

Estes Park Gun & Archery Club

PO Box 982, Estes Park, CO 80517

February 2016 Newsletter

www.epgunarchery.com

Estes Valley Recreation & Park District Awards Bid

Noels Draw Lane is due to be repaired by June 1, 2016 as Mountain Constructors receive the contractor bid award at the District's Tuesday evening, February 16th, board meeting in Estes Park. The redesign and repairs to the Common Point Outdoor Shooting Range, 25 yard pistol and 200 yard rifle range are destined to be completed at the same time. The dollar amount offered to complete this project was \$481,000, well below the Districts top limit of \$587,486.50, with the stipulation of a penalty for each day beyond the contracted completion date.

The plan is to lower the rifle range to the same ground level as the 25 yard pistol range but only be a 100 yard rifle range with side berms and earthen backstop. Enclosed with this newsletter is the revised site plan concept of the Benesch Engineers and the second is a suggestion by the Club's President to consider including parking near each range & sharing of a side berm. Consideration is being taken by the District's Project Manager, Kim Slininger, as to the possible cost and/or time it would take to keep the existing 25 yard pistol range in place and adding 5 more lanes and reduction of side berms. Note the plan includes 10 lanes at the 100 yard rifle range as well. The District is looking into the future participant use of both ranges.

The contractor mobilization would be anticipated the first week of March for a 45 day construction period. June 1st does not mean that our Club members can plan on using the range as there are other negotiations that must happen. The District has not decided on whether to: #1 put the Concessionaire Contract out for bid, RFP; #2 feasibility to negotiate with the Club to write up a new contract; or #3 to run the Outdoor Shooting Range "in house" as an option.

The Club presented to the District in December, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), listing its Personal Property which is still located at the Common Point Shooting Range with replacement values. The statement of demolition in the contractor's bidding process gave the Club some concern over what would be destroyed or needed to be moved out of the way as the contractors planned their excavation and repair of the road and ranges, therefore the MOU. It is important to keep the communication and common sense going as each party listens to each other in the up and coming negotiations.

Indoor Range Use

Many of our Club members would prefer an outdoor setting to target practice. Our membership total has lowered substantially from 600 and on a wait list in 2013 to only 182 new & renewal memberships so far this year of 2016. Patience runs thin after 2 ½ years and some will be slow to renew this year in anticipation of using an outdoor range. Whether they find that range on National Forest Land or in the Valley, the Club does try to assist anyone who asks where they can target practice.

Due to our wonderful Club RSO volunteers, who train at their own expense, acquiring an NRA Range Safety Officer certification, more shooting evenings are made available for our community and members, Thank you.

Firearm use is available:

Wednesday 7:00 to 8:00pm

Thursday 6:30 to 7:30pm
NEW Friday 7:00 to 8:00pm (Started Sept. 2015)

Special Night use:

1st Tues. of each Month - Defensive Pistol Review for Jim Boyd NRA students 5:45 to 6:45pm
3rd Monday of each Month- Ladies Only Shoot- 7:00 to 8:00pm

Archery is scheduled for Tuesday's 7:00 to 8:00pm. This offering has not been used much this winter so if someone wishes to attend, it would be best to call David Bruce or Sharyn Gartner, 970-586-2426 a few days before to make sure an RSO will be able to assist you.

Annual Meeting- January 21, 2016

Included with this Newsletter are the Minutes written by our Club's Secretary, William (Bill) Howell. He covered so well our speakers for the evening, Larimer County Commissioner Tom Donnelly and Director of Natural Resources, Gary Buffington in regards to the Sport Shooting Partners and Designated Shooting areas within our County.

2016 Elected Board of Directors

President -Sharyn Gartner –1 yr term president@epgunarchery.com
1st VP- William (Bill) Conger - 1 yr term wlconger@estesvalley.net
Clean up Chairman cleanup@epgunarchery.com
2nd VP- Steve Murphree- 1 yr term steve@estesvalley.net
Indoor Range Use Chairman
Secretary- William Howell – 1 yr term lycanman0187@gmail.com
Treasurer- Liz McGavin- 1 yr term treasurer@epgunarchery.com
3 yr term board member- Doug Tabor dtabor@estesvalley.net
(New) Webmaster webmaster@epgunarchery.com
3 yr term board member-Randy Buchanan ryellowlabs@msn.com

Board members completing their terms are:

Rick Tekulve 2-yrs remaining judyrick53@aol.com
Jim Cozzie 1- yr remaining jcozzie@earthlink.net
Membership Chr- Bob Mitchiner membership@epgunarchery.com
(Serving until he gets tired!)

Benefits to Those that Serve

As of the December, 2014 Club board meeting, all officers, board members and special chairman of membership & the webmaster, have been awarded a waived membership fee & clean-up fee for the term of their office. Those interested in being on the Board of Directors for 2017 may want to consider the incentives to serve as an officer or board member.

Range Safety Officers also benefit by receiving a waived clean up fee due to the fact that every time they serve our members and the public at the Indoor Range, they end up cleaning, replacing light bulbs or target holders for the next event.

Honor Retiring Webmaster

Our retiring webmaster, Jeff Van Bogaert, has volunteered his IT knowledge for the past eight years. He is not leaving town as you will still see him at the Indoor Range as an RSO on Wednesday and Friday evenings throughout the month. Please take time to thank him for sharing and keeping us all

on track with the many events and notices published on our website. www.epgunarchery.com. His successor, Doug Tabor, is also an accomplished IT person and is anxious to serve our Club as well.

Larimer County Zoned Open Land

Outdoor Range options the Club's Board is pursuing, is the purchase of acreage within our Larimer County. Two parcels have caught their interest along Highway 34 toward Drake. One contains 40 acres, 2 miles south of Highway 34 with partial access through National Forest Land and the other which contains 300 acres with the ownership of all the access directly off of Highway 34 to the north.

Currently, the Board is conducting a Larimer County Special Review which allows neighbors to have a voice toward the use of these parcels as a shooting range. The Club does not have to purchase the land first but have notified the owners of this interest and they have signed the paper work to pursue our research.

The cost of the Special Review will be paid for by the Club. If the land owners receive a contract for purchase of their land while the Review is being conducted, the Club holds no legal representation and the owners are able to sell their land. It is a gamble the board understands and is willing to take to find an Outdoor Shooting Range property with no strings attached as seen by leasing other agency lands.

Contacting the nearby landowners is in process and the board plans to have letters out to them soon with proposed shooting range site plans. They will be given a certain time to reply to give their comments. If they are in the affirmative and have no conflict with building a shooting range in their area, the Special Review with Larimer County will begin. The funding to purchase will be going on as well. Contacting major companies within the Firearm industry will be a must. Gordon Ulrickson, who established the 501 c 3 tax deductible organization, Friends of the Estes Park Gun & Archery Club, will be asked to aid in our fund raising endeavors. Several Club members at our Annual Meeting also showed interest in this project and a committee to oversee this project should be set up in the near future. The Special Review will come first.

RSO Volunteers

A team of RSO's are needed to open our Indoor Range on Sunday Afternoons. Check in with Gordon Ulrickson, NRA RSO Instructor, nragordon@gmail.com or call 303-882-0822 for an update on being a student in his class to be announced soon. Our secretary, Bill Howell, is quite anxious to offer this opportunity, 970-586-5455.