

## **2020 NEWSLETTER**

### **THE BOSS' COLUMN**

In 2019, we logged 12,532 individual visitor days. This doesn't take into account the substantial use by our local law enforcement organizations. As you can see, we are very busy. Consequently, upgrades, repairs and maintenance are substantial and require a greater portion of our operating budget. These expenses are exacerbated when people deliberately target the vertical and horizontal posts that support our target backers. If you observe anyone doing this, please notify the Caretaker immediately. In response to the excess amount of damage, we will be restricting all rapid fire to the Franklin, (200 yard) Range. Our income and expenses for 2019 are posted on the office bulletin board.

Last year we completed the construction of the Rimfire Range and on December 14, 2019, we dedicated this range to Joyce Brownlee. Please check out the dedication plaque on the east wall of this range. It identifies the major donors and those who contributed grant funding. The names of those who donated a shooting bench are identified by a small plaque on each bench. They are; Jim & Rae Dennis, Paul Henstridge, Jim McCormack, Mike Wesche, Bob Wards Sporting Goods, Ken Stephens, Bill & Sally Neustrom, (Trading Post) and Tammany Jetter. Without these donations, this range would not have been completed. Please support these businesses and thank the individuals when you see them. In addition to the funding, many people donated their time, labor and materials that were so important in completing this project. I would like to both personally and publicly thank the following for their efforts:

All American Trophy Dan Ashmore Pete Berube Jim Dudman  
Donaldson Bros. Ready Mix Marv Eder Kevin Erickson Greg Greeley  
Dave Hedditch Paul Henstridge Kevin Hopper Jeff Jetter John Marshall Mike  
McGouldrick John Nichols Robert Pagenkopf Rick Royer  
Triad Building Components Mike Wesche

Let's hope that 2020 will be a safe and productive year.  
Jim McCormack

### **RIMFIRE RANGE RULES**

1. This range is only for rimfires and air guns. There will be absolutely no centerfires allowed.

2. You must be a member in order to utilize this facility.
3. You must participate in an orientation prior to any range use. After your walkthrough, your membership card will be punched.
4. Upon each use, you must check in at the office and present your membership card and leave your driver's license in order to obtain a key.
5. The door will be locked at all times except for entering and exiting the facility.
6. The shooting protocol will be posted on the wall.

### **FEEDBACK FROM OUR ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting was conducted on January 9, 2020. Elections were held and there were several changes to the Board of Directors. Jim Dennis was elected to a two-year term. We requested that the County relieve us of our lease agreement article that requires that one of the Board members be a full time Officer. This requirement is no longer necessary since Ravalli County Sheriff's Office no longer utilizes our facility. Rick Royer will assume the one-year Board seat as soon as we are formally relieved of this requirement. That will bring us back to the 10 Board members required by our By-Laws. Their names are posted in the office.

The results of our annual financial audit were presented at the meeting. A copy of the final report is posted in the office for review by the membership. We requested reimbursement of financial expenditures under our Fish, Wildlife & Parks current grant.

We approved all previously submitted special events for 2020. Please check the schedule located on the web site or check the office calendar for days when events will occur. We also place our special events notices on our bulletin boards. People can still request a date for special events by submitting a special event form 30 days prior to their event.

JIM McCORMACK

### **Secretary/Treasurer's report January 2020**

2019 was a busy year at Whittecar. We hosted over 110 events which included shoots, matches and classes. We continue to see growth in many shooting disciplines. The Rimfire Range opened in January after a two-year construction process. We had 12,532 check-ins which is 766 down from last year but was about the same as 2017. Day use shooters grew significantly while memberships shrank slightly. That change is probably a result of the price increase. Doug Brownlee continues to do a wonderful job as caretaker keeping the range maintained and clean. Our safety video is up and running. It's intended to increase safe gun

handling. Please be patient with Tammany and Doug as they check you in to shoot. Every shooter has to watch the video once and it's only 2 min 30 sec long.

Dan Ashmore

## **SAFETY**

It is now a requirement for everyone who enters our facility to view a 2 minute 30 second safety video prior to issuing either a new membership or allowing day use. This means everyone, no exceptions. Our Caretaker will make this video available upon checking in at the office. Please cooperate with Doug as he attempts to clear our backlog of current members and get our records updated.

You will notice that we now have safety rules posted on the open bays and the Rimfire Range as well as the covered rifle & pistol bays. Please review and follow them.

We are also considering installing video cameras. Discussions are currently ongoing concerning this issue.

As range members, you have a responsibility to identify range safety violations and to bring these violations to the immediate attention of range personnel. Whether or not you personally confront someone for a rule infraction is a personal choice. Just remember that sometimes people make honest mistakes & yelling at them doesn't accomplish anything except making them angry. It is however, very important that you notify us with the information that we need to follow up. All too often we don't find out about a safety issue until it is too late to take action.

You will notice that Board members will be wearing their Range Safety Officer hat while present on the range. Their instructions must be complied with immediately. There is no room for error here! We intend to really increase people's awareness of safety violations. Serious violations or repeated violations **WILL RESULT IN EXPULSION!**

Jim McCormack

## Women & Guns

Women Only - Introduction to Defensive Handguns, a 2-day class, will be offered twice at the Whittecar Range in Hamilton. Class 1 will be April 18 and May 2, 2020. Class 2 will be August 29 and September 12, 2020.

The first day is designed to assist you in choosing the right handgun for you. There will be discussions on handgun safety, basic operation of revolvers, semi-automatic handguns, and the cartridges used in each type of handgun.

*Handguns will be provided so that you may handle the different types and models. Ammunition will also be provided for a live fire session on the range. A self-defense book (specifically for women), will also be provided.*

*We will also address, in a general manner, the legal aspects of the use of deadly force.*

There will be a lapse of two to three weeks in order to allow the student to purchase a firearm and become familiar with its operation for the conclusion of training on the second day. Students must provide their own ammunition for day two.

