



# 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

October 2020

### Archery

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



### 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 Rifle Clinic.

### Pistol & Rifle

A variety of programs for a range of shooting interests

### 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

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### 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.



### Clubhouse

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



Club information will be maintained on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/RiversideGC.org>

### Fish & Game

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



### Education & Training

The hands-on firearms courses, education & tactical schedules

## Riverside Archers 2020 Summer Season Archery

By Larry Sullivan

Our 2020 summer Archery Season remained "interesting" due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All of our planned archery competitions (local, state, region, national) were cancelled as we found ourselves responding to various limitations with Massachusetts returning from shutdown. All Riverside archery programs, including outdoor JOAD, were cancelled until the commonwealth declared that we had reached Phase 2. Participation in Phase 2 was very limited due to health safety concerns associated with the disease.

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## Pistol League

Everyone is affected by the pandemic and Riverside is no exception. Normally, our competition season would begin on the first Wednesday in October. The team captains, coach and club President got together to decide what we could do to have at least some semblance of a season.

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## from the President's Desk

The clubhouse is open again 7 days a week from 4:00 until 8:00, so you can stop in and grab a bite and something cold to wash it down. The club event calendar is limited this year. Club Officer Elections normally held Sunday, December 20th are not necessary because all incumbents are unopposed and unfortunately the Kids Christmas Party normally held the same day is cancelled for virus safety concern.

I was on the 25-yard range last week having a great day of shooting—it never occurred to me that anything was wrong in the world. After all, that's what our rifle and pistol ranges are for — we participate in archery, skeet & trap or spend time on the rifle & pistol ranges to get away, relax or

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*Jim D is moving to Phoenix later this week. We will miss him!*



*Nick K shot his first perfect 25. Congrats!!!*

After nearly three months of being closed, the skeet & trap fields are open, and the regular crowd has returned. I've come to realize that shooting is only a small part of what brings us together; it's also the (safe) social interaction that makes our club a great place to gather. We have built quite the community over the years, and I'm happy to see new shooters, young and old, join in the fun and camaraderie. The weather has been cooperative, and temperatures couldn't be better for Fall shooting. We continue to hold off on outings and 1:1 lessons, but hopefully we'll get through these dark times soon. We are still planning to hold our holiday shoots for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years day. Please check our web page for updates and new information. <http://riversidegc.org/Skeet.shtml>.



*Thanks for surprise birthday party  
Stay safe and hope to see you soon.*

*Frank Harrington*  
Chairman



## RETURN TO INDOOR ARCHERY AT RIVERSIDE

Our 2020 summer Archery Season remained “interesting” due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All of our planned archery competitions (local, state, region, national) were cancelled as we found ourselves responding to various limitations with Massachusetts returning from shutdown. All Riverside archery programs, including outdoor JOAD, were cancelled until the commonwealth declared that we had reached Phase 2. Participation in Phase 2 was very limited due to health safety concerns associated with the disease.



We continued to keep in phase with the Governor’s orders as they were modified, sometimes daily. We now find ourselves currently in Phase 3 with a positive testing rate rising above 1%. We will not be out of the woods, however, until a fully tested and released vaccine is available and distributed. Until then, we will follow public health guidelines to provide the safest environment that we can for your archery experience at Riverside Gun Club.

**GOOD NEWS:** The indoor archery range is open for general membership use with a maximum capacity of 6 people during normal business hours (M-F 4:00pm – closing; Sat – Sun Noon – closing)

**Please make sure to check the club calendar to see if there is a scheduled function happening during the time you want to use the range.**

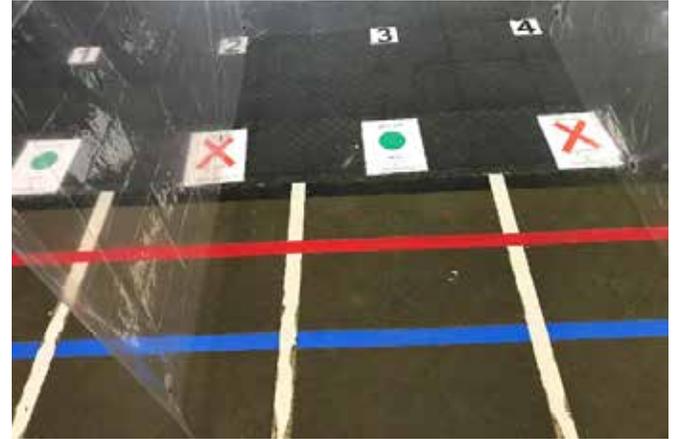
Currently the archery range use process rules for general membership archery practice are:

