

# CRC NEWS, JANUARY 2015

**ANNUAL MEETING and DINNER, FEB. 21:** The Annual Meeting of the Colorado Rifle Club will be held Saturday February 21, 2015 at the Sheraton Denver West hotel on Union Street just south of the west entrance to the Denver Federal Center. Social hour and cash bar 6P.M.; Dinner 7P.M. and the meeting 8P.M. This is always an enjoyable event, a good chance to get acquainted with your fellow members and a good dinner. It's a real bargain too, because the club subsidizes a portion of the meal cost. Announcements and reservation forms will be mailed shortly. Please respond by Feb. 15.

**BUSINESS MEETING:** The club officers will present the changes and range improvements of 2014 and discuss what to expect in the coming year. The principal business of the meeting will then be the election of three members of the Board of Directors. Present directors whose terms expire this year are Barney Higgins, Wayne Harris and Dave Paananen. All three are willing to stand for reelection. Other nominees may be proposed by any member or may present themselves. Anyone wishing to nominate a candidate or be a candidate should contact Al Ashton 303-798-0189, [kuylaars@msn.com](mailto:kuylaars@msn.com). Candidates must have been an active member for five years or more as of the date of the meeting, and must state that they will serve if elected. All nominees will have an opportunity for a short campaign speech before the balloting.

**LONG RANGE PLANNING:** In the last newsletter we asked for members with planning experience to volunteer to help with planning the club's courses of action in the five to twenty year future period. Several members responded and we hope they will come to the Annual Meeting and make themselves known to the Directors so we can get the process started. It is probably impossible to predict what shooting sports will be popular in the future, but there are a lot of general improvements that need to be considered such as road improvements, a clubhouse, range expansion, etc. We will need ideas, a timeline, budget, revenue projections, and we hope that members will suggest some good ideas at the meeting.

**SAFETY ISSUES:** A number of .50 BMG (Browning Machine Gun) bullets have been found on the property recently. Members are reminded that shooting these firearms at CRC is strictly prohibited by club safety rules. This is a major issue because of the potential damage that .50 BMG bullets can cause and for safety reasons on and off our property. If a .50 BMG hits the leg of a target frame, that frame is destroyed. Hitting concrete will severely damage that and will penetrate any of our steel plates. If the bullets should go over a backstop and or ricochet, they can travel great distances and leave our property. Remember, shooting .50 BMG rifles are forbidden on CRC property. Members shooting them will be disciplined and subject to suspension if observed. There are places around the state where big guns may be shot but we are not one of them.

**NOVICE MEMBERS:** As our membership grows, it has been observed that some new members seem to be novices with minimum experience in handling firearms and in shooting on organized ranges. Some of these people can create serious safety problems due to their inexperience. It has been suggested that CRC develop a mandatory program of instruction to be required of entering members, except those with documented range shooting experience. Instruction would start where our present orientation stops, and might include some introductory firing. Rob Rathburn is working on such a program and we hope to have it ready for trial this spring.

This novice training will not replace the various clinics and other introductory programs offered by several of our Match Directors, but those are single sport programs and are not really directed to the novice who may be shooting for the first time. The only event that we have for novice shooter is the Johnny Appleseed program of which three are scheduled this year. The Colorado hunter safety program does offer a little firing instruction but is directed to hunters. Members with ideas or anyone who would like to help Rob should contact Rob Rathburn, [rob.rathburn@q.com](mailto:rob.rathburn@q.com).

**ARMOR PIERCING BULLETS:** We are having a problem with members using steel core and armor piercing bullets. A swinger target on the silhouette range has no less than 14 holes in it. We are not sure whether members are getting repackaged military ammo that is not marked or whether some manufacturers are using steel instead of lead for bullet cores or what the cause of the problem might be. In any case, steel core bullets are destructive to your club's property and cannot be used on CRC ranges. Please check your bullets with a magnet. If they are attracted to the magnet do not use them at CRC.

**WORK WEEKEND APRIL 11-12:** Don't forget these dates. We have a lot of work to do since we had some bad weather last year. Range and Match directors will contact Dave Paananen with their needs, and will plan to be present if there is anything to be done on their range. For members, this is an opportunity to come out and get your work bond completed and participate in making the CRC ranges a better place to shoot. Members wishing to do work other than on the April and October work weekends should check the Work Bond link on the CRC web site. Dave Paananen keeps current WB needs posted there and if there is something you have the skills to do, contact him for arrangements.

**OTHER NEWS:** We finished the year with 1370 members that included 250 new members joining during the year. We expect to lose about 100 for non-payment of dues. At some point, we expect to impose a cap on the number of members. This will be put in place when we start experiencing crowding on the ranges or if we start to experience safety protocol problems on the ranges. We have 242 events on the 2015 calendar to be conducted by our 35 Match Directors. The calendar changes frequently with matches often cancelled on short notice if the weather forecast is bad. The Web site contains the ONLY accurate calendar so check it often.

Nick Obee, who looks after the CRC web site is always looking for items to post on the web site. If you have match results, pictures, or anything of interest to members send it to him at [nickobee@comcast.net](mailto:nickobee@comcast.net).

The CRC weather station has been upgraded with new hardware and software and is now very reliable. Weather data is updated every ten minutes. Members can check the weather before going out and get a current picture of the conditions at the range.