



# Riverside

Located in the densely wooded New England countryside with facilities to support our members whether your interests are competitive shooting, breaking clays, fishing, plinking, sharpening your skills for hunting or just socializing.

## Quarterly Newsletter

November 2017

### Fish & Game

The trout are jump'n in our fully stocked trout pond. Badges available at the clubhouse.

### Gun Laws

The education of new and experienced shooters  
Gun Laws

See on page 8

### Clubhouse

Outdoor Patio, Horse Shoes, Trout Pond, Sports Bar Big Screen in the Smoke free Club House, Banquet Hall dates available.

### Pistol Team News

Year end results and upcoming events page 9

### High Power Rifle

A variety of programs for a range of shooting interests including participation in the Highpower, CMP Civilian Marksmanship Program events and the NRA Jr Rifle Program

See on page 4

### Skeet & Trap

Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday Shoots every week. Three fields are configured to support different shooting programs including skeet, trap and 5 stand with lights

See on page 2

### Archery

Year round programs for both junior and adult archers. USA Archery, State Assoc., National Assoc., and the Junior Olympic Archery Development (JOAD) program.

See on page 5

### Banquet Facility

Function hall, dance floor, band stand, and kitchen area with a separate entrance area and full function bar has a capacity of 150. Rental includes bartender and cleanup. Caterer and DJ available for functions.

## from the PRESIDENT'S DESK

If you're feeling a bit "down" nowadays about national trends, the escalating tensions in the Middle East, the diminishing prospects for bipartisanship on Capitol Hill, unsettling racial and gender divides, or the data on incarceration--almost 7 million, more than the number of slaves in 1861 or prisoners in one of those wretched Soviet gulags--there has been one transformation in our lifetimes that may have had more than any other to offer some reassurance about the future of this country. That under appreciated reality has been the value of our allegiance to the United States with the understanding of a common commitment or goal if not always agreement on how to achieve it.

The Pledge of Allegiance was written in August 1892 by the socialist minister Francis Bellamy (1855-1931). It was originally published in The Youth's Companion on September 8, 1892. Bellamy had hoped that citizens in any country would use the pledge.

So, the reasoning for the pledge of allegiance to be said in schools was to instill a sense of patriotism amongst students. Some believe that it shouldn't be controversial at all because the process is just described as simply --a pledge.

In their comments about "greatness" and how to restore it, both Trump and Clinton glossed over the importance of religion or dedication to the country in favor of other, presumably more compelling, issues in explaining what makes this country great. Hopefully we have a higher calling--a nation and a country have (or should have) a soul, and beyond a constitution and the law, it can set a higher standard, a reference, and we ignore that, in my opinion, at our peril. Our dedication to and the well being of, our nation should stand above prejudice and self-serving protest. Examples of allegiance are loyalty, devotion, or swearing that you will follow the laws of a country.

See on page 2

## Skeet & Trap Fall Updates

See article on page 2  
"RGC Skeet & Trap News"

## EDUCATION

from the Riverside  
Education Director

See article on page 8

## NRA Jr Rifle Shooting

See "NRA Jr Rifle" on page 4

## JOAD ARCHERY 2017

See page 5

# RGC SKEET & TRAP NEWS

## FALL

Summer is over, but the weather has been exceptionally great. Skeet and trap shooting continues to be popular, and we hope to see even more of you join the sport. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to try shooting clays; we have several certified instructors that are always eager to help new shooters develop their skills.



Ken, Frank & Jim cleaning out the shack

We have been very busy remodeling the skeet club house. Over the course of the last two+ months, much has been done and we hope you will take time to stop by, check out the improvements, and perhaps break a clay or two.



Jim, Art & Ken painting

Our first chore in the remodeling project was to deal with repairing the roof. Considering its age, the underside was in surprisingly great shape, so all went quicker than anticipated. Thanks to our crew - Ken Blomquist, Ken Yorsten, Barry White, Bobby White, Paul Coccari, Andy Massa and Jim D'Angelo, the work took only two days to complete. The final touch on the exterior was to install vinyl siding and soffit, along with new gutters. This effort not only greatly improves the appearance of the building, but will serve to protect the clubhouse from the New England elements for years to come.

