



# The Ricochet

CHERYL MAULER, EDITOR

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2009

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

**President:**

**Pete Carstensen**

**Vice President:**

**Scott Durkin**

**Secretary:**

**John Martin**

**Treasurer:**

**Ed Roberts**

**Executive Officer:**

**Terry Abbott**

**Chief Instructor:**

**Jim Neff**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Range Manager:**

**Bill Lagusis**

**Administrative Assistant:**

**Cheryl Mauler**

**Administrative Assistant:**

**Courtney Murch**

**Financial Manager:**

**Marge Abbott**

**Historian:**

**Bob Shell**

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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

[www.riosaladosportsmans.com](http://www.riosaladosportsmans.com)

[Pete Carstensen, Webmaster](#)

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

## Annual Election Results

2009 — 1010

**PRESIDENT— PETE CARSTENSEN**

**VICE PRESIDENT—SCOTT DURKIN**

**TREASURER—ED ROBERTS**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER—TERRY ABBOTT**

**CHIEF INSTRUCTOR—JIM NEFF**

The Annual Member's Meeting was held September 12, 2009 at 3:00 PM. There were approximately 65 members attending the meeting and social. Thank you to all for attending and making it a success.

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## The President's Column

I would like to thank all the members that came out to enjoy our Annual Meeting and Swap Meet but especially those that voted in the election of the RSSC Leaders for 2009-2010. Regardless if a position is contested or not, this is the time of year where you can show your support for those that step up to take care of all the things that make our range great. If you didn't take the opportunity to vote this year, please remember that this is YOUR club and YOUR support is critical for all of our successes.

It has been an exciting year so far and we are already seeing our winter members coming back to enjoy the Arizona fall season. The range is in the best shape of our 55 year history as we finish up our Main Range expansion and additional parking areas behind High Power. We have installed lights on both our 5-Stand Shotgun Area as well as on the Smallbore Range so both are now enjoying evening shoots never before possible. We are seeing deer and elk hunters sighting in, shotgunners practicing for quail, dove and turkey, and pistol shooters from all over the world preparing to attend one of the nation's premier USPSA events at the Desert Classic held here in November.

I would like to thank our past president, **Terry Abbott**, for his leadership over the past four years and I am excited to have him continue his range oversight as our Executive Officer. **John Martin** returns as our

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**Got a Question, a Change of Address or email as well as any other Range or Membership Issue?**

**Our Email address is: [office@riosaladosportsmans.com](mailto:office@riosaladosportsmans.com)**

**President column continued**

Secretary, **Ed Roberts** as Treasurer, and **Jim Neff** continues as our Chief Instructor. Lastly, I would like to welcome **Scott Durkin** as our new Vice President. A well earned special presentation was made at our Annual Meeting to recognize the extraordinary volunteer effort of **Marge Abbott** for both her work on Sporting Clays as well as serving as our Financial Manager. Few people know the time Marge spends out at the range and how much impact she has on keeping things running so smoothly. Thanks again, **Marge!**

The weather is cooling off. Come out to the range and bring a friend or a junior. Look in the safe and bring out a gun that has been hidden for far too long then check the Calendar of Events on our web-page to find a match where you and Ol' Betsy can become reacquainted. Yes, come out and shoot at our little piece of paradise in the Southwest – Your Club.

Pete Carstensen

[president@riosaladosportsmans.com](mailto:president@riosaladosportsmans.com)

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**Secretary**

This September I began my third year as Secretary and 20+ years as an Officer in the Club. This past year has been very productive as concerns Range improvements which is a result of cooperation and people getting along.

For the next year I will be working with the other Officers on the acquisition on the Tonto Forest land for the proposed Shotgun and Public Ranges.

I thank you for your support.

John Martin

[secretary@riosaladosportsmans.com](mailto:secretary@riosaladosportsmans.com)

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**From the XO**

This is my first column as Executive Officer. Our annual meeting in September was a great success. We had a good turnout and lots to share in regard to this last year's progress on the many range improvement projects. The swap meet prior to the meeting was also very successful, with good participation and some really nice items for sale. Everyone had a great time swapping stories and gun stuff.

During the general meeting the board always asks for questions and comments from the membership regarding any issues concerning the club. One gentleman asked what the club was doing in regard to promoting the political views of gun owners. This is a good question and has broad enough appeal that I thought I would repeat my answer in this column. Certainly we all have an interest in promoting legislation and political candidates that support gun ownership by law abiding citizens. However, the primary concern of the RSSC board is the running of our range. Whenever there are political issues that affect the range directly we may get involved. An example is the range protection bill that was signed a few years ago. Board members attended meetings of the legislature and spoke in support of the bill.

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**Quiz:** What was the first general purpose military metallic cartridge introduced by the US and when was it introduced?

### Continued from the XO

As a non-profit organization we cannot provide any financial support for political issues or candidates. To do so would risk losing our non-profit status. As individual members any of us can support candidates or political organizations however we choose. Both the Arizona State Rifle and Pistol Association and the NRA-ILA are very active in the politics of gun ownership and we should all support them. It's a tough job. Thankfully there are good people with the talent and commitment to fight the political battles.

There are many facets to supporting the shooting sports and gun ownership. Education and training, manufacturing of shooting products, retail sales, hunting, political concerns and shooting ranges to name a few. Each is important to the success of the others. Each needs people committed to that success. Your board of directors is committed to the success of RSSC, one of the finest ranges in the country.

Terry Abbott

[xo@riosaladosportsmans.com](mailto:xo@riosaladosportsmans.com)

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### Black Powder Division

Welcome to Muzzle Stuffers black powder competitions. We shoot a rifle competition the second Sunday of each month and a pistol competition the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

April 11 -13 we will have our state championship shoot at Rio Salado Sportsman's Club. From 8AM- 6PM the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> and 8AM-noon the competition will continue. We expect about 50 shooters from Sub Juniors to 70 years plus. Camping is available.

