January 2005



www.douglasridge.org

Presidents Report

Nils Bittner

It is January and I need to wish every club member a *Happy New Year* with that said it is time to give a *Great Big Thank You* to everyone who helped with the *Christmas Party*, it was a real success with 134 people in attendance. The raffle for the pump .22 caliber rifle netted in excess of \$400, this money goes to the support of the Junior shooters.

I also would like to thank every club member who volunteered their services in the last year. If it was not for our volunteers, DRRC would not be the finest range in the Northwest. Thanks again!

I would like to thank our sponsors who donated gifts for the Christmas party it was the generosity of the sponsors that helped get every one present a gift. Here is a list of the sponsors. We need to give them our support yearly.

Keith's Sporting Goods
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As far a new upcoming news, DRRC is going to raffle off a Savage .204 Caliber Rifle- BUT THERE IS A CATCH! Tickets are only for sale to members attending a General or Board Meeting. Tickets are \$ 10 each with only 125 being sold. The value of this rifle is over \$700, so everyone come to the upcoming General Meetings and Board Meetings and buy a chance to win this Savage .204 rifle.

We have two new discipline directors coming on board. They are Paul Meier and Dan Carpenter. Dan Carpenter will be taking over Action Pistol from Jimmie Newton. Thanks Jimmie for your hard work and dedication. Paul will be starting a new Pistol Shooting discipline called IPSC.

We welcome these new discipline directors with open arms and hope we have a great member and non-member turnout. Check your calendar for the dates of these new disciplines.

Happy New Year to everyone. SAFE SHOOTING!

Instructors Wanted

Michael Jones

If you have been considering becoming an NRA firearms instructor you might be interested in the instructor class coming up on February 6. It combines the NRA Basic Instructor training and the Home Firearm Safety Instructor course in one day. After taking the Basic class you can then take any Instructor Training Course (ITC) when it is offered and become an NRA Certified Instructor in that discipline. Cost of the class is \$70. You should be proficient in whichever disciplines you wish to instruct. We plan to offer Pistol, Personal Protection in the Home, Rifle and Shotgun ITCs in 2005.

An NRA RSO class will be held on February 19 & 20 at the clubhouse. Cost will be \$35 for DRRC members and \$45 for non-members. Pre-registration for all classes is required. To get more information contact Michael Jones (info in the Club Directory).

Douglas Ridge has obtained a copy of "The Great U.N. Gun Debate" DVD and is available for viewing at the clubhouse. It is 90 minutes long. The DVD was donated by Al Kitchen.

Gun Facts Online

Michael Jones

The latest edition of Gun Facts by Guy Smith came out on the first week of December. Gun facts is a free e-book that debunks common myths about gun control. It is intended as a reference guide for journalist, activists, politicians, and other people interested in restoring honesty to the debate about guns, crime, and the Second Amendment.

Gun Facts has over 80 pages of information. Divided into chapters based on gun control topics (assault weapons, ballistic finger printing, firearm availability, etc.), finding information is quick and easy.

Each chapter lists common gun control myths, then lists a number of documented

and cited facts that directly dispute the gun control claim. Thus when a neighbor, editor, or politician repeats some slogan propagated by gun control advocacy groups, you can quickly find that myth, then rebuke.

To download Gun Facts 4.0 go to: http://www.gunfacts.info. It can be printed in B&W or color; I recommend color as it has many color charts that are very informative and easier to interpret in color.



USPSA/IPSC

Good News - DRRC is getting a new discipline. The new discipline is USPSA/IPSC style shooting. If you like Action Pistol or Speed Steel, you will really like USPSA/IPSC. The new director will be Paul Meier with John Weil and Charlie McAlister as assistants. USPSA rules will govern this new discipline to our club.

Short Term Goal - We will start with the basic stages on the Silhouette Range. There will be a minimum of 4 stages to start with and will be working towards 6 stages once the logistics are worked out. These stages will be a great starting point for new shooters to the sport. We will be inviting other clubs to send their new shooters to attend a couple of these matches, as a great low key match, before they start the circuit of sanctioned matches. The fee will remain at \$10.00 for non-sanctioned matches and all shooters will be required to help with match functions.