Next, we turned our attention to the interior. The most difficult part of this phase was deciding what to keep, donate or toss. I was glad to have a couple of advisors to counsel me on "letting go" of my attachment to many things inside the clubhouse.



Ken B & Andy M snow blowing fields

As such, we donated old furniture to a local furniture bank in Hudson, while filling a dumpster or two. After moving all remaining items to our trailers for temporary storage, we refinished the concrete floor, repaired and painted the ceiling, trim and walls, installed new kitchen cabinets, counter tops, appliances, and replaced windows, along with new tables and chairs.

*Continued on page 3*

PRESIDENT'S DESK *continued from page 1*

## Kids Christmas Party

The annual kids Christmas Party at Riverside Gun Club is Sunday December 17th from 2:00 to 5:00pm. We will have a light lunch from 2:00 - 3:00pm, followed by entertainment from 3:00 - 4:00pm. After the entertainment, are the parties highlight---Santa arrive and distributes presents to those who have signed up during November. Participants must sign up at the Riverside Gun Club...the sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board the entire month of November, the 1st thru the 30th. Sign-up is mandatory and only during this period. Please don't call in to sign up---come by the club and personally sign up---No Late Signups. We will provide complimentary snacks downstairs during the day for your enjoyment while you are seeing friends or stopping by to pay your club dues. See you on the range.

*Mike Connelley*, President

# RGC SKEET & TRAP NEWS CONTINUED



Newly remodeled Shack



Frank & Jim painting skeet stations.



Frank & Andy cutting new trim.



All Done

I would like to thank our shooters for their patience during this month-long disruption. Although we had to improvise at times to maintain regular shooting hours, the effort was worthwhile, and the place looks great. I would also like to thank those who donated the many hours of work necessary to make this effort possible - Ken Y, Paul C, Andy M, Art G, Bill L, Joe B and Jim D.

Along with upgrades done over the last several years, this completes our five-year improvement program for the skeet and trap area. We celebrated our grand re-opening on October 1st with a 5-stand & trap shoot, along with a barbecue. We also had special guests, former chairman Ralph Leighton, and Judy Cook, stop by for a visit. Ralph and Judy were instrumental in building the skeet and trap program in the earlier years; It was great to see them both.

Now it's time to enjoy the new digs, and have fun. Our shooting schedule for the remainder of 2017 is posted on the RGC website. Our fall clean up took place on Saturday, October 21st from 9am to 11:30am with pizza.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

<http://www.riversidegc.org/Skeet.shtml>

Looking forward to breaking clays with you soon.

*Frank Harrington*

Chairman



Past chairman Ralph & Judy stopped by to see the work.



# NRA JR RIFLE

## NRA Junior Marksmanship Qualification Program

The Riverside Junior Rifle and Air Pistol program is a high quality marksmanship program dedicated to the advancement of junior marksmanship in both Smallbore Rifle and Air Pistol disciplines. Our top priority in the program is safety. We instruct participants on the safe & responsible use and handling of firearms as well as range safety.

Participants are required to follow all safety protocols at all times. This includes wearing safety glasses on both ranges, hearing protection on the rifle range, following safe firearm handling procedures, and observing all range safety rules. Participants are also required to wash their hands thoroughly after each range session. Due to the nature of this activity, violations of safety protocols may result in ejection from the program. For participants under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must remain in the clubhouse for as long as the shooter is present.

The program follows the NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program. Shooters have the opportunity for recognition of advancement through the NRA Junior Marksmanship qualifications for both Smallbore Rifle and Air Pistol. Qualifications are awarded at the end of the season at the Program banquet.

The program runs on Friday evenings at 6:30PM for 18 weeks beginning on October 13th and ending with our end of year banquet on April 6th. There is no shooting on those days when Hudson schools are closed, either for holidays or for inclement weather. Signups are on the first day of the season (for 2017,

this is October 13th), beginning at 6:00 PM. The program is limited to 40 shooters, with returning shooters having priority. First time participants are accepted on a first come, first served basis.

