

WALLA WALLA GUN CLUB



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Bob Bloch
Editor

PISTOL RANGE WILL CHANGE THINGS

I know you've heard it before many times--the new pistol range is just around the corner!

But it is coming, and it will be ready sooner than you may imagine.

Right now, **Overhead Door Co.** is hanging the tracks and rigging the electronics for the automatic target retrieval system.

Once that is finished, **Mike Gibson of MGM Targets in Calwell, ID** will build and install the range benches and bullet-proof dividers.

While Mike is working on the benches, we will do a little remediation of the slight imperfections in the walls which allow small gaps between the bullet trap and the concrete blocks.

At that point, we will be able to shoot!

There will still be a couple of things to do once the weather gets better. We want to paint the inside of the range tunnels a nice white color in order to better reflect the light and make it brighter in the tunnels.

We will also do a better sealing job on the roof at the front of the tunnels, as right now puddles are seen on the floor right in front of the range tunnel doorways.

Down the road, a heating system will need to be added overhead of the shooters so that wintertime isn't quite so frigid as it will be for the next couple of months.

Also, we need to discover if the air flow system we envision will be adequate. Only way to know that for sure is for some shooting to take place and see how the air moves. As I understand it, the fans are already here, waiting to be set in place on the roofs of the range tunnels.

If all goes according to plan, we should be able to send rounds downrange by March 1. And yes, I do mean 2024.

Our annual training sessions for our Camas Prairie trap and scoring helpers will begin February 11, and will continue each Sunday until the Camas.

Each year, **SFC Mark Mebes** of Walla Walla High School's JROTC program sends a load of willing and able cadets to do the job of scoring and filling traps for our Camas Prairie Handicap.

See *Bob*, page 2

ANNUAL MEETING 2024

- BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION •
- PISTOL RANGE UPDATE •
- PAT-TRAP UPGRADES •
- SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 @ NOON WWGC •

Notice: The **Annual Meeting of Walla Walla Gun Club** is scheduled for **Sunday, February 11 at 12:00 noon** at Walla Walla Gun Club. All club members are asked to please come to this meeting, even if you are not shooting on that day. Club members with paid 2024 dues may vote,



Klay Carver looks on as Mark Jungmann directs the crew in erecting the steel baffles for the new pistol range. Jack Miller constructed the baffles, using new half-inch thick steel plate just purchased, and "steel from an old rod weeder I took apart years ago."

and you may pay your dues prior to the meeting if you are not yet up to date.

As you can imagine, we have a lot to discuss. With the pistol range about to open in a few months, we need your input into hours of operation, range fees, who will run the business end of it, and a lot of other considerations.

One important item that you need to be there for is the election of new board members. The present board members are listed on page 4 of this issue of *Newsletter*.

See *Meeting*, page 2

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

Hours: 9:00 am Sunday, Skeet 9:00 am Tuesday & Saturday, 5-Stand 5:00 pm Wednesday, Fun Shoots 6:30-9:00 pm Thursday. Saturday by Special Request For Groups.

Website: <http://wallawallagunclub.com>

Email: info@wallawallagunclub.com

Mark tells me that he has quite a list of willing and enthusiastic young people ready to take on the responsibility of scoring and filling traps at what has become the largest registered shoot held anywhere in the Pacific Northwest.

We typically run training sessions on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00 am, during which time a few trainees each Sunday come out to learn the ropes of scoring singles, handicap and doubles.

Please know that sometimes your squad may be slow shooting, or interruptions in shooting may be necessary while shooters are at the line, thus to explain a rule or correct an issue.

WWGC members have always been more than patient with these high schoolers and those of us teaching them. We really appreciate it.

I heard a rumor a month or so ago that club member **Larry Brown** is planning to utilize part of the new pistol range in a diabolical attempt to further frustrate those shooters who frequent the 5-stand range.

It seems that Larry has figured out that he can put a trap machine or two on top of the pistol range roof, thus providing more overhead targets to shoot at.

This should be interesting.

We have been asked by the Washington State Trapshooting Association (WSTA) to figure out how to keep the electricity from shutting down on the older section of RV slots down by the front gate.

