



Abe Lincoln Gun Club News

www.abelincolngunclub.com

May, 2017

Greetings from the President

As I near the end of my first year in office I am happy to report that our club is doing very well. Our primary work day/annual meeting is fast approaching and I hope to see you all there the second Sunday of June.

If you haven't been out to the club for a while you will see a new storage building down at the 200 yard target line. We have also replaced our aging trap/skeet thrower with a new modern model. Our big work day project this year is the installation of a bunker that will eventually house two steel popper targets. This is a test installation to determine whether or not we can make steel targets work at our club. Other clubs have tried and abandoned steel because of abuse issues. I believe that our members will behave in a responsible manner, shoot the appropriate ammo for steel and that we can make this project work while maintaining a safe club environment for our members. See you in June.

Jim Johnson, Club President

Annual Meeting and Work Day, June 11, 2017

The annual spring work day will get underway be about 8:00 Sunday morning and if we have a good turnout of members should conclude somewhere between 11:00 and noon, at which time we will convene for the Annual Meeting. We have no pressing business to conduct at the meeting this year, but it is an opportunity for the board members to let you know what we are up to, and more importantly, it is the time for all of us to share ideas, suggestions, and concerns. We hope all of you make an effort to be there. You will have noticed that this newsletter is coming in conjunction with your notice that annual dues are due. Remember: Members paying dues at the Annual Meeting/Work Day get a discount, and pay only \$100 instead of the usual \$125. If you have already paid \$125 and show up for the Annual Meeting/Work Day, you may apply to treasurer Dick Alcorn for a \$25 refund.

Although we don't have a huge amount of meeting business this year, we do have some major projects for the Work Day. As usual, we will need guys to cut weeds and brush (Bring weed eaters, brush cutters, etc.) and we will do the usual repairs to the target frames. We will also need guys to do a bit of painting, build new pistol frames and cut cardboard backers, as always. Special projects this year include construction or reconstruction of the shooting bench on the 200-yard position, as the old bench is much damaged by termites. We will also try to construct the railroad tie bunker to house the new reactive steel target at the 100-yard berm.

This target bunker will actually be set into the berm itself, and it is our intent that the berm be excavated prior to work day. What we will do on work day is set vertical posts, then raise side walls and a roof of railroad ties. Dirt will then be placed over this structure so that when it is complete it will look like the mouth of an old-time gold mine set into the front of the berm. The 100-yard frames will be immediately adjacent and will have to be moved a few feet south. After the earthwork is complete and has some time to settle, we will go ahead and install the metal reactive targets later in the summer.

As you can see, we have lots to do and could really use all the good help we can get.

CMP Juniors Program Report

The CMP Juniors program has benefitted from an ad that Gun News printed for us back in February. Attendance is up this year, with many new faces coming out to our club each month to learn how to shoot better and safer. The problem is, we are limited in the number of kids we can have out each session because right now there are only two of us instructing/supervising. Again, we're asking experienced club members to volunteer their time a few Sunday afternoons out of the year to help us properly assist and supervise while we instruct. Training experience would be a plus, but mostly we need members who are able to use their good sense of gun safety and range etiquette to help us maintain a safe environment while these youth and their families are guests at the club. They pick up on our commitment to safety and discipline, and the more club members they come in contact with, the more that positive atmosphere is reinforced. We need someone to score targets, spot for shooters, load blocks of .22 ammo, help us set up and take down each session, coach a little, and just provide an extra set of eyes on the firing line.

It's fun and satisfying work. We usually meet the third or fourth Sunday each month from January through October, from 4 to 6 pm. Schedules are always posted on the bulletin board. The club provides all the equipment at no cost. Those members interested can contact Steve Rowoldt (smr_spi@yahoo.com / 787-8493), or Dan Croll (MrFixIt824@aol.com / 836-7663). Or, come check us out next month and see if you'd like to help.

NRA High Power Rifle Matches

Executive Officer Todd Rankin runs the NRA high Power rifle matches at the club. We have a High Power match monthly, fired at 200 yards. The course of fire consists of a

50rd. match with 10 rds shot offhand, 10 rds. shot rapid-fire from the sitting position, 10 rds. shot rapid-fire from the prone position, and 20 rds. shot slow-fire from prone. We also have 200-yard .22 rifle matches about 4 times a year. The schedule is on our website and we have copies on the board by where you sign in at the club. We have two M1 Garands and an AR 15 that the club owns for anyone to use if they want to. The matches are open to the public. We also have CMP 30-06 ammo you can purchase at the matches. If you want to know more about the matches please contact Todd Rankin, at 217/629-8683. Todd can also give you information on purchase of M1 Garands or other surplus firearms from the government's Civilian Marksmanship program.

General Business

We have had very few problems this past year, which is a compliment to the general quality of our membership. What few problems have arisen, have generally resulted from members forgetting to adequately supervise their guests or failing to heed our rules of range etiquette. These were printed in a newsletter last year, but are well worth printing again. I am therefore going to conclude this newsletter with a repeat of the rules under which we maintain a safe range environment.

Before doing so, I want to tell you that we are working on improvements to the web page, and hope to make it ultimately our primary means of communication. In the meantime, we have been actively trying to collect Email addresses from our members, and we have made changes to the club application document which includes asking for Email addresses.

A Review of Basic Range Etiquette

Note: The outdoor ranges at ALGC are ONE FIRING LINE from the 7 yard pistol positions to the 200 yard rifle positions. "Downrange" is anywhere forward of this one firing line.

Things you must always remember:

1. Establish and maintain communication with all others on the firing line. If you are on the pistol range and someone else is on the 200-yard line, make sure that you both are aware of one another and in communication!
2. Keep muzzles pointed downrange at all times, including when casing and uncasing firearms.
3. Do not handle firearms while anyone is downrange. This also includes casing and uncasing.
4. Unattended firearms on the firing line should be left unloaded with action open.
5. Observe and respect "safe" and "hot" conditions of the firing line when declared by anyone.
6. Request from others that the firing line be made "safe", and confirm with all before declaring the firing line "safe" for downrange activity.

7. Request the line to go “hot” and confirm all are returned and ready for firing before declaring the firing line “hot”.
8. Do not cause any distractions with loud outbursts or horseplay on the firing line at any time.
9. Look for and chase ejected cases after the firing line has been declared “safe.
10. “Cease Fire!” means all shooting must stop immediately, and can be called by anyone who observes an unsafe situation.
11. Be courteous to your fellow shooters and do not close down the range any longer than absolutely necessary to change targets quickly and return to the firing line. Other guys want to shoot also.

Jim Leinicke
Club Secretary

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