Riverside Junior Rifle also participates in the Central Mass Junior Rifle league. The league is comprised of several other Jr Rifle clubs in the area including (Harvard, Holliston, Hudson, Marlborough, Maynard, & Southborough). This offers our shooters the opportunity to experience rifle competition in a relaxed but still competitive environment. More details on that program can be found below.

### 2017-2018 Season Calendar

#### Shoot Dates:

Registration, Orientation,  
First night of shooting. October  
13th 6:00 PM. ALL participants,  
and a parent or guardian MUST  
accompany participants.

#### Shooting starts at 6:30PM

November 3, 17

December 8, 15

January 5, 12, 19, 26

February 2, 9, 16

March 2, 9, 16, 23

#### Season End NRA Qualification

**Awards Banquet** — April 6

#### NO Shoot Dates:

November 10 Veterans Day

November 24 Thanksgiving

December 1 Archery Tournament

December 22 Christmas Break

December 29 Christmas Break

February 23, 2018 February Vacation

Please note that we will not make up any Fridays missed due to inclement weather.

### Smallbore Rifle (ages 10-20, see notes on ages below):

Our NRA/USA Shooting certified coaches provide training and instruction to our juniors in 4 shooting positions (prone, sitting, kneeling, and standing). All the various aspects of marksmanship are covered and reinforced from correct position, natural point of aim, sight picture, and sight alignment to hold, trigger control, breathing and follow-through. Safety is paramount and is the overriding principle under which the program operates. Shooting is performed at the Riverside indoor range at a distance of 50 feet. The range has 8 points. The course of fire for beginner and intermediate shooter is 25 rounds at 5 bullseyes. Advanced shooter's course of fire is 20 rounds at 10 bullseyes, with 5 rounds allowed at a sighting target to allow for the adjustment of sight prior to the course of fire. Our goal is that each Junior be able to shoot the course of fire at least twice each week.

### Air Pistol (ages 10-18):

Junior air pistol participants have the opportunity to develop their pistol marksmanship utilizing competition air pistols and skilled instruction on proper mechanics. Shooting is performed at the Riverside 10 meter indoor air range. The range has 4 points. In each relay, shooters complete a 10 round course of fire at a single target. Shooters may engage as many courses as time allows.

### Central Mass Junior Rifle League

Riverside's Junior Rifle Program participates in the Central Mass Junior Rifle League. The league is made up of junior rifle programs continued on page 7

## RIVERSIDE JOAD ARCHERS END OF SUMMER REPORT

By Megan Regensburger, Riverside Archers Road Team Member



With another season of archery in the books, we look back on a fantastic season. We had the Road Team place archers in the upper rankings in the state, one placed 6th in the nation for ranking at the Outdoor National Championship held in Ohio, another took gold in the State Games of America held in Michigan and all that shot in tournaments in the New England area came back with medals. The archers and their coaches and parents are very proud of their accomplishments and the hard work that went into preparation for their performances.

Our JOAD group has been doing great in both growth in numbers and earning the pins that let others know their skill levels and the level of performance they have achieved. The coaches and

instructors of the Saturday morning JOAD class have done a fantastic job with the program and has migrated it back inside for the winter. While they get the archers used to the indoor range again, volunteers can get busy on the outdoor projects that were put off until fall. There is a similar class for adults that runs on Friday nights.

At the end of August, Coach Sullivan and the Road Team coaches ran an SPT Training Camp for 10 individuals over a 4 day period where many aspects were taught regarding the form, mindset, equipment set-up and usage, and personal preparation for archery and archery competitions. The students were filled with information and challenged to make themselves better archers. I am happy to report

that they all did very well and responded extremely well to all challenges. Most of them have been absorbed into the Road Team for further training and competitions and our leagues.

The Fall 450 League is in session and should run until mid-December. It will be replaced in January with the 600 Round to help many of Riverside's archers to get ready for the USA Archery Indoor Nationals in February of next year.

