



# NEW MEXICO BIG HORN GUN CLUB

**N E W S L E T T E R**

OCTOBER 2005

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**[www.nmbhgc.org](http://www.nmbhgc.org)**

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SIGHTS — BY ED DRESNER**

Hi and how is everyone? I would like to thank everyone who came out for our Annual Meeting on October 6 and who participated in electing Club officers and renewed their membership. The Club currently has approximately 100 members who have renewed. That leaves approximately 150 people who have not renewed their membership. The Club is in very good financial position; however, about 2/3rds of the money we have in the bank is committed for future projects (see more on financial stuff later in this Newsletter).

There is a lot of information I need to let you know, so I'm going to start with some negative stuff and end up with the good stuff.

The Club officers, me in particular, have been receiving telephone calls from people who want to renew their membership outside of normal Club procedures (the Club Bylaws state that everyone must attend at least one meeting per year, be an active NRA member, and have the previous years membership card or their orientation card – we set aside the October meeting, each year, for all members to renew their membership and elect Club officers). Telephone calls that I, and officers, have been receiving, range from, “I didn't know about the meeting. . . it's too much trouble to come to meetings. . . can't you come out to my house to deliver my key. . . can I come to where you work to get my key . . . etc., etc.” Everyone who has called me, and the others, has wanted “special attention” given to them. I have to explain here, that we are all volunteers, and as I explained to a person on the phone the other night, “how would you feel if you were a Club volunteer, and had 100 different people wanting to meet you at various places and various times. . .” Needless to say, we cannot meet everyone's needs, whether it is renewing their membership and giving them a key, planning events that don't meet everyone's personal schedule, scheduled work days, or police qualifications, etc. I have had complaints, “but you do it for other people.” Yes, we do make arrangements with some other people in the Club: we make special arrangements for the sheriff's department, and special arrangements for police officers on duty; we make arrangements for Club members; we try to meet the needs of those senior citizens that cannot drive at night; and of course there is the odd special need that arises, for example someone is hospitalized and cannot make the meeting. Everyone else, if they can't make the Annual Meeting, can renew their membership at the next meeting, or if they attended a meeting during that fiscal year, they can renew their membership application, and pick up a key, at the end of a scheduled orientation. This year, anyone who has not renewed their membership by the December meeting, will not receive a Newsletter. All members who filled out and signed last years Membership Application, should have noticed that the Club's membership year is from October to the next October's annual meeting. Current and past members do get prorated dues. (New member's dues are prorated based on when they take the orientation).

In addition to the above, this year a new obligation has been placed on each  
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person who is a member in the New Mexico Big Horn Gun Club. As voted and approved by the Executive Council, all Club Members will have to perform 10 hours of volunteer time in the coming year. Those who do not perform 10 hours of volunteer work will be charged an additional \$10.00, for each hour they do not volunteer, to next year's dues. In other words, if you perform 10 hours of volunteer work your dues will be \$60.00. If you do not have any volunteer hours, next year's dues will be \$160.00. And if you perform 5 hours of volunteer work, your dues next year will be \$110.00, etc. As explained at the Annual Meeting, when you volunteer, the person in charge of that project or event will initial the back of your membership card, for each hour you volunteer. This means, that if your helping to set targets at the Sporting Clays shoots, and it takes 2 hours, you will be given 2 hours of volunteer credit. You will not be given credit during the time you are shooting or not actually performing a task for the event or the project you are participating in. If you are handicapped, and cannot perform physical labor, you can volunteer by helping to sign up participants at an event, or any number of administrative tasks that we will have during the year. In the future, we will post, on our Internet sight, tasks, which need to be performed at the Range. These will be job specific tasks such as mending the fence, for which you will be able to perform that task on your own time, and have the Range Master inspect the work, and give you credit for the time. Many of you will look at this as a hardship, but in the coming years we will have a vast amount of range improvements that are going to be required by the NRA, EPA, etc. Meanwhile Richard Loomis, our Range Master, and Tony Anitito, his Assistant, will be making long-range plans for these improvements. The next scheduled work party is November 5, at 9:30, but for specifics, and to verify this, please call Richard Loomis.

