

**GALLATIN SPORTING CLAYS NEWSLETTER AND
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING
www.gallatinclays.org**

Our annual members meeting will occur on May 16, 2005, at 6:00 p.m. at the Comfort Inn on North 7th Avenue in Bozeman.

The agenda will include election of three board members and presentation of options for a long-term development plan. The purpose of the development plan is to enable club members to express their preferences regarding construction of improvements to the club, as well as their preferences regarding the location of such improvements. Three club members who are engineers have worked hard to identify priorities and locations for improvements. This is your chance to voice your opinion on how your club will grow.

BUS TRIP

This year's club challenge will occur at the Billings Rod & Gun Club on May 7th. The bus will leave the parking lot at the Life of Montana Building on Haggerty Lane at 7:00 a.m. Please plan on arriving at the parking lot no later than 6:45 a.m. so we can load the bus and be ready to depart at 7:00 a.m. sharp.

All club members are welcome to attend this event. A seat on the bus will cost \$30. This does not include target fees at Billings Rod & Gun Club.

SHOOTING LESSONS

Gil and Vicki Ash will be returning to Gallatin Sporting Clays the first week of August to teach lessons. Tentative dates are August 5, 6, and 7. A day-long lesson costs \$375 plus target fees. Target fees for members will be \$14 per 100; target fees for nonmembers will be \$35 per 100.

WOMEN'S CLINIC

In an effort to promote shooting by women, Gallatin Sporting Clays will be offering a short two-day clinic for women only. The clinic will consist of two, two-hour lessons and will take place on Wednesday, June 1st and Wednesday, June 8th at 6:00 p.m. at the Sporting Clays Range. Class size will be limited to a maximum of 12 students with a student instructor ratio of 1:4. Please contact Russ McElyea or Sam Robinson for details. The class will focus on basics such as etiquette, safety, rules of the game, gun mount, stance, focal points, and break points. The cost of the lesson will be \$50 per student, which includes all target fees. Students will be expected to provide their own guns and ammunition.

THURSDAY NIGHT LEAGUE

Tim Johnson has agreed to run a league on Thursday nights. The first league will consist of 500 targets. A handicap system will be used to handicap all shooters. Shooters of all ability levels are encouraged to attend. Please contact Tim Johnson at the range for additional details.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Our club will again be hosting several charity events this year. These events will include the YMCA Bang for the Buck Shoot on June 23rd, College of Business Fundraiser on June 26th, Ducks Unlimited on July 24th, and Young Life the last week of August. Look for details on the website in coming weeks.

KEEP YOUR RANGE CLEAN

We have always enjoyed a clean, neat range. Unfortunately, there is a growing problem with shooters who discard spent hulls on the ground. Leaving your hulls for others to clean up is inconsiderate, and generates resentment on the part of club volunteers who are stuck with your mess. It also signals to other members and guests that it's okay to trash our club.

There are a couple of stations where picking up empties is impractical. Otherwise, you need to clean up your mess. First time offenders will be fined a six-pack. Second time offenders will have their scalps hung above the teepee door. No kidding.

EXTRA TARGETS

Please remember that a round of sporting clays consists of 100 birds. You are welcome to shoot extra targets but you must pay for those targets at a rate of 20¢ per bird after completing your round.

SAFETY

During a recent tour of the range, I found numerous empty 3½" 12-gauge hulls loaded with 1 7/8 ounces of no. 2 lead shot. Hunting loads are inappropriate for use on the course. Our shot fall zones are not designed to accommodate shot larger than 7½. Larger shot travels a greater distance and represents a hazard to both people and equipment. Please do not use shot larger than 7½ on the range.

THANK YOU's

A number of volunteers have stepped forward to perform significant tasks for your club. Please take the time to thank the following people when you see them on the range:

- John Meyer sold the club his four-wheeler for 40% of its blue book value;
- Dave Carty organized all the marshalls and put together a marshall schedule;
- Don Jones took time off work and donated his Bobcat with forklift to unload an entire semi-truck full of targets;
- Ken Walker and his son-in-law Travis showed up on Tom & Huck Day with their Bobcat and helped spread gravel and perform excavation work;
- Brian King donated use of a D5 Cat to improve our coulee crossing and expand the road into the center of our property;
- Dan Marsh put together a website for the club (www.gallatinclays.org);
- Bill Hendricks and Dave Crawford put many hours into a development plan;
- Frank Stewart helped prepare our grant application;
- Cal Fraser continues to take out the trash without complaint (wow!);
- Ed Seth still can't shoot a round without taking his tool bag;
- Bill Lewis did our tax returns;
- Sam Robinson ordered our new traps and got them up and running;
- Our course marshalls take time from their work, family, and shooting to open and close the range for your benefit;
- Tom Grace volunteered to marshall every Saturday and Tim Johnson volunteered to marshall every Thursday;
- House of Clean and Curt Kradolfer have donated cleaning supplies and lots of other stuff to help keep the range running;
- KBS Express, Jamie Bottcher, Chad Bottcher, Mike Schlauch and Tim Christianson are donating trucking and gravel to upgrade our roads;
- Brooks and the boys at Precision Fencing are donating a mile of new fence on our south boundary; and,
- Lots of you showed up for Tom & Huck Day to get dirty and give each other tons of harassment/encouragement.

Thanks for your incredible contributions to our club. If I have forgotten anyone or left anyone unappreciated, please let me know at 586-5098.

Best Wishes,

Russ McElyea, President
Gallatin Sporting Clays