We will be hosting the Massachusetts State Indoor and State Indoor JOAD Championships on December 1, 2, and 3. All indoor ranges will be closed for those three days as we have as many as 168 archers from as many as 12 states visiting us for this prestigious event. Archers who break national or world records will be recognized.

In January, the indoor 3-D league will start and run to the middle of April. It is amazing how the indoor range is turned into a forest scene with critters of various sizes and distances placed in front of and behind various objects that have to be shot at from specific distances with different stances and, sometimes, seated positions. It is really good to see over 20

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## Caring for the Environment



Riverside Gun Club, in the late 1990's, developed a program to minimize the impact of club activities on the environment. The goal of the program is to contain lead shot within certain boundaries of the club property, while maintaining a habitat that encourages vegetation growth and wildlife. Since then, a number of initiatives have been taken to achieve this goal. Berms on all outdoor ranges have been redesigned to improve lead containment and extraction (berm height and removal of objects that can cause ricochet), lead is periodically harvested from all outdoor (and



indoor) berms and backstops, dense vegetation is maintained above berms to minimize erosion, and use of lead shot is prohibited on skeet and trap fields. One attribute of a clean environment is the presence of wildlife. Over recent years we have seen a growing number of critters such as turkeys, woodchucks, hawks, and a number of other species on club property. Please help us document some of these sightings by sharing your observations on the Wildlife Logs posted at the club. The



logs can be found on the bulletin board near the restrooms in the main clubhouse, at the pistol & rifle ranges in the range officer shack inside the entrance gate, and in the skeet shack. Also, please share any photos you may have, and let us know if we may include in future newsletters.

*Jim D'Angelo*

continued from NRA Jr Rifle

in the area that get together on selected Saturday mornings and shoot competitive matches. Shooters follow a 30 round course of fire in either a 3-position (prone, kneeling, standing) or prone-only class. Shooters are further divided into beginner, intermediate, and advanced groups, so shooters compete against others of similar skill level. Finally, each club's top five shooters scores are aggregated and the teams are ranked. There is a League awards banquet at the end of season.

**Note on age requirements for the program:**

The Riverside Junior Rifle Program is patterned after the NRA Marksmanship Qualification program and as such accepts participants aged 10-18, inclusive.

However, the Central Mass Junior Rifle League allows shooters who have not yet turned 21 before the first match of the season to participate. Due to this, participants between the ages of 10-20 will be accepted into the Riverside Junior Rifle Program. Those over 18 must participate in the Central Mass Junior Rifle League. No NRA qualifications will be awarded to those shooters over the age of 18.

Please speak with one of the coaches for additional information.

**C. Mass Jr Rifle League Calendar**

December 2, 2017 – Maynard

January 13, 2018 – Harvard

February 10, 2018 – Riverside

March 10, 2018 – Marlborough

April 7, 2018 – Central Mass League

Banquet & Awards – Maynard

Please send email to:

[juniorrifle@verizon.net](mailto:juniorrifle@verizon.net) if you have questions or need more information.

**Cost:**

Rifle only - \$110, Air Pistol only - \$30

Both Rifle & Air Pistol - \$120

## ERIK'S RIDE – HUGE SUCCESS

On September 30th, the Riverside Gun Club was one of five ranges which hosted approximately 50 motorcycle riders who were participating in the Erik's Ride fundraiser to end addiction. The ride was organized by the Northborough American Legion and was supported by GOAL. The event was a



poker run. There were five groups of riders who rode to each of the five clubs, shooting a single shot into the poker target at each range. The five shots made up the poker hand and the highest hands were awarded prizes at the BBQ which followed. All participants had a great time. Riverside provided three range safety officers; Eddie Mulhern, Jim D'Angelo and Bill McDonough who was doubled as the GOAL rep at our range.

continued from JOAD

people shooting this round and having a great time whether they are shooting or watching as they wait their turn.

