



Upcoming Events

- Next BoD Meeting: May 20, 2008
- Next Range Cleanup: Saturday, May 3, 2008
- Defensive Pistol Shoot: May 4, 2008
- IDPA Match: May 17, 2008
- Shotgun: May 11 and May 25, 2008
- Hunter’s Safety Course: June 21 & 22, 2008

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Education versus Argument

By: **W.P. Flinn (NCRGC News Letter Editor)**

Last month I spoke about opportunities in this election year: Specifically that we have the opportunity to demonstrate the positive and educational aspects of firearms. This month I would like to continue that theme and talk about some of the potential roadblocks we may face when discussing firearms with others, and some ways to overcome them.

One of the things I have personally noticed is how easy it is for gun owners and anti-gun groups to get into some rather heated and argumentative discussions about firearms and 2nd amendment rights. One thing that is very clear is that you can argue your beliefs

from now to eternity, but will be unsuccessful in changing someone’s mind, particularly when they feel as strongly opposed to your views as you feel strongly about your views. I have found that rather than only arguing with those so strongly opposed to my point of view, why not focus my energies on the folks who have not yet really made up their minds. A significant number of folks, particularly younger adults, are not sure about where they stand with guns at least partially because they haven’t heard all sides of the issues.

This is where our opportunities with the



“educational factor” really come in. By helping the undecided folks understand our point of view a bit more clearly, these may very well be the folks who land on our side of the fence, and help influence legislation and election outcomes that are more favorable for gun

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Range Rule of the Month:

"I know for a fact it's not loaded..."

One of the things that we (hopefully) have etched in our minds is that we should never assume that a gun is not loaded. Always ensuring weapons safety is of paramount importance when we are handling guns with no

one else around, and the importance magnified a hundred fold when there are others in the area.

Rule #5 of our range rules is the topic of this month’s range rule of the month, and states in part:

“We operate a cold range. There will be NO GUN HANDLING DURING A CEASE FIRE. ... Actions must be open and clear of ammunition while on the firing line during a cease fire and at

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Summary of March 2008 Board Meeting

March, 2008 Board Meeting Highlights by Dean Meyer, Secretary

The meeting convened at 6:30pm.

Loren made the Vice President report on the hard copy newsletter to be mailed out to members without Internet access. He had a letter prepared to send out to the approximately 75 members without email addresses. The purpose of the letter, to solicit any additional email addresses to minimize the number of hard copy newsletter mailings. The board approved the content of the letter and it will be mailed out soon.

The minutes from the February 19, 2008 Board meeting were approved.

Membership was reported as reaching our 700-member cap, with about

35 people on the waiting list.

Loren showed the new Board Member ID card that can have the Board member's photo on the card. The card is also red in color to help identify Board members when they are at the range. Should members have a question or if there is a need to bring up a range rule to a member, there would be no question as to "is this person really a club officer?"

A Treasurer's report was given by Loren Gitchel and will be available in the actual minutes at the April Board meeting.

Allen Klenk, discussed fence that needed repair to keep horses out of the range. The range cleanup will

primarily need trash pickup on April 5th.

Bill Flinn presented the draft of the new E – Newsletter. If you want to provide an article or an idea for an article, send it to Bill.

Eric brought up an exception to the rule of all firearms to be unloaded and placed on a bench during cease-fire. Any law enforcement officer or DOW officer IN UNIFORM with a service weapon in an exposed carry is exempt.

Keith Markey reported that the new IDPA match was held and eleven people competed. Scores and photos will be added to the website. Randy

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Frequently Asked Questions

If you have a question that you would like to see answered, email one of the board members, or send your email to:

NCRGC-News@comcast.net.

For this month's question:

Q: Do I really need an email address in order to be able to receive the club news letter?

A: For members who do not have an email address, hard copies of the news letter will be mailed out quarterly. But there are several benefits to having an email address, among which is having instant access to previous issues of the news letter if you wish to re-read any of the articles.

