



The Rattler

OCTOBER
2023

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

GENERAL INFORMATION:

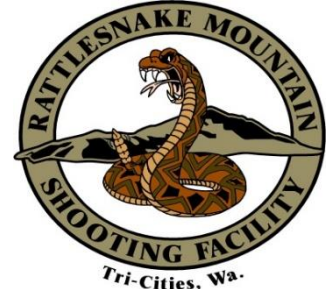
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Sue Verwest
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membership@tcsa.info or 509.735.1662

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By: Mark Verwest

I would like to remind the RSO's about not letting any shooters haul target stands out to the 50 or 100-yard lines. There are plenty of stands there already. If you feel up to it, please go out and bring some back to the firing line so there are some available for the pistol shooters.

Check out the Calendars for the different Disciplines to see what Matches are being held. There are a lot of Events scheduled and you can probably find one that you would enjoy shooting!

ROSE-IRIS RANGE

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

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

TCSA PUBLIC MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12
7:00 p.m.

RICHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
(Conference Rooms A & B)



YOUNG GIRLS' INTRODUCTION TO FIREARMS

By: Ron Jorgensen

The Tri-Cities Shooting Association hosted an **Introduction to Firearms** for young women on September 16. **Neil Rawlins** the coordinator for the girls assisted and provided several **NRA Certified Instructors** along with several **TCSA Range Safety Officers**. The Introduction included eighteen young women. The Event introduced the girls to firearms safety and shooting with activities suitable for junior shooters. Following the completion of the girls shooting, the Safety Officers took an opportunity to shoot. The Event began with a safety briefing by **John Drewry** followed by the shooting portion. Each shooter was paired with a TCSA Range Safety Officer or NRA Certified Instructor who coached them through loading, aiming and shooting of the firearms. All firearms and ammunition were provided. The participants were shooting .22 caliber rimfire rifles.



Young girls with completed targets. Most of these girls had never handled or fired a rifle.

(Second picture on page 2)

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 to the website the beginning of each month.

HUNTER EDUCATION AND SAFETY ASSOCIATION

By: **Randy Absolon**



We held an evaluation for students who had completed the **Online Course** on **September 9**, where all 19 students passed the Class and obtained their Hunter Education Cards.

Our last Class of the calendar year will have been held on **September 30**. This Class filled up in three days when registration opened.

Anyone needing the **Evaluation Class** to obtain their Hunter Ed Certificate this fall should be prepared to travel across the State for a class, register as soon as possible and check the WDFW website often to see if any classes have been added.

Because hunting seasons are going to be in full swing shortly, it is too difficult to get enough instructors together to hold Classes for students who have waited this long to get their certificate. I would note that there were eight available seats in our **August 12 Evaluation Class**.

I anticipate a similar schedule in 2024 as we had this year. We should have a **Traditional Class** starting in **January**, **Online Class Evaluations** in **March** and **April**, another **Traditional Class** in **June**, and **Online Evaluations** in **August** and **September**.

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 carry two different cartridges or shotgun gauges.

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

(Continued from Article on Page 1)



Coaches took turns to shoot following the girl's portion.

CHIEF RSO REPORT

By: Mike Ensminger



It looks like summer might actually be over, so as we roll into winter weather, it would be a good idea to check www.tcsa.info or the RMSF Facebook page if the forecast looks really bad to make sure we are open before you make the drive to the Range.

RSO Classes are scheduled whenever we get enough interest to make it worthwhile. If you are interested, send an email to Dan Martini (dantini@charter.net) and you will be invited to the next scheduled 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 non-member Range Use Fee. **EVERYONE must sign-in!**



NEXT RANGE SAFETY OFFICER CLASS

By: Dan Martini

Our next RSO Class will be held on **Saturday, October 7**. 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 Pistol Bay Range House and last until about 3 p.m. If you can make the October 7 Class date, send an email to dantini@charter.net with a **YES Oct 7** 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 RSO 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



The September ISSA Match showed 41 guns represented and the October Match will already be history when you read this.

We shoot on the first **Sunday every month**, with the shooter's meeting at 9:15. The South gate will be open for access before 9:00.

Sign-ups are at the Range on Match Day, so send us an email (mikeberta4@gmail.com) if you want us to start a squad for you ahead of time. We just need names and the number of guns each.

COWBOY ACTION

By: Mike Ensminger

The September Match was attended by 15 shooters, and even included a couple of new faces.



We will be shooting again **October 28** (weather permitting) and the South gate will be open for access prior to 9:00.

We are now starting shooting at 9:00. If the weather forecast looks particularly bad on Match Day keep an eye on the www.tcsa.org and our Facebook page just in case we are sensible enough to cancel ahead of time.

PRIMITIVE RANGE



By: Clint Bouslaugh

The **Primitive Range** is open the **third Saturday of the month** from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

In preparation for hunting season, the **October Shoot** will be open to people wanting to use the rifle trail walk section of the Range. This consists of 18 targets at ranges from 50 to 170 yards, some shots are fairly flat and others are uphill. This closely simulates many of the hunting areas in eastern Washington. Once you are sighted in, come out and try a realistic hunting scenario.

