

The Buffalo Bulls-Eye

The official newsletter of the
Buffalo Target Shooters Association
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THE SHOOTING SEASON IS OVER!!!

Although some hearty individuals will make their way to the Homestead Range over the next few months to indulge in their favourite sport, especially when we experience a chinook or two making the driving and the shooting a lot easier, most of us will hunker down until spring meets the Great Divide. Happy Holidays seems so innocuous so Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy Kwanzaa and to those who celebrated Diwali (this past October) the very best of the season to everyone.

BTSA had a very active shooting season this past eight months or so with continuations of our long-standing events, such as Holster Nights to the IPSC nationals in July. Nick Lui's Young Guns were at the range very often, having loads of fun while we raised over \$1000 for the Alberta Children's Hospital once again. The executive has not yet laid out our calendar for next year but when we do in the next few months, we will once again mount a full schedule of events that almost everyone can take part in. Nor are we ignoring those of you who just like to come out on a nice summer day and plink or sight-in on the 100 and 200 meter ranges.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS: Although a lot of repairs and improvements were made this year, more are in the offing especially to our clubhouse – deck and skirting completed; coming will be heating permanently installed and electricity. We plan more asphaltting and other improvements, especially a new rolling front gate that will be much more difficult to break into and a system of surveillance cameras to warn of any use of our facilities by non-members. Rules will be tightened about membership (even temporary membership with guest passes) to ensure that everyone is covered with insurance when they are on the range. We are looking at some way to extend our cell phone reception.

We are already registered with STARS air ambulance service and have a good set of first aid kits on the property, but we plan to offer first aid training for members who use the range regularly to try to ensure a basic level of first aid for any possible accidents. We will be reviewing our Range Safety training to ensure that more of our members are able to be initiated into this very important activity.

MEMBERSHIP - our new membership committee has already done a great job in launching a new WEB sign-up system and will be looking at ways to make sure that range orientations are available on a regular and sustained basis for new members. At

the end of January, when we know how many continuing members have re-signed for the new year, we will open up our membership list again, aiming to maintain our topped up level for this year at about 600 members (425 Families).

To do all of this, we have been operating with a Board and an executive that sometimes cannot meet because they do not have a quorum. It is a struggle, quite frankly, to get the volunteer person power we need to carry out all our activities and our basic range and membership maintenance. To put it bluntly, **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS** from among you to help us run this club more efficiently. To expect six to eight already busy people to do all the work it takes to maintain the range, monitor safety, help with clean-ups and new construction and do all the rest of the required work is to expect too much. We are all shooters and love our sport, but we need more of you to help us out. So at the Annual General Meeting on January 14, please show up and volunteer for one of our several committees so that we can call on you in the upcoming season.

Happy New Year to all of you,

– David Bercuson, Board Chair

UPCOMING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Location: Delta Hotels Calgary South – 135 Southland Drive SE T2J 5X5
Time: 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Room TBD

One major item will be presentation of **Restated By-laws** for the BTSA and once approved will be filed with the Societies Registry. It will be critical to ensure we have a quorum at the AGM – your attendance will be Appreciated. A separate email notification will go out to all members in the next couple of weeks with more information. Also, please note that the **APRA AGM** will be at the same venue commencing at 1 PM

YOUNG GUNS – ACTION SHOOTING LEAGUES - GREAT YEAR!

This year I've had the pleasure of directing 2 highly successful BTSA programs: Young Guns, our youth shooting program and Action Shooting League, our program to introduce shooters to the basics of Action Shooting.

Young Guns

- With Young Guns, we have held 6 Young Gun Shoots, 4 on our range with between 30 and 50 youths participating per event. One will be a recurring annual Youth Competition, the "Annual BTSA Stampede Young Guns." While each event is different, shooters can expect a variety of stages that test basic skills Basic Run and Gun, Steel plates, and static bullseye.

- With generous support from our long time supporter, J.R. Cox, we also held 3 Young Guns Action Shooting Clinics at The Shooting Edge. There, small groups of students practiced basic “Run and Gun” in a classroom setting with trainer firearms. J.R. and the Shooting Edge, as always were also extremely supportive of the Alberta Children’s Hospital Foundation Shoot, donating a full membership as a prize as well as bringing out “Truck Norris” to support the event. A large contingent of Young Gun shooters participated to support that excellent cause.

Action Shooting League

- With our Action Shooting League (ASL), we held 15 events on every Monday between Spring and Fall with 10-30 participants. ASL is member driven, and while most of our members wish to shoot in a multi-gun format, we intentionally design stages such that anyone with as little equipment as a pistol can participate. We are intentional in running the program to be as inclusive as possible, accommodating beginners and high level competitors.
- I am very pleased to introduce a group of BTSA members I believe will be rising stars in the Alberta (and international) 3-Gun scene: Team “Nameless 3-Gun”, who has been a mainstay and major supporter of many BTSA programs. If you see this highly energetic group of young men on the range, be sure to give them a shout out. Already, they have started to dominate the local 3-Gun circuit and I am excited to see them make a name for themselves Provincially, Nationally, and Internationally.
- There is a near bottomless list of volunteers I wish I could thank for their continued support in running these programs. Hard working, strong, committed members and supporters who are passionate about the shooting sports and about our club - none of the programs I direct could be possible without your efforts. I can’t say enough how thankful I am to all of you and I say with all earnestness, you are the ones who made this all possible.
- One particular member worth highlighting is my good friend Chris Siever, who has managed BTSA Memberships for the past 8 years. Membership is perhaps the most critical component of BTSA’s administration, and the task of processing and managing over 500 applications per year is absolutely staggering. Please join me in giving Chris a big thanks for his dedication and service to both this portfolio, as well as being a mainstay volunteer to many other BTSA programs.

Thanks to you all, and I hope to see you on the range soon!

Nic Lui – Young Guns, Action Shooting, Membership Committee Chair

COMPETITION NEWS

IPSC Canadian Nationals – July 2017

The Competition was attended by over 360 Shooters. Several of the top US Shooters attended and a team from Czechoslovakia. There were shooters from every Province of our great Country. Also had very good participation from various sponsors. There was

great TV coverage on the event and on CBC Radio as well. Feedback from all shooters attending was very positive. There were no incidents and we received great support from the CFO for Alberta. **THANK YOU** to the organizers, particularly Ralph Sanford and Joe Breslawski, and all the Volunteers!!

World Shoot IPSC International Shooting Event, Level 5 Competition – September 2017

Just a quick shout out to let everyone know that we had 4 of our Members travel to the South of France to attend this event and rumor has it they all did quite well. Congratulations to all!!

Canadian Nationals – Steel Challenge – September 2017

BTSA hosted this event which was attended by over 200 Guns. Again, a great event to showcase our Range.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL – see you at the AGM in January 2018

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