



Rupert Range, Inc.
A 501C-3 Corporation
Rupert, Idaho

2023 Annual Report for the City of Rupert Outdoor Shooting Complex

The Rupert Range Inc. Board of Directors and Range Safety Officers would like to express our many Thanks to the Mayor, City Administrator, Chief Financial Officer, City Council and all the various department heads and staff for their support and assistance in making the 2023 shooting season an outstanding success!

The shooting season got off to a slow start this year due to old man winter just refusing to vacate Minidoka County. However, he finally realized he had overstayed his welcome and consented to allowing a short lived spring to take its rightful place.

Our first realization was that many repairs had to be made this year. Sixteen portable shooting stands needed to be rebuilt as well as the walls in front of the fixed target stands on ranges 2, 3 and 4. Over time, shooting lead bullets into wooden railroad ties destroys the integrity of the ties, decreases safety and eventually they become nothing more than splinters soaked with creosote. An extensive amount of time, effort and dollars were dedicated to the walls on ranges 2, 3 and 4. Several used ties were recovered from the railroad rebuild and repurposed to the walls. Additionally, new ties were purchased for areas of heavy use. The walls on ranges 3 and 4 were rebuilt and doubled up. An additional 2 layers of ties were added to renew and fortify the existing walls and also to help protect the mechanism for the moving target that has been installed on range 3 as we have seen some damage inflicted on it from shooters. The popular moving target on range 3 is a steel gong that travels along a cable stretched across the entire back of the range.

Rupert Range, Inc. finally has a completely overhauled website www.rupertrange.com. The site is loaded with information regarding the range, activities, and opportunities available. In depth descriptions of the facility will give seekers lots of information that was not easily available previously. The site also contains information for contacting a member of the board of directors, via email at shoot@rupertrange.com or text/phone at (208)431-8452. An up-to-date calendar showing activities at the range, an about page, range rules, safety and events can all be accessed from the site, with lots of pictures showing off the complex. Many thanks to the City of Rupert, as it can all be accessed while at the range via WIFI!

Once the much needed repairs had been completed we were informed that a grant from Idaho Fish and Game Pittman-Robertson Fund had been awarded for the pouring of walkways to facilitate ADA Access to the Range.

Generous monetary donations, grants, fund raising, and the cities own coffers, facilitated quite a few upgrades to materialize to the benefit of the visiting public, Law Enforcement and Private for Profit Instruction. The most noticeable of these upgrades were manifest in the concrete walkways and pads connecting the majority of the range. Sidewalks now extend from the west

door around the southern end of Freedom Hall to a pad between the building and range 2 shelter, with walkways between ranges 2, 3 and 4, and out to a dedicated ADA parking area.

With efforts and funds from Rupert Range Inc., fill material was brought in to fill low spots, make transitions, and fix drainage issues left as a result of the construction. The parking area was regraded and fill added there as well. A new access was added to the North of Freedom Hall parking area where material and regrading were added to help with drainage and damage there as well. Additional LED lighting was installed by the City and focused on the main parking area to minimize potential hazards of people getting to their vehicles in the dark.

Rupert Range, Inc. continues to sponsor various shooting events throughout the year. The intent is to sponsor one competitive shoot every month. A family ties shoot was held in May, where an adult and a youth under 18, related by blood or marriage, competed as a team. The adult shot on the 100-yard range, the youth on the 50-yard range. Their score was combined to determine the winning team. June was the hog shoot, where participants got the chance to “travel” to Africa in search of wild boar. July was a poker shoot, where participants were dealt two “down” cards, and then had 5 shots at a target with 52 cards on it to complete their hand. The “clang and bang” steel pistol challenge was held in August. The September shoot was cancelled due to other activities at the range. In its place, the combined Minidoka and Cassia County Republican Central Committees sponsored the first “Annual” Top Shot Classic. The event featured several shooting venues and competitions, a Tannerite event involving exploding refrigerators supervised by RR Inc. personnel, drawings, firearm instruction and good food! The sponsors have indicated that the event was an overall success and are planning on holding the 2nd annual Top Shot Classic next fall.