1. First, if you are ill or have any symptoms of illness, please stay at home and do not come to the archery ranges at Riverside Gun Club.
2. Enter the front door during normal business hours and Log into the Archery Log Book just inside the door and on the bar legibly with your name, card key number and time you are entering.
3. After you fill out an entry in the Archery Log Book, the person tending the bar will accept your card key and issue a key for the archery room door if there is any range capacity left. (Same process the indoor gun range has run for many years.)  
NOTE: Make sure to write your name on your key card to identify it when it is time to pick it up upon returning your key when done shooting.
4. Prior to entering the indoor archery range, masks must be put on and worn in the archery range by all members, coaches and archers at all times with one exception: once you are on the shooting line, you may remove your mask to shoot as long as you remain between the shower curtains.
5. Assemble your equipment and place your bow on the rack near the number of an available odd-numbered lane from which you will be shooting. Place your cases and other equipment neatly in the back of the range.
6. Masks must be put back on to put equipment in the racks and to go down to hang a target face or to score and collect your arrows.
7. Pin a target face or plan to use an existing one on that lane when the range is clear to go down
8. Return to the bow rack and you are ready to pick up your bow and advance to the shooting line for your lane that will also place you between curtains that will shield you and others from spreading contagion.
  - You may remove your mask in order to shoot





- You must put it back on to go anywhere else in the range (put your equipment in the bow racks or to go down to hang a target face or to score and collect your arrows).
9. Social Distance must be maintained as much as possible at all times.
  10. Restrooms will be open in the member lounge area.
  11. Before packing up to leave when you are done shooting, sanitize your hands, equipment (bow grips, string where it contacts your face (nose & lips), and your arrows where you touch them and the shaft area that sinks into the buttress. If you are the last to leave the range, please lock the range door with the key you obtained and return it to the bar. Sign out of the Archery Log Book by writing your exit time and any noteworthy issues on the range. **Please don't forget to retrieve your membership card.** You may leave the way you came in to the club. **The back door of the range is for Junior Archery**



**program exit and emergency use only. Please enter range per steps 2 and 3 and exit through the membership lounge door that you entered after signing out and retrieving your key card. Only authorized individuals are permitted access through the back door until we exit to Phase 4.**

### ***OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS WILL BE MOVING INSIDE IN NOVEMBER, 2020!***

In addition to cleansing of touch areas and spraying down the lane isolation curtains on the shooting line, we will be adding ventilation units to the range to work with our exhaust fan to enable fresh air replacement to take place between the archery programs.

JOAD and the JOAD Road Team will be running individual sessions again on Saturdays this fall. Explore Archery will resume through notification to the families currently signed up on the EA List.

There are changes to the range operations that everyone returning will be trained to use until there is a corona vaccine(s) generally available and life returns to some level of sanity and security that we used to take for granted. These changes are necessary in order for us to provide these programs consistent with the guidance received from the Massachusetts Department of Health:

1. First session Archery students are to be dropped off at the front door of the club between 8:30 and 8:50 AM. Please plan your arrival ahead of time as the doors must be locked at 8:50 AM to start the program.
  2. First session Archery students will need to be picked up at the back door by the green shed between 10:15 and 10:35 AM
  3. Second session Archery students are to be dropped off at the front door of the club between 10:15 and 10:35 AM. Please plan your arrival ahead of time as the doors must be locked at 9:00 AM to run the program.
  4. Second session Archery students will need to be picked up at the back door by the green shed between 11:40 and 12:00 noon
  5. The Road Team will start at 1:00 PM finish at 3:30.
  6. Social Distancing must be maintained on the range at all times.
  7. The waiting line has been moved back to 12' from the shooting line.
  8. There will be a "walk-way" lane for archers to use when exiting the shooting line.
  9. There will be social distance spots on the floor for archers to wait their turn to shoot.
- This is our way forward until we get to Stage 4 of the commonwealth's reopening plan or something else happens. . . . On to Fall, Winter and Spring again!
- 10's,*  
*Larry Sullivan,* Riverside Archery Chair



## JOHN McGRATH

“Life is the sum of your choices,” That quote by Albert Camus, a Nobel-prize winning novelist is brought to life particularly in the story of a Riverside Club Officer. I would like to share with our members a tribute to John McGrath who has influenced many of us greatly.