As always, we are willing to help newcomers to the black powder firearms with any questions they may have.



Hearing and Eye protection required when shooting!



SHOTGUN REPORT

By: Mark Monopoli

Ugh, October. Now the month of October isn't all that bad, but the end of another summer is a bummer for sure. Not to mention the "pumpkin spice" everything overkill that occurs this time of year.

One thing that is never a bummer is when you shoot your first 25 straight at Skeet. After many seasons of shooting skeet, **Mike Inglima** decided to join the cool kids and get the proverbial monkey off his back. While everyone is happy for Mike, long-time friend **John Wilgus** was a bit disappointed Mike chose a weekend John was out of town to get his hat shot. Great shooting Mike!

The **Shotgun Board Meeting** went off without a hitch this past month. Many things were discussed mostly dealing with making improvements at the Shotgun Range. Some items we are currently working on: Updating field lights to LEDs, updating voice calls on all fields, holding a registered Skeet shoot, painting the Shotgun house, and more. Look for the official Meeting Minutes on the Shotgun website this month.

The **Skeet Shoot** is in the planning phase still, but two shoots you can count on are the **2023 Turkey Shoot** and the **2023 Christmas Shoot** hosted by none other than **Chad Ungerecht!** As in years past the **Turkey Shoot** will be held on the **Sunday before Thanksgiving** while the **Christmas Shoot** will be held on the **Sunday before Christmas**. Save the date as these shoots are a fun time.



Chad is a great segway into the need for more people to volunteer around the Shotgun Range. Yes, we need you, yes you reading this right now to take some time and knock out a few chores around the Range. There is a list of items we need done posted to the dry erase board near the restrooms. Trimming some shrubs, pulling some weeds, trying to straighten a tree, hugging Ron Geiger, volunteering for Wednesday RSO duty, are all simple things that you can help with. It takes a small amount of time, but makes a big difference.

Ok, the "**Hero Volunteer of the Month**" title is getting more competitive and entertaining all at the same time. **John Dyes** is solidly in the running this month for taking over lawn mowing duties as **Garrett Gottschalk** took the rest of the season off in anticipation of his first child being born. Then you have **Don Lint** flying under the radar by trimming two of the bushes between Trap 1 and Trap 2. Don would have trimmed more of them, but he got concerned when, as he put it, his forehead started to cry. I told Don that is called sweating, and it occurs when you do manual labor. Well, that's all Don needed to hear and he wants nothing to do with manual labor anymore. **Mike Tomlinson** and **John Wilgus** deserve

an honorable mention for opening the 5-Stand field and setting some fun courses. With all that being said, "**Hero Volunteer of the Month**" for this month is **Stu Bruce!** Stu does so much stuff around the Shotgun Range that he should probably get the title every month. Stu single handedly trains our new Shotgun RSOs, keeps tabs on inventory of necessities we use on a daily basis and volunteers for more Wednesday duty days that one man should need to. Congratulations Stu, you are "**Hero Volunteer of the Month**"! Did you know Stu has served (37) RSO duties so far this year? Well, now you do, and you know how to be the **Hero** next month.

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery are going out to **Don Knowlton**. Don is our go to Wednesday afternoon RSO and we look forward to getting Don back after his recovery. Come to think of it Wednesday RSO duty must be tough on people as **Wednesday morning Bill** is also out recovering. Probably not the best segway, but have I mentioned that we are looking for a couple of you retired guys to rotate in on Wednesdays for RSO duty. Effects on health have not been properly analyzed by an independent study and are greatly exaggerated. We are not talking every Wednesday, just filling in once a month or so.

We are back to Winter hours at the Shotgun Range now. With sunset getting earlier and earlier and until we have new lights up, Shotgun Range hours for Wednesdays are back to **9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Thank you to everyone for making the Shotgun Range a success each and every month. And because I mention it every year and it always makes me a little sad, **Phil Volkman** has left for the warm weather of Arizona.

I am sure I forgot something, but that's all I have for now, 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 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)

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: I have randomly gotten comments from ROs and competitors from local matches through Nationals. These comments pertain to those competitors that lack interest in helping to reset targets. Our community thrives on a sense of camaraderie and teamwork and each individual's contribution plays a crucial role in maintaining a smooth match flow. Let's have mutual respect for each other by resetting targets. This will enhance the overall experience for all competitors at every Match.

NATIONAL NEWS: www.uspsa.org

The dates for USPSA Nationals 2024 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 **Monthly 2-Gun Match** on September 2 had 17 competitors with 3 Divisions. The Division winners were: Open: **Grant Fugimoto** (overall winner); Armored: **Kevin Bensema**; and Tactical: **Conor O'Brien**.

