



The Rattler

**FEBRUARY
2024**

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

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Web: www.tcsa.info

Mailing Address:

TCSA
P.O. Box 785
Richland, WA 99352

TCSA OFFICERS

Mark Verwest	President	509.735.1662	mverwest1662@charter.net
George Hager	Vice-President	979.229.1615	george.hager@gmail.com
Mark Monopoli	Secretary	509-531-6929	mark.monopoli@outlook.com
Randy Bayuk	Treasurer	509.727.0177	g34_shooter@icloud.com
Mike Ensminger	Chief RSO	509.521.9628	chiefrso@tcsa.info
Dan Martini	Mbr at Large	509.627.3198	dantini@charter.net
Chuck Nay	Oper. Officer	509.572.7115	chuckmail60@gmail.com
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

Renewal notices have been emailed out and already we have received quite a few renewals. Early renewals really help the TCSA not only in postage but they also help take some of the load off of our volunteers who process the mailed renewal notices. Also, if you renew early, you are eligible for the Early Renewal Drawing in our annual give away prize.

Thanks to all of you who have responded and a heartfelt thanks to those of you have also generously submitted a donation!



TCSA PUBLIC MEETING

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8
7:00 p.m.**

Richland Public Library
(Conference Rooms A & B)



ROSE-IRIS RANGE

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

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

By: Sue Verwest

Thank you to all who have responded to the recent Renewal Email. If you did not receive an email, we do not have your current email address – or the email may have ended up in your Spam File.

Membership Renewal forms can be found on our web site www.tcsa.info under the tab “**Join/Renew**” found **on the top of the homepage**. Membership Forms are also available at the Rose-Iris and Shotgun Ranges. **Your early renewal will ensure you receive your Membership card in time for your next visit to the Range.**

An Early Renewal Prize will be given away to one lucky winner who renews early. Your chance of winning is doubled if your renewal is received by **FEBRUARY 29**. The drawing for the Prize will take place at the **General Membership Meeting in April**.



Donations – Always Appreciated
(100% of Donations go directly to the Range)

LIFE / PATRON / BENEFACTOR MEMBERS

Thank you to those who have already updated their information for the year.

Life Members who are RSOs only need to update if you wish to keep your **Access Key Card activated for the year**. If you still need to update, complete a Membership Renewal form with the Personal Information filled in or email this information to **Sue Verwest** at membership@tcsa.info. Thank You!

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**

We are in the middle of our **January Traditional Hunter Ed Class**. We had a full roster of 20 students registered for the class.



We will hold evaluations for students who have completed the **Online Course** on **March 16, April 6** and **May 11**. Those Classes are all set up on the WDFW website and registration for each will open about a month before the class date. Our classes and those offered by other instructor teams are all listed on the WDFW website.

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 be sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions.

If you have questions about our Hunter Education classes contact me at: randyabsolon@gmail.com.

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



February can still be dicey. If 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

By the time you read this our first **RSO Training Class** of the year will be complete and we will start working on planning the next one. If interested, please send an email to Dan Martini at dantini@charter.net so he can contact you when the next Class is scheduled. Please include your TCSA membership number in the email.



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

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.

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. Buckets are provided for spent cartridges.



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



**If you haven't Renewed your Membership
Renew NOW !!
YOU may be the winner of the
Early Renewal Prize**

Opportunities for Youth Shooting Sports Teams and Clubs

By: Dave McNeal

The **Civilian Marksmanship Program** has announced that up to **\$335,000 will be awarded** in scholarships to fund accredited secondary education, technical / trade school or vocational programs in 2024.

The CMP seeks applications from high school seniors who will graduate in 2024 and who currently compete in marksmanship competitions. Based on merit, selected individuals are high school seniors who are currently enrolled in a team or club that is participating in marksmanship competitions. Information is available at: <https://thecmp.org/youth/cmp-scholarship-program/>

SOME OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN MARKSMANSHIP COMPETITONS INCLUDE:

The American Legion Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Tournament -- These are postal matches for teams affiliated with an American Legion Post.

