

The Rattler

JUNE 2023

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

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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

ATTENTION ALL RSOs

The entire Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility (Rose-Iris, HESA, Pistol Bays, High-Power and Shotgun) will be CLOSED TO ALL SHOOTING on MONDAY, JUNE 12 in support of the Benton County Fire Department cutting fire breaks around our entire Range. Thanks for your cooperation!

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We had a great turnout for our **First Shots Program** this year. Be sure to read **Mike Ensminger's** Article for the details on page 4. I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to put this program on. Your work is appreciated by the Board and by all the participants.

We have two FREE Introductory Classes coming up. Primitive Youth Black Powder Shoot on June 17 and the Introduction to Firearms Youth Event on July 29. Look for more details in this Newsletter on page 4.

Fire season is here. Everyone needs to make sure their ammo is approved for shooting at the Range.

The snakes are out. Be careful of your surroundings and watch out when you reach for something on the ground.



VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By: George Hager

Howdy all! It's official! The unofficial start of summer is here and the spring like days are becoming fewer and farther between. Soon the mercury will be popping the century mark and even in the 90's it is important to stay hydrated. In our dry environment where we don't sweat as much as our friends in places like Texas, the fluids are leaving you, so please stay topped off! Also, the Rose-Iris Range House is a great place to sit and rest for a few minutes in the AC if the heat and/or sun are too much for you that day. NO shame in staying alive (and comfortable.)

We have completed the second of five scheduled **Precision Rifle Rimfire (PR-22) Matches** this year at the 'Snake. We hold these matches on the HESA Range and we had another strong turnout of over 20 shooters, with several spectators that will be bringing their .22 Ir's to the next Match in late June if all goes as planned. To keep updated on these Matches the TCSA High Power and Facebook pages are where our matches are listed. You only need a .22Ir and the desire to have fun. Folks are always willing to help! There are always new shooters showing up so you most likely won't be alone.

Look forward to seeing you at the range!!



ROSE-IRIS RANGE

Hours of Operation 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

FLY THE FLAG – JUNE 14

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 <u>membership@tcsa.info</u> or 509.735.1662.

Check out our TCSA web site <u>www.tcsa.info</u> 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

Our **June Traditional Class** will start on June 12 and finish on June 29. This Class is currently full and we have a waiting list.



We are anticipating holding additional **Evaluation Classes** for online students in **August** and **September**. Information on our Classes and all other Hunter Education Classes is available 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 is 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 use alcohol or drugs before or during shooting.

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



TCSA PUBLIC MEETING

THURSDAY, JUNE 8 7:00 p.m.

RICHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY (Conference Rooms A & B)

RATTLESNAKES

As it warms up, we get uninvited guests on our Ranges. Watch where you step. Be aware of your surroundings. Watch when you reach for things!



~~ FIRE SEASON ~~

It is that time of year again! Please use Extra Caution!



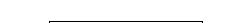
CHIEF RSO REPORT



By: Mike Ensminger

RSO Classes are being scheduled as we have enough interest to fill them. Classes are generally held on Friday, but if you are interested in becoming an RSO and cannot

attend a Friday class, please let me know. If we get enough interest, we will hold a Saturday class.



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 nonmember Range Use Fee. <u>EVERYONE must</u> sign-in!



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





Hearing and Eye protection required when shooting!



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

Contact Robbie or Mike Ensminger with questions or comments at <u>ChiefRSO@tcsa.info</u>

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY JUNE 18

NEXT RANGE SAFETY OFFICER CLASS

By: Dan Martini

Our next **RSO Class** will be held on **Friday, June 30**. If you are interested in taking this Class, contact me to get your name on the list. This Class will start at 8 a.m. at the Shotgun Range House and last until about 3 p.m. If you can make the June 30 class date, send an email to <u>dantini@charter.net</u> with a **YES June 30** and include your name and TCSA membership number. I will add your name to this RSO Class list. I will send you a reminder message a week before that Class with all the details.

To become a TCSA RSO, you need to have and maintain your TCSA Membership, complete an 8-hour Friday Class and volunteer to stand 3 days per year at the Rose-Iris General Purpose Range on a Wednesday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday. You pick 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 can utilize the Ranges.

RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN STEEL SHOOTERS



By: Mike Ensminger

We had 49 guns represented at the May Match and you can tell **Mike Czebotar** must have had some gun problems as he only took first and ninth, rather than both first and second overall.

We will be out there again around the time you read this, **June 4**. Sign-ups are at the Range on Match Day, but send us a note (<u>mikeberta4@gmail.com</u>) and we will start a squad for you ahead of time so you can keep your group together.

