



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

February 2021

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

[\(Continued on page 2\)](#)



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

UPHILL ALL THE WAY

So, the pandemic continues to make our lives challenging.

But the 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. The

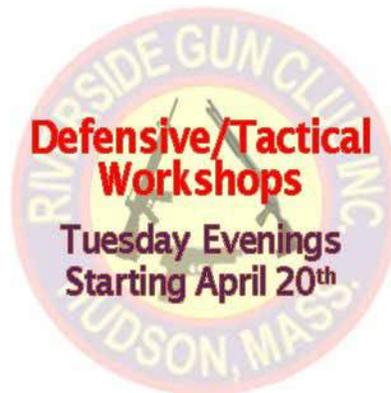
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Pistol

RIVERSIDE'S IN-HOUSE BASIC PISTOL SHOOTING COURSES

Unlike most clubs, Riverside provides many educational opportunities. Some are in-house and some have outside, nationally recognized instructors. The most basic course is the NRA Home Firearm

[\(Continued on page 6\)](#)



from the

President's Desk

All of us are experiencing a truly unprecedented situation. The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting every aspect of our lives from how we work to how we conduct our daily lives. After a year of quarantine, travel restrictions and limited entertainment, I hear the people lament—I've got no place to go. What--No place to go? Riverside's ranges and facilities are open. The clubhouse is open 7 days a week from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm, featuring a select--menu of food & beverages. Indoor pistol range and archery range are available during club hours. Skeet and Trap continue their normal operations—Sunday morning and Tuesday & Thursday evening. The outdoor rifle and pistol ranges are open daily. The education

[\(Continued on page 9\)](#)



Ken having fun at 5-stand



Rick and Ken watching Dave shoveling



Michael G shooting his first 50!

Beautiful foliage and good weather this Fall made for great shooting. We skipped our typical Spring cleanup, so we had double duty this fall. A large number of volunteers joined in to cut, rake, clean skeet houses and load clays, making the work pass quickly. Thank you to all those who made this possible. Our three holiday shoots were modified due to COVID protocol, but managed to have lots of fun despite restrictions. We also had to turn down several group outings for the same reason. The winter has been kind to us so far, but also had fun shooting in the snow storms. We are looking very much forward the the Spring and warmer weather.

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



Nick helping his father

Stay safe and hope to see you soon.

Frank Harrington
Chairman



Riverside Archers

Winter Season 2020 Report

By Larry Sullivan

CURRENT INDOOR ARCHERY PROGRAMS

Thanks to the passion and commitment of the coaches, members of the Club, JOAD archers and their parents, the indoor archery programs are running at full capacity limits currently allowed by the State. The current allowable capacity is 25% which is 6 lanes used by 6 archers in the indoor range at a time.

1. JOAD Program "Trail Blazers" (Intermediate) runs from 9 to 10:30 AM on Saturdays
2. Explore Archery Program "Path Finders" (Beginner) runs 11 AM to 12:30 PM on Saturdays
3. JOAD "Road Team" Program runs from 1 PM (Competitive) to 3:30 PM every Saturday. Road
4. Adult Archery Training Program runs from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM on Fridays

Team archers also train with their coaches during Wednesday evenings of weekdays as regular club members on a "space available" basis

COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR JUNIOR ARCHERY PROGRAMS

Safety protocols aligned with the State's recommended guidelines will be continued inside the Club and the indoor archery range at all times by coaches, JOAD archers and their parents and club members using indoor archery range.

1. Archers come in through the front parking lot entrance to sign in and have their temperature checked with a contactless infrared thermometer (Zombie Check?) prior to entering the indoor range
2. COVID-19 safety requirements are reviewed with the JOAD archers prior to beginning of each program
3. Archers have adapted to shooting with their masks on (Temporary additional form step?)
4. Archers wait at designated "bases" (baseball terminology) and follow a staggered arrow retrieval process to guide their maintenance of the six foot social distancing requirement
5. When Junior Archers are done shooting, they are offered sanitizer for their hands before they pack up. At the end of each archery program, the lane dividing plastic sheets are sanitized along with any Club owned archery equipment used. The range exhaust fan is activated with the three windows opened to provide fresh air exchange. Touch points such as door knobs and handrails are sanitized
6. Archers for the next program are not admitted inside the range until all archers from the previous program have left through the back door, the indoor range has been sanitized and the air has been exchanged with fresh air from outside



