



The Rattler

SEPTEMBER
2023

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

GENERAL INFORMATION:

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TCSA OFFICERS

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Dan Martini	Mbr at Large	509.627.3198	dantini@charter.net
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Rose-Iris Toberg	President Emeritus		



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

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By: Mark Verwest

I would like to thank **Scott Turner** for the excellent job he has been performing keeping the toilets clean. Everybody appreciates a clean bathroom. If you catch him out there working, be sure to thank him!

Also, it is that time of the year again when the Range sees an increase in use by the general public for pre-hunting season firearms sight in. I would like to remind the RSOs that this is a good time to be extra aware of safety violations. In the past we have seen a number of inexperienced shooters show up and they are sometimes in need of some extra supervision. Handling of firearms when the Range is cold and poor muzzle control are some commonly seen violations, so a little extra vigilance will be appreciated by all your fellow shooters.

The TCSA would like to thank **Richard Wickline** for the generous donation of a set of standard and reduced size **rimfire silhouette targets** and a great selection of **reactive targets** that you will see showing up on the Plinking Range over the next few months.

ROSE-IRIS RANGE

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

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

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 next 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 just clicking on the colored Event on the Calendar you can get more information about that particular Event.

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

When figuring the space for the mailed Newsletter, I was limited to what I could put in the Newsletter to keep under the "tipping point" that would require 2 postage stamps for mailing a Newsletter. I will no longer need to limit the space and will also be able to accept more pictures of Events if the contributing Authors wish to include them in their articles!



TCSA FACILITIES

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

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

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

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

Cowboy Action Rep. – **Charles Kissler** – 509.783.8505

Nelson Thomas – 509.727.4678

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“WELCOME” NEW MEMBERS

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

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

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

HUNTER EDUCATION AND SAFETY ASSOCIATION

By: **Randy Absolon**



We have two more evaluations for students who have completed the Online portion of the Class scheduled for this year. The first of these will be held on **September 9**. Registration has been open for less than a week and this class is already full. Registration for the Class to be held on **September 30** will open on **September 1** and I expect that Class to fill up quickly also.

Students who have waited until Fall to complete the Field Course/Written Test portion of the Evaluation should be prepared to travel farther to finish the course. I want to point out that there were eight available seats in our **August 12** Evaluation.

Information on our Classes and all other Hunter Education Classes available across the state 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 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 always check every cartridge to make sure it is the correct ammunition for your firearm.

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



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

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

TCSA PUBLIC MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
7:00 p.m.

RICHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
(Conference Rooms A & B)

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



CHIEF RSO REPORT

By: Mike Ensminger



We are looking at holding a **Saturday RSO Training** class **October 7**, if we have sufficient interest. If you are interested in attending, send an email to Dan Martini (dantini@charter.net) so he can get you scheduled. See Dan's Article below.

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 is scheduled for **Saturday October 7**. 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 Saturday, October 7 Class date and have your TCSA membership current through the 2023 – 2024 time period, reply to **Dan Martini** at dantini@charter.net with a YES and include your TCSA Membership number. I will add your name to this RSO Class list and will also 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 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.



Hearing and Eye protection required when shooting!



RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN STEEL SHOOTERS

By: Mike Ensminger



31 guns competed in the August Match, with **Ethan Openshaw** coming out on top of the pack.

Thanks to **Nelson Thomas** and **Alan Openshaw** for making sure the Match happened while a bunch of us were out of town.

The next **Match** will be **September 3**; shooter's meeting at 9:15 a.m. Registration is upon arrival at the Range, but we will start a squad for you ahead of time if you send us names and number of guns. Email to mikeberta4@gmail.com.

COWBOY ACTION

By: Mike Ensminger

We had 17 shooters at the August Match and it was nice to see some new faces in the crowd. **Seth Smith (Shifty Jack)** dropped in from Idaho and not only kicked our collective butts, but also shot his first clean monthly match at Rattlesnake.



The next **Match** will be **September 23**, with the shooter's meeting at 9:00 a.m.

