

THE EAGLE'S SCREAM

Bald Eagles Rifle Club, Box 604, Raton, NM 87740

JULY 2014

“IMPROVEMENTS” AT THE 1000 YARD LINE



Well folks we shot our first match on the new firing line. All I can say is, “*It needs some getting used to.*” The enclosed photo shows that it is adequate front to back, but just. I think it measures eight feet, and that is just enough for the shooter and his scorer. We can live with that. Using our yellow cones we can keep cars back from the rear curb so that we have a well-defined assembly area. That worked at the Worlds.

On the “not so great side” of the ledger the gravel is about eight inches deep and it is round smooth river gravel. It has a tendency *not* to compact and to *shift* out from under the shooters elbows. Some folks complained that their position kept getting lower as the string was fired. Most solved this problem by putting a piece of plywood, carpet, or a floor mat out of their car under their mats. It was easy to smooth the gravel if it had a lump, or build it up if it had a pocket in it.

Another little problem is that the bench-rests cannot be picked up by a fork-lift from behind the line. The forks are too short and the loader can’t get past the back curb. Now they have to use a bucket loader with chains and hoist them up and back. That’s not really our problem, but for RMP it took them two days to get out there and move the benches.

The front curb was not marked with the firing point numbers, but I put up little yellow surveyors flags and later marked the curb with a magic marker. I don't know if the old firing point markers will be reinstalled, but I'm betting they will.

The last remaining problem is whether they will be complete by the time SOA comes around. It's half-finished now (from target 1 to about 43), and that's plenty for our match. But there is a ditch (temporary) just behind the back curb, and that was difficult to negotiate with a heavy load. This will be an issue for someone like John Campbell and his wheel chair or Bob Depp, but I'm sure this will be filled in

BY-LAW CHANGE PROPOSED

It has been proposed to change the By-Laws of the Bald Eagles Rifle Club to lower the ages required to join and to hold office. At the current time the age to join is 55 and the age to hold office is 60. This will be voted on at the membership meeting scheduled for September 9, 2014. The reasoning for the change is that the pool of older "veteran" shooters is dwindling and the Club needs to stay current with the needs and desires of the shooters coming on. In addition, the original purpose of the Club was to support and fund the Veterans Rifle Team. The funding for the team is now under the umbrella of the Palma Team, so the mission of the Bald Eagles needs to change. Be sure to attend the membership meeting in September and cast your vote.

NEW BOARD MEMBER APPOINTED

Bud Solis turned in his resignation from the Board of Directors and the Board has the power and responsibility to appoint someone to fill out his term. We have selected James Gaines and he accepted the appointment. James is from the west coast and is a long time Palma shooter (and No, we are not related...that we know of). He immediately went to work helping Allen Elliott with the awards. Welcome aboard James.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN PALMA & SANTA FE MATCHES

Lige Harris and Trudie Fay did a great job of organizing these matches. The turnout was modest at about 32, but we had fun and the weather was very nice all week. Your scribe, John Gaines, called the match while Steve Rossi ran the pits. Jerry Pullens and Lonnie Kuhns were there to shoot, but as usual they pitched in from time to time. In particular Lonnie helped me with the proper commands.

Trudie was the overall sling winner...

SPIRIT OF AMERICA 2014

We will still hold a Spirit of America match at Raton this year, (September 5-12), and your president, John Gaines is acting as Match Director. I predict that we will have a good turnout just because lots of people don't like to drive to Ohio to shoot when they

could be in New Mexico where the sky is always sunny and the targets are easy to pull. We already have nine British shooters indicating they will come.

So far I have a good team of volunteers working the match. Bill Lair is finance guru, Allen Elliott is handling prizes and sponsors and Tom Cunningham has arranged for another Savage rifle and a Nightforce 'scope. Mike StClair and Dennis VanLier are "Center Line", Jim O'Connell and Karin Liebetrau are handling stats, and Steve Rossi and Robert Churchill are honchos in the pits. Doesn't get much better than that!

We will still need some volunteers and helpers. There are always packets to stuff, tables to set up, targets to paste, etc. So please volunteer to help. We need someone to drive the porta-pottie truck. If you can drive a large truck please "step up to the plate". (If you drive slowly I promise it won't splash on you.)

As in the past we will have an enchilada dinner and on another night will be the membership meeting. Lots of prizes are up for grabs from the door prize table and the trophies are just begging to be won, so plan to be there.

AGAIN: DUES ARE DUE

Just a reminder that all must pay their dues. The amount is \$25 if you are a youngster (55 to 60) and \$30 if you are more mature (60 plus). Please send your checks made out to "The Bald Eagles Rifle Club" to Bill Lair, 185 McIntosh E., LaCrescent, MN, 55947. We also now have a service that allows you to pay on line. Go to our web site for details <http://www.baldeaglerc.org>.