



The Ricochet

SECRETARY, EDITOR

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2010

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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

www.riosaladosportsmans.com

Pete Carstensen, [Webmaster](#)

We are open every day except New Years Day, Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

President's Report

One just has to look around the green desert and you can tell it is spring already and that means many things are happening around the range. We have already had several large events that have really kept the staff and match directors popping. To keep up, we make sure that our Calendar of Events at www.riosaladosportsmans.com is as accurate and up to date as possible so please check our website often for any last minute changes to matches or events.

The range continues to be in great shape and getting better. The dirt work on the Highpower range should be done by the time you read this as well as the widening of our Sporting Clays trails to accommodate carts. The Junior Division has completed their new Airgun Range inside our Maintenance Facility and plans for its use are being worked out. Thanks to the Arizona Game and Fish Department, we have a new Electric Gate with road sensors so at the end of the day, everyone can exit without a key. Range hours will continue to be 7:00am-5:00pm but we will be offering members access cards for early entrance to setup and socialize as was done with the previous members gate key. There are still some details to work out but in the meantime, the current North Member Gate key will still work until September.

As you will read elsewhere in this edition of the *Ricochet*, we would like to invite you, your family, your workmates, and your friends to come out and enjoy our [Open House](#) on April 24th. It will be a great day to learn about the many aspects of recreational and competitive shooting, try your hand at something you have only heard about, and perhaps even win the grand prize of a Springfield XD Pistol! A special treat will be demonstrations by many time world and national champion **Rob Leatham** as well as Revolver Great **Vic Pickett**. I am also really looking forward to the presentation of Women's Shooting by National Pistol Champions **Kip** and **Debbie** of HerHandgun.Com. Those interested in joining Rio can even save \$25 by signing up at the event!

Y'all come out, Y' Hear!

Pete Carstensen

President

President@RioSaladoSportsmans.com

Got a Question, a Change of Address, email or other Membership Info?
Our Email address is: Office@RioSaladoSportsmans.com

Open House at Rio Salado

Saturday April 24th, Rio Salado Sportsman's Club will be hosting an Open House event. With the exception of the Public Ranges and Sporting Clays, the range will be dedicated to this special event.

The purpose of the Open House is to promote the range and to educate the public and our own members to the wide variety of shooting sports activities that we provide. Each of our divisions will be manning demonstrations of the various sports and competitions and allowing the public to try their hand at each. Guns will be provided and, in most cases, the ammo. For some events there may be a small charge for ammo such as the full-auto division.

This is your chance to show your family, your friends, co-workers, and neighbors why you enjoy your sport so much. Invite all you can to come for this day at the range. It is also your chance to try some of the other sports that you don't normally shoot.

Try your hand at Single Action Shooting Cowboy style, or precision shooting with Hi-power rifles. Tempe SWAT will have one of their Armored vehicles on-site from 9-12:00.

World Champion Rob Leatham and Vic Pickett will be doing a demonstration of hi-speed shooting, along with Ladies Champions Kippi Leatham and Debbi Keehart who will have a presentation geared to women in the shooting sports.

The Open House will start at 9:00 AM and go to 4:00 PM. There will be an area for a swap meet, all you have to do is bring your own tables, and the Scholastic Clays program will be selling food and drinks to raise money for the Scholastic program.

We will have a raffle of a Springfield Armory XD 9mm donated by Rob and Kippi Leatham and Springfield Armory along with various other prizes. The raffle tickets are \$5.00 or 5 for \$20. You do not have to be present to win and you can buy tickets now. See the office. All proceeds will go to help improve the range.

If you are not already a member, or know of someone who isn't and would like to be, here is your chance to save \$25. All New Memberships signed up at the Open House will have the one-time administrative fee waived. This offer is only good at the event on 4/24/10 and does not include online memberships.

Here is your chance to help promote and support your club and it's up to you, our members, to help make this a success. Invite your friends, family, co-workers, neighbors out for a **Day at the Range**. For a complete list of events and more information, please go to www.riosaladosportsmans.com/openhouse

Scott Durkin
Vice President
VP@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.

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Rio Salado Sportsmans Club



OPEN HOUSE



Usery Mountain Shooting Range

April 24, 2010 9 AM - 4PM

3960 N. Usery Pass Rd Mesa, AZ
(480) 984-9610

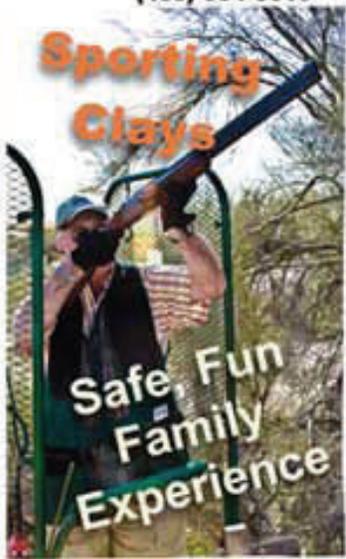
Free
DAY AT THE RANGE

TRY YOUR HAND AT

- ★ USPSA Action Pistol
- ★ .22 Rifles
- ★ Black powder rifles & pistols
- ★ Fully Automatic Firearms
- ★ 1880's Cowboy Posse
- ★ Tuesday Night Steel
- ★ Sporting Clays
- ★ Hawk and Knife Throwing



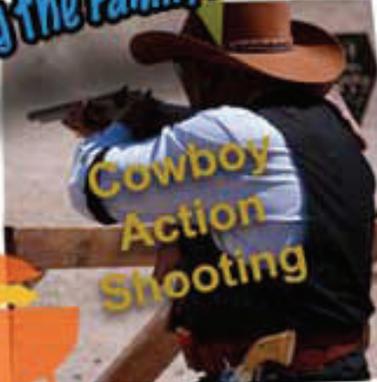
Sporting Clays



Safe, Fun Family Experience

Bring the Family!

