

Newsletter September 2015

Estes Park Gun and Archery Club

National Forest Service: Canyon Lakes Ranger District, contact number 970-295-6700 in Fort Collins is very friendly and helpful to which website to view to obtain information for target shooting. Of course, they will not direct you to any "one" location but cautions one to watch for any restrictive signage of use for the land you have chosen. This pdf map link provided here, http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3852769.pdf will take you to a map and description of use for certain locations. The NFS would like everyone visiting these lands to view the Target Shooting NFS page, <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/arp/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5163234>. We encourage you to browse around on this website to get more details about the NFS, comment on their current proposal, find Baker Draw designated shooting range on Pawnee Grasslands in Larimer County. Note: if you have your own trap thrower, trap shooting is allowed on NFS lands (not at Baker Draw though).

If it is difficult for you to view the websites/pages above, they are listed on the EPGAC website, www.epgunarchery.com for your convenience. Big Game Archery & Rifle hunting timeframes are here and the Club would like everyone to be able to sight-in their rifles & practice archery at outdoor areas to make it a successful hunt.

Please watch for fire bans in Boulder County & restrictions and Larimer County Fire alerts!

Friday Evenings at Indoor Range: Gordon Ulrickson, NRA Instructor & Club Past President, provided Range Safety Class for six students and other students were able to receive the class online and attended class in the valley to become your Range Safety Officers. It cost those students from \$75 to \$125 to become a RSO to offer the public and Club members another evening to use the Indoor Range. These volunteers wish to serve you. Remember to show respect by listening to their Safety instruction before going to the firing line and thank them for helping to open another shooting night. (Your use of the Friday Evening Shooting time will also prove to the RSO's that this offering was a worthy endeavor.)

Indoor Range-250 Community Drive-Estes Park- Schedule: **Tuesday**-Archery 7:00 to 8:00pm, **Wednesday**-Firearm 7:00 to 8:00pm, **Thursday**-Firearm 6:30 to 7:30pm, **Friday**-Firearm 7:00 to 8:00pm. **Third Monday**-Ladies Only 7:00 to 8:00pm & **First Tuesday**-Basic Defense Practice 5:45 to 6:45pm. Ear & Eye protection required upon entry especially on Firearm nights.

For those considering to volunteer as a new RSO for our Indoor Range, it is best to receive the NRA certification as that would help us provide RSO's in the event the Outdoor Range is ever opened again. With this certification you would be set to RSO at any range. Orientation to the Indoor Range operation is given, a key to open the range for your designated evening, clean up credit is given as this is part of the Indoor Range RSO duties. The Club is always in need of volunteers for this important job, so either call Sharyn at 970-586-2426 or email sharyn@frii.com or president@epgunarchery.com for more information.

Community Services Grant: The application to the Town of Estes Park to consider the Club request to help fund the rental of our Indoor Range port a let was submitted before their due date of September 11th. The Club's board did view other Companies to provide this service. We found that Air O Pure, Netherland could provide a single port a let w/service for \$100 for a 28 day cycle with the knowledge that they may raise their price to \$110. Waste Management (WM) did counter with a monthly rate of \$140. By changing companies on August 22nd, the Club will be able to stay within its line item budget for the 2015 year of \$2,400 to rent a port a let. WM started out the 2015 year with \$195 rental rising each month to this August, \$253.

The Grant Application included the Club's 2016 line item budget amount to be \$1430 and being divided in thirds with each entity; Town, Recreation District and Gun Club, the amount of the grant would be \$475. The Estes Valley Recreation and Park District has received a request letter of contributing the proposed portion to be added to their 2016 budget. The Club will possibly receive notice of this proposed grant and contribution in late November and if funded, will receive funds in 2016.

Why is this important to apply for such little money? The “aim” is to keep our Club, Estes Park Gun and Archery Club, a non-profit service organization, in their minds of providing a safe and inviting public recreation shooting range for the community, visitors, club members and local Law Enforcement Agencies. The year round convenience facility, initiated by the Club for Club use, has become a year round restroom for their Public trails, Pet park and Stanley Recreational Park.

Last Indoor Range Clean up Day Scheduled: October 17th Even though we had permission to hike up to Common Point on August 22nd, not enough member volunteers wished to go. That gave us time & helpers to clean up our brass and lead to recycle, to mine the backstop, vacuum the floor, repair damage to the back gutter and improve the drain system. Air O Pure, Netherland also delivered the port a let and members were able to help position it and move out the WM port a let for their pick-up.

Members that found it difficult to attend Saturday clean ups, notified your president. A Special Clean up Repair day was arranged to add more downspouts to the gutter on the East side of the Indoor Range. With the 4” gutter repair parts, and a close paint match, on September 8th, these volunteers helped to prepare for our winter snow melt and paint the outside of the Indoor Range to be presentable for the visitors to the Scottish/Irish festival for that weekend. (Please note that the Recreation District has been mowing around our building. Remember to thank them for keeping the weeds down and keeping the landscape groomed.)

Bill Conger, 1st VP and clean up chairman is available for suggestions at 970-577-9393 or email him at wlconger@estesvalley.net. He is due to contact the leader & sign up volunteers for our final clean up on October 17th.

Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests: A meeting was held in Fort Collins called by Nehalem Clark, Acting Forest Planner, Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests & Pawnee National Grassland on Wednesday, Sept. 23rd by special invitation to personally receive feedback on the NFS proposed direction to manage their lands to target practice. They had received over 1,400 comments from concerned citizens but had not heard from managers or operators of existing shooting ranges or people who actually use NFS areas for target practice. They are still taking comments even though their deadline has passed comments-rm-arapaho-roosevelt@fs.fed.us. Garry Sanfacon, moderator for www.SportShootingPartners.org also attended and had encouraged your president to attend. County Commissioners were represented from Clear Creek, Gilpin and Larimer County Natural Resource Director also gave their voice to NFS proposal along with Colorado Parks & Wildlife. Many of us did not really understand that NFS plan was to close all target shooting areas and then come back with designated areas. My take on the comments were that the NFS should be considering the designated areas first before any thought is made to closures.

This type of forum (face to face) and touching base with shooting enthusiasts and managers really put a voice to all your comments. Garry Sanfacon, Shooting Sports Partners, wants your comments info@sportshootingpartners.org because the partnership passes those remarks onto the Clear Creek Commissioner, Gilpin Commissioner, Larimer County Commissioner, Boulder County, Colorado Parks & Wildlife and the National Forest Service all at once. If you have not been able to attend a virtual meeting, note that the Sport Shooting Partners will be our main speaker at our Annual Meeting, January 21st, 2016. Let's be ready to be informed and comment wisely.

Club's Personal Property at Common Point: Since the Club Board decided to cancel the port a let rental with Waste Management, WM wished to know about picking up their trash bins at Common Point. Well, actually, they do not belong to WM as they were donated to the Club for our use since they were not (appearance wise) rentable due to other damage. The Club has an “on call” WM account to empty the bins.

It became apparent to your president that through the process of rebuilding Noels Draw Lane to Common Point and repair to the ranges, the ownership of personal property purchased by the Club may get lost in the shuffle of officer changes with the Gun Club and the Estes Valley Recreation & Park District. The only listing is found in the proposed Concessionaire Agreement yet to be approved and signed off by US Dept. of Interior, National Park Service and the EVRPD. The District and your president are trying to find a day before the snow flies to hike up and take written descriptions and pictorial records before the future range development happens.