The second day will consist of live fire training. The emphasis will be on safe gun handling. All exercises will consist of basic defensive shooting drills and training techniques. We will discuss the different types of ammunition available and their uses.

We will conclude the discussion on the legal aspects of the use of deadly force.

Upon successful completion of the second day, this training will suffice as the required safety class for application to the state for a concealed carry permit.

*The class is limited to 10 participants.*

*For an application or further information call Lee at 642-3590 or Jim at 360-8392 or write Box 159, Victor Mt 59875.*

## Whittecar Benchrest 2020

We will be holding 4 matches again this year:

April 5, 2020 annual Easter Egg Shoot

May 2, 2020 100 & 200 yd. Varmint for score Mt. State short range

May 3, 2020 200 & 100 yd. Hunter Class Mt. State short range

June 6, 2020 200 & 300 yd. Varmint for score Mt. State long range

June 7, 2020 200 & 300 yd. Hunter Class Mt. State long range

July 5, 2020 100 & 200 yd.

We will be shooting NBRSA rules for Hunter Class & Varmint for Score. Classes will separate but will be fired at the same time. The course of fire will be 1 warm up and then 5 record targets with approximately 1/2 hour between relays at each yardage. The targets are the red 6 bull targets that can be purchased at the Range Office. The backer system worked very well last year so that we will use the new style 6-bull 300-yard targets again this year. Harvey Uttinger set a possible world record here in 2019 only to lose an X when reviewed by the record committee and only tie his old record. Still, that was great shooting here at Whittecar.

The public is always invited to come and shoot or watch these matches!

In April, our annual Easter Egg shoot is a robin's egg malted milk Easter Egg on a nail 300 yards away with no sighters, wind flags, or mirage boards. Every shot counts, and fewest number of shots wins. The winner usually takes 1 or 2 shots.

Bench rest is one of the best ways to learn how to shoot this range and will answer your questions why "This rifle shot great last time, but won't hit anything today." Whittecar is a very difficult range to shoot on, with constant wind, mirage, and light changes. Each **WILL** cause the bullet to hit a different place. Another thing that **WILL** cause a change in bullet impact point is how the rifle is held. These are things that many shooters think little about but are an important part of bench rest shooting. The guys are always interested in helping new shooters get started and learn precision shooting. Just ask them.

For those who would like to do some competitive shooting without many formal rules, Dave Heddich will be shooting a form of varmint for score match again this year. They shoot a 5-shot match at 1, 2, & 300 yards on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month for 22cal. and below, and any caliber on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. Dave can be reached at 406-360-3283 for information. Also, the Darby "one shot" group is still shooting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday and is open to anyone that wishes to shoot with a light barreled hunting rifle. Larry Tucker, 660-1381, is running these shoots.

For bench rest information call Jeff Jetter, 777-5326 on weekends or after 9 pm, or Mike Wesche at 406-360-8870

## **SCHEUTZEN**

For those new to the area or not familiar with Schuetzen rifles, Pat Bowland is running matches for these great old guns. Matches are on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday, March through July with the Montana State shoot the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in August. Most matches are offhand at 200 yards with some bench rest for us old guys and some 100 yard .22 offhand too. Pat can be reached @ 363-2983.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Officers:** President: Jim McCormack, Vice President: Jeff Jetter,  
Secretary/Treasurer: Dan Ashmore

**Directors for one year:** Mike Wesche, Dave Heddich & Paul Henstridge and Rick Royer

**Directors for two years:** Jim Dennis, John Marshall, Tim Thomas

## **????????? Frequently asked questions**

**How do I schedule an event for my group?** Pick up an Event Form in the office and submit it to the Range no later than the Board meeting immediately prior to

your event. We recommend at least one month ahead in the event there is a conflict.

**When does the Board hold their meetings?** The annual meeting is the second Thursday of January. The annual meeting is for all members. Monthly Board of Director meetings are the second Thursday of each month. The vast majority of meetings are conducted at 7PM in the Range meeting room. Although we encourage members to attend the monthly Board meetings, these meetings are administrative in nature and only elected Board members can make motions or vote on those motions.

**How come Range X, Y or Z is closed to the public today?** Usually a range is closed because a match or class is in progress. These events are scheduled in advance and subject to the approval of the Board. As a matter of policy, we will not close ALL rifle ranges or ALL pistol ranges. One rifle range and one pistol range must remain open to the public during normal business hours. The schedule is posted on our website and on several Range Bulletin Boards. Please call the range at 363-7078 if you have questions.

**Is it ok to shoot my new whiz bang firearm on this facility?** We do not prohibit the use of any firearms at Whittecar. However, we ask that if you are going to shoot full auto or practice with a 50 caliber that you bring your own backers. Please do not shoot our steel targets with your 50. Shotguns are allowed but you cannot shoot aerial targets. We are not set up for trap, skeet or sporting clays. Rapid fire is restricted to the Franklin, (200 yard) Range.

**Can my child shoot at this range?** Children under the age of 18 MUST be DIRECTLY supervised by an adult at all times.

**When is the range open?** We are open to the general public on Wednesdays through Sundays all year except for holidays. We open for business at 8AM but closing time varies depending upon the time of year and the available light. Seasonal hours are posted as seasons change.

**Can I volunteer to help with range activities?** We maintain a list of people who wish to help us in the range office. Please speak to either Tammany or Doug and they will get your name & phone number and ask about which activities that you are willing to help. We sometimes need people for a work detail, cleanup or to fill in at the office.

**What's your web address?** [www.whittecarrange.com](http://www.whittecarrange.com)