



# Eau Claire Rod & Gun Club **NEWSLETTER**



**JUNE 2018**

*"Wisconsin's Oldest and Finest Gun Club"*

## **RIFLE/PISTOL RANGE**

The Rifle/Pistol Range is still closed.

We received a few e-mails from members who read our last newsletter and are interested in volunteering to be a Range Safety Officer (RSO). We received a couple e-mails with great ideas on how to improve the range from active users. We also received some e-mails from members complaining about the range being closed and wanting to know when it will re-open. We thank all of you who shared your thoughts. There have also been about 10 membership cards refunded due to range closure.

Since the range has been closed we have had two board meetings and the Board of Directors have discussed ideas for the future of our range operation. However, other than a few e-mails, we have had no other input with our members. Simply put, no other members have attended our board meetings.

The Board of Directors takes direction from our members and we are asking for your valuable input. In addition to input, we are looking for additional members to volunteer as RSOs and we are looking for members who want to volunteer to be on the Rifle/Pistol Range Committee.

Our current plan utilizes volunteers to open the range. However, until we get additional volunteers, the re-open date is yet to be determined.

Board meetings are on the second Monday of every month starting at 6:30PM - the next board meeting is Monday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see you there.

## **July 4<sup>th</sup> Week**

With the 4<sup>th</sup> of July being on a Wednesday this year, there will be no trap league shooting that week. We will be open for shoot aheads, open shooting, and skeet shooting on Tuesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 5:30PM. We are closed on Wednesday July 4<sup>th</sup> in observance of Independence Day.

## **WRONG GUN**

On Tuesday May 8<sup>th</sup> someone took the incorrect Browning Citori from the shelter behind trap #7. Please check your serial number and if it ends in "...PR143" please contact the Club IMMEDIATELY!!!

## **TRAFFIC UPDATE**

Construction has started on CTH Q and we are seeing lots of traffic. Please exercise caution!!!

## **REMINDER: CLUB ANNIVERSARY AND TURKEY SHOOT (aka Corn Day)**

Just a reminder Corn Day is Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>.

## TRAP LEAGUES

We are currently finishing up the first-half (weeks 1-8) of the trap season; hard to believe right? Both Tuesday and Wednesday night have several leagues going down to the last week to determine the first-half winner. If there is a tie at the end of Week 8, the next time the teams shoot against each other will determine the winner of the first half. Good luck to all shooters!

The first-half winner in each league qualifies for the shoot-offs to determine league champion (1<sup>st</sup> half and 2<sup>nd</sup> half winners shooting) and overall club champion (Tuesday league champion shooting against the Wednesday league champion). Reminder: *SHOOT-OFF DAY IS SATURDAY August 25<sup>th</sup>*.

## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Every year in March we invite our volunteers to have dinner on us to thank them for all their hard work, their support, and their dedication to the Eau Claire Rod and Gun Club. At the end of the evening, we acknowledge our volunteer of the year. The Volunteer of the Year Award is earned by a volunteer who goes above and beyond to support the club. The award is voted on by previous winners and board members. For 2017, two volunteers earned the award:

- **Heather Mulder** – most of you know who Heather is. You've seen her working the front desk and most likely have talked with her or have seen her smiling face. In addition to her front desk duties she has helped out with the bar, managed club rentals, and supervised trap help. She is a great asset to the club and we thank her for her service!
- **Paul Jastrow** – this gentleman has been a member for years and shoots trap on various teams. He got interested in helping out with being a league secretary and then got interested in working with setting up the 16-yard league. He has helped us computerize our trap league scores, schedules, and is moving us further into more electronic resources. Thank you Paul!

The next time you see Heather or Paul please congratulate them! Also, please see the plaque in the Pro Shop for past volunteer of the year award recipients.

## PRAIRIE RESTORATION PROJECT

We have some land on our property which includes native prairie remnants. This land is located down by our dog training areas and ponds.

Over the years we have taken care of this area through volunteer hours to maintain the growth/overgrowth as well as controlled burns. We have also used Board approved funds to manage the area.

In 2008, with advice from the DNR, USFW, and Pheasants Forever, club funds were used to help manage the area. However, over the years trees, weeds, and overgrowth overtook the area requiring substantial cleanup work (over 40 hours from a single volunteer who stepped up and mowed the property).

In 2013, the Board approved \$10K of club funds to be used to clean the area up through paid help. However, once again the area was not continuously managed, mowed, or kept up the past several years. Every year as part of our conservation easement with the West Wisconsin Land Trust (WWLT) we have a Conservation Specialist come out and take a look at the property. Per the June 2017 visit the specialist noted the brush layer in the restored prairie was becoming abundant and recommend it be mowed or possibly conducting a prescribed burn. The specialist also noted some cypress spurge growing in a corner of the property – this is a very invasive plant but the population is currently very small.

This May board member *Bill Moss* spent a few days mowing the property with a mower attachment lent to us by Bobcat Plus, Inc. in Chippewa Falls. Thank you Bill for your volunteer time as well as Bobcat Plus for your equipment use donation!!!

At the May 2018 board meeting we had several people from The Prairie Enthusiasts as well as a representative from WWLT present to discuss the property. The Prairie Enthusiasts is a private non-profit organization committed to the protection and management of native prairie and savanna of the Upper Midwest. They have suggested we conduct a controlled burn on the property this fall. Initial quotes we have received for the burn are in excess of \$5K. Further due diligence is being completed.

We want to continue to support the area but we don't want to inject funds into the property to get it to where it needs to be, then let it go unmanaged the next few years (again) and be right back to where we started. We want to have a plan for the property going forward before we will consider spending any additional funds.

Therefore, we are asking our members if there is anyone interested in volunteering their time to help manage and keep an eye on this area? We are considering adding a Prairie Restoration Committee and could be looking for someone to head the committee. Duties would include instructing, developing, implementing a project plan and being the contact person for the club on all aspects relating to the property.

If you are interested, or know someone who is knowledgeable on this type of project and would like to volunteer for the club, please send us an email – [bod@ecrodandgun.com](mailto:bod@ecrodandgun.com).

More details to come in future newsletters....

## **BEVERAGES ON GUN RACKS**

It seems as if every week this year you could walk down the trap line and see someone has an open beverage container on top of a gun rack; this is a big no-no! The value of shotguns our shooters use can range from a few hundred dollars to a few thousand dollars. We even have some shooters using custom-made, personally fitted shotguns with price tags in the \$15K - \$20K range.

I don't know about you, but I don't want diet coke down my barrel or lubing up my receiver.

So friendly reminder: **PLEASE DO NOT PUT ANY BEVERAGES ON THE GUN RACKS!!!**

***WE THANK ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF WISCONSIN'S OLDEST AND FINESET GUN CLUB!!!***



P.O. BOX 1572  
EAU CLAIRE, WI  
54702

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Eau Claire, WI  
Permit No. 1557

**2018 Eau Claire Rod and Gun Club Board of Directors**

**PRESIDENT:** Jason Berry      **VICE PRESIDENT:** Tony Owen  
**SECRETARY:** Ron Harper      **TREASURER:** Andy Cohen  
**DIRECTORS:** Ron Bowers – Dan Creviston – Rick Cournoyer – Bill Moss  
**Club Phone:** 715-832-4391    **Club E-mail:** [bod@ecrodandgun.com](mailto:bod@ecrodandgun.com)

**THE BOARD MEETS THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH STARTING AT 6:30 PM.**

**ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.**