



The Rattler

AUGUST
2023

Official Newsletter of the Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility and the Tri-Cities Shooting Association, Inc.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

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Mailing Address:

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TCSA OFFICERS

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Rose-Iris Toberg	President Emeritus		



Sue Verwest
Newsletter and Membership
membership@tcsa.info or 509.735.1662

Ron Jorgensen
Range Use Request / Range Events
Events@tcsa.info

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By: Mark Verwest

During the July Membership and Board Meeting, **Mark Monopoli** was unanimously voted in as our new Secretary. The Board is pleased to welcome him and we would like to thank him for volunteering for the position.

With the high temperatures here for the next couple of months, be sure to stay hydrated while at the Range. Bring plenty of fluids and remember to drink them. Hydrate or die!

The high temperatures are also **elevating the fire danger in our area**. It is a good time to make sure no one is shooting prohibited ammo which has a high risk of starting a fire on our Range.

ROSE-IRIS RANGE

Hours of Operation
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

TCSA PUBLIC MEETING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10
7:00 p.m.

RICHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
(Conference Rooms A & B)



YOUTH INTRODUCTION TO FIREARMS

By: Ron Jorgensen

We pulled off a great Event for a few youths. The day began with an Introduction to Firearms and Shooting Basics. This was quickly followed by an opportunity to do some shooting. The shooters quickly learned the ins and outs of shooting and did very well.

They each got to shoot up to 100 rounds and also got to shoot several different guns. We had semi autos, bolt actions, lever actions and even a couple pistols. They got to experience guns with open sights, scopes and one with a red dot. The weather was warm but with the early start we beat the heat and the kids all went home with a smile on their face.

Thanks to **Jim White, David McMinn, Jack Rose** and **Ron Jorgensen** who were the RSO's.



TCSA FACILITIES

ROSE-IRIS RANGE – A 100-yard range with 20 covered firing points. This day use Range Safety Officer supervised facility is operated for public use on a regularly scheduled basis Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

RIMFIRE PLINKING RANGE – A 50-yard 22-caliber Range Safety Officer supervised Shooting Range with reactive targets.

CENTERFIRE PLINKING RANGE – A 50-yard handgun pistol/revolver RSO supervised range with reactive targets for firearms using black powder or standard pistol cartridges.

COWBOY / PRACTICAL PISTOL BAYS – Ranges consisting of 13 bays of varying lengths designed to support a variety of action shooting disciplines such as; Practical (IPSC/ USPSA) 3-Gun Sports and Cowboy (SASS) groups.

Cowboy Action Rep. – **Charles Kissler** – 509.783.8505
Nelson Thomas – 509.727.4678

Practical Pistol Rep. – **Curt Berger** – 541.720.7826

1000-YARD, HIGH-POWER RANGE – A Range consisting of 100, 200, 300, 600, 800, 900 & 1000-yard firing lines that can support 20 firing stations on each firing line (utilizes manned target operation). The 400-yard line has 5 firing stations and the 500-yard line has 10 firing stations. This Range supports High-Power Rifle, Long Range PALMA and Precision Shooting Events of various disciplines, including 50-Caliber.

High-Power Rep. – **John Julian** – 509.308.0376

HUNTER EDUCATION RANGE: This Range has been designed to support Hunter Education Training Classes and also has a practical field exercise area containing obstacles hunters could expect to encounter in the field. The covered firing line can be used independently by current RSO's as an overflow from the Rose-Iris Range and may be available for RSO supervised public event use when not being used for the conduct of Hunter Education Classes.

Hunter Ed. Rep. – **Randy Absolon** – 509.845.3632

PRIMITIVE USE RANGE: - A Range Area for muzzle loading and primitive Sagebrush Free Trappers reenactment events with parking, staging and various range areas.

Primitive Range Rep. – **Clint Bouslaugh** – 509.585.6415

SHOTGUN RANGE: Includes a set of two ATA regulation Trap Fields, two Skeet Ranges and a Sporting Clay Range supporting five firing stations and a Pattern Board.

Shotgun Rep. – **Mark Monopoli** – 509.531.6929

“WELCOME” NEW MEMBERS

Welcome! In this Newsletter you can find the contact information for the Board Members and above you can find contact information for the different Ranges. The Ranges were built and are maintained by volunteers. We encourage you to get involved and be a part of TCSA.

New members from this past month should have already received their membership card(s). If you have not received your card, contact **Sue Verwest** at membership@tcsa.info or 509.735.1662.

Check out our TCSA web site www.tcsa.info for a variety of information. If you have decided not to receive a printed Newsletter by mail, it is posted on the web site the first week of each month.