Cowboy Action Shooting




Bring your Friends!

Women's Programs



Food, Raffles, Shooting Demos, Fun

EYE PROTECTION IS MANDATORY AT ALL TIMES and hearing protection is highly recommended, Both will be available for a nominal cost. Some events may have a fee to cover the cost of ammo.



For more information visit
www.RioSaladoSportsmans.com

The XO's Column

RSSC is off to a great start for 2010. I do not have any major project news to report at this time. We have done considerable maintenance on the High Power range by restoring some of the berms that have eroded, improving drainage and doing general clean up and grading. Our maintenance crew continues to do a great job in keep our club facilities looking good by just keeping up with painting, and other general maintenance duties. One of our junior shooters helped organize and complete a 5 point Air Gun range in the West end of the maintenance building. It's a very nice addition to our range, with electronic target carriers and excellent lighting. The details for hours of operation and usage are still being worked out.

The winter visitors that regularly come to our club have contributed greatly to our range income and I have received many favorable comments from them on the quality of both our facility and the employees who run it. We certainly appreciate their support.

If you haven't been to the range lately, consider coming out to the Open House on April 24th. It will be great family fun and you will have the opportunity to experience many different shooting disciplines. Look for details on our website.

Terry Abbott
Executive Officer
XO@RioSaladoSportsmans.com

Scattergun Notes

Another issue of the Ricochet means one fourth of 2010 is history and a historic 3 months it was. Even with record rainfall we threw some great shoots and lots of Clay birds met their fate. We hosted the East Valley Friends of the NRA Sporting Clays shoot January 23rd. It was a cool breezy day after several days of rain and all who attended had a great time. Attendance was down but spirits were high and we raised a tidy sum for a great cause. You are each and all members of the NRA aren't you? Our registered sporting clays shoot March 6th had 91 competitors shooting the 100 bird main, and 34 shot the Rio 50. Congratulations to all the class winners and especially Cliff Branch who had the high scores in both events 96 & 47 (I'm going to have to make the targets a little trickier next time.) Once again we lucked out on the weather – it was a beautiful day on Saturday and then rained all the next day.

The Target Terminators, our SCTP (Scholastic Clay Targets Program) shooters, had a great day at the State SCTP Skeet Shoot in Tucson March 20th. The Intermediate Advanced team of Kent Thomas, Steve Fuller and Zach McBee won 1st Place and now another shiny Commissioners Cup resides in the Activity Center Trophy case. Stop in and see 'em. Our Varsity team of Eric Fleming, Chris VanSickle & Chris McBee took 3rd place in their division. All other shooters had a fun time and did a great job of representing the RSSC. Congratulations to all the shooters and coaches! SCTP Trap and Sporting Clays competitions will be held in April so look for more results in the next issue.

Thanks again to all our shooters for using our course and treating it like it is their own. Thanks to all the people behind the scenes – Billy, Terry, Marge, Cheryl, Courtney, James, Andrew, Kyle, Dan & Bob – What a great bunch!

Keep your head on the stock and your eye on the target.

Jim Rasmussen
[Sporting Clays Chief Range Safety Officer](#)

It's that time of year again. Watch out for our little desert creatures. Some Bite!

From the Historian's Pen Dutch Beaumont Rifle

One of the first bolt action rifles introduced it was designed by Messercht a Dutch designer. Originally it was a single shot designed for the 11.3 X 50 cartridge. It replaced the Dutch Snider conversion in 69 caliber, which was in service from 1867 to 1871. The Beaumont was derived from the Chassepot needle rifle, which seemed to inspire other designs of that period as well. One unique feature was that the mainspring is located in the bolt handle rather than in the bolt body. It's reported that it had durability problems and the bolt handle couldn't be bent for carbine use. The spring looks pretty sturdy to me though I haven't shot mine a few thousand times. The Dutch apparently copied the mainspring from the Mauser Norris rifle. The Japanese Murata Meiji 13 and 18 rifles used the same type of mainspring coming out in 1880 and 1885 respectively. The Dutch also had some rolling block rifles that they used for carbines because the spring being in the bolt handle prevented it from being bent. Such a rifle today would be a collector's item if in original shape. The sights were set for a maximum range of 1100 paces about 825 yards. The velocity was rated at 1330 feet per second with the military round quite typical of the period. In 1878 the cartridge was changed to the 11 X 52 rated at 1425 feet per second and took a larger diameter case and a 457 diameter bullet. The maximum range for the newer round was about 1425 yards. The older guns were thus rechambered and reissued. In 1888 it was modified to take a 4 shot single stack magazine and was called the 71/88 Beaumont Vitalli. The Italian Vetterli also used that conversion in some of the later rifles. The problem with this was it was obsolete before it was instituted. In 1888 many countries already were changing to smokeless powder and smaller calibers. It was replaced in 1895 by a Mannlicher in 6.5 X 53 rimmed, which served until WWII. Like many of those black powder guns it saw action for many years after it was obsolete. Home guards and reserve units had those in stock sometimes past WWII.

The cartridge which can be made from a 50-90 case resembles a 45-75, though not interchangeable with, and should be shot with black powder loads. You can use 32 gauge brass to make them but caution should be used as sometimes the bottom will separate which while a pain won't hurt the gun. Needless to say always use safety glasses when shooting this or any older gun. I use a 300 grain cast 458 diameter with complete satisfaction. Like all obsolete guns it's a lot of fun to shoot and is a part of history.

Bob Shell
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