

GALLATIN SPORTING CLAYS SPRING 2007 NEWSLETTER

Range Opens March 31

The range opens Saturday, March 31. That is also Tom & Huck Day, when all range members show up (9:00 AM) to assist with range opening and perform the chores necessary to get the range up and running for the year. Please bring your grubby clothes, gloves, appropriate hand tools, and shotguns and ammunition. As soon as the chores are completed, the shooting begins.

Gun Raffle

The gun raffle will be held in the Comfort Inn conference rooms at 5:30 p.m. on March 28. The Comfort Inn is located on North Seventh, and the conference rooms are in the eastern portion of the building accessible from the parking lot on the south side. A list of guns to be raffled is provided below. As always, tickets will be \$120.

CZ O/U .410 w/ 26" barrels
CZ "ringneck" SxS 28ga. 28" barrels
CZ Ultra-Lux 22LR 28" barrels
Marlin 917m2 17hm2
Remington 700SPS 300 WSM
Thompson Contender Encore .270 Win
Remington 1187 20 ga.
Win 70 .223 WSSM
Ruger 77 22-250
Browning Feather O/U 20 ga.

Schedules

A list of shoots for Montana and surrounding states is attached. Please check all shoot dates before traveling.

A club calendar is attached with dates of key club events.

May Members Meeting

One Board slot currently held by Dan Cook is open this year. Our annual members meeting will be May 14, 2007, at the Comfort Inn on North 7th at 6:30 p.m. Please plan to attend. These meetings have a major impact on the future of your club.

Hours of Operation

Assuming we get enough people to volunteer for range marshal duties, the club will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00-6:30 and Saturdays from 10:00-3:00. If you have not served as a range marshal, then you need to step forward for a couple of days this year. Without your volunteer help, we can't open the range.

Practice Range

The practice range opened last year and was a big success. As last year, members who are trained and listed in the marshal book are given the gate combination and can shoot at any time. Remember, non-members can only shoot during normal hours of range operation.

Member Survey

Last year the Board conducted a survey of members. The Board has referred to this information frequently when making decisions. Some of the key findings were: 95% of the members were happy with the hours of operation. 88% of the members believed that

changing the course once a month was about right.

83% of the members believe that the course difficulty is about right.

70% of the members thought that we should develop the club more.

70% thought that development should focus on more shooting.

30% thought that development should focus on a clubhouse.

50% were willing to pay more to see development happen faster.

Thanks for you input!

Thanks from Cal

Everyone,

I just want to thank everyone for helping me with my trip to San Antonio in September. For those of you who do not know the club membership helped me fund a trip to the NSCA National Championship in San Antonio. I had saved \$3,000 for the trip but my truck died and I had to spend that money on a new truck. After my truck died I decided to stay home but Russ, Ken and Todd insisted I could not break up the "Super Squad" (so called). They mobilized and collected the money I needed. It was extremely gratifying to have so many people help me. All I can say is thank you all very much. I consider you all some of the best friends I have ever known.

Cal Fraser

Youth Program (by Dale Spartas)

The Gallatin Sporting Clays Youth Program is in tact and operational. Program instructions are in the Marshals Book and also posted in the clubhouse. The GSC Youth Program allows youths between 11 and 20 years old to shoot 300 clays free including ammunition on an annual basis. Generous members of GSC have funded the program. We have 4 or

5 guns, enough funding for 7500 targets and shells, hearing protection and eye protection.

We need volunteer instructors (members who will take youths out) and youths to participate.

Last year's Youth Program Committee consisted of Brian Cey, Will Avril, Tom Grace and Peter Smith. Everyone but Peter Smith is available to help again this year. I would like to thank not only each and every one of my committee members but all of the people and organizations who donated to the program. **Thank you very much.**

Youth Program contacts:

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The future of hunting, shooting sports and America's Conservation Movement is dependent upon passing the torch to young people and bringing them along. Take a kid shooting.

Club Challenge 2007

This year's club challenge will be in Cody Wyoming on June 16th. Each year GSC, Cody and Billings compete for the top SC club. Each club brings as many shooters as they want. The scores of the top five shooters from each club are added together for the team score. The high team takes home the traveling trophy.

Tournaments

As you heard in our January newsletter, we have a big opportunity this year. On July

13-15 we host the Montana State Championship and On August 23 -26 the Kruger Western Challenge. We have the potential to earn a significant amount of money that can go toward club improvements. We need a lot of volunteer support to make this happen. Talk to Dan Cook or Curt Kradolfer to sign-up and help.

A special thanks goes to Mark Thiebeault who has been one of the first to step up with help. Mark designed a great looking page for a magazine ad and flyer to promote the tournaments. It will appear in the May issue of *Sporting Clays* magazine.

Tom & Huck Plans

This year our focus on T&H day will be to prepare for the year's tournaments. We will do the normal clean up and preparation of the existing areas but our extra effort will go to the new areas. We will concentrate on improving roads and parking on the new land and preparing trails, stands benches and racks for a second sporting clays range. This range will be operated during the tournaments using rented traps.

Russ McElyea is in charge of the dirt and gravel work. He is going to try and complete most of that work before T&H day. We need dirt moving equipment and a lot of gravel. If you can help with either of these please contact Russ ASAP.

Bill Hendricks is in charge of the T&H Day activities. On T&H day we will be: Doing the normal maintenance on the existing range. Doing hand and bobcat/tractor work to finish

gravel on the new SC trails. Building stands, benches, gun racks. Cutting down trees and brush. Gathering and disposing of downed trees and brush. If you have treated lumber, Trex or railroad ties that you would like to donate or if you have equipment that could be used to collect the downed trees and brush please contact Bill.

Other Volunteers

Tom Grace will be the Marshal Organizer this year. Please contact Tom to sign-up for marshal slots.

The board would like to do some member shoots this year - buddy, SXS, pump or league. We are at our limit on what we can manage this year. If you would be interested in organizing and conducting any or all of these shoots please contact a board member.

Bill Hendricks, President
Gallatin Sporting Clays

Board Members

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Ken Eiden 585-2644
Tom Grace 522-8908
Bill Hendricks 586-6389
Curt Kradolfer 587-2214
Bill Lewis 570-7913
Russ McElyea 586-5098