HUNTER EDUCATION AND SAFETY ASSOCIATION

By: **Randy Absolon**

Registration is currently open on the WDFW website for our **August 12 Evaluation Class** for students who have completed the **Online Course**. We will also be offering evaluations on **September 9** and **September 30**. Registration for the September classes will open about a month before the session. Classes become harder to find as fall approaches, so if you need to take a Hunter Education Class, I would recommend getting into a class sooner rather than waiting until closer to hunting seasons.



RSOs using the HESA Range are expected to sign in at the Rose-Iris Range before going over to the HESA Range to shoot. You are also expected to clean up when you are done shooting, including returning target stands to the Rose-Iris Range House and picking up brass.

Always remember to treat every firearm as if it were loaded, control the direction of your muzzle, be sure of your target and what lies in front of and beyond it and keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.

If you have questions about our **Hunter Education Classes**, you can contact me at absolon@gorge.net



Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility/TCSA
<https://www.facebook.com/RMSFTCSA/>.

Contact **Robbie or Mike Ensminger** with questions or comments at ChiefRSO@tcsa.info

RATTLESNAKES

Watch where you step and when you reach for things. Be aware of your surroundings.



~~ FIRE SEASON ~~

Use Extra Caution!



CHIEF RSO REPORT

By: Mike Ensminger

We do not presently have any RSO Classes on the calendar, but will schedule one when there is sufficient interest. If you are interested in becoming an RSO, send an email to **Dan Martini** (dantini@charter.net) and he will get you scheduled.



We are considering holding a class on a Saturday once the weather cools down some. If that will work better for you than a Friday, let me know (chiefrso@tcsa.info).

RSO INFORMATION

RSO Questions / Concerns
Chief RSO - **Mike Ensminger**
chiefrso@tcsa.info or 509.521.9628

ALL MEMBERS MUST show a current **Membership Card** to the RSO on duty upon arrival at the **Range**. Membership Cards need to be shown at **all Ranges** and **all Events** or you will be required to **pay the non-member Range Use Fee**. **EVERYONE must sign-in!**



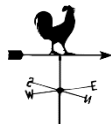
ADVANTAGES OF BEING A RANGE SAFETY OFFICER

The advantages of being a RSO and obligating yourself as a volunteer at TCSA means that on days when the Range is not open to the general public - YOU - as a RSO can use the Range. Having gone through the RSO Training Class and volunteering your time you are able to go to the Range any time you like!

To become an RSO, you must be a **current member**, attend the **RSO Training Class** and obligate yourself to volunteer at the Range three times a year.

If you would like to become a RSO or would like more information about becoming a RSO, contact **Dan Martini** at Dantini@charter.net or 509-627-3198.

WEATHER CONDITIONS at the Range can be found on our homepage -



OPERATION'S REPORT

By: Chuck Nay

Well, here it is August and the Range is well supplied. In the Rose-Iris Range House I am going to replace the 8-foot florescent tubes with LED's and the switches with automatic off switches. This will help with people forgetting to turn them off and for the early mornings in the Range House. If any supplies are needed, please let me know so we can get them for you. Thanks to all the RSO's that serve to make the Range enjoyable and safe.

RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN STEEL SHOOTERS

By: Mike Ensminger

July had 33 guns represented in the **ISSA Match** and we will be out there again on **August 6**. The South gate will be open for access before 9:00 a.m.



If you plan on bringing a group, send us a note ahead of time (mikeberta4@gmail.com) and we will start a squad for you. Sign-ups start by 8:30, shooter's meeting at 9:15.

COWBOY ACTION

By: Mike Ensminger

Despite the heat we managed to get 11 shooters out for the **July Cowboy Match** and then, since we had a 5th Saturday, got 8 for our **Wild Bunch Match**.

September has 5 Saturdays, so plan on another **Wild Bunch Match** on **September 30**.



The next **Cowboy Action Match** will be on **August 26**; shooter's meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. The South gate will be open for access before 9:00 a.m.

PRIMITIVE RANGE



By: Clint Bouslaugh

There was no July shoot due to the high heat and extreme fire danger conditions.

The **August Shoot** is scheduled for the **19th** from 9 a.m. – noon.

As always at this time of year, keep an eye out for rattlesnakes when walking the Range.



SHOTGUN REPORT

By: Mark Monopoli

And summer rolls on. It's been a good summer so far, kind of hot, but we will all be complaining about the cold soon enough. Even with the warm weather the Shotgun Range has stayed busy and we're still throwing targets.