You may have noticed the targets that are set out in the woods and have a path throughout the woods that takes you to each of them. They are set at different distances with different sized targets that have black and white circles on them for scoring. This is the Field Archery Range that runs through most of the wooded property of the club. There are 14 Targets that make up half of a field course that is walked through twice. The Riverside run NFAA tournaments a few times during the summer and several times indoors during the winter.

As you enter the range road from the clubhouse, you might notice the first range on your

left is a 2-D animal range set for hunters to practice for hunting season. There is a set of stairs on the range with a shooting platform to simulate bow hunting from a tree stand and in front of it is the target that has been designated for broad head shooting. There is a supply of used range foam next to it so that bow hunters can repair the broad head target foam and continue shooting at it. Broad head shooters are asked to not shoot at any other targets as they have rags and will destroy you broad heads when pulling them out and leave razor pieces in the target. As you see, Riverside Gun Club has great variety of archery programs. If you are interested in finding out more about any the programs, just send an email to Archery Chairman Larry Sullivan at:

[naacoach4@msn](mailto:naacoach4@msn) or 978-875-2338



## Riverside Education

In almost every article I write for the newsletter as the Riverside Education Director I include some statement to the effect that every Massachusetts gun owner needs to get a periodic review of the gun laws in our crazy Commonwealth. The law does change, but more importantly, we all tend to forget some of the less intuitive features of our loopy laws. I always offer for any member to join in one of my NRA Home Firearm Safety courses (scheduled published on the website) from 10 AM till 12:30 or so when I cover Massachusetts Gun Law. (\$25 donation to the club.) That offer always stands.

We had to reschedule Jon Green's Massachusetts Gun Laws seminar which had been scheduled for April 4th. The new date has not been set yet. This is an absolute must for all gun owners. The new date will be published on the Riverside website and send out in emails.

We have an incredible educational program this year. I have been teaching the NRA Home Firearm Safety course about every six weeks or by request. The last one was on April 1st and the next is on May 6th. Tell your unlicensed friends. We have a very comprehensive course that has been extremely well received. Unlike many licensing courses we can offer a shooting experience, not just shooting 5 rounds, no, we shoot multiple guns of different calibers. Every student has a blast!

Every couple of months, I put on the Basic Pistol Skills course which is intended for newer shooters who have a gun but need to learn how to shoot, loading/unloading, gun SAFETY, range etiquette and more. Whenever I am at the range, I watch the other shooters. Watching new (and not so new) shooters inspired me to put this course together. This course is all about getting a good, solid foundation for your shooting.

The next course in the sequence is Beyond Basic Pistol Skills. This is the basic level of defensive pistol shooting. In this course, students work on defensive shooting drills, engaging multiple targets, some movement and more

The Basic Pistol Skills and the Beyond Basic Pistol Skills courses are intended to give shooters the basic skills necessary to go to more advanced courses and be able to work the drills at the advanced courses.

This Spring on Tuesday evenings we will be running defensive/tactical shooting workshops. Each workshop will have three components; accuracy shooting, defensive drills, and working a course of fire. The workshops can be done using pistols, shotguns or AR platform rifles. Perhaps there is 3-gun competition in our future. Watch the website and your email for more information.

Now some very exciting information:

Riverside will host two more GOAL courses this Spring. The first one will be the incredible two-day Progressive Carbine course with Scott Germain. Expect to shoot up to 1000 (that's right one thousand) rounds of .223/5.56 along with a couple hundred rounds of handgun ammo. This course is limited to 12 students so sign up soon.

On May 25th, Jon Green will put on GOAL's Principles of Concealed Carry course. This course will be a whole day of learning and practicing defensive and concealed carry techniques. There is a limit of 8 students and there are only a couple of spots left. Better sign up asap.

Remember, if it is a gun, it is assumed to be loaded and treated accordingly.

1. Always keep your muzzle pointed in a safe direction
2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot
3. Always keep your gun unloaded until you are ready to use it.

Regarding #2 above - the great instructor Greg Cruz's motto: On Target - On Trigger, Off Target - Off Trigger. No Exceptions!

You cannot regulate a right - The right of the people to have and bear arms shall not be infringed. This seems to be straight forward to me!