We don't usually have a problem during the milder weather, but by mid-May when the State Shoot rolls around it's starting to get hot in the afternoons, and once shooting is over RVers retreat en masse to their RVs for a cold one and to hash over the day's shooting.

That older part of the RV lot has always been a problem when all the air conditioners kick on at once.

Turns out that a solution is at hand. Now that we have the new pistol range up and going, we have a brand new 400 amp electric service there. We can use part of it to drive some of the RV electric service, which will lighten the load on the existing line.

When the weather straightens out, it should be an easy thing to trench over to the RV line from the new electric service box on the side of the pistol range. Once that's done, club member **Billy Stahlheber** from **Doyle Electric** will lay a new line in the ditch, connect up half the RVs in that area, and presto! Problem solved. At least, that's the plan.

Don't forget, the **Camas Prairie Handicap** starts Thursday, **March 21** and runs through Sunday the 25th. Each year, we depend on volunteers from the club to help keep score.

These volunteers save the club oodles of bucks by their capable volunteering. Please, if you can possibly spare a day or even half a day during the shoot, your help is mightily appreciated.

See ya soon!



Our by-laws were amended a few years ago to get our club in sync with the Washington State Gambling Commission, which requires 15 board members in order to hold a gambling license. As you can see, we are short a couple.

We are also without a vice-president. You may recall that **President Richard Backlund** was elevated from vice-president to his present job after the sad and untimely passing of **President Cody Miller**.

According to our by-laws, club officers (president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer) are elected by the board directly after the Annual Meeting. When Cody passed, the board felt it better to leave the office of vice-president open until the Annual Meeting.

Another thing we should discuss is the terms of our directors. In our by-laws, it states that directors are elected for three year terms, with 1/3 of the directors up for re-election each year.

Unfortunately, our club's history shows that this directive hasn't been followed recently. Here's why.

If you are a long-time member of WWGC, you will recall that the club's officers and directors in the late 1990s and early 2000s allowed the club to dwindle in membership to such a low number of paying participants that there were not even enough paid members to fill the board, which at that time had a meager eight positions.

In 2007, the club was quite near to folding. We were over \$15,000 in debt to the Port and to two of our target providers. Registered shoots hadn't been held at the club for several years. At that point, the acting president threw up his hands and resigned, and it looked for all the world as though the club would fold.

Fortunately, club members **Mark Jungmann**, **Bob Bloch** and **Doug Carr** fought to keep the club going, and within two years our membership was up over 50. We began holding registered shoots again, and we put the club on a repayment plan to our creditors.

As membership increased, Annual Meetings began to be held once more. One thing immediately necessary was a formal vote to suspend the terms of directors so that a functional number of directors was always on hand. As board members left a replacement was found, and if they were happy where they were, they could continue to serve without standing for re-election.

Now that the club is doing well and the pistol range is about to open, we should decide if we want to go back to the original three-year terms, or if some other arrangement would be preferable. Then the board would hold a meeting at its discretion to decide which of its members would go off the board or stand for re-election in 2025, and what the rotation would be. Note that there has never been any prohibition on how many terms a board member may consecutively serve.

In other news, next week we will send one of our old 'SW' model Pat-Trap trap machines back to the factory to be upgraded to the new electronic-controlled 'G' model. This will cost about \$5,000.00, half the cost of a new one, leaving only one or two more SWs left of the original seven needing to be upgraded.

Sponsor's Corner

CLICK EACH AD TO GO TO SPONSOR'S WEBSITE!



Debbie

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Now Is The Time For All Good Men & Women To Come To The Aid Of Their Gun Club - 2024 DUES PAYABLE TODAY!

WOW! 2024 Dues are payable beginning September 1, 2023. 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.

YOUR NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

NRA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER: _____ (required)

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ FAX NUMBER: _____

BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2023

Richard Backlund, *President*
vacant, *Vice-Pres.*
Bob Bloch, *Sec.-Treasurer*
Mark Brown
Bob Shanks

Terry Schaeffer
Jack Miller
Mark Jungmann
Kris Carver
Josh Miller

Doug McKay
Jay Hanger
Larry Brown
Peter Laizure

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