It looks like we will be having a **Wild Bunch Match** on **September 30**. Plan on 6 stages with around 200 .45s, 50 rifle and a couple of boxes of shotshells. Shooter's meeting is at 9:00.

PRIMITIVE RANGE



By: Clint Bouslaugh

Spent some time cleaning the Range and mowing the vegetation in front of the target board. Should be safe to shoot without starting a fire now. **Rick Robert's** and **I** are trying to come up with ideas for new targets to make the Range a little more fun and different.

Our next scheduled shoot will be on **September 16** from 9:00 until noon.

Time to come out and sight in those hunting rifles under field conditions. Trail walk targets range from 40 to 160 yards out, some level, others are uphill.

SHOTGUN REPORT

By: Mark Monopoli

Welcome to September everyone! Seems a little strange to be thinking about Labor Day weekend already. This year is flying past, so if you want to be a high-volume shooter at the Shotgun Range, you better get to it.

September may bring the end of summer, but it also brings the **Annual Shotgun Board Meeting**. That's right, save the date and mark your calendars for **6:30 p.m.** on **SEPTEMBER 6** at the **SHOTGUN RANGE**. I'm sure there will be a host of things to discuss, so please plan on joining us.

See something, say something. Helping to keep the Shotgun Range a safe place to shoot is on all of us. We had a situation a few months back that was unsafe and I wanted to take a moment to address some of the items that have come up in the subsequent discussions and meetings.

Shotguns should always have their action open and empty until you are on station and it is your turn to shoot. Over-Unders should be broke open and semi-autos should have the slide locked back.

The only safe direction to point a shotgun is down range. Period. No matter if it is pointed at the ground or not, you need to be facing down range.

If you are shooting Station 8 on Skeet, you only load one shell at a time. No exceptions. You are changing stations when you move from the high house to the low house shot. We do not move off of a station with a loaded and/or a closed shotgun.

If you have a failure to fire, whether it is due to a malfunction of the shotgun or the ammo, always keep the gun pointing down range in a safe direction.

The above are just a few things to keep in mind while you're out shooting or observing other people shoot. If you shoot long enough, you are going to see something, say something or most likely both.

One final thing before I wrap up my TED talk on safety. A very seasoned shooter said something to me when I asked his advice on a safety situation and it made a lot of sense. Sometimes we are wrong. We do something that we perceived as safe that was indeed not. And when we are confronted with this issue, we can get defensive or indignant when we should really just accept the fact that we made a mistake, learn from it, apologize, and move on. The other side of that is how we approach people who are being unsafe. Yes, the severity of the safety issue can affect how animated we get, but we should always strive to educate people rather than berate them.

Now we go from an important issue to one that bums me out. **Ken Mikkelsen** passed away on April 27th. Ken was always a fun guy to talk to and would help out where he could at the Range. While I cannot say I ever shot a round of skeet with Ken, we did shoot the breeze quite a bit. When I was reading Kens obituary, I thought it was funny that it says he was born in the "small village" of Richland, Washington. For some reason that fits my image of him, Godspeed Ken.

Ok, we will move onto more cheery things now. It has come to my attention that attaining the title of "**Hero Volunteer of the Month**" is something many are striving for. Well, it takes some effort I tell you, it isn't just bestowed on a whim, or at least it isn't anymore. **Tom Walchuk** thought he should get it for not breaking the Skeet remote, while someone else thought they should get it just because they hadn't gotten it before. That's not how this works people. You have to be like **whoever** pulled some of the weeds between Trap 1 and Trap 2. That's right **Mr. Mysterious Weed Puller Guy**, even though you only pulled some of the weeds, you are our "**Hero Volunteer of the Month**" for August!

Speaking of mysterious guys, did you know that our own **Don Lint** has the 3rd best average for handicap trap for his class/yardage in Washington State? I didn't either before he told me. I mention this because it's a cool accomplishment and Don is always going on about shooting in Yakima and Hermiston and I just wonder how many times his name has been in their Newsletters? Good job Don!

