



The Rattler

DECEMBER
2023

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

GENERAL INFORMATION:

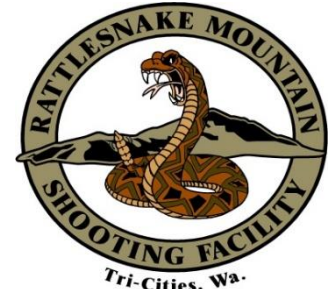
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Rose-Iris Toberg	President Emeritus		



Sue Verwest
Newsletter and Membership
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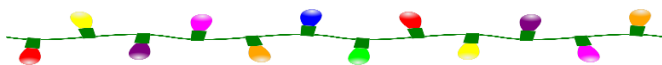
Ron Jorgensen
Range Use Request / Range Events
Events@tcsa.info

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By: Mark Verwest

With winter approaching, there could be some weather-related Range closures and/or cancellations of Events. If the weather gets bad, check our Web Page and Facebook page for any updated Range closures before heading out to the Range and be sure to check the Discipline links on our website for the most up to date discipline events and/or cancellations.

Wishing you all a
Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays !



ROSE-IRIS RANGE

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

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday



TCSA PUBLIC MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14
7:00 p.m.

RICHLAND LIBRARY
(Conference Rooms A & B)

Merry Christmas

TCSA GRANT STATUS

By: Ron Jorgensen

TCSA applied to the Recreation Conservation Office for a Grant to assist with development of a new 105-Meter Small Bore Range and to pave the Rose-Iris Parking lot. After much work by members of the TCSA, staff from Benton County Parks Department and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Grant has been approved.

The new Smallbore Range will be developed in the spring of 2024 and should be in place by sometime in May or early June. Since this Range will only be used for Smallbore Matches, we will be able to schedule Matches on weekends as well as the rest of the week. Scheduling on weekends should allow participation by more shooters.

The paving of the Rose-Iris Parking lot should take place in May or June also. The paving of the parking area has long been desired and will reduce dust and make for easier parking.

CALENDAR WEBSITE UPDATES

By: Ron Jorgensen

Now that we are approaching the end of 2023 it is time to update our websites. Updates for the Master TCSA website are well underway and will be completed in the next couple weeks. You can view the changes currently in place by going to www.tcsa.info and selecting the Calendar option. Once the Calendar comes up scroll the month option and it will take you into 2024.

Along with updates to the TCSA Master Calendar, the High-Power Match Calendar is also being updated along with all the Match Descriptions. It is anticipated that the High-Power updates will be implemented and available on the www.highpower.org website in early December.

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. The Newsletter is posted on the web site the beginning of each month.

HUNTER EDUCATION AND SAFETY ASSOCIATION

By: **Randy Absolon**

Arrangements for our **January Traditional Class** are nearly complete.

Registration should open the **first week of December** on the WDFW website. We

plan on holding **Online Class Evaluations** in **March** and **April**; and will hold other Classes during the summer. **All our Classes will be listed on the WDFW website when they are finalized.**



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 was loaded, control the direction of your muzzle, be sure of your target and what lies beyond it, keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot and never place or carry a loaded firearm in or on a motor vehicle.

If you have questions about our Hunter Education Classes contact me at: randyabsolon@gmail.com. Note this is an updated email address.

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



With the Winter months ahead of us, be sure to **check the road conditions** before driving out to the Range. **If at anytime we need to close the Range due to weather conditions we will try to get it posted on the Website and Facebook as soon as we can.**



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

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

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!**



CHIEF RSO REPORT

By: Mike Ensminger

Thanks to RSO's **Jim O'Donnell** and **Tom Holt** for donating the time, expertise and hardware, to motorize the gate at the Rose-Iris Range. I have to say how much I personally appreciate NOT having to climb in and out of the car twice every time I pass through it.



Thanks to **Mark Verwest**, **Scott Turner**, **Ron Jorgensen** and **Curt Berger** for their help building new target bases for the Rose-Iris Range. We actually gathered at the Range planning to just chop up all the 2x4's and get them out of the way at the pistol bays, and ended up cranking out 50 new bases in under an hour. Amazing what some power tools and help can produce in a short time.

If you have noticed the nice looking, adjustable, and splinter free seats on the shooting benches at Rose-Iris, they are the result of an **Eagle Scout** service project headed up by **Cole Persinger** of **Troop 911**. The Range was pretty much swarmed by Scouts right after closing on November 11, with everything in place well before the sun went down that evening.