INDOOR ARCHERY RANGE FOR GENERAL AND JUNIOR MEMBER PRACTICE

GOOD NEWS: The indoor archery range remains open for general membership use with a maximum capacity of 6 people during normal business hours (4:00 pm - 8:00 pm every day) 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. It may save you a trip if you are not planning to participate in the function. Currently the indoor archery range usage process rules for general and junior membership archery practice remain:

1. Prior to entering the club house and indoor archery range, masks must be put on. Masks must worn in the archery range by all members, coaches and archers at all times. 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, your key card number or color of the key chain and time you are entering. The back door of the range is only to be used for Junior Archery program exit and emergency use only
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: Please make sure to write your name on your key card to readily identify it for pick up after returning your key and signing out of the log book when you are done shooting.**
4. 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
5. Pin a target face or plan to use an existing one on that lane when the range is clear to go down
6. 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 shield you and others from spreading contagion
7. Social Distance must be maintained at all times
8. Restrooms will be open in the member lounge area
9. 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.
10. Sign out of the Archery Log Book by writing your exit time and any noteworthy range issues on the log.

Please don't forget to retrieve your key card.



2021 MASS STATE & INDOOR NATIONAL & JOAD CHAMPIONSHIPS



Riverside Archers have been training for the anticipated combined State and Indoor National and JOAD Championships that was planned to be held in February 2021. Due to the current COVID safety guidance by the State, SAAM decided to cancel the Indoor National and JOAD Championships for the year but postponed the State Indoor and JOAD Championships to late summer early fall of 2021.

Riverside Road Team Archers continue to update their goals and training plans to adapt to the changing

situation due to COVID safety guidance.

Currently Road Team archers and coaches are developing goals and training plans for the next Outdoor Tournament both at the state, regional and national levels. July 7 - 11, 2021 Decatur, AL

*ALREADY LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING!
10's.*

Larry Sullivan,
Riverside Archery Chair





Up Hill All the Way *(Continued from cover)*

other good news is that newly appointed Justice Barrett appears to support the Second Amendment.

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 conscientious, 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 the Riverside Gun Club (where I teach) 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. (Self-defense appropriate training which is realistic and court defensible.) 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 bring 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.

As a member of Riverside, you have no excuses for not getting training. You can train on your own – we have great ranges. We also provide quality training for all levels of shooting abilities from our own basic pistol skills courses to very advanced courses which are run by national renowned instructors. No excuses!

Be Safe, Be Responsible

Bill McDonough

Education Director

bmcDonough@riversidegc.org

BACK AGAIN BY POPULAR DEMAND

| | |
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| <p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">FUNCTIONAL PISTOL</p>  <p style="color: white; font-weight: bold;">10 JULY \$275</p> | <p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">LIMITED SIGNATURE CARBINE</p>  <p style="color: white; font-weight: bold;">14 AUGUST \$275</p> |
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IAN STRIMBECK/RUNENATION

For registration instructions, email bmcDonough@riversidegc.org



RIVERSIDE PISTOL COURSES

Safety Course which is one of the courses required in order to apply for a firearms license in Massachusetts. We run this course every six weeks and we take it seriously as it may be the only firearms.

NRA Home Firearms Safety course (Required for licensing in Massachusetts)

The NRA Home Firearm Safety course teaches students the basic knowledge, skills, and explains the attitude necessary for the safe handling and storage of firearms and ammunition in the home. In addition, the course includes the Massachusetts State Police Basic Firearms Safety curriculum. Students are taught NRA's three rules for safe gun handling; primary causes of firearms accidents; firearm parts; how to unload certain action types; ammunition components; cleaning; care; safe storage of firearms in the home; and the benefits of becoming an active participant in the shooting sports. Students will receive the NRA Home Firearm Safety handbook, NRA Gun Safety Rules brochure, Basic Firearm Training Program brochure, course completion certificate. At Riverside, the course includes a live fire session at the end of the classroom work. During this session, the students will have the opportunity to fire a number of handguns ranging in caliber from 0.22 to .045 under the supervision of an NRA certified firearms instructor. Upcoming courses on February 13th and March 20th.

