



NEW MEXICO BIG HORN GUN CLUB

N E W S L E T T E R

November 2010

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Tom Luker
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Event Coordinator

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Youth Programs

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Visit Us On The Web at
www.nmbhgc.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SIGHTS

Hello and how is everybody? To start out I would like to remind everybody that the December meeting is our Annual Holiday party and is a pot luck dinner. We will have a very short meeting and then we will all sit down and make pigs of ourselves. So please bring your family and kids and a covered dish or dessert for an evening of small talk and fun. The Club will provide soft drinks, paper plates, etc. The last meeting of the year, and our party is Thursday, December 2nd, 7:00pm, come one, come all.

We had a very successful 2010. We managed to do quite a bit of range improvements, had many successful events, including the Boy Scouts of America Rendezvous, our own Club's Cache le Plew Rendezvous, many successful sporting clays matches, a revitalized Cowboy Action Group, and successful ongoing Youth Program. These programs have been very successful because of the sacrifices of those that volunteer. Even though their volunteering is a labor of love, they still sacrifice time, effort, sometimes money, and time away from family to keep our Club going. In the past I've highlighted many members who have contributed greatly to the Club. In this Newsletter I would like to give special recognition to Tom Luker for the many hours he has spent planning and working to improve our Range. Tom is our Range Master, and he is not one to blow his own horn. He is quiet, insightful and generally stays in the background. Tom is a major factor in the way the Club is run. He probably has more hours volunteering his time than anyone (but who's counting) to keep the Range and our Club in the best possible condition based on the limited finances that we have. This coming year we see major changes coming for the physical layout of the Range. Tom has accepted the responsibility for carrying out these plans, and we all owe him a great deal of gratitude. To add to my admiration of Tom (as it should you), he has continued to tirelessly work for the Club even though he has suffered through some major life crises. His best friend was killed in a tragic accident about a year ago, Tom himself recently had a heart attack & most recently his wife has had to have emergency surgery. (We wish Valeria a speedy recovery.) Tom – THANK YOU!

I would also like to thank all the people on the elected Executive Council who have stepped up to the plate to work for you for another year.

(continued)

This includes me, President; Fritz Anderson, Vice President; Gary Howard, Secretary; Karma Whelchel, Treasurer; and John Stocum, Executive Officer. If you need to talk with any of us, our phone numbers are listed in this Newsletter, and our Website.

Also deserving thanks are the non-elected council members, they include Tom Luker, Range Manager; Suzie and Lynn Miller, Sporting Clays Coordinators (also John Edwards, who keeps sporting clays running); Robert Lah, Cowboy Action Shooting; Mike Gurule, Youth Shoot Coordinator; Richard Loomis, Grants Coordinator and NRA Range Advisor; Don Shaw, Senior Alderman; Dan Morrison, Computer Guru and Newsletter Coordinator; Bob Whelchel, Chief Instructor, Rendezvous Boosway and Chief Cook & Bottle Washer; Tony Anicito, Assistant Range Manager; Patricia Dresner, typist and assistant to the President; David Whitham, Club's Attorney; Janet Moses, Club Historian; Mark Werner, Club Coordinator. Now I know I left somebody out, so I will apologize now, and give a big thanks to those of you whom I forgot. The Club Membership owes all the above mentioned people a big thank you, and a big thank you is deserved by all of you who have volunteered to help out at our different events, and range cleanups. We would not have a Club if it wasn't for the volunteers.

We have an exciting new program that will start next year. Louise Stevenson has volunteered to establish a Ladies shooting program to be called Ladies Armed Shooting Society (LASS). Louise presented a Mission Statement and a proposed outline on establishing this program. The members at the last meeting were very enthusiastic and approved the program. I asked Louise to present a budget to us at the February meeting. In addition, she has been in contact with the Edgewood Walmart who has tentatively agreed to provide the ladies with necessary supplies (pending corporate approval). Louise is being aided by Hawk Kohankie and Richard Loomis. As the ladies program grows the Club will provide the necessary Range Safety Officers, and as I mentioned above, funding. We all look forward to this program, and I thank Louise for volunteering to head up the "LASS."