EARLY RENEWAL = EARLY CALENDAR ACCESS FOR RSO'S -- With the new year just around the corner, I wanted to remind RSO's that the earlier you renew, the sooner you will get access to sign up for your 2024 duty dates.

New 2024 Membership Cards will start being issued sometime in January (i.e., when the dust settles from the holidays). When an RSO membership is updated, it will allow access to the 2024 duty day signup on the TCSA web page. If you are picky about the dates you would like to work in 2024, get your renewal in early.

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

KEEP THE RANGE CLEAN

Keep your Range clean of trash and spent cartridges. Garbage cans are available. Please be sure the enclosure tops are closed so the garbage can't blow out. If the trash blows out, "someone" has to pick it up. Buckets are provided for spent cartridges.



Take a moment to clean up after yourself when you are done shooting.

RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN STEEL SHOOTERS

By: Mike Ensminger

36 guns were represented in the November ISSA Match. The next **Match** will be held on **Sunday, December 3**, weather permitting, with the Shooter's meeting at 9:15 a.m. Registration is all at the Range on Sunday morning, but if you would like to be squadded ahead of time, just send us an email with names and number of guns each to mikeberta4@gmail.com.



COWBOY ACTION

By: Mike Ensminger

Thanks to **Dave Jackson** for running the Match while a bunch of us were out of town for the holiday.

Our next **Match** will be **December 23**, weather permitting, with the shooter's meeting at 9:00 a.m. If the forecast is for active snow or freezing temps, please check the web page (www.tcsa.info) or Facebook page before driving to the Range, just in case we are sensible enough to cancel the shoot.



PRIMITIVE RANGE



By: Clint Bouslaugh

The November shoot was a pistol shoot. We had a new shooter show up and took him on a tour of the range trail walk to familiarize him with the Range. If you are not familiar with muzzleloading firearms, drop on by during any of our scheduled shoots and we can give you a brief introduction to the sport.

The December shoot will be on the 16th from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

WHEN THE RANGE IS COLD
NO HANDLING OF ANY FIREARMS

WHEN THE RANGE IS HOT
HANDLING OF FIREARMS IS PERMITTED



Hearing and Eye protection required when shooting!



SHOTGUN REPORT

By: Mark Monopoli

**SHOTGUN CLOSED
DECEMBER 24 AND DECEMBER 31**

The end of 2023 is upon us. It really is amazing this is the final Shotgun Report of the year. Hopefully everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and will have a Merry Christmas followed by a Happy New Year!

The **Turkey Shoot** was a great success again this year. Under the watchful eye of **Chad Ungerecht** we had approximately 65 shooters, gave away 80 turkeys, 10 pounds of bacon and several \$50 gift cards from Sportsman's Warehouse and Ranch and Home. **Chad** and wife **Paulyn** do a lot of work each year getting everything put together for both the Turkey and Christmas Shoots. **Paulyn** does a great job of putting on a spread of food that rivals most Thanksgiving dinners. We are talking appetizers (donuts and coffee) to dessert (pumpkin pie and cookies) with a wonderful sausage, potato and kale soup in between! It really was quite tasty and well worth the cost of admission.

Lyle Laughery and **Mike Peale** did an excellent job of running the amateur trap on Field 1 for a large group of shooters while **Chad, Steve Williams** and several other volunteers kept the "professional" shooters occupied on Field 2. What's the difference between the 2 fields you might be wondering? It really comes down to about 13 yards. Doesn't sound like a big difference, but when Field 1 backs up to the 27-yard line, Field 2 is back at the 40-yard line. Believe you me, that 13 yards feels like 23 yards. These **Fun Shoots** are a great time to come out, meet other shooters and just enjoy a day of shooting clay targets.



When is the next one? I'm glad you asked! We will be having our **Annual Christmas Shoot** on **December 17**. Shooting starts at 9:00 am-ish and will go until we are all tired of shooting. Lunch will be included once again, so come out and join in the fun!

In between all of the Holiday Shoots we are still holding **50 Bird Handicap Trap Shoots** on each and every Sunday. We have been having 3 to 4 squads of shooters each weekend and with the handicap system working its magic we have been seeing a wide variety of winners each week. While **John Wilgus** started out strong, he was quickly moved back to the 24-yard line which opened the door for other shooters. **Mike Tomlinson, Don Klages, Don Lint** and **John Dyes** have all been winners and gained at least 2 yards. New shooters all start at the 20-yard line, which puts you at a pretty big advantage just for joining the fun. Every Sunday we start signup at about 8:30 a.m. with shooting starting at 9:00 a.m. 2 rounds of trap goes pretty quickly, so if you have to work on Sundays like **Cole Skiba**, there's plenty of time to do both.

