



The Ricochet

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2007

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President:

Terry Abbott

Vice President:

Pete Carstensen

Secretary:

John Martin

Executive Officer :

Gregg Harrington

Chief Instructor:

Craig Cox

Financial Manager :

Arlee Janas

Range Manager :

Bill Lagusis

Admin. Assist./Editor:

Cheryl Mauler

Weekend:

Courtney Murch

Historian:

Bob Shell

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office@riosaladosportsmans.com

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

www.riosaladosportsmans.com

Pete Carstensen, Webmaster

The range is closed on New Years Day, Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day each year.

ANNUAL ELECTION RESULTS

The following people have been elected as the Executive Board for 2007—2008

PRESIDENT—TERRY ABBOTT

VICE PRESIDENT—PETE CARSTENSEN

SECRETARY—JOHN MARTIN

EXECUTIVE OFFICER—GREGG HARRINGTON

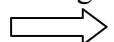
CHIEF INSTRUCTOR—CRAIG COX

The Annual Meeting took place September 8, 2007, at 3:00p.m. in the Activity Center. Thank you to everyone who attended. It's nice to see members show their support. This will be another fine year.

The President's Column

The 2007 elections are over and I am once again serving as your President. Thanks to all of you that have supported me and the board of directors in our efforts to improve our club and provide all of us a great place to enjoy our sport. I want to personally thank my Executive Board and the Division Directors for the great job they have done over the past two years in helping me and the club with the many tasks involved in running RSSC. I would also like to thank Bill Lagusis, our Range Manager, and the office staff for a job well done this past year. Bill has not only seen to the day to day operations but has also made himself frequently available to me and other members of the board on his days off, when we needed assistance with pet projects and range business.

Bob Bzdok and the Main Range staff continue to do an outstanding job on the public range. The public range is our bread and butter, providing a steady flow of income we use to maintain our entire facility. The hunting season is fast approaching and large crowds of hunters will be coming to the range to sight in their rifles. The Main Range staff can always use knowledgeable volunteers to help out with this annual surge of customers. If you would like to help, contact Bob at the Main Range or the Range Manager, Bill Lagusis, at the Activity Center office.



The President’s Column continued

The automated target system for the Sporting Clays range is now in operation and shooters will need to get an activation card from the Activity Center office to use the range. Please continue to sign in, as usual, before shooting.

The Staff and the board are anxious to get started on our new maintenance facility. We recently received approval from the Arizona Game & Fish department to proceed with this important project. Several other projects are in the works to improve our facility as well. Having a new and properly equipped maintenance building will help our range staff accomplish these projects more effectively.

As we start into the cooler months and a new season I wish you the best of luck in your shooting pursuits. Remember, this is your club. Consider helping out with running matches or other little jobs around the range. Keep things cleaned up and orderly. Be proud of your club and enjoy your sport. See you on the range.

Terry Abbott
President
Email: president@riosaladosportsmans.com

From the Range Manager’s Desk

I’m excited about working with the new Board and feel that a lot will be accomplished this coming year. I would also like to thank the prior board for all their direction and time put into the range.

The Range Safety officers are doing a great job. They are dedicated to their work and to the shooters that come out to this great range. Thank you for all your hard work. Also, with their assistance in collecting the ejected brass, the range has brought in over \$22,000.00 in revenue. Like someone said, “Brass on the ground is gold in color and with its price, is as good as gold.”

It’s that time of year when a lot of people are getting ready for their hunt. I would like to ask the members to sight in on week days if possible, this would help with the heavy traffic. Volunteers are needed to assist the Range Safety Officers during sighting-in. If you would like to do this, please call the office at 480-984-3724.

We are also looking for Range Safety Officers. Hours are 7 to 5 daily, for 2 or 3 day shifts. Must be over 18. Training provided. Call 480-984-3724 for information or apply in person M – F.

