

WALLA WALLA GUN CLUB



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STEADY... BY JERKS

You have no doubt heard the saying, steady by jerks.

Not that people are jerks, you understand, only that progress is often made by the ratcheting process, ahead a couple, back one, ahead a couple more, back another one, and so it goes.



Bob Bloch
Editor

That kind of sums up how businesses are coping with getting their rears in gear while still dealing with the pandemic.

We are no exception, certainly. While we are back to a full schedule of shooting, and moving ahead with our other projects, we're still stuck in neutral when it comes to our pistol range.

We are just going to have to wait until we can find more grant funding. It'll take a while, and meanwhile, we just need to all be patient and tend to our other projects.

Speaking of which, one of the things that has bugged me and others for years is the lack of adequate signage for our business.

We have a wooden sign that is in desperate need of repair and repainting, but on its best day that sign is hard to see as you drive by at 50 or 60 mph.

Don't know if you've noticed, but there actually is a much better sign on a tall pole about 30 feet south of the main gate. This sign was once electrified and lit up—you could see it at all hours really well as you drove on past us.

But for some reason, it was abandoned, the electrification was removed, and now it just sits there.

Club member **Billy Stahlheber** has sworn to remedy the situation, or at least, to look into it for us. It would be so nice to get the lights back on so that we actually look like we're in business.

You know, most gun clubs and shooting ranges look like what they are from the road. That is, they look like somebody's there shooting. But our clubhouse and shooting shed are so far away from the road that there are people who have driven past us for years and still couldn't tell you where Walla Walla Gun Club is.

If Billy can get our sign back up and running, we at least will look like we're a going concern. It'll help us with our fund raising too, down the road a bit when we can get that back up.

We've been using skeet field #2 these days as we wait for parts for the high house trap machine on field #1.

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YOUTH SHOOTERS SHINE

- FIRST SHOOT OF YEAR FOR KIDS •
- PISTOL RANGE IN HOLDING PATTERN •
- CAMAS PRAIRIE SET FOR AUGUST 28-30 •

Itching to get back in the swing and bang of things, Walla Walla Gun Club's Youth Trap & Skeet Team swung into action recently at LaGrande Gun Club.

Below is featured a very recent picture of our great Youth Shooting



Walla Walla Gun Club Youth Trap & Skeet Team
(l-r) Zane Carver; Lash Corbett, Landon Davis, Jett Corbett, Rosetta Renwick, Colby Ray, and Klay Carver.

Team. It's worth noting that earlier pictures of this team would show only how much many of them have added height, size and—in one instance—charm during the long winter's layoff.

Event 1 was the preliminary singles, 100 targets. **Jett Corbett** didn't place in the money, but his **91** was noteworthy because the singles championship for the weekend would be figured on contestants' combined scores for both Events 1&4.

Event 2 Saturday was the Preliminary Handicap. There was \$500 added money in this event, and we note that both **Lash Corbett (97)** and **Zane Carver (94)** walked away with some added money. No word at this writing what their proceeds will be used to procure.

Team members really got their sea legs and hit their stride by the time the afternoon rolled around. Event 3 was the Championship Doubles, and when the smoke cleared and the scores tabulated, none other than **Zane Carver** found himself in the winner's circle as Champion with a

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WALLA WALLA GUN CLUB is located at 1212 Middle Waitsburg Road. Phone 509-529-7288.

Hours: 9:00 am-2:00 pm Sundays, 6:30-9:00 pm Thursdays. Other days & times by arrangement.

Website: <http://wallawallagunclub.com>

Email: info@wallawallagunclub.com

Most shooters don't realize that our skeet field #2 is actually the original skeet field that we have had here for many years.

It's always been my favorite field. I don't know why exactly. Maybe it's because it's further away from the trap fields and is thus less distracted by the noise downrange.

Or maybe, it's just a lot of memories of what used to be.

I wonder if many people will remember old members **Virgil Van Buren, Bill and Pat Jungmann, or Virgil's dad Amiel Van Buren?** All these guys were in on creating our skeet field, including making the high and low houses, doing the wiring, bending the pipe to make the bases for the houses, and making it possible for us to shoot skeet. Other people were also involved, but time has not been friendly to my memory.

But even that wasn't the first skeet field we had at WWGC. There was once a skeet field located about where trap 4 is now. But that field wasn't up near the grass. It was right about where the new tree line is. In fact, if you look closely, you can sometimes find the old paint on the tarmac.

We didn't have electric traps for that field. They were the old "hand crank" kind. In order to shoot, you needed somebody in each house to cock the trap each time and put a target on the arm.

When you wanted a high house target, you yelled "Pull!" When you wanted a low house bird, you yelled "Mark!" And when you wanted a pair, you had to yell out "Birds!" or else the trappers were totally confused and there was no telling what you might get.