The **EWPSA Monthly Match** on September 17 had 64 competitors with 6/9 USPSA Divisions represented. The Division winners were: Open: **Ryan Barnes** (overall winner); Carry Optics: **Lane Plumlee**; Limited: **Daniel Hughes**; Limited Optics: **Mark Bradley**; PCC: **Mike Czebotar**; and Production: **Gen Quale**.

The **Action 2-Gun** on September 23 had 25 competitors with 4 Divisions. The Division winners were: Tactical: **Nocolas Espitia** (overall winner); Armored: **Kevin Bensema**; Limited: **Cayata Karyai**, and Open: **Trey Judy**.

COMING UP:

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

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

EWPSA will be hosting:

Fun in the Sun 3-Gun Match - October 8. Sign-in begins at 8:00 a.m. Shooter's meeting at 8:45 a.m.

Shooting begins at 9:00 a.m. The match cost is \$25. More details on Practiscore.

EWPSA USPSA Monthly Match - October 15. 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 - November 4. Sign-in begins at 9:30 a.m. Shooting begins at 10:00 a.m. The match cost is \$25. 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

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

By: Sue Verwest

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

The Calendar is on our website also and by just clicking on the colored Event on the Calendar you can get more information about that particular Event. You can click on the "List Tab" for an alternate viewing.

RSO have access to the secure part of the website for any information they may need in knowing their dates they are scheduled for at the Range.

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



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

HIGH-POWER

By: Dave Baalman

Fall is upon us, which means it is time to start thinking about hunting season! If you are headed to the High-Power Range to get a good zero on your hunting rifle, make sure to check the calendar first to make sure there is not a match scheduled.

https://www.tcsahighpower.org/files/ugd/e01b6a_f25ab1893e1f4668a378da3dc6085ca1.pdf The weekends continue to be pretty busy though October so do not make the mistake of driving all the way to the Range and being unable to shoot.

Centerfire Matches for the end of September and October start with a **50 BMG Match** weekend **September 28** through **October 1**, an **Open Any Rifle (OAR) Match** **October 8**, a **Long-Range Match** weekend **October 13 - 15**, and a **200/300-Yard Match** **October 24**. On the Smallbore side we have got a **Dewar Match** on **October 3**, a **Vintage Smallbore Match** on **October 5**, a **100/200-Yard Smallbore** on **October 7**, **50-Yard Benchrest** on **October 10**, **50-Yard ARA Smallbore** on **October 12**, **Precision Rifle** **22** on **October 21**, and **Mini-Palma** (club supplied ammo) on **October 29**. Note the **Mini-Palma Match** on **October 17** is cancelled.

Looking back at September, there was a **50-100-Yard Dewar Match** on September 5, from the Match Director: It was a very pleasant day at the Range. The weather was nice without too many wind tricks. The scores were high with everybody shooting over 90%. The top five were over 96%. Tough crowd! There were no "cleans" but **Tom Halecki** came close at both distances. Tom was Match Winner and also had the high X count of 24. **David Vance** edged out **Phil Keuhlen** by one X for second place. Thanks to **Ron Jorgensen** for helping run the Match.

The **Vintage Smallbore Match** on September 7 also had nice weather and great scores. All nine shooters shot over 95%, even those burdened with the exorbitant score tax (handicap system). **Tom Halecki** and **Ron Jorgensen** both shot match cleans (for raw score before the handicap) and **Phil Keuhlen** and **Larry Meerdink** both shot cleans on the second card. Tom in third overall had the high x count with 36. Phil had the high card after the handicap at 200 on the second card. **Glen Buxton** wound up the overall match winner after the handicap with a 396-17x. Phil was only one point behind. Tom's x count edged out Ron as they were tied for score.

The **50-Yard Benchrest Match** on September 12 turned out to be a nice Match despite the winds. No cleans were fired due to conditions, but **Tom Halecki** wound up the match winner with a 486-6x. **Phil Keuhlen** was second with a 482-5x. **John Schneider** had the high card in the earlier (better) conditions with a 244-7x, and had the high overall x count with 12.

The **Washington State Service Rifle Championship** and **Southeast District Championship** were held September 23 - 24 and we finally had a nice turnout combine with good conditions on the same weekend! We had 17 shooters including 4 juniors. The overall Service Rifle Championship was won by the state junior coach/coordinator **Michael Storer** of Ravensdale, Washington with a 774-26x. Nice example for the junior crowd! We had enough non-distinguished (state) shooters to award 2 state legs, the first went to Michael with an extracted score of 485-18x, and the second to **Adam Maxwell** of Benton City with a 479-10x. We had enough non-distinguished (national) shooters to award one leg on Sunday, which went to one of our Juniors, **Ayden Unger** of Maple Valley, Washington with a 481-8x. Overall win in the CMP leg on Sunday went to **Michael Storer** with a 492-19x. That's a score rarely shot at Rattlesnake!



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 / jhauptmann@gmail.com

WHEN THE RANGE IS COLD
NO HANDLING OF ANY FIREARMS

WHEN THE RANGE IS HOT
HANDLING OF FIREARMS IS PERMITTED



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

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