Last, but definitely not least, October brought the 10th annual Zombie Shoot. This has by far become the favorite of the patrons! This year the event was expanded to four shooting venues, shooting at steel targets, paper zombie targets, black light clay pigeons, and lighted balloons. And then there are the blood charging explosives, always a favorite! Attendance at the Zombie shoot was well over 100, with 75 participants of varying ages! Always fun for the family! Prizes totaling \$3186 were given out to participants.

Several other groups continue to use the facilities and the ranges at the shooting complex. In addition to continued and frequent use by Rupert City Police and Minidoka County Sheriff, the range also saw use by the Idaho State Police, as well as the Army Reserve Shooting Team. Two local companies, Victory Tactical and Snake River Concealment prefer the facilities at the Rupert Complex to hold their Enhanced Concealed Carry Classes. The combination of the ranges and Freedom Hall greatly facilitates their instructional opportunities. Idaho Fish and Game continues to use the facility for Hunters Education opportunities. The local chapter of Armed Women of America, Western Heritage and local 4-H groups are also regular users of the range.

Thanks to an early snowfall (Happy Thanksgiving), exact numbers of visitors cannot be tabulated as the last few weeks of visitor logs are safely stored away and currently inaccessible in the RSO room at Freedom Hall.

However, as of October 28th, there were 1287 visitors to the range. This does not include police officers, or other individuals who inadvertently did not sign the log book. While the majority of visitors are from local areas, visitors also came from Washington, Utah, Oregon, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Colorado, and Nevada.

None of the success of the range would happen without the wonderful volunteer Range Safety Officers and additional friends that spend countless hours at the range. Rupert Range gives special recognition to Range Safety Officers who donate in excess of 75 hours of service to the range. This year there were five Range Safety Officers who were honored with the Range Rat Award. In addition to these five Rats, several other volunteers combined to contribute to the 1000 plus recorded hours of service. In addition to these hours, there are countless additional hours that go unrecorded!

In 2021, thanks to a donation from one of the Range Safety Officers, Rupert Range started a scholarship fund in Memory of Ed Smith, a long-time patron, advisor, friend to all and Range Safety Officer at the range, in addition to being the President of the Desert Sky Regulators cowboy action shooters. Additional funds have been donated and raised for the scholarship. RR Inc. will award a minimum of one \$500 scholarship annually to a qualified applicant. Currently, the Ed Smith Memorial Scholarship fund has an accumulated balance of \$1820.00. In addition to the scholarship funds, Rupert Range, Inc. holds \$6,279.42 in checking, and \$150.00 Cash on hand. Income received through donations and fundraising for 2023 totaled \$6,475.69, while expenses amounted to \$5,520.87. Total cash assets as of December 5th 2023 are \$8,249.42.

As the season drew to an end, the annual election for the board of directors for RR Inc. was held prior to the December 7th meeting. Two seats were up for election this year.

Qualifications for an RSO to be nominated/elected to the board of directors require that the RSO donate a minimum of 12 hours of service during the calendar year. Two qualified RSO's were nominated and accepted the nomination. Qualified voters, also with a requirement of 12 hours service, voted via email, and elected the two nominees. The board of directors as announced at the December 7th meeting, (pending approval of the City Council) are, Jeff Heins, Chairman, (and principal point of contact) Larry Matulis, Vice Chairman and Quartermaster, Chace Thomas, Treasurer and Head of Maintenance, Tina Morris, Secretary and Head of Training, Elliot Owen, Board member at Large.

Looking forward to 2024, items of consideration for future improvements are ADA access to shooting line on range 2, entry gates north and south of Freedom Hall, Bollards on the west side of Freedom Hall, additional gravel/leveling work, and installation of security cameras.

RR Inc., in cooperation with the City has been given permission to annex and develop what has been formally referred to as the NRL22 range. It will be developed exclusively for Youth/4-H needs and 22 competitions. Moving forward the Youth Range will be referred to as Range 6.

Respectfully Submitted,

RR Inc. Board of Directors