COWBOY ACTION

By: Mike Ensminger

17 shooters showed up for the **May Match** and we were off the Range several hours before the torrential rains hit. We will be shooting again **June 24**, shooter's meeting is at 9:15.



The South gate at ~mile 7.4 will be open to enter before 9:00 and you can plan on 6 stages.

FIRST SHOTS

By: Mike Ensminger

TCSA hosted First Shots on May 13th.

Even with a few no-shows, we had 54 students attend, and I hope we will see some new TCSA members as a result. The weather cooperated, the ammo lasted and it appeared that everyone had a good time.

It takes a surprising amount of help to put on one of these events; setting up and manning 15 firing points, teaching the classroom portion, registering attendees, getting water to the bays and taking photos (since we never seem to remember to do that). By the time all the jobs were covered we had 21 RSO's on the Range all day.

Thanks to all the RSO's that were willing to provide their own firearms and spend a day out there in the heat helping new shooters get started.

Not sure when we might plan another, but keep an eye on tcsa.info to see when it happens.





YOUTH INTRODUCTION TO FIREARMS

By: Ron Jorgensen

The TCSA is scheduling an **Introduction to Firearms for Youth**. The Event is scheduled for **Saturday, July 29.** The Introduction will be limited to twenty youths. If you or someone you know has children that might be interested, please have them contact me. These fun shoots will introduce youths to firearms safety and shooting with activities suitable for junior shooters.

Introduction is for youths aged 8 through 17 (girls and boys). It is an entry level activity intended for youths with little or no shooting experience and is **FREE** to all junior shooters. During the shooting portion, each shooter will be paired with a TCSA Range Safety Officer. There will be two classes scheduled on the 29th with ten youths in each group.

All youths must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Activities for the **first group** will take place beginning at **9:00 a.m.** The **second group** will begin about **10:30 a.m. and last until 1200**.

All firearms and ammunition will be provided. The participants will be shooting .22 caliber rimfire rifles.

You need to be signed up to attend. This will ensure adequate numbers of firearms and ammunition are available. Participation is limited and will be based on order of response. Contact me at 509.554.0048 or riorge@charter.net

Please feel free to contact me with any questions!



PRIMITIVE RANGE



By: Clint Bouslaugh

The May shoot was turned into a work day due to heat and dry conditions.

Our **June shoot on the 17th** is scheduled to be a **FREE Youth Event** at the Hunter Education Range for 12 to 17-year-olds. There will be two sessions - 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required. To register contact me at 509-619-4981.

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 <u>https://nroi.org</u>

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** were updated March 1, 2023. <u>https://uspsa.org/viewer/USPSA-Competition-Rules.pdf</u> can be downloaded to your phone for easy access. The USPSA Rules Change Log is located here: <u>https://uspsa.org/viewer/USPSA-Competition-Rules-Change-Log.pdf</u>

LOCAL NEWS:

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

The Action 2-Gun Match on April 29 had 38 competitors with 4 Divisions represented. The Division winners were: Open: Christopher England (overall winner); Armored: Derik Moe; Retro: Cory Emtman; Tactical: Nicolas Espitia.

The **Steel Challenge Match** on May 14 had 26 guns. The Division winners were: PCCO: **Mike Czebotar** (overall winner); OSR: **Eugene Econ**; Production: **Emilio Campos**; CO: **Curt Berger**; LTD: Vicente Hall; RFPI: **Kevin Hawman**; RFPO: **Curt Berger**; RFRI: **Mark Wells**; and RFRO: **Mike Czebotar**.

The Inland Empire Sectional Match on May 20-21 had 182 competitors with 7/8 USPSA Divisions represented. The Division winners were: Carry Optics: Christian Sailor (overall winner); Limited: Todd Anderson; Open: Mike O'Leary; PCC: Gary Chan; Production: Joe Bawden; Revolver: Bill Sahlberg; and Single Stack: Greg Stefani.

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 - June 3. Registration will open at 8:30 a.m., shooting begins at 9:00 a.m. The Match costs \$20. More details on Practiscore.

Fun in the Sun 2-Gun Match - June 11. Registration will open at 8:00 a.m., shooting begins at 8:30 a.m. The Match costs \$25. More details on Practiscore.

EWPSA USPSA Monthly Match - June 17-18. 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.

Independence Weekend Rifle Match - July 1. Gates will open at 8:00 a.m. The Match cost is \$20. More details on Practiscore.

Steel Challenge Match - July 9. Gates will open at 9:00 a.m., shooters meeting at 9:30 a.m., shooting begins after the meeting. 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 <u>bergercj@icloud.com</u>

HIGH-POWER

By: Dave Baalman

Wow, where the heck did May go? Somewhere downwind, I am sure! It has been a windy spring so far, but June is often a bit of a break before the "dog days" of summer are upon us. Hopefully a rock on your shooting mat and a cinched-on hat can give way to decent conditions before we hit the sunscreen and hydration time of year!