NOTE: We will be keeping a record in a computer file, of each member's participation. If you skip a year, or more, in renewing your Membership, you will still be required to pay additional dues based on missed past volunteer time. Exceptions will be given to Military Members who are transferred and return, or who have had TDY or National Guard requirements. Other members can request exclusion of volunteer time, and each request will be looked at individually.

Now for the good stuff.

I would like to thank Jason Hall who was Booshway at our 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Cache le Pew Rendezvous. Assisting Jason was Charlie McGee, Segundo,

and Committee Members, Dan Bromley, Gene Hart, Walt Tidmore, and others. The Rendezvous Committee put on a dam good Rendezvous; Attendance was down this year, however, they did better financially than previous years, and these folks deserve a round of applause for their efforts. Unless you volunteer or participant in the Rendezvous, you cannot imagine all the hard work that goes into putting on this event. In the same vein, the Executive Council voted for Don Shaw to be the Booshway for 2006 Cache le Pew Rendezvous. Don will be contacting those who served on this year's Rendezvous Committee, and anyone wishing to volunteer to help out with next year's Rendezvous Committee should call Don. I am sure that all of you interested in continuing the 28-year tradition of the Cache le Pew will help Don in preparing for next year's Rendezvous.

Lynn and Suzie Miller continued in keeping our Sporting Clays events, one of the best, if not the best, in the State. All of you should realize, if it wasn't for the money that their efforts generate, Club dues would be double or triple what they are today. Together with Lynn and Suzie, are vast numbers of volunteers, both adult and kids (most teenagers) who help out and make the events possible. Thanks to all of you, for the hard work you have put in. It is not easy putting on an event for 80 to 110 shooters.

Cowboy Action Shooting is starting to take off in our Club, having been ramrodded by John Milholland, and now being run and organized by those who helped him start the Big Horn Vigilantes. Tom Luker, Jack Nutter and Shirley Godfrey, Travis Boggus, Bob Whelchel others. Thanks to you all.

The Pistol Interest Group (PIGs), and Bulleyes Shooters, have had a somewhat tougher time this year, but thanks go out to Pete Vredenburg, Carolyn Freeman, and others who are trying to get this going. We will give this one more year to see if it blossoms. All of you who are interested in shooting pistols check the schedule or give Pete a call to help organize or shoot in these events.

I had the honor this year of presenting "Plaques of Appreciation" to 3 of the Club's most senior and active members. The first plaque went to Charlie McGee, at the Cache le pew Rendezvous. Charlie is one of the original founders of the Big Horn Gun Club and has for the past 28 years ran, or has participated in a leadership role, in running the Rendezvous. Over the years I'm sure Charlie has done much more than this, but I wasn't here to see it. So Charlie, a big thanks to you from all of us. The next 2 awards were given out at the Annual Meeting. They went to Fritz Anderson and Don Shaw. Both of these guys have more energy

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now than I will ever hope to have. They have done more for the Club than most of us will ever hope to do. You guys have, and continue to be great – thanks for everything (and for all the things we're going to continue to ask you to do).

There are a lot of people in the Club who should get personal and individual thanks, and a few of them are: Gary Dennison, you will not find a harder worker anywhere; Dan Bromley, who has been the voice of reason and who has done our Club Orientations for many years; John Stocum, (and his wife) who not only works his butt off in more ways than you can imagine, but has been very active in the Ponderosa 4-H and local Boy Scout groups; my wife, Patricia, who not only does all this typing, but she puts up with me on a daily basis (she is also the Appointed Club Executive Assistant); Dan Morrison, who has designed and keeps our Website up to date; Richard Loomis, our Range Manager, who just came back from a week long Range Development Course, and will be doing all the planning for range improvements; Peter Ide who formats our Newsletter; Bob Whelchel, who has helped behind the scenes, not to mention his help with Sporting Clays and Cowboy Action Shooting, and last but not least all of last year's Club Officers, all of whom were voted in to office again this year, with one exception. Vice President of the Club remains Pete Vredenburg, Secretary remains Gary Howard, Treasurer remains Karma Whelchel, Executive Officer is John Stocum and I remain, your not so humble, President. All these folks, and others, I can't remember because of my CRS, get big kudos for all the work they have done. And all of you who have volunteered this past year should give yourselves pats on the back, in addition to the reduced dues, or free dues, that you earned this year. Thanks to everybody, and their families.