Long Term Goal - Our ultimate goal is to build shooting bays (6) and become sanctioned and have registered matches. Other clubs (Tri-County - Albany - Dundee) shoot these matches once a month all year long. They have anywhere from a low of 40 to over 100 shooters at each match. The average is about 60 per match for the year. Sanctioned matches are \$15 per shooter generating about \$11,000 of gross income. Once we get bays and become sanctioned, DRRC could also see this type of match revenue, which would cover USPSA fees,

offset cost of bay construction, and increase club revenue. These bays could also be used for other disciplines such as Cowboy Action Shooting, which is the fastest growing shooting sport. If you are interested in starting Cowboy Action please contact the Board.

So, please come out and try it. The first match will be February 5, 2005 at the silhouette range. Shooting starts at 9:00 AM and goes until we are finished. There will always be someone there to answer questions and help get you started. Watch our website at www.douglasridge.org for more information including what you will need to participate and check out the USPSA website at http://www.uspsa.org/.

For more information please call Paul Meier at 503/631-8160. Also anyone interested in attending a class for pre match instruction please call John Weil at 503/622-3815.

"Nine-tenths of wisdom consists of being wise in time."

—Theodore Roosevelt

V/T Range Study Debunks Lead Myth

By Chris Knox, Neal Knox Report

PHOENIX (Dec. 20) — Shooting ranges embroiled in land-use disputes will be cheered by a recent study from Virginia Tech's Department of Geosciences. The College of Science has released the results of a five-year study of how lead from spent bullets and shot behaves over time in the environment.

The extensive and detailed study shows that standard range management practices work: on properly managed ranges, lead tends to stay in the impact area. It does not wash away or leach into ground water creating a biohazard.

Professor Donald Rimstidt and nowretired Professor James Craig ran a five-year study of a shooting range on U.S. Forest Service land near Blacksburg, Va. Their findings were presented to the Geological Sciences of America in November and they will be making management recommen-



pro-gun cartoonist, Wayne Stayskal, Tampa Tribune

dations on operation of the range to the Forest Service.

The Virginia Tech study found that the range contained some 12 tons of shot and over 13 tons of rifle and pistol bullets which were deposited over a ten-year period of operation. The researchers looked at lead corrosion, the soil under the impact areas, and the area surrounding the impact areas.

In looking at corrosion, they noted that metallic lead corrodes in air and water, but in corroding it forms hydrocerrussite, the white coating familiar to cartridge collectors. The hydrocerrussite tends to seal out air and water, slowing further corrosion. Consequently, Minie balls found on 150-year-old battlefields retain most of their shape and mass. Lead that does leach out of the external corrosion, "is absorbed in the top few inches of soil and does not migrate beyond that," Professor Rimstidt stated in a press release.

"Lead is not very mobile. It does not wash away in surface or ground water," he said.

In their examination of the surrounding area, Rimstidt and Craig did find a potential problem in significant amounts of lead in some of the trees on the range. According to the study, the trees that showed "distress," having dead branches and fewer leaves than nearby trees, had been peppered from the shotgun ranges and some shot had penetrated the trees' bark. The contamination was sufficient to warrant some concern if the trees were ever to be harvested.

