for the match coordinators when there is help in these areas.

Practice still continues on every Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (or when we are done). Please come out and enjoy the practice and camaraderie. Nick D. Pipinich

BFGC- Bigfork

No new news. BFGC is conducting matches and gathering membership and volunteers to put Big Fork back in the shooting circuit full bore.

DVC

Bill Zerwekh

MCAS - Billings

Wow! The shooting season is OVER half gone, hard to believe, only 3 matches left for this year. We just completed the Big Sky State Games, with 32 competitors, and we all survived a 102 degree day! We moved quickly, and finished early, and avoided most of it, a big thank you to all who helped us tear it down in that heat.

We will have a side rifle stage after our August match.

Also, we are changing our September match to be a Special Classifier. Under the new rules - we can have up to 6 classifiers! So, keep an eye on our website for more details on that match!

Shoot well, and bring a friend with you!

BSPSC - Missoula

Our next match on August 13th will be 6 classifiers.....so if you want to get classified in another Division.....this is your chance.

We are cancelling the 3 gun match scheduled for Aug 27th for a variety of reasons..one of the biggest reasons is that we get very little help in the set-up on Saturdays and all of the planning involved.....and those few that do the work are getting tired of catering to those that just want to come and shoot & scoot. So...how can you help your club in the future???

Paul

Tech Notes

At this time I am actively seeking volunteers to submit articles or groups of articles for our Tech Notes section of the newsletter.

If you would like to submit a paragraph or two about issues you have discovered, things we all need to remember, rules that catch us by surprise or practice tips to make us better shooters, we need your help.

Please contact myself or Nate with your articles. We would like to hear from you the membership on issues that have meaning for you related to this area of our newsletter.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Member Feedback

With all the new people joining our clubs, remember to stop and take time to introduce yourself and make these new folks feel welcome. They are the future members of your clubs and your crews at your matches. Listen to what they have to say about our sport.

Share the sport with them and then submit an article on how it went. We need to hear what they have to say.

Practical Shooting can be a great experience to share with a friend or family member. Tell us how it went and what the experience was like. Tell us your story and share the experience!

We all got started in this game somehow—tell us your story!

It has been a busy month of shooting and travel. I was able to attend the Wyoming state match in Cheyenne and the Montana Stockgun championship in Libby. Both matches had strong and weak points but I enjoyed the squads I shot with and was able to collect some valuable information.

The range that hosted the Cheyenne Shootout does not have an IPSC club but was well suited to a large match. There were ten stages and chrono. The props and stage designs were exciting and included a Cheyenne City squad car (Ara Maljian the match organizer is a Cheyenne City police officer), pineapple and flash bang grenades, sandbag and camouflage net covered fox holes, a full size stage coach, a corral full of plywood cattle and a shooting house. There were many technically difficult shooting issues and several decisions to be made on how to shoot the stages. There were plenty of top shooters there to make those decisions with 24 GM's or M's.

This match paid back \$7,000.00 to the shooters. Prize money was awarded to all divisions and classes. There were also several nice prizes given away by drawing. The match billed its self as a "no bubble gun" event and there was much discussion about non tactical, star wars type stages that don't provide realistic shooting scenarios. The shooting forums were red hot with a lot of opinion on both sides, much of it heated, and I think Ara might wish he had never brought it up. Ron Avery wrote the "no bubble gun" article in Front Sight and attended and shot the match. He gave a shooting class the day before and kindly donated all the fees he earned to the prize fund. Thanks Ron!

If you were middle aged and carrying a little too much weight to move quickly you better collect a lot of A's. There were several low, and I mean low, ports that were not the last shooting position so you had to be ready to get up and get moving. I had my first exposure to exclusion boxes where you could not shoot. The idea was to keep you away from windows where you would be exposed to return fire (theoretically). There was a twenty pound ammo can that you got to carry, run if you could, and shoot at the same time, and of course there was a stage with really tough shooting positions requiring strong and weak shooting with partials and no shoots.

There were a few issues with the match and I feel they stemmed from not enough help and maybe a little lack of experience in putting on a big match. The squads had traveling RO's and we could have lost a stage or two if anyone had complained loudly enough. Traveling RO's can work and are fine at a local match but the bigger matches seem to function best with a dedicated RO. Some of the props were not staked or marked and there was some question about props being moved between squads. There were a few places that had shooting boxes and targets you could see but not engage until you moved into a different shooting area. A problem easily solved with a no-shoot target or two. Something you see even area matches on occasion are moving targets to no purpose. Targets that you activate and are not forced to take during their most active movement. The match was fun and everyone worked to keep the match working smoothly.

I squaded with two of the six or seven shooters from Montana with the others coming from Billings Area 1 director Bruce Gary was on the squad as well as Dave Thomas and Floyd Shoemaker. I ask them what they preferred as far as wall construction and was surprised that they offered no real opinion other than liking snow fence for the safety it offers in clearing a stage. Most of the stages used plywood construction, but many of the buildings were permanent and used by the cowboy shooters.

I traveled to Libby for the stock gun championship with a couple of Missoula shooters and enjoyed the match. Unfortunately there was no computer and they decided to score the match "time plus". This entails time plus .5 seconds for B's and C's, plus 1 second for D's and five seconds for misses or penalties. Apparently this is an ongoing problem and it may be affecting their turn out as there were just a few more than 20 shooters. The match was over 200 rounds and they had the usual number of high round count, big field courses that they are known for and they were very enjoyable. There were, however, some courses that would not stand up to the green book but everyone shot it as described in the stage briefing.

I am looking forward to the Section championship in August and encourage everyone who can, to attend the match. Hope to see you there.

Nate NRS/DSC