CMP Aces Postal -- This satellite match offers all junior and adult air rifle and air pistol shooters a program designed to encourage participation in the sport and test marksmanship skills nationally with their peers. The program consists of Air Rifle, Air Pistol and Para-Air Rifle/Air Pistol events.

Junior ROTC Postal Competition -- The JROTC Three Position Air Rifle Postal Competition is one of the most participated shooting competitions in the United States. Each year, thousands of JROTC Cadets, representing Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force JROTCs compete in the Postal Competition.

TRI-CITIES SHOOTING ASSOCIATION MATCHES --

We currently have some degree of participation by young (18 years old or less) shooters who go head-to-head with older shooters in our organized rimfire and centerfire matches. We could serve our membership and our community by incorporating a Youth Shooting Sports Club under the umbrella of TCSA and sponsoring competitive events for youth affiliated with existing groups.

Contact Dave McNeal for more information:
mcnealendofthetrail@gmail.com



**WHEN THE RANGE IS COLD
NO HANDLING OF ANY FIREARMS
WHEN THE RANGE IS HOT
HANDLING OF FIREARMS IS PERMITTED**

RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN STEEL SHOOTERS

By: Mike Ensminger

We had 48 entries in the **January ISSA Match** and by the time you read this the **February 2nd Match** will probably be in the books.



Shoots are the **first Sunday of every month** (unless the weather looks REALLY terrible). The shooter's meeting is at 9:15. If you plan to shoot with a group show up early or send us an email ahead of time to mikeberta4@gmail.com so we can start a squad.

Juniors always shoot free.

COWBOY ACTION

By: Mike Ensminger



We had great intentions and a Match all set up, but at the last minute the handful of shooters that showed up came to their senses and decided it was better to get a little wet putting the steel away than to get completely soaked shooting the Match.

There will **not be a Cowboy Match in February**, as way too many of the folks that shoot and tote the steel will be shooting in Arizona, but we will be back on schedule in March.

PRIMITIVE RANGE



By: Clint Bouslaugh

The range was closed for the January shoot due to bad weather and the access road to Primitive was inaccessible. We plan on having our regularly scheduled shoot in **February on the 17th** from 9:00 a.m. to noon. So, if the weather cooperates, come on out and join us in burning some powder.

As always, we welcome any newcomers to the sport and are willing to help with information or demonstrations. If you are curious as to how muzzle-loaders work, drop by and take a few shots on us to check it out.



Hearing and Eye protection
required when shooting!



HIGH-POWER

By: Dave Baalman

The **2024 High-Power Calendar** is up on our website, link below. This month, much like January, is pretty quiet. We have got a **1000-yard 1MOA Steel Match** on **February 11**, and a **PR 22 Match** on the **18th**. The rest of the month is free for RSO's with a High-Power Endorsement to use the Range. Don't forget to sign in at the pit conex and pay your day use fee. Things get very busy in March so don't waste the opportunity while it's here!

I'll start early for the March calendar, the across the course season starts with the **Korean War Memorial Service Rifle Match March 9 - 10**. It is open to any service rifle (or you can shoot out of competition with a match rifle), but there's a special prize for the top M-1 Garand, a Korean War commemorative proof silver coin. So, dig that "greatest battle implement ever devised" out of the back of the safe, load up some '06 ammo and don't forget your en bloc clips!

You may have heard we're about to start construction on a **Smallbore Range**, it will be down nearer to the main gate, hopefully with a little less wind than up on the top of the hill. Construction will take some time, but once it's done, we will be moving most/all the smallbore stuff to that Range. If you are interested in shooting NRA or CMP style 3 or 4 position Small Bore Matches, contact me (information below). I am interested in getting this type of match started, and am willing to volunteer as Match Director, but I would like to know how much interest there is first.