With the inevitable winter weather rolling in please be careful on the sidewalks and the trap and skeet fields as they can be icy in the morning. There is ice melt in the backroom of the Range House that can be used on any slick spots. Also be careful on the steps down into the trap houses and the ramp into the high-house on the skeet field.

As a reminder, if you take a TCSA Membership application, whether it is a renewal or a new member, you must provide that person with one of the Temporary Membership Cards found in the RSO briefcase. Be sure they understand that until they get their membership card in the mail, they need to present the temporary card to avoid paying the Daily Range Fee. Membership cards are mailed out promptly, but still may take 3-4 weeks to reach them.

"Hero Volunteer of the Month" came out of left field this month. After months and months of having a "volunteer to do" list on the white board **Greg Genoni** took on several of the tasks all by himself! While also being a good RSO, Greg decided to take care of trimming the bushes around the Trap Fields and removing the dead tree. And because he got tired of watching people get stuck at the door, Greg also replaced the wonky door knob that has been acting up. Let's have a big round of applause for **Greg Genoni** your final **"Hero Volunteer of the Month"** for the year of 2023! Thanks for your help Greg! Yes, we're still looking for someone to hug **Ron Geiger** on a weekly basis for all the work he does on the Skeet Field. Ron says not to, but luckily we don't listen to Ron.

Thank you to those who have contacted me about helping on Wednesdays, it is a great help and is much appreciated. Don't get me wrong, we are still looking for RSOs who would like to volunteer for even more Wednesday Duties. They are shorter shifts and pretty easy as most everyone on Wednesdays are regulars. Shoot me an email at mark.monopoli@outlook.com if you'd like to help out.

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 3:00 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)

HIGH-POWER

By: **Dave Baalman**

The competition season has wrapped up for 2023. The High-Power Range remains open for RSOs with a High-Power Endorsement. Remember to sign in and pay your day use fee at the connex in the pits.

Planning for the 2024 season is underway, and the **2024 Calendar** will be out soon, along with updated Match descriptions as needed. A couple of upcoming changes of note:

- Our spring NRA approved across the course and CMP EIC Match weekend will move from May to June. This should give us better weather and moving it away from Mother's Day weekend will hopefully increase attendance.
- Several of our across the course matches through the year will be shot at reduced yardage. Not having to move yard lines speeds the match up considerably, especially when combined with the e-targets. Reduced yardage also means no need for more specialized ammo to shoot full yardage, which will reduce cost as well.
- Our April across the course match will be a CMP reduced yardage league match. This gives shooters an opportunity to shoot for record against competitors from across the country.

Our results rundown for November starts with a **50-100-Yard Dewar Match** on November 7. From the Match Director: "This morning sure reinforced some old sayings, such as 'misery loves company.' I was sure glad to not be suffering all alone in the coolish temperatures and ghoulish winds." **Gary Meerdink** managed first place with a 396-26x, beating **David Vance** by just one point (395-21x).

The November 11 **Vintage Smallbore Match** had brisk temperatures again, but the wind was much more cooperative. **Gary Meerdink** and **David Vance** cleaned BOTH cards but moved down the finishing order due to their handicaps for optical sights. **Mike Bunch** cleaned up with honors for both the high card and the match win, along the way setting a new ALL TIME Record for the high Vintage Smallbore Match score (399-30x). Well done!

The November 14 **Smallbore Benchrest Match** was again cold (it is November after all) but wind conditions were again good so scores, although not perfect, were high overall. **Phil Keuhlen** was overall winner (486-12x), plus high card and high x count. **Ben Cook** was a close second with 481-6x.

Rounding out the competition year was the November 16 **50 Yard ARA Match**. Seven shooters braved the frigid temperatures and the early fog lifted by the start of the Match. Although the light winds held out the promise

of good scores, only **Ben Cook** and **Gary Meerdink** could capitalize on them to crack the 4000 aggregate score mark. I am blaming it on the temperature for the rest of us! **Ben Cook** cleaned up on the honors, continuing his impressive late season run. Ben won both the Match (4475-27X) and high card (2325-17X) awards and ran away from the field with 27X's. Congratulations!