For all of you who have asked, target frames are now available in the Target Shed – yeah! The person who is going to supply our cardboard has been having some physical problems, and so I would ask all of you to bring cardboard and put it in the storage shed and/or nail it to the target frames. Your key opens the gate, the "log in" box and the Target shed. As mentioned in past Newsletter, please put one target in the middle of the frame and try not to shoot the frames up. They cost us \$5.00 each to make, not counting labor. Dan Morrison, on his own time, made the initial batch of approximately 20 frames.

The Club approved \$400 in candy to be given out at the Los Vecinos Community Center from 5:30-7:30 pm on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. We can use some more volunteers for this event. Not only can you dress funny, you get to eat all the candy you want and you can earn hours toward your volunteer commitment (your responsible for your own Pepto Bismol).

There is a Sporting Clays shoot on October 22. Please call the Millers in advance so you can get a sched-

uled shoot time and be teamed.

There is a new Member Orientation at 1:00pm on November 5<sup>th</sup>, and possibly a work party that morning.

As mentioned above, the Club is in a good financial position. Last year we received a Grant for \$2500.00 from the Friends of the NRA. The NRA Grant is being spent in the following ways: \$800 has been authorized for a new throwing machine to be used by the Sporting Clays group for teaching the proper use of shotguns. This machine will allow us to go out to other locations such as the Boy Scout Camp near Chamio to teach kids. Part of the money is going to be used to teach kids the proper use of muzzle loading. This event will be scheduled by Don Shaw, the Club's Booshway. Part of the money is going to be used to have a shooting day for kids, to teach them Cowboy Action shooting. And the rest of the money will be used to introduce women to the Cowboy Action genre. These events will be well advertised and open to the entire community.

This year we were able to organize a committee to submit Grants to the Friends of the NRA. We submitted a total of 5 requests. We are asking for approximately \$26,500.00 and this money has been requested in the following ways. Karma Whelchel wrote a request for funds to help youth and women shooting events. Gene Hart, acting for the Rendezvous committee, put a Grant in, requesting money for a youth blackpowder event and equipment. Lynn Miller put a Grant in requesting Funding for youth introduction shotgun events and equipment. Richard Loomis and Phil Morris put in a Grant requesting range improvements and equipment to support local Law Enforcement Training and Qualifications. Dan Morrison and I, requested approximately \$10,000.00 to put in new restrooms. (As you all know, this is probably our "Number One" and "Number two" most needed improvements to the Range).

Hopefully you all made it down to read this far, since this is the longest President's Notes I've ever written, and no, you don't get "volunteer hours" for reading this Newsletter. So thanks to everybody who has helped make this one of the best years for the New Mexico Big Horn Gun Club, and I know you will all help to make 2006 an even better year.

Regards,

ED DRESNER, Club President

P.S. (1) By the time you read this, Mark Werner, our cardboard guy, will have had surgery, and we all wish him the best for a fast recovery.

(2) Dan Bromley lost a small "patch knife" at the Rendezvous. Though it's not worth lots of money, it has great sentimental value. If you find it, please let me know and I'll put you in contact with him.

(3) The .22 caliber bench rest shooters will not be shooting at our Range this year. Anyone interested should call Jay Sullivan at 281-6691, for dates and times that they shoot at Zia Gun Club.