One final congratulations to **Mike Tomlinson** for beating **John Wilgus** and **Don Klages** in the **30 Yard Skeet Crossers .410 Challenge!** Word on the street is that it wasn't even close. Waiting on reports if this had anything to do with Wilgus going fishing on Wednesday morning instead of being at the Range. Is it the time of the Tomlinson? Good Lord, I'm not sure I'm ready for that.

Have a great month everyone!

SHOTGUN RSO INFORMATION

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

SHOTGUN RANGE HOURS

Wednesday – 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday -- 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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

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



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

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 2023 have been released <https://uspsa.org/nationals>

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

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

The USPSA Rules Change Log is located here:

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

LOCAL NEWS:

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

The **Monthly 2-Gun Match** on August 5 had 22 competitors with 3 Divisions. The Division winners were: Open: **Skeetz Guilbeau** (overall winner); Armored: **Tye Johnson**; and Tactical: **Kelly Hill**.

The **Fun in the Sun 2-Gun** on August 13 had 22 competitors with 3 Divisions. The Division winners were: Open: **Brian Humann** (overall winner); Stealth: **Kevin Bensema**; and Tactical: **Jeff Downen**.

The **EWPSA Monthly Match** on August 19-20 had 64 competitors with 6/9 USPSA Divisions represented. The Division winners were: Limited Optics: **Mark Bradley** (overall winner); Carry Optics: **Richard Ingram**; Limited: **James Thomas**; Open: **Brian Humann**; PCC: **Ann Blosser**; and Production: **Gen Quale**.

COMING UP:

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

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

EWPSA will be hosting:

Monthly 2-Gun on **September 2**. Registration at 8:30 a.m. The match cost is \$25. More details on Practiscore.

EWPSA USPSA Monthly Match on **September 17**. 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.

Action 2-Gun on **September 23**. Sign-in begins at 8:00 a.m. The match cost is \$25. More details on Practiscore.

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

HIGH-POWER

By: Dave Baalman

With the end of August, it is time to look forward to cooler temperatures and hunting season is right around the corner. For those of you High-Power RSOs who plan to come to the Range to test out your hunting rifles at longer yardages, a few points to remember:

(1) if you are headed out check the calendar first:

https://www.tcsahighpower.org/files/ugd/e01b6a_f25ab1893e1f4668a378da3dc6085ca1.pdf

Note that the September 9 OAR Match is cancelled, that gives you 3 weekend days in September with nothing scheduled on September 2, 3 and 9 plus Labor Day September 4.

(2) if you have not been out to the Range since last year, I will hit the high points of High-Power specific procedures for you. Do not forget to put up the Bravo flag near the main gate when you arrive. If it is already up, someone is there ahead of you. Before heading to the pits remember to check the 800 - 1000-yard firing lines to make sure someone isn't already there shooting long range. Remember to sign in at the pit connex (west end) and to pay your daily use fee as well. Remember all shooters present must shoot the same yardage. You cannot use the 500-yard firing line while someone else is using 600 for example.

(3) if you have guests, just like down at Rose-Iris you should spend a few minutes going over the rules before the firearms come out of the rig.

(4) if you do not have a good idea of the come up for your load at longer yardages, start at shorter range and work your way out. We want to make sure all the bullets are in the berm!

(5) all standard safety rules still apply, keep those muzzles in a safe direction etc.

(6) use the stairs if you need to go down the face of the firing berm to retrieve brass. Do not erode the fill walking down the face unnecessarily.

If you still need to get **your work day in for the year**, contact **John Julian**. We will likely be needing help for the State Service Rifle Championship on September 23 - 24.

Looking ahead at the September calendar, on the Centerfire side we've got a **Long Range V2 Points Series Match** on **September 16**. On the **23rd** and **24th** we've got the **State Service Rifle Championship** and a **CMP EIC Match**. This one is a great opportunity to earn leg points for CMP and the state award. The wind is often a factor in who wins this match, so come prepared! On the **26th** we've got a **200/300 Yard Match** and we round out the month with **50 BMG Matches September 28 - 30**. Note again the 500 OAR Match on the 9th is cancelled.