Be safe, Be Responsible

*Bill McDonough*

[bmcdonough@riversidegc.org](mailto:bmcdonough@riversidegc.org)



## 2017-2018 SEASON PLAN FOR RIVERSIDE PISTOL TEAM

The season will consist of 20 matches beginning on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 and continuing on Wednesday nights until March 4, 2018. There will be no matches on November 22, December, and December 27. In the event of inclement weather, the team captain will notify all team members prior to 4:00 PM of the day of the match. A match postponed because of weather will be made up as the second relay at the next session.

We will shoot as many relays at each session as required for all shooters to participate.

The shooter will sign in prior to shooting his relay. The shooter will put his name on the back-bottom center of each target prior to shooting. Timed and rapid-fire targets must be individually identified. A previously missed match may also be made up. The match for record will begin at 7:00 PM. Anyone who shows up prior to the completion of the last relay will be allowed to shoot. The match may start earlier if a full line is present.

**MAKEUPS:** Makeup rounds will occur after everyone has shot the scheduled round for the day. Shooters waiting will have priority of those doing makeups. If it means tearing down your setup and setting up again, so be it. If you know that you're going to do a makeup, it may be expedient to wait until the last relay before you shoot your scheduled match.

**SCORING:** The scoring and recording of targets will take place in the range anteroom after the completion of shooting. Each target will be scored by one person and verified by another. The second scorer is not there to check the arithmetic of the first scorer.

The targets will be scored independently by two persons. Any disagreement on the value of a shot will be resolved by the team captain whose decision is final. Tom's RGS Bullseye app has a scoring segment which should improve the accuracy of the scoring since it checks for some of the most common errors. If you have it on your portable device, please use it.

**WARM-UPS:** Many of you have expressed a desire to take a few warm-up shots before shooting the match. A warm-up period of 10 minutes will be scheduled prior to the relay. The period will start when the last shooter is in place. The warm-up period includes the time to set up.

**AWARDS:** Awards will be given for the following categories:

**Top Shooter -** To be eligible, the shooter must participate in at least half of the scheduled matches.

**Most Improved Shooter:** This will be awarded to the shooter with the largest point increase in his/her average over two consecutive seasons. To be eligible, the shooter must have participated in at least half the matches in both seasons.

**Team Award:** A framed certificate will be posted with the names and averages of the top five shooters. To be eligible, each shooter must participate in at least half plus one (11) of the scheduled matches.

We will have a series of 20 matches according to the following schedule.

Match	Date
1	10/4/2017
2	10/11/2017
3	10/18/2017
4	10/25/2017
5	11/1/2017
6	11/8/2017
7	11/15/2017
8	11/29/2017
9	12/6/2017
10	12/13/2017
11	1/3/2018
12	1/10/2018
13	1/17/2018
14	1/24/2018
15	1/31/2018
16	2/7/2018
17	2/14/2018
18	2/21/2018
19	2/28/2018
20	3/7/2018

Those of you who were with us during the off-season have gotten used to playing with "Summer Rules". For the match season, we will go back to the standard Gallery Match rules for shooting and scoring.

**ALIBIS:** If you have a gun or ammunition malfunction during timed or rapid fire, you MAY request an alibi. The shooter should put the gun down on the table with the action facing up. The range officer will examine the gun to verify the malfunction and will determine how many shots have already been fired. If the alibi is allowed, the shooter will repeat five shots after that portion of the relay and the best shots equivalent to the alibi will be discounted from the score. Alibis will not be allowed for carelessness such as an improperly seated or improperly loaded magazine. A shooter is allowed one alibi per match.

**DNF (Did not Finish):** A DNF is allowed when a shooter's equipment becomes erratic (usually after two alibis) and the shooter is no longer able to continue. Having a bad night with a low score is not justification for a DNF. The DNF will be noted in the records but will not count when determining a shooter's average. A DNF round is not eligible for makeup. A shooter is allowed two DNFs per season.