If you do have an email address, it

is important to make sure that NCRGC has your current address to prevent delays in receiving club emails or news letter notifications.

There are also free email services that you can use, and access them through computers at the local library.

Legislative Corner

[COLORADO: Mandatory Storage Bill Sent to Senate Appropriations Committee - UPDATE!](#)

Last month's news letter reported that SB49 had been removed. While reports of this bill still being active were still surfacing after that news letter was published, there was a bit of confusion as to its actual status. But as of 4/11/08, it has

been confirmed that this bill has indeed been removed while in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

According to the NRA Institute for Legislative Action, there are new efforts on the part of the news media and anti-gun politicians to campaign to resurrect "assault weapons" bans

at the state levels. Realizing that the political landscape in 2009 could be decisively different, this could change the ability to own firearms based on such things as cosmetic appearance. For more information, visit: <http://www.nra-ila.org/Legislation/Federal/Read.aspx?id=3776&issue=>

Visit: www.nra-ila.org for other important legislative updates.

Education versus Argument

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owners.

As an example of an extremely positive effect of firearms educational endeavours, take a look at what one of our club members, John Weaver, had to say about his own experiences. He mentions the positive ways in which young people can experience some of the same joys of shooting and safe gun handling that we have come to know:

"One of the things that I believe we ought to be doing to safeguard our interests is actively promoting shooting as a hobby for younger people.

Over the past 2-3 years, I have brought about a dozen students from the college (one at a time) out to the range following a couple of hours of safety training at my house. When we finish, we head back and clean the weapons. Most of them have never shot a gun before, and most of them found it to be a very enjoyable experience. ... and a young girl I trained started out being afraid of guns and now looks forward to target shooting.

The NRA promotes young shooter programs, and I think it's a good idea. If the vast majority of one whole generation is ever raised to fear and hate guns, the bad guys

will win. Getting [anti-gun] legislation through at that point will be a breeze."

We have a golden opportunity through active participation in or club events, by being responsible club members, and by actively promoting the many positive aspects of gun ownership. Now is the time to find those friends of ours who are still undecided, and help make them aware of the positive aspects of gun ownership. Doing so may in turn help decide some important factors in our coming elections and our future.

~wpf~

"I know for a fact it's not loaded..."

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all times when off the firing line."

While at the range we are no longer only concerned with our own confidence that a firearm is safe, but are now dealing with the comfort zones of the others who are there with us. When walking downrange to place a target, for example, there is nothing more disconcerting than hearing

someone working the action of a firearm. Visual indicators as well are another way to help put others in that comfort zone. The only way that others can tell that you have cleared your weapon and are following the

rules is to see your gun(s) on the bench and actions open.

"Actions must be open and clear of ammunition while on the firing line during a cease fire and at all times when off the firing line."

For those who are legally permitted to carry concealed weapons in Colorado: As long as your carry gun is still concealed, you are fine.

Continuation of BoD Meeting Highlights...

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Smith is building five new walls for future events and the group purchased 400 targets for upcoming matches.

Randy Smith presented a draft of a disciplinary action to the Board for their input. The Board voted on the recommendations and accepted

them unanimously with one member abstaining due to incident involvement. A member and his guest created a confrontational mood, creating an uncomfortable and potentially dangerous situation for other club members and a board member present at the range, violated multiple range rules. Officers and Board members would go

through training on dealing with the public and conflict resolution to be more effective in dealing with difficult situations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

The full meeting minutes will be available at the April 22, 2008 Board Meeting.