We offer three progressive basic pistol courses (basic Pistol Skills, Basic Pistol Skills Plus and Beyond Basic Pistol Skills) which are designed to take the new shooter from not being able to even properly grip the gun to being able to move and shoot and engage multiple targets.

Basic Pistol Skills course

This course teaches the basic knowledge, skills, and attitude for owning and operating a pistol safely. This course is 2 ½ -hours long and includes classroom and range time learning to pistols. This course is for people who have their License to Carry (LTC) or are in the process of getting one. The NRA's rules for safe gun handling are reinforced and practiced on the range. The skills practiced include pistol parts and operation; ammunition; shooting fundamentals; range rules; shooting stances and cleaning the pistol. This is a hands-on course which is best if done with the students' own handgun, however "loaner" guns are available. Fundamentals of shooting are taught including, the grip, the stance, sight alignment/sight picture and trigger control. This course is intended for shooters who have their license and may have a gun or are in the process of buying one but are unsure of your basic abilities or need a refresher on basic pistol skills. Upcoming courses are scheduled for March 4th and April 1st.

Basic Pistol Skills Plus course

This course expands the basic knowledge, skills, and attitude for owning and operating a pistol safely which are learned in Basic Pistol Skills. This course is focused on shooting and is for people who have their License to Carry (LTC) and a gun. The curriculum works to improve the fundamentals of stance, posture, sight picture sight alignment, grip and trigger control. In this course, we don't pull the trigger, we press the trigger. We work on focusing and

hyper-focusing on the front sight. We start off working on fundamentals and making good shots and transition to basic shooting drills, which help the students see more and begin to practice more complicated shooting situations. Upcoming courses are scheduled for March 18th and April 15th.

Beyond Basic Pistol Skills course

This course teaches expands and builds upon the basic knowledge, skills, and attitude learned in the Basic Pistol Skills plus course. This is a shooting course, during which the students will learn and practice drawing from a holster, presenting the gun and shooting with accuracy. Drills will include multiple shots on a single target as well as engaging multiple targets. This course is 2 ½ -hours long on the range experience. Fundamentals of shooting are reviewed including, the grip, the stance, sight alignment/sight picture and trigger control. The students work on shooting drills which challenge the shooters to be accurate while engaging the target or multiple targets. This course is intended for shooters who have experience with their own guns and want to further their abilities. The Basic Pistol Skills Plus course is a prerequisite for this course. Upcoming courses are scheduled for May 13th and June 10th.

You can find the full education schedule on the Riverside website: Riversidegc.org.

Be Safe, Be Responsible

Bill McDonough

Education Director

bmcdonough@riversidegc.org



RIVERSIDE EDUCATION & TRAINING

The Gun Goes Click, Not BANG

You expect to hear bang and feel recoil, but instead you hear click not bang and the gun just sits there. It's called a malfunction and it happens. It can be just a minor inconvenience or a major deal depending on the circumstances. If you are on the range practicing, then it is no big deal, and you clear the malfunction. If you are in a gunfight then it could cost you your life. Fortunately, malfunctions are not that common and you, if you practice it, can quickly correct the condition and get back in the fight

Of course, the low probability of a civilian actually being in a gunfight and with the low probability of having a malfunction, combining to make an extremely remote probability of actually having a malfunction while in a gunfight. But it can happen. You can find yourself in a situation where you have no choice but to go to your gun, that is why we train and train with purpose. Then there is Murphy's Law, - "If something can go wrong, it will." Add to that Finagle's law of dynamic negatives - "at the worst possible moment" (often referred to as Finagle's corollary to Murphy's law). Put them together and we get a probability nearing 100% - *to wit* "If something can go wrong, it will, at the worst possible moment" that we are almost guaranteed to get a malfunction if we age fighting for our lives. (it's not easy being Irish.)

So, we train and practice until our response to a malfunction is automatic and rapid, requiring little thought.

Well, now that I have painted a bleak picture, let's look at types of malfunctions. They come in two basic varieties: mechanical and ammunition. Some are easy to fix and others are more difficult.