Speaking of targets, we have a fresh load of (23) pallets coming in next month! We are ahead of schedule by about 2 months due to the busy spring we had this year. After much consideration and quite a few people saying, "I can't see the bird.", we will be going back to the "all orange" target. That's right, no more black rings. This way people can say, "You shouldn't throw orange birds against a blue sky." No matter the color, we are going to need everyone's help, so come on out and shoot 'em up, or at least shoot at 'em.

Next up we have our **Annual Shotgun Board Meeting**. That's right, save the date and mark your calendars for **6:30 p.m.** on **September 6** at the **Shotgun Range**. I am sure there will be a host of things to discuss, so please plan on joining us.

We usually do the "**Hero Volunteer of the Month**" a little further down the Report, but we are living dangerously today so we are switching it up! Plus, we have two hero's this month, I know, exciting. First "**Hero Volunteer of the Month**" is none other than the already well-liked **Mr. Eric Bickel!** Now Eric has been doing stuff around the Range for years and probably deserves the title just for that. Unfortunately, that is not how we roll and it is all about what you've done for us recently. Well Eric took it upon himself to rid the 5-Stand field of a batch of tumbleweeds that have been allowed to procreate a little too long. Thanks for taking care of that Eric! In case you are jealous while reading this, there is a batch of tumbleweeds between Trap 1 and Trap 2. Just saying.

Second "**Hero Volunteer of the Month**" is really Hero Volunteer of the past 48 months or so. After years of being the King of our lovely 5-Stand field, **Phil Volkman** has turned in his keys to the kingdom. 5-Stand is quite a bit of work for one person and Phil has stuck with it for longer than he probably wanted to. We all owe Phil a big **THANK YOU** for running a top-notch course for all of these years. So, on behalf of everyone who has shot 5-Stand, **THANK YOU and LONG LIVE THE KING!**

Of course, that leads us to which of the Princes, or in our case Jokers, is ready to take up the 5-Stand crown. Ideally, we need a team of someone's to step up and make it happen for the remainder of this year. Take this as your 5-minute warning before I start putting the hard press on some of you reading this to fulfill your destiny. Don't be scared, destiny is just a fancy word for loading machines, changing menus and setting up the course on Sunday mornings. Really, it could all be done Sunday morning by a couple of people with about 30 minutes of

work. Be sure to have a good excuse ready when I ask. If "I work" is the best you can come up with please remember I am not above publicly shaming people in this very Report.

Other than all of that, the Shotgun Range is humming right along. We do have some upgrades coming in the form of new wired voice controls on the Trap fields, new wireless system on both Skeet fields and the 5-Stand field, as well as a new system to replace the current token machine. Be sure to show up at the Shotgun Board Meeting as I am sure we will be discussing these changes and more.

We have had quite a few new Shotgun RSO's sign up in the past couple of months. We really appreciate everyone who volunteers their time to keep our cozy little Shotgun Range up and running year after year. If you are new, thank you for volunteering and welcome. We are very lucky to have **Stu Bruce** train all our new RSO's on the ways of the Shotgun Range. Stu does a great job and he points out all of the things we need to be doing on a normal day of being an RSO. If you have questions feel free to ask and if you see something that needs to be done, feel free to get'r done. That's probably a trademarked saying, but like I said, we are living dangerously this month. Thanks to everyone who is currently volunteering their time as well as to everyone who has volunteered their time to the Shotgun Range.

With the heat of summer still bearing down on us, please try to stay cool and hydrated while out shooting. Have a great month everyone!

SHOTGUN RSO INFORMATION

Remember **current Membership Cards** need to be presented **every time** a shooter signs in if they want to avoid the Daily Range Fee.

SHOTGUN RANGE HOURS

Wednesday – 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday -- 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Current weather conditions at the Range can be found at www.tcsashotgun.com and www.tcsa.info.

Thanks for reading! Feel free to drop me an email at mark.monopoli@outlook.com about anything at all.



Like us on Facebook! Or don't...
[@rattlesnakemountainshotgun](https://www.facebook.com/rattlesnakemountainshotgun)



Hearing and Eye protection
required when shooting!



HIGH-POWER

By: Dave Baalman

The dog days are truly upon us! As I write this it's boat-race weekend, the **State Service Rifle Team** is on their way home from the National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio (without me this year darn it!) and tomorrow's temperature is predicted for a brisk 98°, which means it's a good time to remind everyone about hot weather precautions. Hydration, sunscreen and rest breaks are certainly top of the list. Also don't forget about the fire danger! Outside of the gravel and concrete the High-Power Range is a huge tinderbox. Don't take your vehicle off the gravel road or parking area for any reason, if a piece of cheat grass brushes against your catalytic converter, you will burn down half the county in a matter of hours. Yes, we have a fire break, but we would prefer not to test its function.

