

Hello All,

By now you likely know that the pistol and rifle ranges are up and running again. The pistol range underwent a major transformation. We first did a big clean up where several members came out to help pick casings, clean the area up from over brush, and clean up the burn barrel area . We removed the netting from the pistol and rifle ranges (rifle - 50 yards & 100 yards).

The club then obtained new fill for the backstop on the pistol range taking approximately 20 tons of material to once again making shooting safe for all. Prior to putting in the new fill, our past club president, Gary Davis, put in new drainage tile; then we centered and leveled all of the back holder blocks.

As most of you know, a lot of rain delayed this project multiple times, and due to ground water it was decided to remove the retaining wall for easier access to the pistol range. While the wall was down the club generously decided to go to phase 2: To remove all of the carpet and put down road crushings. This new surface will allow us to pick up our casings easier and hopefully provide a long lasting flat surface to shoot from.

During my down time, I created and installed new netting backers for the pistol and rifle ranges (rifle - 50 yards & 100 yards). These backers are made out of PVC pipe and can be easily removed and reset by 2 or 3 people. They are bigger and designed to give the new shooter a little more room to not shoot them.

I also cleaned up the barn and place new cans for steel, brass, and shotgun casings / general garbage, plastic (round holders) only / paper. I did some rearranging so shooters would also have a bench to use for quick repairs or setting up equipment. Lastly, Jeff Crandall and I painted, replaced and/or reset the steel targets.

What we hope for the future: Users should pick up the garbage and put it in the appropriate cans (casings too). Individuals who shoot 22 and 22 long rounds need to pick up after themselves. Only authorized individuals should use the burn barrels. If an individual shoots a backer, call or text me (607-592-1737) ASAP so that I can get it repaired quickly. (Again, if they are in your way, they are removable). We understand that accidents happen but think of others. We have had only a couple minor issues of individuals shooting the target backers and I have been able to repair them within 15 minutes.

As we move forward, I plan on adding yardage markings so shooters know what distance they are shooting from and adding a bigger work bench inside the barn for more shooter to use at once. As always I am open to suggestions.

I thank the board of directors, club officers, members, Gary Davis, and Frank Shultz for supporting and assisting with these upgrades.

Respectfully,

Erik Merlin