Ammunition Failures

First, I want to clearly state that modern, newly manufactured ammunition is extremely reliable and safe to use. The manufacturers have gone to great lengths to provide exceptional quality. Since I go through a lot of ammo and I need to stretch my ammo budget, I tend to purchase the least expensive brass cased ammunition I can get. I have never been able to use my inexpensive ammunition as an excuse for my poor shooting (user error).

There are three common ammunition failures: misfire, hang fire and squib load. A misfire is simply that, the hammer, firing pin or striker hits the primer and nothing happens. Click, it is a misfire. Often, we call the cartridge a dud and discard it. It could be that there is no primer compound in the primer cap, or it could be something else which we will cover next. I have encountered misfires many times with 0.22 rimfire ammunition. Sometimes the manufacturing process fails to evenly distribute the primer compound throughout the rim and the firing pin hits a "dead" spot on the rim resulting in a click. Since most of us do not use a 0.22 caliber gun for self-defense, this is but an inconvenience. If you are shooting competitively in a bullseye league, like I do, it is an annoyance and, depending on the target being shot, can ruin the score. But no one gets hurt. When encountering a misfire, the proper procedure is to hold the gun, pointed downrange for a count of 30. Why? Read on.....

A note on rimfire ammunition: It is not that uncommon to strike a dead spot on the rim of the cartridge. Unless there is something clearly bad with the round, I do as previously mentioned and keep the gun pointed down range for a 30 count and then I take the round out, spin it and rechamber it and shoot it with successful results. Just had to hit a better spot on the rim.

A hang fire is more insidious than a simple misfire and we must, for safety reasons, treat a misfire as a hang fire. A hang fire occurs when the primer is slow burning and takes longer than normal to ignite the gunpowder. I have never experienced a hang fire; however, they do happen, otherwise we would not have a name for it.

So how do you know the difference between a simple misfire and a hang fire when you hear click? You don't! Just follow the safety procedure and hold the gun pointed downrange for a 30 count before reloading.

Now we get to squib loads which can be recognized when they happen if you are familiar with your gun's performance and can tell when something is not right. In other words, you have to practice a whole lot to, not just be able to shoot the gun accurately, but also be able to feel when the gun is working properly or not. A squib load happens when there is a lack of, or insufficient gunpowder or the gunpowder is corrupted or



The Gun Goes Click, Not BANG

contaminated, resulting in the bullet being pushed off the end of the case but not flying out of the barrel properly. The bullet may get out of the barrel or it may get stuck in the barrel. I have seen this happen twice with one being bit of a curiosity and the other being quite dramatic.

The first event happened at an indoor range during a bullseye competition. One of the shooters had a squib load. When he pressed the trigger and gun made a noise somewhere between click and bang and the gun had a very limited recoil. The shooter both heard and felt the difference in the gun and knew he had a squib load. If the gun sounds and feels different than normal, STOP SHOOTING and that is exactly what the shooter did. He proceeded to check the firearm and found that it was in proper working order, especially noting that the barrel was clear. During the subsequent cease fire, we inspected the area in front of the bench and found the bullet about 10 feet in front of the shooter.

The other squib load event was dramatic. It occurred during an advance carbine course which had 10 students running and gunning with the AR15 carbines for the whole day. It is hard to express how much fun this advanced carbine course was plus the exceptional instruction upped everyone's skills. One shooter was shooting at about 50 yards and was on the far left side of the range. This drill had two shooters and the other was at the same distance but on the far right side of the range, about 25-30 yards between the shooters. They were shooting, fairly rapidly, 3-5 rounds at a time (semi-automatic, we can't have selective fire on this range).

The shooter on the left was firing when the action of his AR15 blew out. It was incredible. The action just blew out leaving a hole in the bottom and ejection port side of the gun. The magazine was thrown across the range nearly reaching the shooter on the far side of the range. A range full of experienced shooters stood silent with their mouths hanging open hardly able to comprehend what just happened. Fortunately, no one was injured. The only casualty was a destroyed AR15.

Lesson learned. Do not screw around with squib loads.