The researchers wrote that the range was already being operated in a way to

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Club Directory

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Tambachie ne vanetienn	

DRRC January 2005

Saturday	1 New Year's Day	8 9:00am-5:00pm COLA (CH/Ind)	15 9:00am-5:00pm COLA (CH/Ind) 9:00am-3:00pm Smallbore Piston (Silh) 4:00pm-sunset 3-Gun Setup	22 Blackpowder 9:00am-2:00pm (Silh) 2:00pm-4:00pm (Trap) 9:00am-5:00pm COLA (CH/Ind)	29 8:00am-1:00pm Hunter Ed (CHIInd)
Friday		7 9:00am-5:00pm COLA (CH/Ind) 8:00pm-10:00pm Adult Smallbore (Ind)	9:00am-5:00pm COLA (CH/Ind)	21 9:00am-5:00pm COLA (CH/Ind) 8:00pm-10:00pm Adult Smallbore (Ind)	8:00pm-10:00pm Adult Smallbore (Ind)
Thursday		6 Long Range Day 9am-1pm 800-1,000 yd 1pm-sunset 300-600 yd 7:00pm-9:00pm General Meeting	13 Long Range Day 9am-1pm 300-600 yd 1pm-sunset 800-1,000 yd 6:00pm-9:00pm Hunter Ed (CHIInd)	20 Long Range Day 9am-1pm 800-1,000 yd 1pm-sunset 300-600 yd 6:00pm-9:00pm Hunter Ed (CHIInd)	27 Long Range Day 9am-1pm 300-600 yd 1pm-sunset 800-1,000 yd 6:00pm-9:00pm Hunter Ed (CHIInd)
Wednesday		5 6pm-9pm Ladies Night (Ind)	12 6pm-9pm Ladies Night (Ind)	19 6pm-9pm Ladies Night (Ind)	26 6pm-9pm Ladies Night (Ind) SERT Training 8am-12pm (100/200 yd) 12pm-5pm (Long Range)
Tuesday		4 8am-noon Range Closed Maintenance	11 8am-noon Range Closed Maintenance 6:00pm-9:00pm Hunter Ed (CHIInd)	18 8am-noon Range Closed Maintenance 6:00pm-9:00pm Hunter Ed (CHIInd)	25 Bam-noon Range Closed Maintenance 6:00pm-9:00pm Hunter Ed (CHIInd)
Monday		3 5:30-8:00pm Jr Smallbore (CHIInd)	7:00pm-9:00pm Board Meeting	5:30-8:00pm Jr Smallbore (CHIInd)	24 5:30-8:00pm Jr Smallbore (CHIInd) 31 5:30-8:00pm Jr Smallbore (CHIInd)
Sunday		2 9am-5pm Bigbore Pistol (Silh) 9:30am-2:30pm Trap	9 9:30am-2:00pm Sporting Clays 9am-4pm Action Pistol (Ind) 2:00pm-3:00pm New Member Orientation	16 9:00am-5:00pm 3-Gun (Silh) 9:30am-2:30pm Trap	23 9:30am-2:00pm Sporting Clays 30



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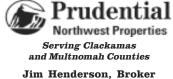
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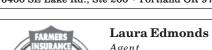
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minimize potential hazards from lead pollution. "[The range managers] already knew to put lime on the range to limit corrosion, to take measures to prevent soil erosion, and now, to keep track of the trees if they are cut," Rimstidt said. "They are the experts in management. I will give them the facts, and they will make the decisions."

The Virginia Tech study clearly was designed to find facts rather than to grind any political axes. Given the neutral approach and the positive findings for standard range operation practices, antigunners will be hard-pressed to refute the science. But anti-gunners routinely overstate risks posed by anything remotely connected with firearms.

In an email note to me, Rick Patterson, Managing Director of the Sporting Arms



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and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute (SAAMI), and an Executive Committee member of the National Association of Shooting Ranges (NASR), stressed that it is important to distinguish between metallic lead and lead compounds. Metallic lead in bullets or shot is relatively inert, but can corrode into "bioavailable" compounds. Lead management on the range is aimed at reducing the opportunity for lead to become bioavailable.

The Virginia Tech study is important because it demonstrates that standard practices work. As NASR's Patterson said, "Lead is an important issue and it's an issue that we are addressing responsibly."

By addressing the issue appropriately, with the help of organizations like SAAMI, NRA, and NASR, ranges can deal with both the genuine safety hazards, and with the political hazards that arise from overstating those hazards.

Range operators need to be aware of both hazards to make sure that they don't get hit by a nasty surprise from the new neighbors who don't think your range is good enough for their neighborhood.

from The Neal Knox Report