

# DIRECTORS RECONSIDER STEEL ON HIGH POWER RANGE. FOWLER NAMED CRC SAFETY DIRECTOR

The February 22 decision by the Board of Directors which banned steel targets on the High Power Range drew an unexpected storm of protest from the membership. There is a lot more interest in that sport than had been anticipated. To be fair to the Board, these sports have come on so recently and so fast that most of the Board members are not well acquainted with them. Mark Passamaneck was there to bring everyone up to date. There was a lot of discussion centering on ricochets, backspatter and safety in general. There was also discussion of what is involved in the various steel target sports. This meeting focused on the near term - what can we do for the 2014 season. Consideration of some ideas for ranges longer than 1000 yards will involve new construction and will take more time to develop. A lengthy county permitting process could be involved for new construction. It took nearly three years to get the necessary permits for the East Range construction.

The following concerns emerged:

- Some members are careless and do not follow common sense safety techniques. We have some trespassers.
- Our safety protocol needs revision to account for the steel target sports as well as other recent developments.
- The safety protocol needs to be better publicized and enforced. People doing dangerous actions should be reported to the Board and punished in some way.
- Steel targets must be hardened steel (AR500) because softer steel tends to cause more ricochets and less thorough bullet destruction on impact.
- There was a lot of discussion as to whether steel targets should be permanently mounted or taken down after each use, and also, whether club owned or private targets may be permitted.

The Board decided to permit steel targets on the HIGH POWER RANGE under the following INTERIM conditions. Mark Passamaneck will present a more fully developed plan with safety rules, etc., soon for final Board action. It is hoped the final plan will be in effect by May, but the interim plan is effective now.

- Steel targets must be AR500 or similar hardened steel.
- Steel targets may be placed ONLY on target positions 20 and 21, at the east end of the backstop as shown on the attached aerial photograph by the red circle. Targets must be on the backstop in the impact holes and may be placed NOWHERE ELSE on the H-P range. If necessary to place the targets higher for visibility from the 200 or 300 yd firing lines, they may do so as long as the targets are below the number boards.
- Members must observe the standing rules about mounting the two red range flags at both the 1000 yard firing line and also on the west end of the backstop as well as all of the other rules for the HP range.

The range safety issue has become pressing over the past year as we have enlarged to nearly 1200 members. The steel target discussion focused it more sharply. Newly elected director Steve Fowler, who is a police officer well trained in handling situations, has agreed to become CRC Safety Director. His charge includes:

- Updating the CRC safety protocol in cooperation with the Range and Match Directors.
- Posting appropriate signs and other necessary publicity for the protocols.
- Development of a plan for enforcement of the rules and fair treatment of those who violate the rules.
- Patrols around the property to see what is going on.

In earlier times most members were experienced target shooters well acquainted with range procedures and behavior. Many of our new members are not so well acquainted with shooting on ranges as opposed to the open country, and some have not absorbed the safety rules discussed in our new member orientation sessions. We have heard reports of some dangerous actions by members and are aware that we have some trespassers. Members should be alert for unsafe activities and if possible caution those doing the unsafe things. However, there have been reports of a few angry confrontations and, when guns are involved confrontations are not a good idea. If someone does not have a CRC badge visible or cannot present a membership card, ask them to leave the property immediately. If possible, get a cell phone picture of their car license plate, we can track that down. Report member violations to Steve Fowler at 303 745-2529 or [batfowler@gmail.com](mailto:batfowler@gmail.com). If necessary, call the Adams County Sheriff in Strasburg. The Sheriff's number is posted on signs around the property, but be aware that it will take some time for them to arrive.

Some members and possibly others are driving around our entrance gate rather than taking the trouble to open and close the gate. The best that can be said for this practice is that it is damaging to the land, rude and discourteous. The BoD is looking for a solution. Land mines are one idea but those seem a little drastic.

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Per the CRC BOD, member owned steel (AR500 ONLY) may be placed on the high power range berm. Generally, the steel must be placed so that it is above the elevation of the pits as seen from the firing position(s) and so that ALL bullets land on the earthen berm in the impact zone. The Red outline generally define where steel can be placed and where bullets must impact.