Just a Reminder – there is **No Shooting Full-Auto on Sundays**. This is a courtesy and an agreement with surrounding neighbors. Thank you for your cooperation.

Kudos to Sherriff Joe and his people for a great job they did on the Phoenix sign. We use this great land-mark in our directions to the range, you can’t miss it. There was a nice write up in the Tribune, Sunday, September 16, 2007 if anyone missed it.

One last thing, Happy Shooting and be Safe! See you around the range.

Bill Lagusis
Range Manager
Email: rangemanager@riosaladosportsmans.com

RSSC Board of Directors Meeting
Third Wednesday of each month—7:00PM—Activity Center
All Members Are Welcome!

Vice President's Report

A member recently asked me why we don't mail the Ricochet out any longer. That is a great question and one that we have worked hard on. A single issue of the Ricochet would cost us well over \$2,500 to prepare and mail to all of our members. At this point, out of our 2800 members, we have valid and verified email for almost everyone. We have contacted each member and those without email access can generally get to a computer at work and check out the webpage. They know they miss out on some info but it is ok with them. We also print off copies of the Ricochet and have them around the range and on the bulletin boards for members to read while out at the range.

We do have one exception to our email only policy and that is for the annual summer election issue of the Ricochet. Since that contains the official ballot, we mail that to anyone that we either do not have an email address for or has opted out of receiving email. Membership renewal is also a time where we may send out a renewal form. We send out renewal notices via email 2 months ahead but if they haven't renewed by the first of the month they expire, we send a letter just to be sure. Sending out the email notices has also greatly reduced those letters as well since renewals can be done at any time.

We really do understand that no one likes spam but email has become a great tool for communication and can save us lots of money. Our *RSSC Bang!!* emails are also much more timely and helps our members know what is going on far more effectively than we ever have in the past. It works the same way in reverse as well. The email addresses of all the members of the Board of Directors, our Range Manager, the Financial Manager, our Historian, and the office staff are clearly listed on the webpage and they check their email regularly. If you have a question, we are ready to answer it or get it over to someone who can. You elected us, and we want to be as helpful as we can while keeping the trust in running the range safely and professionally that you have placed upon us.

Pete Carstensen
Vice President
Email: vp@riosaladosportsmans.com

From The Secretary

My name is John Martin and I was elected to be your Secretary by write in ballot. I would like to thank you.

I have been a member of Rio Salado Sportsman's Club for 29 years and have held various board positions and also High Power Rifle Director.

We have several projects on-going and Mike Janas, the out-going Secretary provided to me with his very fine notes and records. I look forward to a productive year with this Board and the Membership.

John Martin
Secretary
Email: secretary@riosaladosportsmans.com

Get the Latest Range and Match Information
Go to the RSSC Web Page
www.riosaladosportsmans.com

Black Powder Division News

Welcome to Muzzle Stuffers black powder competitions. We shoot a rifle competition the second Sunday of each month and a pistol competition the 4th Sunday of each month. We start practice about 8AM and finish around Noon.

We shoot patched round ball with black powder at 25 to 100 yards depending on the match. We shoot off hand except for the juniors, rotating between paper and steel silhouette targets.

If you would like to try this sport out call Tom Hoverson @602-292-3921. If you don't own a black powder rifle or pistol we always have extras if you would like to see what is like. You provide the body and we will provide enjoyment and the equipment. There are between 15 and 35 shooters at each event with a lot of helpful suggestions.

The main reasons many of our shooters come out are as follows.

- Leisurely shooting routine. (30 minutes for a 5 shot relay)
- Camaraderie (we are a very easy group of people to compete with)
- Inexpensive Sport (\$5 to \$8 shooting fee)
- Prizes and awards given at rifle shoot and awards at the pistol shoot.