Our busy June kicks off for centerfire with an 800 yard **Open Any Rifle (OAR) Match** on **June 3**, followed by an 80 shot **Regional Match Course (RMC)** on the **10**th, a **Long Range V2** (5 strings at 1000 yard) **Match** on the **24**th and a **200/300 Yard Match** on the **27**th.

On the rimfire side of things, we've got smallbore Dewar (50/100yd) on the 6th, Vintage Smallbore on the 8th, 100/200 Yard and Extended Long Range Smallbore on the 11th, 50 Yard Benchrest on the 13th, 50-yard ARA Smallbore on the 15th, 100-yard Mini Palma on the 17th (club provided ammo use mandatory), 100-yard Mini-Palma on the 20th (any ammo), and a Precision Rifle 22 on the 25th.

If you are paying attention, you will note that Sunday the **4**th and Sunday the **18**th has no matches scheduled. That's 2 weekend days in the same month where **High**-

Power will be open all day for use by any **RSO with a High-Power Endorsement**. These are pretty rare in the midst of the competitive season, so take advantage! Get out there early and check that no wind zero before the wind picks up or do that long range load test you have been waiting for a chance to do! If you are not an RSO yet, why not?! Information on getting your RSO credentials is here in this Newsletter. Once you have got that taken care of, contact John Hauptmann to schedule getting your High-Power Endorsement, his contact information is below.

Looking back at May, we had an NRA approved RMC on the 13th which could only be characterized as "very windy". James Patterson was the winner with a 724-10x. That is about 50 points under James' normal score, to show how windy it was. Sunday the 14th we had a CMP EIC Match. Through incredible selfless effort of the Match Director (yours truly Dave Baalman) calling in many favors not yet owed, we managed to have enough non-distinguished shooters to be able to award leg points. I was the winner with a 465-9x. Unfortunately, I was the only shooter to score above the minimum cut score to be able to award leg points and I don't need them since I am already distinguished. Again, this should tell you how windy it was! We are contemplating moving this Match to a different month next year and definitely will not hold it on Mother's Day next year!

Falling into our May report was a **200/300 Yard Centerfire Match** on April 25. The weather was much improved from earlier 2023 matches and everyone enjoyed the better shooting conditions. Thanks to everyone who helped with the range targets, flags and equipment. **Kaleb Harvey** has set a new match record (200-18X, 100%) with a match clean and 18 X's. Congratulations Kaleb! **Ben Cook** was close behind (199-8X, 99.5%) by one point. **Dave McCauley** (196-6X, 98%) also shot very well. Kaleb, Ben and Dave all shot cleans at 200 yards. Great shooting guys!

Also falling into our May report was a **500 Yard OAR Match** on April 30, our first of the year. 10 shooters attended this quick 20 shot event. The Match started with mild 5 to 10 mph winds, coming from the southeast. By the second relay the tailwind alternated between the southeast and southwest. While shooting, winds remained mild and less than 10 mph. **Butch Marshall** won the day with an impressive 198 and 12 X's shooting his wife's 6 Dasher F-Open rifle. **Kaleb Harvey** followed in second place with 196-5X's. **Eric Sweet** from the Seattle area took 3rd with a solid 194-10X performance.

On the smallbore side there was a **50/100 Yard Dewar Match** on May 2. Nine shooters attended. The wind conditions were very good for the 50-yard leg but picked up for the 100-yard leg. Congratulations to **Tom Halecki**, **John Schneider, Ben Cook, David Vance and Kaleb Harvey** for firing 100% scores "cleans" on the 50-yard leg of the match. The winds picked up a bit before the 100-yard leg and there were no "clean" targets at 100 yards. Tom came close with a 199 out of 200. Tom and John tied for the high overall X count of 30. **Tom Halecki** was the Match Winner with 399-30X, (99.75%.) **John** came in 2nd at 396-30X, (99%.) **Ben** finished 3rd with a score of 395-24X, (98.75%.) Congratulations Tom, John and Ben! A big thanks to **Tex Long** for running the line and helping with scores.

There was a **Smallbore Benchrest Match** on May 9, which started out a bit cool but was getting more comfortable as the match progressed. The winds were a little contrary with sudden switches in direction and sharp declines to zero, with over and under corrections being common faults. It was **Phil Keuhlen's** day with Match Winner, High Card and high X count (tied with **Jeff** on the X count.) **Phil, Gary Meerdink** and **Jeff Davis** all shot better 2nd cards than 1st cards. **John Schneider** (2nd place) and **David Vance** (3rd place) were both very consistent on both cards. Both only varied one point. Thanks to **Tex Long** for running the line and helping officiate the match.