Prior to the first match of the season (scheduled for October 4th) a safety briefing will be held hosted by Bill McDonough. This will take place at 6:00 PM in one of the club's available conference rooms.

## Riverside Education

The education program has been busy. We run the NRA Home Firearm Safety course every six weeks to help new shooters get licensed. We run a number of internal courses including Basic Pistol Skill and Beyond Basic Pistol Skills. In addition, we have been running the Defensive/Tactical Workshops since early May. There will be two more NRA Home Firearm Safety courses this year on October 28th and November 18th. The next Basic Pistol Skills will be on November 2nd. Beyond Basic Pistol Skills is not scheduled again this year but is available if requested.

We recently sponsored two GOAL courses with great success. On September 17th we had the Progressive Carbine course which was taught by Scott Germain of

Center Mass Weapons Training. This was a very intensive day of carbine work and the students want more. Scott is an incredible instructor.

On September 26th, Jon Green of GOAL put on the Intro to Concealed Carry Pistol course. This is a new GOAL course where every student gets to try out about 15 different handguns from a number of manufacturer to see which one(s) they like. Try before you buy. It was incredibly helpful to be able to shoot these pistols and do a real comparison. Really beats going to a gun store and just being able to handle the guns. This course makes really educated consumers. And Jon, being the absolutely best instructor, makes it a very enjoyable experience.

On October 14th, we hosted Functional Pistol Application 2 which was taught by Ian Strimbeck of Runenation. Ian is a highly experienced and highly rated advanced pistol and rifle instructor. This course was a great success, running and gunning all day long.

I am always looking for courses to put on at Riverside. Feel free to let me know of any courses that you want and I will see if we can get it done.

Be safe, Be Responsible

*Bill McDonough*

[bmcdonough@riversidegc.org](mailto:bmcdonough@riversidegc.org)

### **DEFENSIVE/TACTICAL WORKSHOPS – HAVING A BLAST**

For more than five months, since May 2nd, Riverside has been sponsoring defensive/tactical workshops every Tuesday evening from 6:00 PM till dusk. Many shooters have not only participated and have had a blast but have also significantly improved their shooting skills. Each workshop consists of three phases of shooting; accuracy, defensive drills and tactical courses of fire.



[Accuracy – Shooting with

precision at a small target from a high or low ready position. Defensive drills – Drawing from a holster and engaging a target with both speed and appropriate accuracy as well as engaging multiple targets while stationary and/or moving. Tactical course of fire – Completing a course of fire which includes moving, engaging multiple targets, shooting from behind cover and hitting the targets with accuracy to achieve a good score.] As the shooters' skills have improved with each week, more challenging shooting phases have been employed. The shooters' skills have been tested to shoot accurately and

quickly to succeed in both quasi and real-life scenarios. The requirements to participate are: (1) great attitude, (2) centerfire pistol, (3) good holster, plenty of ammo and (4) willingness to learn, make mistakes and learn some more. Reduced daylight in the evenings have forced us to stop the Tuesday evening workshops for the season. We are considering some indoor range sessions and perhaps a Saturday session. We are also thinking about starting up the evening sessions earlier (April) in the spring of 2018.





**DON'T CALL 911**

What! 911 is the National emergency phone number. We have been trained since birth to call 911 in an emergency. You must have rocks in your head!

Yup, Don't call 911 if police, fire, or EMTs are needed on the range. Call the Hudson Police Department.

**Every member of the Club needs to do the following: Put the Hudson Police Department's direct phone number in your favorite contacts on your cell phone.**

**Hudson Police Department  
(978) 562-7122**

If police, fire or EMTs are called, tell the operator which are needed because there has been an ACCIDENT at the Riverside Gun Club. All guns need to be made safe and, preferable, cased. It is extremely rare to have a gun related (shooting) injury on the range. The typical medical emergencies are falls, heat stroke, heart attacks, strokes, etcetera. If someone has been accidentally hit by a bullet, you can say an ACCIDENTAL shooting and that all firearms have been unloaded and made safe. NEVER just say that there has been a shooting as it will generate a SWAT response rather than EMTs resulting in an unnecessary delay in medical help.