Looking ahead at August, on the Centerfire side we have got a **Long Range V2 Points Series Match** (5 stings at 1000 yards) on **August 5**, a **200/300 Match August 22** and a **Regional Match Course on August 26**. Note the RMC match is historically very lightly attended since most of the "Heavy Hitters" are just home from Camp Perry and are looking for some time off before the State Matches in September. If you are interested in trying out across the course high-power, this is a good "low pressure" match to jump into.

On the Smallbore side, we have a **Dewar Match** (50- and 100-yards) on **August 1**, a **Vintage Smallbore Match** on **August 3**, a 50-yard **Benchrest Match** on **August 8**, a 50-yard **ARA Smallbore Match** on **August 10**, 100/200 yard **Smallbore plus an Extended Long Range Smallbore Match** on **August 19**, a **Precision Rifle 22 Match** on **August 20**, and a 100 yard **Mini-Palma Match** (use of club supplied ammo mandatory) on **August 27**.

Looking back at match reports, the June 27 200/300 **Centerfire Match** had 6 shooters, **John Schneider** (194-6x) bested **Ben Cook** (192-9x) who just edged out **Dave McCauley** (192-1x). Ben and Dave both shot clean (100 point) targets at 200 yards, though Ben's 8x's secured him the high x count for the Match. Thanks also to **Ben** for helping run the match.

The 50-yard **Vintage Smallbore Match** on July 6 was won by **Glen Buxton** (392-40x) who just edged out **Tom Halecki** (392-38x) and **Gary Meerdink** (392-28x). *Editor's note: it's hard to write a match report for a match that had an extreme spread from first to last place of only 2 points! That is really good (and consistent) shooting!*

The July 11 50-yard **Smallbore Benchrest Match** was also a tight scoring affair. **Tom Halecki** and **Gary Meerdink** tied for score and X count (468-5x). Per the Match Director the tie breaker is highest score at any stage, which went to Tom with a 238 on the first card. I guess we will trust the Match Director on this one since his interpretation put him in second place instead of the

win! Had this been across the course high-power the tiebreaker would have been different and it would have gone the other way. This should serve as a good reminder to read the rules on occasion and have a copy saved on your phone (or carry a hard copy) for big matches! Thanks, as always to **Tex Long** for running the line and helping with scoring!

The July 13 **ARA Smallbore Match** was won by **Tom Halecki** (4150-17x) over **Ben Cook** (4050-18x).

For the July 14 80 shot centerfire (across the course) **Regional Match Course**, by unanimous vote of all shooters in attendance we switched to the 50 shot **National Match Course** in the hopes of finishing before the heat got unbearable. **Adam Maxwell** (94-0x) bested **Dave Baalman** {who's that guy?} (91-1x) in 200 yard offhand and only gave back 1 point in 200 yard sitting rapid fire (97-4x to 98-2x). Adam gave up one more at 300 yard rapid prone (98-3x to 99-3x) which put him leading me by 1 point and 1x (289-7x to 288-6x) going to 600-yard slow fire prone. The winds were not all that big by Rattlesnake standards, but I would call them "tricky". It would slowly build from almost nothing (or even a small breath from the non-prevailing direction) to 2.5 minutes of angle worth of wind over about 4 or 5 minutes and then suddenly drop back off to nothing. All shooters got caught at least once by one of those big let offs. For those not familiar with the 600-yard sling target, a 2.5 MOA missed wind call will turn an x hold into a 7 impact. This was definitely a Match to shoot quickly before the wind could change and one where a few minutes of strategy contemplation was worth the effort. That wind cycle repeated several times before and during the 600-yard stage. Knowing what it was doing was worth quite a few points. I learned in a clinic at Camp Perry a few years ago that if you know the wind extremes (high and low) and the time at that extreme, you know when to get nervous about how much wind you do (or don't) have on the gun at just the right time. It also lets you know which side of the 10 ring you want to err on for each shot. Knowing all that got me a solid 190-7x at 600 to Adam's 173-1x, which was more than enough to get me the win at 478-13x. Adam will tell you he was testing a new bullet at 600 with less than stellar results. Blah blah blah I'll take the rare win when I can! *Side note: volunteering to write the newsletter entry for High-Power is a great opportunity to toot your own horn!!*

Finally, the July 25 200/300 **Centerfire Match** was won by **Dave McCauley**, who's 192-3x edged out **Gary Meerdink's** 189-4x. Goes to show you need the points first and the x's only matter if you tie! Big thanks to **Larry Meerdink** for helping run the Match and thanks to everyone for assistance in setting up the range equipment and targets.

