

# Billings Trap Club News Letter

March 2007

The **Annual Meeting** will be next Monday, March 12 at 7 p.m. at the Billings Trap Club.

The tentative agenda for the annual membership meeting is:

1. Call to order.
2. Annual Treasurer's report.
3. Election of open Director positions.
4. Old business.
5. New business.
6. Adjourn.

In other news:

The Board wants to throw the very best targets in Montana in a safe and friendly environment. Safety is always our primary concern, not only for our shooters but also for our club employees and bystanders as well. As a gentle reminder, the Board recognizes and believes that safe gun handling is the responsibility of every individual shooter. All persons must obey all laws and club policies at all times while on the club premises. Any person violating the law or any of the club's rules and regulations is subject to immediate disciplinary action, including temporary or permanent expulsion from an event or from the club, as well as any appropriate civil or criminal liability that may arise as a result of the person's conduct. We continue our zero-tolerance policy forbidding unsafe gun handling.

Each individual shooter shall be solely responsible and legally liable for any and all damages arising from his or her own conduct, including damages for the serious bodily injury or death of others. The Board cannot guarantee that all shooters will behave in a reasonably safe manner at all times. As such, shooters who participate in club events assume the inherent risks of shooting, including the risks of suffering serious bodily injury or death or property damage as a result of the acts or omissions of others.

Please guide yourself accordingly. Do not hesitate to complain of unsafe gun handling to the person engaged in such conduct, and report any incident of unsafe gun handling immediately to the Range Safety Officer or to the Board. As always, the Board welcomes your suggestions on promoting a safe and friendly shooting environment.

Every state and national shooting organization recognizes that guns and alcohol do not mix. In Montana, all of the larger gun clubs have policies forbidding persons from consuming alcohol (or any other intoxicating substance or drugs) on the same day prior to shooting at the club. In addition, both the ATA and MSTA have similar rules pertaining to events sanctioned by those associations. The Board has adopted a policy consistent with our sister clubs throughout Montana and the nation. Persons shall not consume alcohol or other intoxicating substances or drugs on the same day prior to shooting at our club.

## **This policy extends to all shooting events without exception:**

Persons who have consumed alcohol or intoxicating substances or drugs on the same day prior to an event shall be deemed disqualified and ineligible to shoot in the event. Shooters violating this policy shall be subject to immediate disciplinary action by the Range Safety Officer and the Board. Scores accumulated in violation of this policy shall be subject to nullification by the Range Safety Officer and the Board.

We hope that you will join the Board in supporting this policy and encouraging others to understand it and to follow it.

On a different note, the Board received complaints and threatened legal action in relation to claims that it was engaged in the illegal sale of alcoholic beverages without a license. After careful consideration, the Board determined that it was not prudent to pursue certain practices of the past. In addition, the Board could not find a licensed vendor to sell alcoholic beverages without also having to agree that the Board would ban all other sources of alcoholic beverages on the premises. The reasons for this requirement stemmed from vendor's legal liability for accidents or damages occurring on or off the premises as a result of alcohol consumption outside of the vendor's control. The Board is not willing to ban personal beverages from the premises at this time, because it has received no complaints or other information that this has ever been a problem. As noted above, all persons shall obey all laws at all times while on club property, and shall be solely responsible for the injuries, death or property damages arising from their own acts or omissions on or off the premises. If you are aware of any problems or have any complaints about the consumption of personal beverages, please do not hesitate to report those to the offending club member and to the Ranger Safety Officer and the Board.

**If you still own any of the green refreshment tokens, you may redeem them at the cashier's counter for \$1.25 through May 1, 2007.**

The club will have new neighbors some time in the future. The best information the Board has to date is that there will be a mix of some residential units along Pemberton with some commercial development around the old K-Mart building. The Board has heard rumors that the club is selling or has sold its land and facilities to relocate away from this development. Those rumors are false. The Board established a committee to study various alternatives in response to the new development. Based upon the best information available to date, and after careful consideration of all of the factors and circumstances considered by the committee, the Board recently adopted the committee's recommendation that the club remain in its present location for at least five years.

At the present time, we believe at least 48 teams will participate in the 2007 League, which commences on April 1, 2007. The Board recently decided to cap the number of possible teams shooting in the 2007 League at 52 to avoid splitting the league and shooting on multiple nights. Please get your teams signed up and sponsorship fees paid ASAP.

**We are planning to have the trap club open every Wednesday starting March 14, at 5:00 p.m. Plan on coming out to practice and get your teams signed up early.**

Captains remember that you are the safety officer on the line. Make sure all guns are pointed down the field and open at all times if not being used. **Safety** is very important! The last thing we want is to have an accident or to hurt someone. So, let's make sure we are all Safe out there. With all the new and old members we should all make sure to be polite and help everyone out and teach them the rules and safety of this game.

The Darryl Graff ATA shoot was February 17. We had a successful shoot and would like to encourage new shooters to come check out what ATA shoots are all about. You will enjoy the competition. The next registered shoot is a handicap 300-bird marathon April 7<sup>th</sup> in Huntley. The Joe Henley is April 21-22 in Billings.

Remember, the club is open for practice and you may sign up for League every Saturday at 12 noon. Hope to see you there April 1st!! Let's have a good **SAFE** year. If you have any questions feel free to call Paul Even at 406-672-9807 or any of the other Board Members.

Thanks!

The Billings Trap Club Board of Directors