We have a black powder cartridge division that needs more interest and leadership. If you are interested call Tom Hoverson or e-mail (tom1757@aol.com)

Tom Hoverson
 Director Black Power
 Email: bp@riosaladosportsmans.com

RSSC Junior Division

The RSSC Junior Division is for kids ages 10-20 and shoots on Thursday evenings from Sept 1 until June 1. A select few of the top shooters also practice Precision Air Rifle on Tuesday evenings. The club provides all equipment including rifles, and uses the NRA Marksmanship Program to earn certificates to reward accomplishments from Marksman to Expert classification.

55 juniors attended one of the monthly Safety Classes, and we ended the season with 76 members from as far west as Peoria and east as Apache Junction. We normally have about 25 shooting each Thursday night.

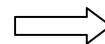
We competed in Postal Matches sponsored by the VFW, Army, NRA and American Legion. In the Army Postal we had 2 place in the top 15% of the national results. The VFW Postal, we earned 3rd place team awards in both Smallbore and Air Rifle, and also 3rd and 5th place overall individual awards.

Rio Salado Juniors sponsored several events for both Smallbore and Air Rifle, including the AZ Grand Canyon State Games, NRA AZ Junior Sectionals, USA Shooting AZ Junior Olympic Qualifiers and the AZ State Junior 3-Position Championship. Rio Salado members commonly earn the top awards at these events and we had several in the top 25% of the national results. One attended the Pan Am selections and Nationals at Fort Benning GA, and qualified for the invitation-only USA Shooting Junior Olympic Championship in Colorado Springs.

One member attended Camp Perry for Smallbore, and seven attended as members of the AZ State Junior High Power Team. Three attended a 5-day CMP clinic in Reno NV.

Rio Salado members were selected as both the ASRPA Junior Smallbore and Junior HighPower Shooters of the Year

The Junior program earned a grant from the NRA Foundation, and very much appreciate generous



RSSC Junior Division continued

donations from the Superstition Mountain Mystery 3-Gun event and various individuals. As a result we have a very good inventory of equipment. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped, particularly coaches Bob LaMarca and Mike Costello.

Please consider volunteering as a coach on Thursday nights. We currently have more than 20 new juniors asking to join the program, but we can only handle about 10 new shooters on the line each month. Our restricting factor is not equipment but rather coaches and others to help train beginning shooters. So if interested in helping, please contact me.

Ed Roberts

Director Junior Division

email: juniors@riosaladosportsmans.com

Camp Perry 2007

This year the Arizona Junior High Power Rifle team took a total of 12 junior members to the Camp Perry National Matches. In the first match - the President's 100 match - Evan Ksenzulak ranked 80th out of 1,265 competitors. On the second day the team shot the National Individual Trophy match, a leg match, where Tyler Rico and Andrew Swazey both earned leg points. The team entered 6 different teams in the Whistler Boy match, and 3 out of the 6 made it into the top twenty pairs of shooters. The teams who made it into the top twenty were Tanya Gorin (daughter of RSSC member and high power coach Myles Gorin) and Andrew Swazey, coached by Tom Kirby; Warren Wagoner and Tyler Rico, coached by John Wilder; and Thomas Turansky and Evan Ksenzulak coached by Eric Smith (U.S. Army Reserves). On the day of the six man team match, 2 teams were entered. The first team ranked third out of twenty junior teams. Thomas Turansky, Evan Ksenzulak, Andrew Swazey, Tyler Rico, Tanya Gorin, and Warren Wagoner were the members of that team and were coached by Tom Kirby. For the final match of CMP week, the National Trophy Infantry Team Match (AKA "Rattle Battle"), there were two teams entered. They took second and fourth place.

Out of the 12 juniors that attended CMP week, only five stayed for NRA week. The first match fired during NRA week was the Rumbolt Match and our four man team placed second for juniors overall and first for State Association Team in the Master category. Over the rest of the matches, Courtney Murch (the RSSC week-end Admin Assistant) took first Sharpshooter twice, high woman three times, second sharpshooter four times, and third sharpshooter twice. Tanya Gorin won first master once, high woman and high junior once, third master once, and fourth master once. Tyler Rico placed first expert twice, second expert once, third expert twice, and fourth expert five times. Evan Ksenzulak made fourth expert three times. Overall the Arizona Junior High Power Rifle Team left Camp Perry, Ohio with a total of 64 medals and had a great time competing.