John's characteristic of sacrificing his time and energy for others was quite authentic, never trying to gain anything for himself. His leadership was a strong suite. When the club was at a very low point due to financial difficulty and operational problems, John consistently maintained a positive attitude and excelled in the performance of his duties as a newly elected Club Officer. He also spent an enormous amount of his personal time improving the club facilities, developing a strong Jr Rifle coaching staff and rebuilding the defunct teams for pistol and rifle competition—all for which the club can point to with pride.

John taught all of us by his example of courage. John maintained a positive outlook when he was diagnosed with cancer. Despite his ill health and suffering, he never missed an opportunity to do good for Riverside.

John deserves our tribute. I'm thankful for John choosing Riverside as one of those choices that summed his life.

Rest in peace

*Mike Connelley*



## PRESIDENT'S DESK

*(continued from cover page)*

self fulfilment. When we leave the range, we feel better about most everything. My wife refers to my range activity as a routine, but that sound like something non-essential — my routine is essential to me. Our outdoor ranges are open as usual—take advantage of them. Please note that we will winterize and close the outdoor restrooms near the end of October.

The indoor pistol and indoor archery ranges are open for members use at 50% capacity. And follow the posted range rules. In October and November there is an increase in the use of our 60-yard range use during the weekdays by several local police departments doing their annual qualifications. As always, it's a good idea to check the club calendar before heading to the range.

Unfortunately, the Jr. Rifle Program that normally starts in October is cancelled. The issue is that there's so much shared equipment that can't be sanitized between uses. We can take another look at the possibility of having a spring season if the COVID-19 situation improves later this year. Bill Duross, Jr. Rifle head coach has spoken to some of the coaches about their programs and most of them are delaying start for the same reason.

Larry Sullivan, Head Archery coach article in this newsletter provides complete detail of the archery programs and range operating procedures. The indoor archery range is open for general membership use with a maximum capacity of 6 people during normal business hours. JOAD and the JOAD Road Team will be running individual sessions again on Saturdays this fall. Explore Archery will resume through notification to the families currently signed up on the EA list.

Skeet & Trap is back with a normal operations schedule. You can shoot Sunday morning and Tuesday & Thursday evening—see the S&T update in this newsletter.

Stay safe---Remember to wear your mask whenever you're in the club.

See you on the range,

*Mike Connelley*

President, Riverside Gun Club



## RIVERSIDE PISTOL LEAGUE

### 2020-2021 SEASON

(continued from cover page)

We have postponed the official scoring season until January 2021. We will be evaluating the pandemic trends between now and the new start date and if the date needs to be adjusted, we will let the team know.

However, we still want to allow those that do want to shoot some sessions a way to do so. Here's how we will proceed:

- From October 7th through December 16th we will have an informal practice season and will record scores. During this time shooters can either assemble at our normal Wednesday evening start time, or if you prefer not to be in the range with others, you may shoot your session at any time the club is open during the week. The string can be shot alone or with another team member. (While the first shooting date is October 7th you may shoot individually anytime from October 1st.)
- Everyone should have Tom Talpey's RGC Bullseye app on their phones to control the timing for each segment of the match. The app runs on iOS, Android and Windows; if you don't have a copy, send email to: [tom@talpey.com](mailto:tom@talpey.com)
- You will score your own targets (no double check needed) on the honor system and will email the results including date fired and slow / timed+X / rapid+X scores to: [arny27@verizon.net](mailto:arny27@verizon.net) by Wednesday at 9PM. We trust that all shooters will abide by the normal rules for alibis, missing shots, early/late shots, etc. The calculator built into Tom's app can help you score any alibis, and will check for common scoring errors, so you're encouraged to use it. The expectation is that once you start shooting a course of fire to be scored, you are committed to completing and scoring it. \* You may take a 'DNF' (Did Not Finish) only if you have a mechanical malfunction or other event that makes it impossible or unsafe to continue. In this event you'll just not send your result to Arny.
- Targets will be made available for shooting your match on your own. A set of 3 targets will be available from the bartender, you will need to provide your own practice targets.
- There is no requirement to participate at all or in any specific number of matches. We will track and publish scores and averages, but they will not count towards your season over season averages once the official season starts. There will be no awards for this practice season and as you have a week to shoot your scoring session, there will be no make-ups or shooting ahead for the next week.

