

Whitefish Rifle and Pistol Club News Letter

September 2010

P.O. Box 3542, Kalispell, MT 59903

www.whitefishriflepistol.org

Meetings are held every other month (March, May, July, Sept, Nov, Jan) on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm, Snappy Sports Senter.

It has been a while since we had a news letter and I apologize for that. It has come to my attention that quite a few of our members do not know when our meetings are held. We hold regular meetings every other month (March, May, July, Sept, Nov, Jan) on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm, Snappy Sports Senter conference room, in Kalispell. As we do not have enough money to send out a notification for every meeting please keep this schedule handy so you can attend. If for some reason we need to meet on a date or place other than the ones above we will try to notify the membership about the change before hand. Please note that if we have to change a date/place it may be on short notice. We will always notify all members who have e-mail of these changes, but I am still working on how to notify everyone else who does not have access to e-mail.

Here is what has transpired over the summer and what is coming up. We have completed the major safety improvements that we had planned last spring. These are the baffle in front of the 300yd firing line, and the excavation of the 300yd impact area. These improvements have been inspected by the county sheriff and were deemed safe, but we are still waiting for the "official word" from the DNRC as to when we can reopen the 300yd range and the 50yd pistol range. I have been told that I should have a letter from them this week 9/7/10. When we receive that letter we will place signs, and post new range rules at the range notifying you that it is open. I had hoped that I would have word before this news letter went out but that has not been the case. Again look for signs at the range as to when it is open, and on the web page.

As always keep safety in mind while using the ranges. Only shoot at targets on the target boards, and not at items on the ground. Do not use portable target stands that do not have a backstop behind them. If you need shoot at 25-50yd use the target boards on the east side of the range. Anyone shooting 100yds and beyond should allow people to use the last two benches for the short ranges. Watch your muzzle direction, keep it pointed down, and unloaded unless you are going to fire. I would like to ask that if you are going down range that you remove your rifle from the bench and place it in the racks behind the benches, with the action open. Pick up your trash and targets and place them in the barrels.

We heard from the DNRC about their intention to log or thin the section that surrounds the rifle range. We have known they were planning on doing this last year, but just recently heard from them on it. Their intention is to thin the area around us similar to what was done on the corner of, KM Ranch road and Spring Prairie. This winter they intend to mark the trees they intend to remove, with the logging to start in the winter of

2011. They expected this project to take approximately 3 years to complete from that time, with the logging to be done in the winter months.

John Eder and I talked to them of our safety concerns while logging in front of our 300yd impact area, as we felt we may have to shut the range down for some time during the logging of this particular section. We were told that they would coordinate with us when that was going.

We also talked to them about the ramifications of thinning the trees around us which will eliminate some of the sound/safety protection our neighbors enjoy right now. We were told that the DNRC retains the right to log this area and if we wanted them to leave trees for a sound barrier we would have to purchase them. We do lease a small section in front of the 300yd impact area, and talked to them about leaving as many trees in this area as possible. It remains to be seen exactly how many trees they leave in this area. Their intention is to thin up to the edge of the range, leaving a small border of trees around our lease boundary. If you are out at the range you might notice blue flagging around the range, this is their cutting boundary.

Again we do not have dates as of yet on this operation other than the winter of 2011, and we do not know which part of the area around us they will start working on first. We will keep the membership informed when we get more information from the DNRC.

Other things coming up this fall;

1. We are going to have a **work party on September 18th, 8:00am to approximately 12:00pm** to replace target boards, place a “cap” on the baffles in front of the firing line, and pick up some of the trees that were cut during our 300yd range excavation. If you can attend it will be a great help, bring tools to help put up target boards, Ladders to help put a cap on the baffles in front of the firing line, and if you have a pickup or trailer to help haul some wood bring it along as well. The more people we have the quicker we will get done and can reopen the ranges.
2. **Hunters sight in** is going to be held for two weekends on **Oct 2-3, and again on Oct 16-17, from 10:00am to 4:00pm each day**. We are gathering a list of members that volunteered to help on their membership application and setting up a call list to see who is available. If you get called let us know when you can help, and if you don't get called and can help let us know as well. Barry Hatton is going to be running the hunters sight in again this year.

Gavin Corrigan
President Whitefish Rifle & Pistol Club.