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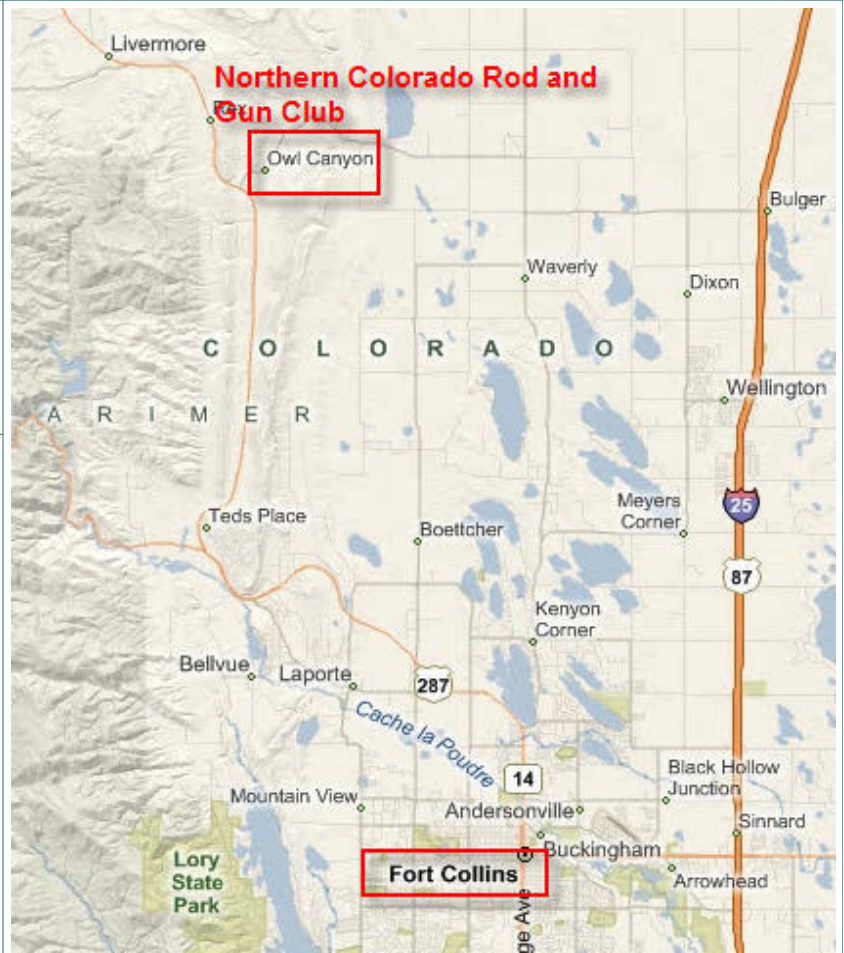
News Letter Email:
NCRGC-News@comcast.net

The Northern Colorado Rod & Gun Club was founded in 1948 through the merger of four sportsmen groups; Fort Collins, Loveland, Greeley and Estes Park.

The club is located on Owl Canyon Road off U S 287 on the Weaver Ranch north of Ft Collins, Co.

We're on the Web!

<http://www.ncrgc.org>



Meet The Board of Directors

President: Eric M. Baker

Born in Detroit, Michigan.. Graduated Thompson Valley High School in Loveland class of 1977. Enlisted in the U.S. Navy in November 1977. Served 5 years in Keflavik, Iceland, 4 years attached to the Marine Corps in Iwakuni, Japan. The remaining 13 years served in San Diego, California. Retired as Chief Petty Officer 31 January 2000.

Married to Stefania Gunnarsdottir formerly of Keflavik, Iceland. Two children, one is serving his third deployment in the Persian Gulf with the USAF, the other is a senior at Thompson Valley HS. Currently self employed as a dental laboratory owner / technician.



President: Eric M. Baker

Holds Hunter Safety Certification from Michigan, Colorado, and Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan. Studies Japanese, Haidong Gumdo the Korean sword martial art, and is training toward Sport Pilot license. Active hunter, fly fisherman, shooter and reloader. Has served as President of NCR&GC since July of 2006.

Look forward to meeting each of our board members in this section in coming issues of the news letter.

Note:

If you are not receiving email notifications about release of the Northern Colorado Rod and Gun Club News Letter each month, your email address that we have on record may be incorrect. Send an email to:

NCRGC-News@comcast.net

to ensure that we have your correct email address. Benefits include being able to get news letter notifications each month instead of having to wait for the quarterly mailings.