We hope this will give the team a bit of fun competition while allowing us to get some shooting practice in. The Worcester County Pistol League is still determining what their season will look like. Hopefully we'll know more in September, and participate in WCPL as we did last year. Tom will send details after the WCPL season is decided.

**John Reilly, Co-captain**  
**Neal Pressman, Co-captain**



## RIVERSIDE TACTICAL TEAM



The Tactical Team meets every Tuesday evening on the 60-yard range coincidentally with the Defensive/Tactical workshops from Mid-April through Mid-October. All members are welcome to join and participate in the team's activities.

The team works on pistol skills, carbine and tactical shotgun skills, including accuracy, defensive drills, courses of fire and shooting under stressful conditions. From November through March we have a number of training sessions in the indoor range.



If you have questions please email [bmcdonough@riversidegc.org](mailto:bmcdonough@riversidegc.org), or, better still, be at the 60-yard range any Tuesday evening with your pistol, strong side holster, extra magazines and 200 (or maybe more) rounds of ammunition.

*Be Safe, Be Responsible*

Education Director

**Bill McDonough**

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



## RIVERSIDE EDUCATION & TRAINING

We Here we are 2/3 through 2020 and the world remains in turmoil. For the next two months, we will get non-stop BS thrown at us, ever worsening as we get closer to November 3rd. But the real depressing news is that the Supreme Court has opted to ignore gun cases, leaving gun owners in limbo on many fronts. But the really, really depressing news is that it is very hard to buy guns as the store shelves are empty due to the panic buying caused by the pandemic. But the *really, really, really* depressing news is the ammunition shortage again brought on by the panic buying caused by the pandemic. The silver lining in the shortage of guns and ammo is that some of it is the result of the 3+ million new gun owners in the good ole USA.

A whole lot of formerly anti-gun folks found out that the politicians have been lying (goodness no!) when they said the guns are easy to get. Ha! Lots of those new, I need a gun to protect myself during the pandemic, gun owners could not buy guns without the permission of the government - a.k.a a gun license. Then a lot of them ran into the problem of a broken NICS system which doled out a bunch of false positives and negatives. After all of that 3+ million managed to get guns.

Good for them but bad for us. What's that your say? Bad for us? Yup, I say bad for us. Us being consciences, law abiding gun owners who have been trying to do it right. Bad for those of us who get training and know the laws of self-defense. Why? Because very few of those new gun owners are learning the law and every time a legal gun owner does something dumb, like get in an argument and threaten to settle the argument with a gun, it becomes big news and makes us all look like a bunch of yahoos, giving politicians ammunition to use against us and our rights which are guaranteed by the Second Amendment.

The bad for us can be easily reversed into a great for us. We need to get the new (and old) gun owners training in the use of firearms for self-defense as well as education about both gun laws and self-defense. There is lots of great training available. For instance, in July and in August, Ian Strimbeck of Runenation was at Riverside and provided exceptional courses in advanced pistol and

advanced carbine, respectively. At Riverside we run basic pistol courses and advanced pistol courses. Every Tuesday evening, we run defensive/tactical workshops which are based on solid self-defense training principles.

Here is a fact. If you use a gun for self-defense, you will be asked to describe the training that you do and is it related to self-defense. If your answer is something like: I go to the range every couple of months and shoot 50 to 100 rounds into a bullseye target at 25 yards, the district attorney will be salivating at the prospect of eating you for breakfast. If your answer is something like: I train weekly doing a combination of accuracy and defensive drills and do counter threat simulations through a course of fire that is different every week. In addition you show the DA a bunch of certificates showing completion of advanced training courses which are run by state and nationally known firearms trainers, the DA will think twice about bringing you to court where you can demonstrate your knowledge to the jury. The difference between going to jail or going home is in your control. Get training.

Our internal training schedule is back on track for the remainder of the year and we will run the following courses:

- NRA Home Firearm Safety (required for a license)
- Basic Pistol Skills (learn to use your pistol)
- Basic Pistol Skills Plus (improve your pistol skills)
- Beyond Basic Pistol Skills (learn to run your gun)
- Defensive/Tactical workshops – Tuesdays at 6PM (Get serious about training)

Right now, we are focusing on outdoor course. As opportunities arise, we will put on more courses.

If you have any idea for a course, please let me know.

*Be Safe, Be Responsible*

Education Director

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

**Bill McDonough**