If you are not familiar with the National Matches at Camp Perry, check it out: <https://thecmp.org/cmp-national-matches/>. They have only been happening there since 1903, with minor hiatuses for world wars and stupid pandemics. A big part of membership dues in the **Washington State Rifle & Pistol Association**

(<https://wsrpa.org/>) goes to sending a junior contingent there each year. A former Washington Junior **Zevin Linse** (who now shoots for the Army Marksmanship Unit) was 4th in the President's Match and he and his partner won the Hearst Doubles Match! He is one of several Washington Juniors over the last decade or so to have great success in competitive shooting and in life in general. Continued support to WSRPA goes a long way to keeping shooting sports alive for the next generation.



The full schedule is available at <https://www.tcsahighpower.org/>. You can see a full description of each match on our website as well <https://www.tcsahighpower.org/match-descriptions>

High-Power contacts: **John Julian** High-Power Chairman - 509.308.0376 / b24jcg@gmail.com

John Hauptmann High-Power Secretary
509.308.9230 / jlhauptmann@gmail.com

PRACTICAL PISTOL



By: Pam Harper



USPSA National Range Officers Institute, **NROI**, has a website that has valuable information about the Rules and interpretations of the Rules. Check it out at <https://nroi.org>

TIDBITS: Do an equipment check (belt, gun, and mags) before going to a major Match. Check the Rules for equipment requirements. In USPSA, equipment out of compliance can get you moved to the Open Division. If out of compliance in Open Division, you will shoot for NO score.

NATIONAL NEWS: www.uspsa.org

The dates for USPSA Nationals 2023 have been released <https://uspsa.org/nationals>

The **USPSA Rules** as of March 1, 2023 can be downloaded to your phone:

<https://uspsa.org/viewer/USPSA-Competition-Rules.pdf>.

The USPSA Rules Change Log is located here:

<https://uspsa.org/viewer/USPSA-Competition-Rules-Change-Log.pdf>

LOCAL NEWS:

All **EWPSA Match** results can be found here (Practiscore.com): <https://bit.ly/EWPSAScores>

The **Independence Day Rifle Match** on July 1 had 16 competitors. The Division winner was: J. Choi.

The **Steel Challenge Match** on July 9 had 13 guns with 7 Divisions represented. The Division winners were: RFRO: **Mike Czebotar** (overall winner); RFRI: **Mike Czebotar**; RFPO: **Ryan Barnes**; Open: **Richard**

Ingram; CO: **Richard Ingram**; Production: **Artis Riepnieks**; and Limited: **Bill DeMun**.

The **EWPSA Match** on July 15 had 66 competitors with 6/9 USPSA Divisions represented. The Division winners were: Open: **Aaron Laws** (overall winner); Carry Optics: **Mark Bradley**; Limited: **Mikayla Hill**; Limited Optics: **Joel McBreairty**; PCC: **Mike Czebotar**; and Production: **Gen Quale**.

The **DMR Match** on July 22 had 8 competitors with 2 Divisions represented. The Division winners were: Light: **Kurt Bearchum** (overall winner); Heavy: **Grant Fujimoto**.

COMING UP:

All upcoming **EWPSA Matches** and **Registrations** can be found here:

Practiscore.com: <https://bit.ly/EWPSAMatches>

EWPSA will be hosting:

Monthly 2-Gun on **August 5**. Gates will open at 8:00 a.m. The match cost is \$20. More details on Practiscore.

Fun In the Sun 2-Gun on **August 13**. Gates will open at 8:00 a.m. The match cost is \$25. More details on Practiscore.

EWPSA USPSA Match on **August 19 - 20**. Gates will open at 9:00 a.m., shooters meeting at 9:30 a.m., shooting begins at 10:00. The match cost is \$20 members / \$25 non-members. More details on Practiscore.

Monthly 2-Gun on **September 2**. Gates will open at 8:00 a.m. The match cost is \$20. More details on Practiscore.

Steel Challenge on **September 10**. Gates will open at 8:00 a.m. The match cost is \$20. More details on Practiscore.

Check out our Inland Empire Section News at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/267093763957174/?ref=bookmarks>

Check out local news on Facebook –

[Eastern Washington Practical Shooters Association](#)

Any questions or comments can be directed to **Curt Berger** at bergercj@icloud.com

CHECK OUT THE "FOR SALE" PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE: www.tcsa.info

Weatherby Orion Sporting, 12 gauge

Browning BAR .243 Winchester

S&W .380 Bodyguard magazines

S&W 9MM M&P Shield magazines