Courtney Murch

Junior High Power Division

Our range is safe because YOU are safe.

Help others to be safe also.

If you are uncomfortable about a situation,
contact a Range Safety Officer or Match Director immediately!

3 Position Smallbore on Tuesday Evenings

Three Position Smallbore practice is back in business after the summer recess. Tuesday evening would be a good time to come out to the range to warm the barrel of your favorite .22 rim fire rifle. Since this is a rim fire only match, you won't be distracted by the noise and blast of center fire rifles that can happen at the main range. The evening is run like a 3 position match with the targets set at 50 yards. You will have 20 minutes to fire an unlimited amount of sighters plus 20 shots for record in each of the three standard positions; prone, standing and kneeling.

Don't be intimidated by the three positions, since this is an informal competition, you are free to shoot in any safe position. You can use the time to shoot all of the targets from the same position or any combination of positions. If you just want to sight in your rifle, bring sandbags or other steady rest and shoot as much you like. We can also put a few targets at 50 feet for first time shooters or juniors who are just getting started in rifle shooting.

Please keep in mind we emphasize shooting safety; eye and ear protection are mandatory. Be at the range at 6:00 o'clock PM to set up your equipment: first rounds go downrange at 6:30 PM. The fee is still \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for juniors (under 18). Hope to see you there!

Ray Sutyak
Director Three Position Smallbore
Email: 3p@riosaladosportsmans.com

Twenty-Two Pistol

With the cooler weather and the return of winter visitors, we will be seeing several more shooters at our .22 matches. We look forward to seeing some of our new members and, of course, new shooters are encouraged to participate. We're there to help you; come down and have fun and make some new friends. Come join us...

The .22 Matches are now held on Practical Bays 3 & 4 and by the time you get this newsletter, the calendar will revert to the winter time schedule. We will have no .22 Match for the month of October due to the Drill Masters Nationals.

We would like to thank the Board of Directors for waiving our fees so that we are able to have a Christmas Charity Match in November for our military troops. Thank you so much! In June we were able to send almost \$700.00 worth of supplies and goodies. Thanks to our shooters and others outside RSSC who helped with this worthy cause. Thank you for your help and support; we appreciate it.

Sue Little
Director Twenty-Two Pistol
Email: 22pistol@riosaladosportsmans.com

Gift Certificates

Available for purchase in the Activity Center Office

*** Individual Membership—Family Membership—Daily Membership—Sporting Clays ***

Arizona Women’s Shooting Association (AWSA)

Who are we and what do we do? We are educators for women at all shooting levels. You’ll learn new skills or sharpen existing skills from qualified instructors, try various types of firearms, make new friends, while enjoying the outdoors. We do all of this and have fun too! If you don’t want to come alone and don’t have a girlfriend to come with you, then bring your best guy and make it a couple’s night.

Here is a list of some of the classes we offer: Basic Handgun (Women on Target), Ladies Personal Protection, CCW and Drawing from Concealment. We expose you to rifle, shotgun, Cowboy Shooting and Shooting Scenarios. If you wish to pursue other disciplines we connect you to the right folks. We encourage you to try competition.

We will meet the first Wednesday of the month the rest of this year. The charge for all this fun is \$8 for AWSA members, \$10 for non-AWSA members and \$15 for couples. We ask that everyone get there by 6:45 to start by 7 sharp.

Our schedule for October 3rd from 7-9 PM will be scenarios with a Halloween twist and gun cleaning.

