

The Buffalo Bulls-Eye

The official newsletter of the
Buffalo Target Shooters Association
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Madeline Cliff,
Club Secretary

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Despite the Covid19 pandemic, BTSA is slowly reopening our range facilities following the guidelines laid down by the Provincial Government. So until further notice no guests will be allowed on the range, social distancing of two meters must be maintained and the number of people allowed on individual ranges is restricted to fifteen people. We anticipate that as the pandemic runs its course in Alberta, further opening of the range will occur and we will let all our members know.

We continue to add improvements to our facility although the clubhouse must stay closed as per provincial health guidelines. We are planning three significant additions to the range: a smart-phone linked entry system, a 24/7 remote camera system powered by a solar panel/battery system and a cellphone booster so that we will be able to call for a SARS helicopter in the event of a major accident on our range. We will also add a 50-metre berm to the 100/200 metre rifle range.

Maintenance and improvements cost money. We have an adequate balance from membership fees to cover the projected improvements. We do not have enough of a reserve to cover persistent damage caused by irresponsible shooting on the range or clean up of garbage left behind by some members as they use the range. We certainly don't have enough cash to hire a full time or even a part time resident caretaker to ensure that our members and their guests (when they will be allowed) act always in responsible ways.

If we are forced to resort to such measures our very reasonable membership fees will go up. Your Board/Executive does not want to have to do that and we are sure you don't want that either. So please be responsible on our range and if you see shooters who are not responsible with our facilities, take down a license number, or take a picture and let us know. NEVER be argumentative or belligerent with any other shooter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION

Guest passes will once again be available per the province's entry into phase 2 of the pandemic emergency management.

RANGE ACCESS AND MAINTENANCE

Members may again bring guests to the range if they meet one of the following criteria;

- They are a member of your household and within your direct cohort, or
- They have the required license (PAL or RPAL) for the firearm they will be using. This negates the need for anyone to be within arms' reach of an unlicensed shooter.

We will have some weekdays impacted by heavy equipment and earth moving on our range in the coming weeks. There will be notification sent, so please ensure you check all emails coming from the Board and to check calendars ahead of time.

APRA

There will be upcoming work to the ditches along the main road to deal with ongoing drainage issues. We hope to notify members of this once the heavy equipment is moved into position however, members must always drive with caution.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership will be closing on June 30th so if you have sponsored anyone that has yet to submit their application, you should remind them of this deadline. There will only be a few more orientations in June and July to process these newest members, so if they do not complete them, they will not be able to attend the range outside of sanctioned events.

COMPETITION AND PROGRAMS

With COVID Restrictions in place, the BTSA has begun hosting weekly drill nights for both Steel Challenge and Action Shooting League. The calendar is also populated with many weekend events that will run though with specified procedures in place.

The Open House, Annie Oakley and Young Gun events up to this point have been cancelled. We are always assessing the guidance provided by the government but at this time, it is unlikely that these can be rescheduled or ran with existing protocols in place. This is because of the large number of non-PAL and RPAL holders who attend these events.

Safety

Unfortunately, more unsafe behaviour has been brought to the attention of the board. We encourage all members to pass along information related to unsafe behaviour so that we can take action to correct it or to remove those members from our club. Some of these actions are serious enough that memberships could have been stripped for life.

For example;

Improper Targets

Anyone found shooting at non-approved targets will be reprimanded and if they are steel, such as this, the offenders will have their membership stripped as will anyone who sponsored them if applicable.



Unsafe Firing Line

The firing line on the 100m and 200m is the deck.

Anyone found walking up the range to shoot birdshot, handgun or anything else at the 100m target stand from any point along that roadway, will lose their membership. There has been shotgun shells and pellet damage to the target stands several weekends running now and it must stop.

Anyone witnessing this, is encouraged to take photos of the sign-in book and photos of the violator if it is safe to do so.

The intent of allowing shotgun usage on the 100m is for people using slugs on the targets, and for those testing the cycling of their actions or working out gas issues on a semi-automatic.



Improper Target Placement

Targets on the 100m and 200m must be against the approved berms. Deploying H-Stands or any other target anywhere else along the 100m bay is strictly PROHIBITED. Doing so will cause deflections and ricochets into the Swiss Range.

This will result in your immediate removal from the club and permanent suspension due to the severe safety infraction that it is.



Unsafe Drills

In some cases, these violations are only identified after someone posts their indiscretions publicly on social media. Even if the range is empty except for yourself, all members must adhere to maintaining a safe 90-degree arc of fire, ensuring that their firearm is always pointed downrange.

The board would be very interested in speaking to the individual in this Instagram Video, who was demonstrating a drill to “vitamindeez” of Instagram fame, who is presumably a BTSA member. If anyone knows who this individual is or who goes by the handle vitamindeez, the Board would appreciate the opportunity to speak to them.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Range Clean-up day

Please watch for notice of the annual spring clean-up. With the terrible spring this year, we will be doing this in the summer in preparation for the earthworks and grading that is required to maintain our range certification.

Once the berms and drainage issues are corrected, we will be holding a second volunteer day to move stage props into the sea-cans that will be brought onto location. Many hands make for lighter loads.

BTSA on the Web: www.btsa.ca

For queries, email: info@btsa.ca

For membership queries, email: membership@btsa.ca

IMPORTANT – *all communication from the Club is via email to our members and through our website. Please note any **changes in mailing address and email contact information** must be sent to: info@btsa.ca.*

BTSA IS ON THE APRA WEBSITE – www.albertarifle.com