As an aside, to add to the difficulties for the shooter. His AR was destroyed and, living in Massachusetts, he could not purchase a replacement. If you live in a free state where the rights of citizens as guaranteed by the Constitution and Bill of Rights, you may not understand. Massachusetts adopted a duplicate of the 1994 Clinton Administration "Assault Weapons" Ban in 1998. (note: the term Assault Weapon was

made up in attempt to demonize the AR & AK platforms and make our unknowledgeable neighbors think that we are crazy people with Assault Rifles which are quite different.) The 1994 "Assault Weapons" Ban was bad law and the Congress recognized it so there was a sunset provision resulting in its being removed in 2004, however, this ridiculous law remains in effect in Massachusetts. A number of years ago, July 2016 to be precise, the Massachusetts Attorney General, trying to curry favor with the pre-election anointed Hillary Clinton Administration, took it upon herself to throw away 20 plus years of "Assault Weapons" law and change the enforcement of the ban to include any weapon that had a similar (copycat) action to the original Colt that was specifically mentioned in the ban. So, since July 2106, it has been illegal to purchase an AR15 in Massachusetts. Just a s a reminder: The right of the people to have and bear arms shall not be infringed.

Mechanical Failures

Mechanical failures also come in a couple of varieties, simple and complex failures. A simple failure is anything that can be fixed with a tap/rack. The failure can have different causes including bad ammunition or a unseated magazine, but the fix is simple: upon click, not bang, tap (whack) the bottom of the magazine/mag well, then rack the gun. Some include a roll during the rack to turn the gun basically upside down to allow any fresh or spent cartridge to fall free of the gun.

There can also be a stovepipe. This occurs when the case being ejected does not clear the ejection port and gets jammed in the ejection port when the slide rams forward. The most common cause of stovepipe is weak wrists/loose arms. A semi-auto handgun is designed to be held securely during the cycling process. If the shooter allows rearward motion of the gun during the cycling, the absorption of the energy in the wrists/arms prohibits proper function and the action jams up of the spent case. There are a couple of ways to clear a stovepipe. The tap/rack with a roll should clear it. Another method is to take your off hand and sweep the top of the gun in a rapid motion, hitting the jammed case and dislodging it. A word to the wise - if you are not wearing gloves, it can hurt.

The complex malfunction is the one that gets you out of the fight. Get to cover. It can be a double feed, or some other jam where rounds are just being pressed into the action the wrong way. You need to drop the magazine. Chances are that the magazine will not fall out and you have to strip it out. Turn the gun upside down to allow anything in it to fall out, and rapidly rack the slide multiple times. Insert a new magazine, chamber a round and get back into the fight.



Think about this; You are in a fight for your life. You have never experienced this level of stress and adrenaline flow all resulting in physical failures: tunnel vision, auditory loss, loss of manual dexterity and more. Remember Murphy's Law and Finagle's Corollary? This is the ideal time for a complex failure. At this time, just shooting your gun is a challenge, racking it is a monumental feat and now, now you have a failure. This is when you have to remember tap/rack/roll, or worse you have to remember to strip it and rip it, get the magazine out, rack multiple times, get the new magazine in, re-acquire the threat and stay alive.

This stuff must be instinctual. The only way that happens is to practice, practice and practice some more, then add some safe stressors and practice some more. Practice while keeping your eyes on the target/threat so that you can do it all by feel. If you carry a gun for self-defense, you need to be training all the time. You need lots of good quality, court defensible training with a quality instructor.

bmcdonough@riversidegc.org

Bill McDonough, Education Director

PRESIDENT'S DESK

(continued from cover page)

and training programs are published for the year—see Training an education article in this newsletter or visit the club website.

Our primary concern is the health and safety of our members. Like most organizations and businesses, we closely monitor the latest information provided by Governor Baker and adapting our operations to reflect the updated guidelines and evolving situation of COVID-19

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

See you on the range,

Mike Connelley

President, Riverside Gun Club

BACK AGAIN BY POPULAR DEMAND

FUNCTIONAL PISTOL



10 JULY
\$275

LIMITED SIGNATURE CARBINE



14 AUGUST
\$275

IAN STRIMBECK/RUNENATION

For registration instructions, email bmcdonough@riversidegc.org