

Estes Park Gun & Archery Club

PO Box 982, Estes Park, CO 80517

2016 November Newsletter

www.epgunarchery.com

Work Days at Common Point

Everyone received the news toward the Concession Agreement being signed to manage and operate the shooting ranges at Common Point and the Indoor Community Drive range, September 26, 2016. Since the operation at the Indoor Range would not change, being open for the Public and Club members at designated times with Club RSO's present, the Outdoor Range needed some help to bring it up to the Club's safety standards and usability.

The Estes Valley Recreation and Park District allowed access from June, 2016 through the signing of the Agreement, September 26, 2016 by acquiring a key from their office. They allowed anyone access with no background checks or personal references and no Range Safety Officer on the premises at Common Point. The District informed the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA); Larimer County Sheriff's Office, Estes Park Police Department and Rocky Mountain National Park Law Enforcement, to apply their own locks to the access gate chain. This gesture at least gave a our local LEA's an outdoor place to qualify and train their troops and aid our community with a sense of our officers being trained locally and ready.

Upon the application of the Club's combination lock to the Common Point access gate, current members were sent the combination code. Work days started on that Thursday, Sept. 29th, with board members measuring out the 100 yd rifle and 25 yd pistol range. Members painted a firing line in red on the installed sidewalk by the District. It was projected to have 7 lanes at the rifle range but the shooting tables were not figured in to the spacing of the shooters. The board settled for 5 lanes and marked distances from 25yd, 50yd, 75yd and then the 100yd backstop area. The pistol range was to have 10 lanes but was reduced to 8 lanes with 36 inch intervals between shooters.

The current members were emailed to attend a work day for Saturday, Oct. 1st. With the donated electric poles from the Town of Estes Park, target stand holders were developed for the rifle range. We had rented a post hole digger and jack hammer to drill holes but to no avail of inserting the PVC pipe into the ground as we had done with our old 25yd pistol range. We started to move and cut poles to attach PVC pipe for the pistol range on Oct. 6th, another work day. After our members had experienced the wind tunneling down the rifle range, we had to stabilize the PVC pipe that held our target stands. Upon the delivery of more electric poles, the pistol range was set for measurements, Oct. 15th, with distances of 7, 10, 15, 20, & 25 yards from the firing line. One more work day would finalize both ranges with target stand holders, Oct. 20th.

On our first work day, we were able to move the storage shed to a more convenient area for both ranges, and position dumpsters to each side of the shed. Mowing was done at the Trap range and plywood backstops installed. The access gate was raised to be able to swing both ways on Noels Draw Lane. Waste Management was called in to empty two dumpsters and move the three of them to their new spaces.

Each member that attended added more hours to our "in kind service" credits for the future and received their clean up credits for 2016. Please note, that many came back the second and third time to help get the ranges ship shape for easier use by our members. Please consider visiting the range before the snow flies and just know how much work our members have done.

Safety Issue with Side Berms

After the District repaired Noels Draw Lane and started the repositioning of the 100 Yard rifle & 25 Yard, they were starting to use up their FEMA and Colorado Parks & Wildlife grants. Before the side berms were completed, the District proceeded to change two trap shooting lanes, without considering the safety issues with the berms and ran out of funds.

The Club will be presenting some solutions to the District to extend and raise the 25 yard pistol range side berm, especially to the right of our shooters. From the firing line, the shooter can see the backs of the rifle shooters. The back of the 25 yard firing line needs fill material as well. At the rifle range, the tables situated on the firing line can be seen from the parking area. The Club feels it is necessary to extend that side berm another 10 ft to defend innocent bystanders of any accidental firing toward the parking area. With the approval of the District, the Club hopes to move fill material from areas found at Common Point and the Club would pay the bill for Labor & Excavating.

2017 Membership

Renewal forms will be sent out soon for our 2017 renewing members. For those wishing to become new members of the Club, they can print off our membership form from the website, www.epgunarchery.com along with the Release of Liability form. Anyone wishing to join or rejoin now will be required to undergo a background check and participate in the range Orientation & Safety program. This is a requirement of the Concessionaire's Agreement. Rejoining members will not be assessed a missed clean up fee for 2016. New and rejoining members will be issued a 2017 Membership Card with the gate combination for 2016 after the background check and Orientation & Safety program has been completed. The fee will be \$75.00 plus \$10.00 for a background check if they do not have a CCW card. If they have a current CCW card, a copy is requested and no background checks are required. Personal references will no longer be required. The membership card will be valid for the rest of 2016 and all of 2017.

New or rejoining members are encouraged to list an email address to receive immediate changes to the combination lock to Common Point or be assessed a fee for mailing notices. The combination will change quarterly after our Annual Meeting, January 19, 2017.

Your Club membership chairman, Bob Mitchiner, welcomes your email or call if you have questions after carefully reading the 2017 Membership Application.

Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar for January 19, 2017 for the Club's Annual meeting. The location has not been decided as yet but with the closure of HWY 34, the Board is looking at locations near Lyons, Northern Longmont, besides the Estes Park area. If members would like to help find a location, contact Sharyn Gartner, 970-586-2426.

This meeting will be a celebration of the return of the Common Point Outdoor Shooting Range with the Club being the manager & operator through the signed Concession Agreement with the District. With the patience and support of those members that were faithful, the Club's Board wants to say, Thank You.

If you would like more updates, feel free to call 970-586-2426 or president@epgunarchery.com especially if I missed a subject you were interested in.

Thank you,
Sharyn Gartner, EPGAC President