



New Year, New Opportunities

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

Upcoming Events

- Next BoD Meeting: April 15, 2008
- Next Range Cleanup: Saturday, April 5, 2008
- Defensive Pistol Shoot: April 6, 2008
- IDPA Match: April 19, 2008
- Shotgun: April 13 and April 27, 2008
- Hunter's Safety Course: April 19 & 20, 2008

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With the media anxiously exploiting so many shootings lately, I can't help believe that a lot of the visibility surrounding these incidents is very closely related to the fact that this is an election year. The candidates are positioning themselves to sway voters based on any number of emotional issues. The media's attempt at sensationalizing these shootings is providing a great deal of leverage for their platforms—both for or against gun ownership rights.

Gun rights versus gun control is indeed at the heart of the agendas of many politicians, and some candidates are leaping at the opportunity to illustrate gun related in-

cidents—and how they can best address them.

We, as an organized rod and gun club, have a golden opportunity to contribute positively to the outcomes of the elections, or at the very least the outcomes of legislative issues once the candidates become the elected.

First—we need to get involved. Study the candidates, study the issues, and reflect on the possible future outcomes that your voting choices will likely make. And most importantly—VOTE!

Join an organization, such as the National Rifle

Association or Rocky Mountain Gun Owner's



Association. Pick one (or more) organizations whom you feel will represent your views on gun ownership, and leverage their organizational and lobbying horsepower to get the word out.

Another way to get involved is to make sure

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Range Rule of the Month:

"I Don't Have To Show You Any Stinking Badges..."

That was a line from the Humphrey Bogart movie "Treasure of the Sierra Madre." It brings to mind one of the most important rules that our club members need to follow. Our club badges allow for quick and easy

identification of our members. There are a number of issues why we use membership badges, ranging from legal to insurance. And rule #16 of our range rules specifically states:

"Members must wear their ID badge so that it is visible at all times while on range property."

With a club membership as large as NCRGC enjoys, the ability to quickly

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Summary of February Board Meeting

February 19, 2008 Board Meeting Highlights by Dean Meyer, Secretary

The actual minutes for the Northern Colorado Rod & Gun Club, Inc will be available at the March 2008 Board Meeting. Here is an overview of what happened:

Dean Meyer was elected to the position of Secretary. Dean is a past President of this Club and brings experience in association management of a number of groups as large as 1500 members.

William “Bill” Flinn was elected to the position of Newsletter Editor. The position has been a committee position in the past. A motion was made and approved to make the position a Board member position.

Bill brings experience of web editing since the 1990’s and has the desire and excitement to bring a quality newsletter to the membership. Welcome aboard Bill!

A concern for members who do not have Internet access, thereby not receiving a newsletter, was expressed. It was decided that for those members, a hardcopy newsletter would be mailed out, quarterly. A budget will be worked out and presented at the March Board meeting, with a plan for accomplishing this project.

A new IDPA program and matches will be starting. The matches will

be on the third Sunday of the month, starting in March. The Club will work out the details of Club membership with IDPA. Watch for details in upcoming newsletter.

There was considerable time spent in general discussion about range safety and the disregard by some members of the range rules.

The Disciplinary Committee had no report at this meeting, other than they are meeting and should have a presentation at the March Board meeting. Ideas were discussed as to how to handle rules violations, with some members becoming antagonis-

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: "Does a holstered handgun constitute gun handling during a ceasefire?"

A: Yes, firearms should be open, clear, and on the bench during ceasefires. The exception to this is uniformed law enforcement and Department of Wildlife officials, and those in possession of a valid concealed handgun per-

“The exception to this is uniformed law enforcement and Department of Wildlife officials and those in possession of a valid Concealed Handgun permit.”

mit. As long as it remains concealed you’re fine, if you decide to display or shoot your carry gun it is then subject to the no gun handling during ceasefire rule.

Legislative Corner

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

Colorado Senate Bill 49, which requires mandatory storage of all firearms, would force adults to put all their firearms under lock and key or face an undetermined misdemeanor penalty if a firearm is later used in a suicide or

crime. This dangerous bill renders homeowners defenseless and gives criminals a clear advantage in home invasions. If passed, SB49 would add to the already cumbersome bureaucracy that affects gun shops, gun shows, or anywhere else firearms are sold, by requiring them to post a sign informing gun owners that they must lock up their guns.

According to information received from the Colorado State Shooting Association (CSSA), via email from one of our members, this bill has been removed from the Appropriations Committee agenda.

“We hear that the sponsor of the bill is having trouble lining up the votes in Appropriations.”

New Year, New Opportunities

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that your elected representatives know how YOU feel about the issues. Find out who your representatives are, both at the State and Federal level, and write to them when there is an issue that is important to you.

The next important role that we as a gun club plays is to set an example. Unfortunately, there is no recognition for NOT having an accident or an incident. So the best we can do is make sure that we don't get into the news by having safety or other news-worthy attention called to us personally and to our

club. Nothing can hurt our survival as a club more than to be in the news because of careless or negligent behavior.

The more we become recognized as a viable and important part of our community, the more we will help our reputation and public perception. The points mentioned previously will go a long way toward fostering a good reputation. But there is even more that we can do, which brings me to my final point: Bring a (possibly non-gun-owning) friend to the range to watch an event or introduce them to shooting.

I know from talking to others, and

from my own experience, that when you take someone along to the range who doesn't own a gun, introduce them to gun safety and let them shoot, they walk away with a little more appreciation for firearms. Somehow, guns are no longer "evil" in their minds, and they now have an understanding for why shooting is an enjoyable activity.