As a student, I can remember bringing friends out to shoot skeet during the week. The skeet houses were seldom locked, but if they were, you could always crawl in the open windows.

It cost 50¢ to shoot a round back then. We just practiced the honor system to pay up when we came out the following Sunday. I don't imagine that would work as well today.

That said, there has been talk amongst the troops of putting in an automated pay system on a trap or two. They have those things these days. They're token coin operated. You just put your money in, spin the dial, and call for targets.

Maybe that would be something to think about adding to our layout so that we could once again come out during the week and pop a cap or two. Any volunteers to run it?

Cousin **Larry Brown** has been working overtime this spring on getting the 5-Stand course up and going.

He tried out a new internet-based control system for firing the traps, with—I guess you'd say—"mixed reviews."

Today, I hear Larry and **Billy Stahlheber** are out there replacing the wireless system with real, honest to goodness copper wiring. As you may know, East End R&GC down in MF has used a wired system for their 5-Stand course. It works all the time, every time.

Larry has added one of our old Beomat traps to the mix of traps in the layout. We now have nine traps, all throwing a slightly different angle or a wholly different kind of target altogether.

As you probably know, Larry sets up the 5-Stand each Wednesday night at 5:00 pm. He's waiting to punch your card!

Thanks for indulging my ramblings.

great **90. Rosetta Renwick** took Lady honors with her **71**, and **Lash Corbett** hauled off the Junior trophy with a fine **86**. All our shooters earned some serious respect from the old guys.

Event 4 was the second half of the Championship Singles starting things off Sunday morning. Twelve year old **Jett Corbett** had a field day. He earned his 50-straight, 75-straight, and yes, his 100-straight badges as he creamed the competition with a 191x200 overall score, good enough to take D-Class Winner and give his whole family something wild to cheer about.



Jett Corbett showing off his silver winnings after taking both Singles and Handicap trophies at LaGrande GC.

That said, the smoke had barely cleared from the singles championship before Jett loaded up his vest and headed to the line for the last-of-the-day Championship Handicap.

Jett must've eaten Wheaties for breakfast, because when the event was over he found himself on the winners stand again, this time as Champion with a splendid 99. Yep, he beat all the old guys, took names, got "attaboys" from everybody he knows, and in his own shy way had a ton of good things to crow about.

Have a look at the smiling lad in the picture just to the left here.

Interesting to note is that team mates **Colby Ray** and **Lash Corbett** won some Event 5 cash from the added money purse.

All told, this youth team was on fire in LaGrande. At this writing, their schedule for the balance of the summer is a bit nebulous. One thing is certain, Camas Prairie shooters better buckle down and get serious, because these kids of ours are coming for them.

On another subject, despite what the politicians in Olympia would have us believe, the pandemic is over around here and it's high time we got back to "regular order."

As of this writing, the normal schedule at WWGC is being observed. Tuesday morning skeet at 9:30, Wednesday afternoon 5-stand at 5:00 pm, Thursday night shooting at 6:00 pm, and Sunday shooting at 9:00 am.

We also have two more Fourth Sunday shoots scheduled, both of which (June and July) will feature **50-target 5-stand money shoots**.

Some members have asked if we have applied for any of the government handouts we hear about on TV. All the "bailouts" you hear of on the news are not grants of cash or gifts, they are loans. That is, we would have had to pay them back. And guess what? They are designed to pay salaries of employees. So we can't qualify anyway.

Just as well have the government keep its money and we keep our dignity. We're using our own devices, as old **Gene Autrey** used to sing, to get ourselves "back in the saddle again."

But we have some issues that the board will have to deal with. For one, our pistol range project is in a deep hold as we try to figure out how to approach donors who are hurting just as much as we are.

If you've read *Newsletter* recently, you already know that we need to raise about \$100,000 in donations of cash and like-kind labor and materials. All of our prospective donors have been out of work about as long as we have. If they got a government loan to pay employees, they'll have to pay that loan back before they think about donating to WWGC or anybody else.

The State of Washington is aware of this difficulty, and is taking a "wait and see" attitude about our FARR range grant already received.

Thus, we will wait to see what their guidelines are before we decide how to proceed. My guess is that they will extend the deadline for using grant funds by another year to give us time to get things reorganized.

See ya on the line soon, and often.

Sponsor's Corner

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Now Is The Time For All Good Men & Women To Come To The Aid Of Their Gun Club - 2020 DUES PAYABLE TODAY!

WOW! 2020 Dues are payable beginning September 1, 2019. Below please find an application form for Club membership or renewal. Please fill it out, and send it along with a check for \$75 to **Walla Walla Gun Club, Box 133, Walla Walla, WA 99362**. You should also send an additional \$30 to renew your NRA membership, or go to the Club's website at <http://wallawallagunclub.com> and click on the NRA link.

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