November - NO SHOOT

December 5th - Christmas Turkey Shoot / Cowboy style. Put your best duds and cowboy hats on. Christmas in the West and our final shoot of the 2007-year. Best ladies, best men’s and best score get the turkeys for Christmas dinner. Start time from 7-9 PM.

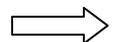
See ya’ll on the range!

Carol Ruh
AWSA President
Email: Carol@AZWSA.com

Who Am I

At this time I am the Rio Salado Historian, Bob Shell. I came from the east coast in 1993 and of course you have to take care of the important things when you move into a new area. One of those is to find a good place to shoot which lead me to the Rio Salado Club. Anyway I joined and have been a member ever since. Compared to some of the other members I am a new kid on the block. While I will shoot just about anything, my preferences tend to go to antique and odd ball guns. If a gun is older than me it will probably interest me. If ammo is hard to get that makes it even more attractive to me. I have written a couple of books and do some freelance writing mostly for the Shotgun News but other publications as well. I also have a small ammo business and load all the hard to get and obsolete calibers that most other people don’t produce. For anyone that is interested my website is www.Obsoleteammo.com

At this time I am working on a history of the Rio Salado Club. In order to make this a successful project I will need a lot of help from the membership. Anyone who has any memories, documents or stories please feel free to contact me. I am also going to have a column detailing one old gun each issue. If there is interest I may set up a class with an antique firearm, talking about the history and letting some folks shoot it. There’s nothing like shooting a 120 year old gun.



Join or Renew your NRA Membership right here at the Range!

Old Gun of the Month

The 1860's was a time of change for the firearms industry. Self contained and centerfire were becoming practical. The American Civil War demonstrated the effectiveness of self contained cartridges. With the 44 Henry and the 56-56 Spencer making their debut in 1860 the day of the muzzle loaders was over. The 22 short was the first rimfire coming out in 1857. Of course the pin fires preceded them by a few years. While fairly practical for revolvers they wouldn't work well in repeating rifles. The self contained cartridge effectiveness during the Civil War wasn't lost on other nations. There was opposition to repeating firearms during the Civil War because some of the powers to be thought they were a waste of ammo. Great Britain was using a 58 caliber Enfield muzzle loading rifle at that time. By the way it was very similar to our main front loader used in the Civil War. To save money the Brits wanted a system to convert their rifle to a breech loader. The British adopted a system that was devised by Joseph Snider an American. He offered it to the British after the Americans turned it down. Essentially it has a block cut out of the barrel which swings up to load and unload the weapon. While slow by today's standards it was quite an improvement over the muzzle loaders of the period. One of the disadvantages of a front loader in battle is you had to stand up to load it which of course exposed you to enemy fire. Besides increased firepower you could load it while shooting prone lessening your chances of being hit. To load it you just flipped up the gate with the button provided and to get the empty out you pushed the bolt back about a half inch and that pulls the empty out of the chamber. Just pull it out and reload. The first cartridges were made of foil with a base which probably caused problems especially with a dirty chamber. In a few years they were made from solid brass. The caliber is a 58 shooting the same bullet as the front loading rifle. The system was reliable but was a stopgap measure and was officially replaced in 1871 by the 577/450 Martini Henry.

Shooting this gun is an exercise in uniqueness. I have a carbine that is dated in 1870. It was issued to the Canadian Government as far as I can tell. As with all my toys I have shot it with a few different loads. While not common brass is available and the 58 caliber Minnie ball works pretty well. Due to the age of the gun black powder or its equivalent should be the only propellants used. With a 500 grain mini it belts you somewhat but I have used round balls with success. While not accurate at long range it is a fun and worthwhile firearm to shoot. As with all antiques make sure its safe to shoot and always use the correct ammo to have a safe shooting day.

Bob Shell
RSSC Historian
Free Lance Writer & Ammo Maker
480-983-7078

The old High power storage trailer is gone!
That area will soon have additional parking for Smallbore, Sporting Clays and Training Bays

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