On the smallbore side, we've got a **Dewar 50/100** on the **5th**, **Vintage Smallbore** on the **7th**, a **100/200 Smallbore** and **ELR Smallbore** on the **10th**, **50 Yard Benchrest** on the **12th**, **50 Yard ARA Smallbore** on the **14th** and a **100 Yard Mini Palma** with club provided ammo on the **17th**. The Mini-Palma on the 19th is also cancelled.

Looking back at August, we had a **50/100 Dewar** where ten folks showed up to enjoy the early cool temperature and low velocity winds. **Ben Cook** and **Tom Halecki** both shot "cleans" at 50 yards. Ben was Match winner closely followed by one point by Tom. Ben had the high X count of 29 which is a great demonstration of marksmanship. **Brandon Tinker** and **John Schneider** tied numerically for 3rd and 4th but Brandon's X count was greater than John's. Our only Junior shooter, **Cameron Tinker**, was keeping his Dad honest and shot a very competitive score at 94.25%.

We had a Vintage Small Bore on August 3, the winds were very light and the early start allowed avoiding most of the heat. The top four shooters all shot "Match Cleans" so the placement became a battle of the X's. **Glen Buxton** was crowned "Match Winner" with 33 X's. Congratulations Glen! **Tom Halecki**, **Gary Meerdink** and **Ron Jorgensen** were right behind with 31, 30 and 29 X's. Not much spread there. The High Card was taken by **Brandon Tinker** using iron sights. Congratulations Brandon! **Brandon**, **Cameron Tinker** and **Rob Ellis** all shot with iron sights and yielded some really competitive scores. There are only three scheduled Vintage Smallbore matches remaining in 2023.

Next up was a 50-Yard Smallbore Benchrest on August 8. It was a pleasure to spend some time in the nice weather with a talented bunch of riflemen. The Match was well attended and I hope you all enjoyed each other's company and the cooler weather. **Ben Cook** (The Penultimate Wind Master) sure showed his exceptional skills despite having little wind to play with. Ben scored the high card and was also Match Winner. Way-to-Go Ben! **John Schneider** had the high X count. Big thanks to **Tex Long** for running the shooting line and helping with scoring.

August 10 was an ARA Smallbore Match, it was a pretty breathless day for card 1. The wind started picking up for card 2. As usual **Tom Halecki** was consistent and accurate winning both the aggregate score and high card. Great job Tom! **Gary Meerdink** had a great performance as well. **Ron Jorgensen** and **Kaleb Harvey** fought it out for 3rd and 4th place.

Now on to some centerfire results, August 22 was a 200/300 Yard Match. The weather looked really "iffy" when we first arrived but the front held off and we were able to shoot. The rain knocked most of the smoke out of the air and it was windy but consistent. A BIG thanks to **Larry Meerdink** for helping run the match! **Tom Halecki** shot a "clean" at 200 and was Match Winner today. Congratulations Tom! **Gary Meerdink** followed Tom by one point and had the high X count. Thanks to **Dave McCauley**, **Tom** and **Larry** for helping with the range equipment and targets.

The August 26th Regional Match Course was lightly attended as is common for the August match each year. Those present were rewarded with an excellent day to work on wind calling and shooting offhand while in gusts big enough to move your sights to the next target. **Dave Baalman** was the overall winner with a score that was not one for the record books. I was just happy to have them all land in the scoring rings!

Finally, the August 27 Mini-Palma had great conditions. Only four shooters turned out but those four had a good day. Very little wind but each relay got caught by a wind shift. Two shooters shot a clean 150 for the simulated 800-yard target. The match winner was **Brandon Tinker** with a 448 and 23 x's. Thanks to **Ron Jorgensen** and **Ben Cook** for running the match.



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

UNITED WAY

Keep us in mind when the United Way campaign kicks off at work. The **Tri-Cities Shooting Association** is a **501(c)(3) non-profit corporation** and is eligible for donations through the United Way. Any donations are genuinely appreciated.