**FUNCTINOAL PISTOL APPLICATION 1 – RUNNING AND GUNNING**

On October 14th, the Riverside Gun Club hosted Ian Strimbeck's Functional Pistol Application 2, which is an advanced pistol course. Ian had a lot of different drills which really challenged the students. This course was intensive and very defensive oriented with a lot of up close training. The drills were great, the instruction was outstanding and there was a lot learned and skills honed. The day was filled with a lot of moving and shooting ended with a stressed shooting drill. Definitely take one of Ian's courses if you get the chance.



**CONGRATULATIONS – EDDIE MULHERN**

Congratulations to Eddie Mulhern, our most active Range Officer. On the weekend of September 23/24 Eddie took and passed the two-day NRA Chief Range Safety Officer course at the Harvard Sportsman's Club. Eddie is now an NRA certified Chief Range Safety Officer. Eddie can be found on the outdoor rifle/pistol ranges on most days volunteering his time to keep our ranges safe. If you see Eddie on the range, please give him some well-deserved kudos!



## Rifle/Pistol Range Officer Program – Keep Our Ranges Safe

Our Range Officer (RO) program has been slow for the last year as we have taken the time to evaluate ways to improve the program. In the past there have been no requirements for range officers and as a result, we have had limited participation and sometimes inconsistency in the messages which our members are receiving when on the ranges. The purpose of range officers is not to watch for or critique members making mistakes in their shooting technique or to be watching for safety violations so that they can pounce on the perpetrator. The purpose of range officers is to monitor the ranges to assist with members questions or issues and to correct any safety violations which they observe. A correction includes an explanation of the safety violation, the range rules and/or why the rule is in place.

The most common safety violation I see involves the trigger finger. Trigger finger discipline. A shooter has his/her finger on the trigger before or after the muzzle of the gun is aimed at the target. For many shooters, this is a habit which has developed over time and is hard to break. Nonetheless, this habit must be broken! Remember OT/OT On Target - On Trigger, Off Target - Off Trigger. It is the NRA's second rule of safe gun handling: ALWAYS Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot. As a range officer and instructor, I confess that I lose patience when I have to keep correcting someone for this safety violation.

Another common safety violation is muzzle discipline. At no time should a muzzle be pointed anywhere except at the backstop. It is too frequent that we see a point the gun upward or to the side when reloading or setting up. It is easy enough to keep the muzzle pointed where it belongs if shooters pay attention. I have seen a number of shooters arrive at the range and when taking their pistols (to a smaller degree rifles) out of the case and, in doing so, point the muzzle along the bench at other shooters. This should never happen. As a



shooter, I really, really, really don't like having a muzzle pointed at me. I get upset when I am at the bench and a shooter arrives and pulls a gun out of a case with the muzzle pointing at me. I always immediately ask that the muzzle be pointed down range. Truth be told, I get very angry, very fast if there is a delay in repointing the gun downrange. It is my life and limb that is at risk and I vehemently object to anyone else being casual about pointing a gun at me. Loaded or unloaded, a muzzle is NEVER pointed at ourselves (any part of our body) or anyone else.

We all, including range officers, are not perfect and we have all committed a safety violation at one time or another. As long as no one is hurt, then no harm-no foul. We can learn from our mistakes and I have learned from mine. When someone points out that you are violating a safety protocol, the correct response is: "Oh no!, I am sorry, thank you for pointing it out." It is never acceptable to say, "But the gun is not loaded". (Unloaded guns magically seem to go off with too much frequency.) After correcting the situation, it is perfectly acceptable to have a constructive conversation about it and even to give your opinion of the appropriateness of the rule. So long as we remain cool, calm and collected we can all potentially benefit from the conversation.

On every range at Riverside, there is a complete copy of our range rules. When in doubt, you can grab the rulebook and look things up. I downloaded a copy onto my Android phone so it is always available.

Be safe, Be Responsible

*Bill McDonough*

[bmcdonough@riversidegc.org](mailto:bmcdonough@riversidegc.org)