If you would like to try this sport, 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 the enjoyment and equipment.

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.

There are between 15 and 35 shooters at each event with a lot of helpful suggestions.

We have a black powder cartridge division that needs more competitors. If you are interested call Tom Hoverson or e-mail ([tom1757@aol.com](mailto:tom1757@aol.com)) or e-mail Mike Grennan @ [mkgrennan@aol.com](mailto:mkgrennan@aol.com).

Tom Hoverson

Black Powder Division Director

[bp@riosaladosportsmans.com](mailto:bp@riosaladosportsmans.com)

**Due to Health & Safety hazards, there is no smoking within the fenced area at the Main Range .**

**3 Position Smallbore**

For many years, 3 position smallbore rifle matches were an institution on Tuesday evenings at RSSC. However, participation has been declining over the years. The course of shooting has also declined from a competitive 50 yard match to just .22 rimfire practice. While safe shooting in any safe manner was welcomed, and encouraged, the competitive nature of the event was missing. For the past two years, the average attendance at the Tuesday evening 3P matches has been 3 shooters, many weeks no shooters came to the range. Several of the shooters that did participate only did so long enough to get their badge punched for the smallbore range privilege. After that, they were not seen again. According to the RSSC by-laws ARTICLE VII - SECTION 2; a division is defined as having “at least ten (10) members of this corporation who compete together on a regular basis.” Obviously, the 3P division no longer meets that criterion. Attempts were made to expand the division to Tuesday mornings, but that too met with limited success. Because of the declining participation, 3P matches will no longer be held weekly on Tuesday evenings. The 3P situation is currently under review and an alternate smallbore activity, perhaps a monthly match, is expected to be proposed. Please check the RSSC website and calendar for announcements of a new smallbore activity on Tuesday evening. **Constructive input from the membership is welcome. Contact the 3P director via email with your ideas.**

R. Sutyak  
3P Division Director  
[3p@riosaladosportsmans.com](mailto:3p@riosaladosportsmans.com)

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**.22 Division**

Our goal last year was to increase the number of women who shoot the .22 match. We achieved our goal with 107 ladies compared to 62 last year. We even saw an increase in our junior shooters from 31 to 50 this year.

We feel this match is the easiest and most fun way to introduce shooting to women and kids, and yet it is challenging for the accomplished shooter.

Last summer we placed an additional target at each stage for those who wanted to shoot the match again, but with their .22 rifles. Other than the summer months, this has been very successful. With winter visitors and cooler weather, we know participation will increase.

As you know we have 2 matches a year that are dedicated to helping our troops. To date we have donated \$1,925.00 to help buy supplies and extra goodies for some of our military over seas. If you read the Ricochet, we’ve tried to add pictures and letters from troop recipients. They do appreciate our help. So, to those or you who have donated—Thank You!

If you haven’t shot our match yet, dust off your .22 (pistol or rifle) and come join us the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. This month (September) we will still begin at 7:00a.m. Winter hours begin October with an 8:00 a.m. start. Hope to see you there.

Sue Little  
.22 Division Director  
[22pistol@riosaladosportsmans.com](mailto:22pistol@riosaladosportsmans.com)

**All Members are invited to attend the Board of Directors Meeting held in the RSSC Activity Center on the Third Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:00pm.**

### From the Historian's Pen The 30-40 Krag

In the late 1880's and early 1890's while many European countries were converting to small bore smokeless rounds the US still had the outdated 45-70 Springfield a black powder 45 caliber design. In 1892 the Krag was adopted taken from a Norwegian design. It has only one locking lug which limits the loads you can use. The magazine pulled out from the side and the cartridges were dropped in which was fairly convenient. It beat out over 50 other rifle types to be adopted including a variation of the 303 Savage. It was loaded with a 220 grain round nose solid bullet and was outdated almost as soon as it was adopted. The velocity varied from 2000 to 2200 FPS though the heavier loads were known to crack the locking lug.

Its shortcomings became apparent during the Spanish American War. The Spaniards had a 7 X 57 Mauser with a more streamline bullet weighing 173 grains at a higher velocity about 2300 FPS so they were able to pick our troops off from distances that were too great for the Krag. At the battle at San Juan Hill about 700 Spanish soldiers inflicted about 1400 casualties on our 15,000 men army. That started a search for a better long range cartridge eventually ending up with the 30-06. The Krag was replaced in 1903 with the 30-03 which was a slightly longer variant of the 30-06. Like all military hardware it was used for a few years after being replaced. By the reserves and for training purposes..

It was the first smokeless sporting round brought out in the US in 1893. Contrary to popular myth the 30-30 wasn't the first smokeless sporting rifle cartridge brought out in the US. The Krag beat it by about 2 years. The Winchester Hi-Wall was the first to adopt it. The Winchester model 95, Remington Lee bolt action and some rolling blocks also adopted it in short order. From 1936 to 1973 there were no rifles offered in this caliber but Ruger offered a single shot rifle for a few years. There was a rimless version loaded by United Metallic cartridge and used in the Blake rifle though it's not common today.

Today there are still some Krags around though they are getting pricey especially originals. Ammo can be found and there is plenty of information for the handloader though caution is the byword. Don't try and make a 30-06 out of it as that won't work very well for you. It is suitable for most large game and can produce great accuracy. The Krag utilizes cast bullet and reduced loads very well. It has one of the smoothest actions around. If you have one by all means shoot it, you won't be sorry.

Bob Shell  
RSSC Historian  
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**Answer:** The 50-70 was introduced in 1866 for various trapdoor rifles and served until 1873 when it was replaced by the 45-70.



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