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 / b24jcyj@gmail.com

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

Dave Baalman Newsletter
509.528.0183 / dpbaalman@msn.com



TCSA HATS

Available at the **Rose-Iris Range**
\$20.00 (includes tax)



SHOTGUN REPORT

By: Mark Monopoli

Old Man Winter decided to rear his ugly head during the past month with some chilly temperatures and the dreaded snow fall. Not surprisingly, round counts and range visits were about as low as the temperature for January.

Speaking of round counts and range visits, the end of year numbers are in for 2023. Luckily, we were up across the board for the year. Depending on the metric you like to look at, the degree of "up" varies. In **2023** we threw **323,444 targets**, up over 65,000 targets from last year. Of course, that means we collected an additional **2429 tokens** over last year for a total of **12,264 tokens** in **2023**. Range visits were up slightly by 224 visits to **4360** for 2023 as well. We did have one metric that was down for the year, but even it was a good metric to be down on. Our "loss" for 2023 was right at 13,000 targets, and while that is a lot of targets, it equates to a loss of 4.2%, or right at 1 target per round. Compared to our loss of 5.1% in 2022, 4.2% is looking pretty good.

Just because I like "numbers" and I also like tracking those numbers, here are some more for you. In terms of targets, we loaded **38 pallets of targets** into the trap, skeet and 5-stand machines in 2023. That also equates to **2,394 cases** of targets. If that sounds like a lot of work, well, it was. A truck load of targets equates to **23 pallets** in a 53' trailer. While the **4% loss** mentioned above seems like a small number it equates to **1.5 pallets**, or **96 cases** of targets. All in all, the numbers were good and it would be nice to keep them going for 2024.

There is a lot of work that goes into those numbers, and a lot of people volunteer their time to make it all possible. Loading targets into the various houses mainly fell on **Lindsay Nelsen, John Dyes** and **myself** with an honorable mention for **Tom Walchuk** and others I am sure I am forgetting. Loading all of the targets into the machines is handled by our wonderful RSO's that volunteer their time each and every day the Range is open.

The Range has had a couple of machines down during the past month, but luckily those issues have been fixed. Thanks to **Tom Walchuk, Eric Bickel** and **John Dyes** for helping on getting Skeet Field 1 and Trap Field 2 up and running once again.

While we are on the subject of thanking people, I'd also like to thank **Chris Quinton** for handling the duties of RSO's Scheduling for another year. And while Chris does the scheduling, **Stu Bruce** handles all of the training for new RSO's that come to Shotgun. Stu holds down the title of Secretary for the Shotgun Board as well. **Wild Bill Cooney** is our usual RSO for Wednesday mornings while **Don Knowlton** handles most Wednesday afternoons during the year. Of course,

there is **Ron Geiger** who takes meticulous care of Skeet field #2. The dynamic trio of **Ron, Tom Walchuk** and **John Dyes** did a wonderful job of cleaning and mowing the fields right before the freezing weather hit. **Lindsay Nelsen** handles the duties of Treasurer for the Shotgun Range in addition to being in charge of loading targets. **John Wilgus** is usually the driving force behind most of the shoots and impromptu bbq's we hold at the Range. **Don Klages** brought us the successful Pump Gun & Side by Side shoot this past year. As you have read about in the past couple of Shotgun Reports, **Chad Ungerecht** and wife **Paulyn** do a great job with the Turkey and Christmas shoots each year. **Garrett Gottschalk** and **John Dyes** took care of mowing the fields last year. **Dave Otto** and **Gabe Hall** shared the duty of edging all of the sidewalks during the summer. Also, a big thank you to **John Dyes** and everyone who helped shovel snow and throw out ice melt during the winter weather. A huge THANK YOU to **Phil Volkman** for donating the sweet Snow Blower to the Range a couple of years ago. It was a God send for clearing the 2-foot snow drifts on the Skeet Range and in front of the trap houses. I'm sure I have forgotten some people who deserve to be mentioned and for that I apologize in advance. We have a lot of people who volunteer, and we can always use more help. Shoot me an email at mark.monopoli@outlook.com if you would like to join in on the fun.