This is indeed an important year for gun ownership rights. Our heritage, our rights, and the ability to enjoy our shooting sports are at stake. Be a responsible NCRGC member, and get involved. Our future depends on it! ~wpcf~

"I Don't Have To Show You Any Stinking Badges..."

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identify our members—those who are authorized to use the range—is vitally important. This is a simple rule to follow, but can have dramatic affects on safety, as well as the time spent monitoring the range by club leadership.

This is primarily for the safety of all

of us so that our club leadership (the members with the solid colored badges) can quickly identify you. In addition to the issues mentioned previously, we also have to make sure that only authorized club members are

present—especially when sponsoring guests who don't have badges.

"Members must wear their ID badge so that it is visible at all times while on range property."

Please wear your badge, keep it visible, and don't lend it to anyone. This will help ensure the integrity of our club, and help avoid problems.

Continuation of BoD Meeting Highlights...

tic/confrontational when a safety issue is brought to their attention. The most violated rule is that firearms are being handled after a cease-fire is called. Members are encouraged to review the Range Rules not only for themselves, but with guests too. Not only will an injury or death hurt the club, but is

something you have to live with if you are the irresponsible party.

A new schedule for the Hunter Safety program was provided to the Board. It should be up on the website or in the newsletter soon. At a cost of \$10 you get 10 hours of instruction and another 1 or 2 hours

of range time. Whether a new hunter or a grizzled veteran hunter, this course in not only informational, but a great value

The Board adjourned at 7:50 pm.

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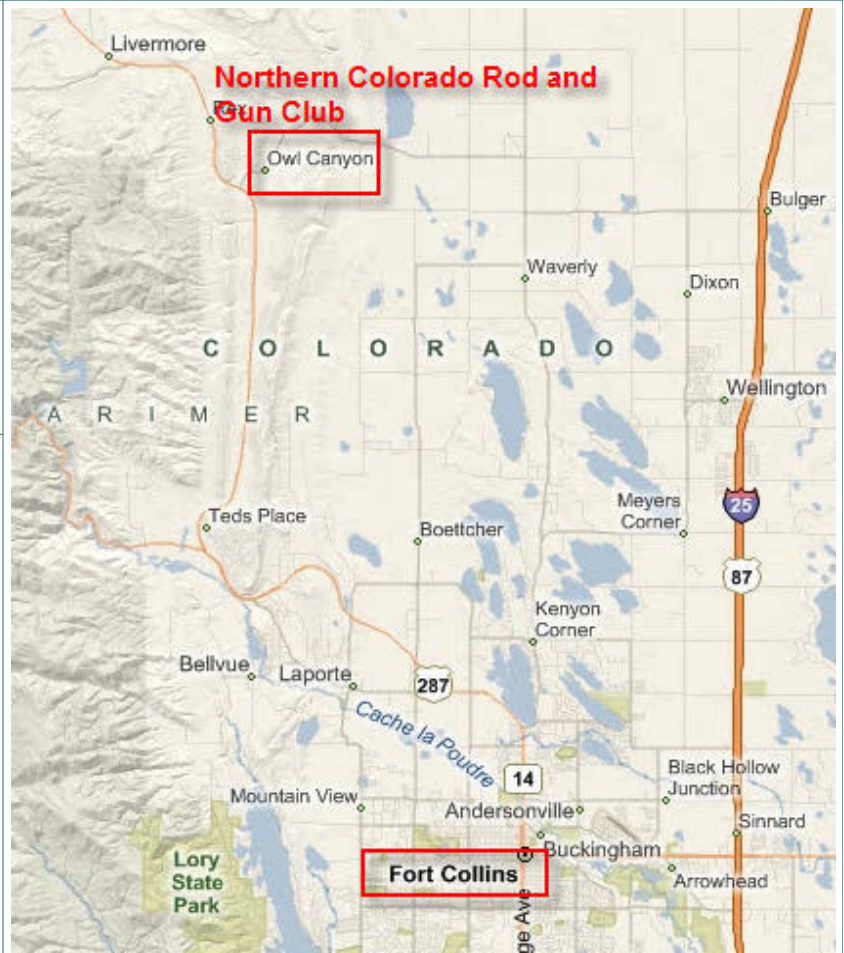
News Letter Email:
NCRGC-News@comcast.net

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

Vice President: Loren Gitchel

My name is Loren Gitchel, I am the Vice President of the Northern Colorado Rod & Gun Club. I have held this position for about 2 years. I grew up in the Denver area and my wife and I moved to Ft. Collins about 12 years ago, and we love the smaller town atmosphere here.

I am semi-retired since increasing fuel prices forced me to close my small business. Being semi-retired means I have extra time and I enjoy being involved in helping to keep the range running. I live closer to the range than any of the other Board members and this, along with having more free time, means I usually get the call when small things need done at the range.



Vice President: Loren Gitchel

Being the VP of the NCRGC is very enjoyable, as my duties are pretty open and I can help out where I am needed. I have talked to many members at the range about safety issues and to get feed back about members needs and if the range is satisfying those needs. I go to the range at least weekly as I am the target maintenance committee and try to keep the target stands useable.

While I am at the range I always walk the lines and check for badges and safety rule infractions. So, if you see me there, feel free to approach and talk with me. I am always open to talk about the club, or just guns in

general. Hope to see you there. Or you can contact me by sending an email to the club, or to my club email address ncrgcvp@aol.com.

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