The Club is in good financial shape. We will be doing major improvements to the Range, which have already begun this past Saturday. Because of major dirt work next year the Range will have to be closed for several days or a week. We will try to give you all plenty of notice. The Club continues to support local Law Enforcement, especially the Torrance County Sheriff's Department. They have been very good in giving us notice when they are going to use the Range, though there have been times because of mission requirements, that we do get short notice, and we try to post this on the Website. **REMEMBER THE WEBSITE WILL BE THE MOST UP TO DATE RESOURCE TO CHECK FOR SCHEDULES AND TO SEE IF THE RANGE IS OPEN.**

The Newsletter will be printed four times a year, from now on, and you are encouraged to use the Website as your main source of information. If necessary, you can call Mark Werner, the Club Coordinator at (505) 506-8473 or (505) 294-9598 to check on the schedule, and whether the range is open or closed on a given date.

To finish out this Newsletter, I think you should all give yourself a big thank you for your support of our Club. I have received lots of positive feedback about our recent increase in dues, and heard of only one complaint. I would guess that we did lose some members because of the increase; however, I suspect that as we improve the Range, Club Membership will increase. This is exactly what happened the last time we raised dues. If anyone has any suggestions, I would like to hear from you. As I stated in a previous Newsletter, we have started the "Chit" system for volunteer work. The Newsletter will be listing the things that people can volunteer for, and who has volunteered and what they received in Chits.

So, thank you again,
Ed Dresner
President, NMBHGC

UPDATED NEWSLETTER FORMAT

In an effort to make the newsletter more useful for club members, the format has been improved. In addition to the usual "From the President's Sights," each newsletter will include three additional sections:

- *Upcoming Events & Activities:* This section will provide a description of each event or activity in the next quarter, including information such as the type of shooting involved, firearm and ammunition requirements, etc. The goal is to give members a more in-depth idea of what activities the club provides and introduce people to activities they may not be familiar with.
- *Upcoming Unscheduled Weekend Days:* A common complaint from club members is the lack of weekend days available for "open shooting" without formal activities scheduled. This section will provide a list of those days in the next quarter for easy reference and planning.
- *Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:* This section will list the next quarter's opportunities to volunteer for the club and earn "chits" toward the next year's dues. There will also be a list of the chits earned by club volunteers during the previous quarter.

The newsletter will be published four times a year, in November (covering Dec, Jan, & Feb), February (covering Mar, Apr, & May), May (covering June, July, & August), and August (covering Sep, Oct, Nov). In addition to the normal mailings, the newsletters will be available on the club website, www.nmbhgc.org.

Comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter can be sent to Dan Morrison via email at webmaster@nmbhgc.org, or via USPS at the club's PO Box.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- *Holiday Party, 2 Dec 10 at 1900:* After a brief 10 minute club meeting at 7pm, the club's annual Holiday Pot Luck will be held at the Edgewood Community Center. Bring a dish or dessert to share, and enjoy some fellowship with other club members outside of the range. Families are welcome and encouraged to attend!
- *February Planning Meeting, 3 Feb 11 at 1900:* The club sets the calendar for all of 2011 at this meeting. Each activity lead presents a request for the days they would like to hold their shoots, for instance from 9am to 12pm each 3rd Saturday from March to November. Other activities, such as the Cache Le Plew Rendezvous, reserve a single day or block of days. The various activities are de-conflicted, resulting in a calendar of scheduled shoots, range work, and other activities for all of 2011. If you have inputs to the calendar or the scheduling process, or would like to request range time for a specific event, this is an important meeting to attend.

UPCOMING UNSCHEDULED WEEKEND DAYS

Due to the cold weather, there are currently no activities scheduled for the months of December, January, or February. Please bear in mind that this is subject to change, so check the calendar on the website prior to making plans to head to the range.

Also be aware that during the winter months the road to the range often becomes impassable due to snow, ice, or mud, so please exercise caution when attempting to visit the range during or after inclement weather.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are no volunteer opportunities scheduled for the months of December, January, or February. Volunteer opportunities (providing "chits" towards Oct 2011 dues) will become available following the February planning meeting.