Thank you to all of our Range Officers for opening the Range in good and bad weather. Together we have one of the nicest Shotgun Ranges in the PNW.

The **Sunday 50 Bird Handicap Shoots** will return to **Rattlesnake** on **February 4th** and then for each Sunday thereafter until we get bored of them. Check the web-page for information, or just shoot me an email / text / call. Come join the fun as they are just serious enough to make them a fun time!

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.



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



Check out the "For Sale" items on our web-site
www.tcsa.info

Send your "For Sale" or "Wanted" items to
membership@tcsa.info



PRACTICAL PISTOL



By: Pam Harper



The **Inland Empire Sectional Match** will be held **June 15 - 16**. The Match sold out in **4 minutes!** **Thank You** to all that registered so quickly! For those that did not get in, please register to get on the waitlist. March - May is when work schedules and other conflicts with the Match arise and people drop out. I can then start approving the people on the waitlist.
<https://practiscore.com/2024-inland-empire-sectional/register>

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: If you got 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:

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

The **EWPSA Monthly Match** January 21 had 21 competitors with 5/9 USPSA Divisions represented. The Division winners were: Open: **Ryan Barnes** (overall winner); Carry Optics: **Warren Harper**; Limited: **JD Thomas**; Limited Optics: **Leen Kroon**; and PCC: **Brian Humann**.

The **Monthly 2-Gun Match** January 26 had 30 competitors with 6 Divisions. The Division winners were: Tactical: **Nicolas Espitia**; Armored: **David Pinnt**; Heavy Metal: **Kevin Bensema**; Limited: **James Smith**; Open: **Alex Christensen**; and Retro: **Brian Humann**.

COMING UP:

All upcoming **EWPSA Matches** and **Registrations** can be found here: <https://bit.ly/EWPSAmatches>

EWPSA WILL BE HOSTING:

2-Gun Team Match - February 10. Sign-in begins at 9:30 a.m. Shooting begins at 10:00 a.m. The Match cost is \$20. More details on Practiscore.

EWPSA USPSA Monthly Match - February 18. 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.

Monthly 2-Gun Match - February 24. Sign-in begins at 9:30 a.m. Shooting begins at 10:00 a.m. The Match cost is \$25. More details on Practiscore.

SCSA Steel Challenge Match - March 10. Gates will be open by 9 a.m. and there will be a shooters meeting at 9:30 a.m. We start shooting after the shooters meeting. The Match will be \$20 for non-members, \$15 for TCSA members. Shooting a second gun is \$5. Refunds will be given for cancellations minus \$2.

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

PRINTED NEWSLETTER / CALENDAR INFORMATION

By: Sue Verwest

Due to the rising expenditures for printing and mailing the Newsletter, it is no longer cost effective to mail out printed copies of the Newsletter. The cost of stamps, ink, paper and labels have all gone up, so it has been decided that the last mailed issue of the Newsletter will be March 2024.

The Newsletter is posted to the website the first few days of each month. The Newsletter is accessible to everyone for FREE and can easily be printed off our website.

The **Calendar is on our website also** and by clicking on the colored Event on the Calendar you can get more information about that particular Event. You can view the Calendar by **Month – Week – List**. These Tabs are listed next to the current month.

On the **secure part** of the website (which is for RSOs only), RSOs can see their own information on the **RSO Dashboard Page**. This page will show the Duty Days you chose.

RSOs can click on the **Duty Days Tab** which is listed by membership number showing the duty days you have chosen. This page updates on April 1 of each year.

Under the **Request Duty Swap** an RSO can view who is scheduled for a duty day on any particular day. This page is also used to Request a Duty Day Swap.