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 / b24jci@gmail.com

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

PRS INTRODUCTION AND MATCH

By: **Ron Jorgensen**

Seth Gardner will be offering a PRS (Precision Rifle) Class introducing interested shooters in learning more about how PRS Matches are run and what is needed to participate. The **Introductory Class** will be offered at the HESA Range on **December 16** at 8:30 a.m. This Class will be about giving new shooters the basic skills to compete in Precision rifle style competitions. Along with rifle set up and ballistic calculations. It will last most of the day.

On the following day Seth will be running a **PRS Match**. You need to register for each of the Events. A link to each is listed below. The practiscore links for registration are. For further information contact **Seth Gardner at 509-378-4842**

<https://practiscore.com/introduction-to-precision-22/register> (Introduction)

<https://practiscore.com/rattlesnake-december-prs-22/register> (Match)

CHECK OUT THE TCSA WEB-PAGE

www.tcsa.info

Calendar of Events
Range Photos
Shooting Venues
Frequently Asked Questions
Items For Sale
TCSA Forms
Monthly Newsletter
Weather
Range Rules
Banned Ammo

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>

The **Inland Empire Sectional Match** will be held **June 15-16, 2024**. Registration will open **January 1, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.** Hope to see you there!
<https://practiscore.com/2024-inland-empire-sectional/register>

TIDBITS: If you get new equipment over the holidays, check to make sure it meets the sport's Division requirements. Nobody wants to start a Match by adjusting their equipment to meet Division requirements right before their first stage.

NATIONAL NEWS: www.uspsa.org

The dates for USPSA Nationals 2024 can be found here <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:

The **Monthly 2-Gun Match** on November 4 had 36 competitors with 5 Divisions. The Division winners were: Armored: **Matt Newburn** (overall winner); Limited: **Cayata Karyai**; Open: **Noah Perez**; Retro: **Jamie Bowkett**; and Tactical: **Nicolas Espitia**.

2-Gun Side Match on November 4 had 37 competitors with 5 divisions. The Division winners were: Open: **Noah Perez** (overall winner); Armored: **Cory Allen**; Limited: **Rich Lee**; Retro: **Parker Rollison**; and Tactical: **Kelly Hill**.

Steel Challenge Match on November 12 had 23 guns and 7 Divisions. The Division winners were: PCCO: **Mike Czebotar** (overall winner); Prod: **Artis Riepnieks**; CO: **Tyler Weed**; Open: **Artis Riepnieks**; Lim: **Jacob McInerney**; RFPO: **Mark Wells**; RFRO: **Mike Czebotar**.

The **EWPSA Monthly Match** on November 19 had 55 competitors with 6/9 USPSA Divisions represented. The Division winners were: Limited Optics: **Gen Quale** (overall winner); Carry Optics: **Lane Plumlee**; Limited: **Daniel Hughes**; Open: **Don Tripplet**; PCC: **Mike Czebotar**; and Revolver: **Andrew Hall**.

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 Match - December 2. Sign-in begins at 9:30 a.m. Shooting begins at 10:00 a.m. The Match cost is \$25. More details on Practiscore.

EWPSA USPSA Monthly Match - December 17. Gates will open at 9:00 a.m, shooters meeting at 9:30 a.m, shooting begins at 10:00 a.m. The Match cost is \$20 members / \$25 non-members. More details on Practiscore.

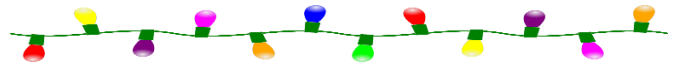
Check out our Inland Empire Section News at:

<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



RENEWAL SEASON IS AROUND THE CORNER

By: Sue Verwest

Renewals are already being received. The 2024 Membership Card is being designed! For those of you who have already renewed for this next coming year – your new membership card(s) **will be mailed in January**. Once again – we will have a firearm which will be given away to one lucky winner who renews early. Details will be in next month's Newsletter.

Renewal Forms can be found at the Rose-Iris Range and the Shotgun Range. They can also be printed from our website - www.tcsa.info, click the Join/Renew Tab at the top of the page and then click the link to the Membership Form.

ADVANTAGES OF BEING A RSO AND THE NEXT RSO CLASS

By: Dan Martini

To become a TCSA RSO, you need to have and maintain your TCSA Membership, complete an 8-hour Class and volunteer to stand 3 days per year at the Rose-Iris General Purpose Range on a Wednesday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday. You choose which of those three days you will be able to meet.

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!

For more information and to get your name on the list for the next RSO Class contact **Dan Martini** at dantini@charter.net.