**2021 NEWSLETTER**

**THE BOSS’ COLUMN**

In 2020, we logged 13,036 individual visitor days. We also scheduled 150 special events such as matches and classes. This doesn’t take into account the substantial use by our local law enforcement organizations. Our income and expenses for 2020 are posted on the office bulletin board.

Our new checkin system is finally up and running with a bar code that will make it easier and quicker to get through the office procedure.

Finally, covid claimed the life of one of our most avid supporters. The loss of our friend Bill Neustrom, the owner of the Trading Post, saddened many of us. Our hearts go out to Sally and Bill's family. He will surely be missed.

Let’s hope that 2021 will be a safe and productive year.

 Jim McCormack

Secretary/Treasurer Report

The Range was a busy place in 2020. Total check-ins were 13,036 which is 500 more than last year and just bshort of our record 13,298 in 2018. Doug put lots of effort into replacing the backer frames on pistol bays 1 & 2 with grader blade frames.

In the office, you will see our new check-in system with bar codes on your membership card. This will speed up check-in and automatically track usage. Thanks to Lee Riffle, Doug Brownlee and Len Peixoto for making the system function.

I have been on the Board since 1993 and acted as Secretary/Treasurer for all but five years since then. It is time for someone else to shuffle the papers.

Dan Ashmore

**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. The names of all Board Members 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 approved all previously submitted special events for 2021. To date, there are 162 scheduled special event days for this year. 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

**SAFETY**

It is now a requirement for everyone who enters our facility to view a three minute 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.

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.

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 sometines 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 followup. 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 three times at the Whittecar Range in Hamilton. Class 1 will be March 27 and April 10, 2021. Class 2 will be May 22 and June 5, 2021. Class 3 will be August 28 and September 11, 2021.

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 firearm and 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 Bench-rest 2021**

We will be holding 4 matches again this year:

April 4, 2021 annual Easter Egg Shoot

May 1, 2021 100 & 200 Yd. Varmint for score Mt. State short range

May 2, 2021 200 & 100 Yd. Hunter Class Mt. State short range

June 5, 2021 200 & 300 Yd Varmint for score Mt. State long range

June 6. 2021 200 & 300 Yd.Hunter Class Mt. State long range

July 3, 2021 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 good last year so that we will use the new style 6 bull 300 yard targets again this year.

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, and no mirage boards. Every shot counts and fewest number of shots wins, the winner is usually 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, There are almost always wind, mirage, and light changes to deal with. 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 1st Thursday of the month.for 22cal. and below and any cal on the 3rd Thursday each month.Dave can be reached at 406-360-3283 for information. Also the Darby "one shot" group is still shooting on the 3rd 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 Weekends or after 9 Pm. Or Mike Wesche 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 rifles. Matches are on the 4th Saturday March through July with the Montana State shoot the 4th weekend in August. Most matches are offhand at 200 yards with some bensh 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: Rick Royer

**Directors for two years:** Guy Sesa, Dave Heddich & Paul Henstridge

**Directors for one year**: Jim Dennis, John Marshall, Tim Thomas & Kevin

 Hopper

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

**How do I schedule an event for my group?** Pick up an Event Form in the office or off of the web site. 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 Doug and he 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/)