

GALLATIN SPORTING CLAYS JUNE 2004 NEWSLETTER

At the general membership meeting in May, the Board of Directors was given instructions to formulate a plan for purchase of the Green property.

A special land purchase assessment of \$1,200.00 will be levied against each current member, and against all future members of the club. This assessment will be separate from annual dues. The first installment of the assessment will be due on *August 15, 2004*. Each member may select one of the following options for payment of the assessment:

Option A-Under this option, a member would pay the full amount of the assessment in cash by August 15th. In exchange for up-front payment, the member would receive three guest passes. These passes could be used by the member or given to non-members.

Option B-This option allows a member to spread their payment obligation over three years. Each annual payment would be \$450.00.

Option C-This option allows a member to spread their payment obligation over five years. Each annual payment would be \$300.00.

Annual dues will remain at \$50.00 per year for the time being. Target fees will remain at \$14.00 per hundred. Both dues and target fees could increase in the future.

The Board of Directors recognizes the land purchase may cause financial difficulty for some members. The Board intends to retain as many members as possible during the land acquisition process. For this reason, the Board has decided that up to ten memberships can be paid over a ten-year period at a rate of \$175.00

per year. Any members wishing to select one of these extended payment options should contact either Ken Eiden or Russ McElyea. All inquiries regarding these options will be confidential. This extended option will include an obligation on the part of the recipient to provide ten hours of volunteer labor at the range no later than August 31, 2005. Volunteer labor will be used in lieu of cash matching funds during our grant application process with Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

Enclosed is a self-addressed, stamped envelope and a checklist for you to complete and return to the club. Please complete the checklist and return it no later than *July 15, 2004*. It is vital for us to know which option each member has elected. The land purchase will not go forward if you do not return the checklist.

If you do not return the checklist, you will receive a personal telephone call from a member of the club inquiring about your decision. The telephone process will be time consuming and burdensome for our volunteer pool. You can avoid imposing on your fellow members by mailing your checklist back as promptly as possible.

Members who opt out of the land purchase will be entitled to use their existing punch cards until August 31, 2004. Old punch cards will not be honored beyond that date.

The price of non-member guest rounds will be raised to \$30.00 per person, effective immediately. A guest will be restricted to two visits to the range before being asked to purchase a membership.

New member charges will remain at \$400.00 per membership, which will include a punch card.

Each new member will be required to pay an additional \$1,200.00 land assessment using Option A, B, or C.

Many members have recognized the need to contribute funds in excess of their individual land assessment. To date, we have raised approximately \$80,000.00 to provide a down payment for purchase of the property. Thanks to each of you who has contributed additional funds towards this project. Our hope is to continue raising donations so our debt load is low.

Each member who contributes \$2,000.00 over their individual membership assessment will receive a specially prepared leather shooting bag identifying the recipient as a land donor. These donors will also have their names placed upon a plaque erected in a prominent location on the range.

If enough members select Option A as their payment option, we could pay cash for the property without incurring any long-term debt. The Board of Directors has resolved to host a humongous party celebrating our land acquisition before summer's end, if we can raise enough money to pay cash. All members, together with their families and guests, will be invited to attend. Please help achieve this goal by selecting Option A, and by contributing whatever additional funds you can afford.

It is the Board of Directors' hope that no one will relinquish their membership because of concerns about ability to pay. Any member concerned about financial difficulty should contact Russ McElyea or Ken Eiden before deciding to surrender their membership.

Members who opt out of the land purchase may reinstate their memberships in the future by paying the current year's dues plus one year's dues in arrears and their land assessment obligation of \$1,200.00 using Option A, B, or C.

Master Plan for the Club

Now that purchasing our property has become a reality, numerous members have come forward with plans for new projects. The Board of Directors will be forming a committee to plan for development of the property. The master plan will address issues such as utilities installation, drilling a well, building a club house, developing new shooting stations, constructing a five-stand and/or skeet field, and other improvements club members feel necessary.

We need dedicated, creative people to serve on the master plan committee. If you are interested, please contact one of the Board members.

Marketing and Member Recruitment

Our club has experienced phenomenal growth in the last 12 months. Nevertheless, the future of our club depends upon continued growth and recruitment of enthusiastic new members.

Several individuals have suggested we develop a marketing plan to increase membership recruitment. The Board of Directors will be forming a committee to address marketing and recruitment issues. Please contact a member of the Board if you wish to serve in this capacity.

One of the best forms of recruitment has been to invite new shooters to enjoy our facility.

As always, please feel free to contact any member of the Board of Directors if you have questions about the land purchase process or any other issue pertaining to club operations. And please, send us your checklist as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Russ McElyea, President

Gallatin Sporting Clays