The full schedule is available at

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



High-Power contacts: **John Julian** High-Power Chairman - 509.308.0376 / <u>b24jcj@gmail.com</u>

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

Keep the Range Clean

Garbage cans are available for your trash and buckets are provided for spent cartridges.

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

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

SHOTGUN REPORT

By: Mark Monopoli

By the time you read this the year will be half over. Crazy. With the time flying by, and warm weather here to stay for a while, be sure to take advantage of our lovely little Shotgun Range. Trap, Skeet and 5-Stand are available each week to shoot. With the warm and sunny weather, be sure to be careful while out shooting. Take precautions to not overheat and stay hydrated.

Skeet League 2023 is in the books. It was a barn burner right up until the final round when **Doug Fearing** shot a pair of 24's on the last day of League to rip the Trophy out of **Dan Klages'** hands. Klages shot a 233 to Fearings League winning 234. Sometimes it just comes down to one bird, or those two birds you missed on station 8, right Don? Thank you to everyone that came out to shoot Skeet League this year. Also, a big thank you to **Dave Otto** for once again running the League this year. **Great shooting Doug!**

Most likely by the time you ready this the **Birdshot Challenge** will also be in the history books. Fingers crossed Rattlesnake managed to hang onto the trophy for one more year. Quite a few shooters have been polishing their skills at Skeet, 5-Stand and the ever popular 30-yard Skeet Crossers game. While we take this shoot just serious enough, it is mostly just an excuse to get together and compete against other local clubs while hanging out with friends.

With the **Shotgun Range** being open on **Wednesdays** until **7:00 p.m.** we have been seeing some new shooters out at the Range. This is a good thing and if you have the chance to come out on a Wednesday afternoon, I highly recommend it as the weather has been perfect lately.

This brings us to our "Hero Volunteer of the Month" for June. This month we are honoring John Jaeger for being our Wednesday afternoon RSO for the past 6 weeks. John is a really nice guy and he did a great job taking care of the Range for us. The first couple of weeks might have been a bit slow, so John kept busy by cleaning and vacuuming the Trap and Skeet houses, among other things. Thanks for all your work out at the Shotgun Range John!

Would you like to be a "**Volunteer Hero**" like John? The first step is to take the **TCSA RSO Class** and then get certified for the Shotgun Range and then you can be the "**Volunteer Hero**" you were meant to be!

As always, we need to thank several key people for going above and beyond volunteering their time at the Shotgun Range. In order of height, we can thank:

Phil Volkman for once again running our 5-Stand course this year. There is a lot of work that goes into keeping things running, and re-setting machines each week. We can also thank **Mike Inglima** for helping out on Wednesday mornings loading machines alongside

Phil. **Ron Geiger** does a stupendous job of keeping the Skeet Field looking like we never actually shoot on it. Target chips are blown off each week, lawn is edged, weeds are sprayed, sprinklers are sprinkling. In short, Ron makes it look good.

Lindsay Nelsen, when he is not struggling with basic math being the Shotgun Range Treasurer, he keeps our Trap and Skeet houses stocked with targets. Garrett Gottschalk does a great job mowing our lawns each week. I have never actually met Garrett in person and I am not sure he shoots Shotguns, but he is a valued member of the team and we are lucky to have him.

Stu Bruce was kind enough to take over the Secretary duties for the Shotgun Range a few months back and if that wasn't enough Stu handles training all of the new RSOs on running the Shotgun Range.

Dave Otto not only runs Skeet League for us, he still pops out and runs the edger around the fields. That is when he beats **Gabe Hall** to it anyways, as Gabe also really enjoys running that edger.

Chris Quinton for doing a bang-up job with scheduling all of our RSO duty dates for the year. This is a job that takes effort each and every week and we are very lucky that Chris sticks with us.

Don Klages. Honestly, I see him around all the time, but I am not sure what he does. I'll get back to you on that one.

Eric Bickel for serving as Mr. Fix It for the Range for as long as he did.

To everyone else who volunteers to be an RSO, or shows up a bit early to help load targets, empties the trash or just contributes to the Shotgun Range in a positive way, thank you for being a part of this little volunteer effort.

One last self-serving item to report. On May 28, at 11:07 a.m., I beat **John Wilgus** at 30-yard Skeet Crossers. That is all I have to say about that. Have a great month everyone!

SHOTGUN RSO INFORMATION

Remember current Membership Cards need to be presented <u>every time</u> 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 <u>www.tcsashotgun.com</u> and <u>www.tcsa.info</u>.

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



Like us on Facebook! Or don't... @rattlesnakemountainshotgun