

## Western PA Cal. 30 League 2012 Newsletter

Hello Folks,

Once again it's time to reflect on the time we had at Reade Range last year and plan for the coming year's events.

Not many changes took place in 2011 as far as construction or excavation goes. I was glad to see the parking lot in the pit expanded. This is something that has been lingering for a couple years and it nice to see it come to pass. There have been many good comments regarding it and I'm sure some feel a little more comfortable with their cars in the pit.

There are no plans for any major changes again this year. If anyone has access to a large sum of money I'm sure George Morgan can find a way to use it up. In case you did not know George has taken over the range maintenance for Tom Rider. Tom loves Reade Range and gave many years of great service to us and I thank him for it. George also has a great love for the range and spends a lot of time taking care of the things we take for granted. Let's do our part by helping with any small items you see that need done or cleaned. Any small help can make his job much easier.

In regards to good things happening. The relationship that we have developed with Ken Roxbough of Remington arms and Freedom Group has given us the ability to run some of the finest matches I have ever been too. Ken loves our range and enjoys having a place to test weapons for Remington. Many people tell me of him promoting Reade Range as he travels the country sponsoring matches and training clinics. In turn we enjoy having Remington and Freedom Group sponsor our regional championships, offering prizes and awards that we could never even begin to present. Last year's Freedom Group match had seventy-eight shooters, this year I'm hoping to see range capacity. [100 shooters]

Also this year there is going to be a junior highpower team claiming Reade Range as their home. As far as I know they are calling themselves Reade Junior Highpower. The parents of these juniors are excited about being able to train and shoot on a range they can call home and are looking forward to the insight they can gain from the many talented shooters we have attending our matches. Our plan is to offer these juniors coaching and instruction at all of this year's highpower matches.

The format for the highpower rapid fire matches this year will be the one that the CMP uses; sighters will be permitted. This change was made to help train our juniors for the matches at the National Championships. If you are a shooter wishing to use the NRA rules you will be permitted to do so.

I need to address some of the questions about the dues increase and the range use policy that changed for this coming year.

First the dues increase. If you did not know our dues increased from 40 to 80 dollars this year, sorry to surprise you. This was done for financial and participation reasons. In the past years

we have received welcome financial support via grants from the Friends of the NRA. Normally this amount ranged from \$2500 to \$3500 for projects such as excavation, road repair, or for other things we wanted to do to improve the range. These grants have been coming in for many years now and last year we were told this is your final range improvement grant. If we want to keep our range viable, we need to compensate for this lost financial support. While match fees do not come close to providing the income we need, we do not want to discourage shooters from attending matches by increasing match fees.

Another need we have to address is participation support. Not match participation, but administrative effort. Our range is no different than any other range, twenty percent of our membership do 100 percent of the work. This work includes running matches, taking care of scores to be posted, membership, banking, taxes, insurance, website, target repair and refacing, scheduling championships, programs to be developed and mailed to the NRA and CMP for approval, and I could go on with much more and this does not even include work day. My point is the folks doing this work are not getting more than a good feeling for their efforts, and sometimes its not even a good feeling. Please don't get me wrong, these folks are not looking to be compensated, but we sure could use some more volunteers, in particular to plan and run matches.

Reade Range the largest and finest rifle shooting facility in Pennsylvania and we need support, be it financial, participation, or both. I know our membership is spread out over the entire state; some members are from other states. However all need to provide support in some way. Now here is your chance.

The dues have increased \$40.00, if you come to work day you will get a pass for two matches, this is a \$40.00 value. It cost some members more than \$40.00 in travel expense alone just to come to work day, so it's understandable if they don't show up. Also, some may want to come but have other obligations. Keep in mind that if you can make it to work day you are supporting the range through your participation, if you cannot or do not want to come to work day you will be supporting financially.

On to range use. Starting in 2012 you will need to be a competitive shooting member in order to have range use privileges. From its inception Reade Range has been a competitive shooting range. When the membership of the Western PA Cal. 30 League Inc. purchased the range property their intent was to build a competitive rifle range, which at great expense they have done. In the past few years we have been getting some in the membership who are not competitive minded. They come to the range and shoot at improper targets such as steel, glass, propane tanks, rocks, you name it. Also targets are being placed in unapproved areas and being shot at from odd angles which does not guarantee their shots will be trapped inside range property. Our intent here is to limit range use to those who we know will use it properly.

If you are a member who participates regularly (4 matches a year or more) in one of the disciplines offered at the range, across the course, midrange, long range, and benchrest, you will be given the gate combo when renewing your membership. If you are a member who shoots only the two tactical / sniper matches a year, Please obtain written approval from Mike Rodich and myself to get range privileges. Competitive members who have not fired in recent years will be given range privileges.

The object of this policy is to try and ensure safe and proper range use, if you are a member who does not shoot competitively and feel you have a case for your range privilege, please contact me and we will discuss it.

Guest policy. Membership is not required to participate in any of the matches offered at Reade Range. Members may bring guests to the range during non match hours for live fire practice, However if your guest is someone who participates in the scheduled matches and you are bringing them to the range because they are too cheap to purchase a membership you will be in danger of losing your membership. This type of practice will be viewed deliberately sidestepping membership policy and displays a disregard for the continuation of the range.

Our long range program has changed this year. Requests were made to eliminate the Palma course and only fire 3x1000 yards, so that is the plan. First match any / any, second match any/ iron, third match Palma gun. Please remember that F-class shooters are welcome at all long range and mid range matches.

This year promises to be a good one. There are four championships on the schedule already. I look to add one or maybe two before years end. Seeing my friends on the range at the first match in the spring is what I wait for all winter. It's not far off. Stay warm.

Favor center.  
Tom Ferraro  
President: Western PA Cal. 30 League  
Reade Range