



The Ricochet

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2007

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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.

The President's Column

As we end another year I want to thank all of you who have contributed to making RSSC one of the best shooting ranges in the country. I would also like to ask everyone to remember those that are serving our country. Many of them are far from home and away from their families, who are missing them very much during this holiday season. They are out there protecting us, and the freedoms we enjoy so much.

There is much to do in the coming year. Some improvements to the public range will be finished by the time you read this. Planning for a new maintenance building is under way and following that we will start improvements to the parking area at the public range. The old range office trailer will be removed and an information kiosk will be built. The entire parking area will be reconfigured to open up more parking spaces. More parking area will be created down behind the Sporting Clays range to minimize the crowding in the Training Bays. Numerous other small projects are in the plan that will continue to improve the look and quality of our range.

I am looking forward to another exciting and productive year in 2007. See you on the range.

Terry Abbott
President

The Range Manager's Desk

It's been a great year at the range. New and exciting things have happened. The Main Range bench area was widened. That gives everyone a little more room to maneuver around.

Jim Rasmussen had put together a Sporting Clays League. The turn out was great for such a short notice. We had 24 people sign up. There was a small fee and was paid back per the Lewis Class. Prizes were also donated by Woody Wilson, Jim Rasmussen and Rio Salado Sportsman's Club, Inc.. There were cash prizes, gun bags, caps and shirts, and also sporting clay certificates. It was a little competition and a lot of FUN. That was the name of the game for Jim. FUN.

I want to thank the Staff for all their hard work this past year. I would also like to thank the Board for their guidance.

Have a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Happy Shooting and we'll see you in 2007!

Bill Lagusis
Range Manager

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

Vice President's Corner

Don't you love the middle of winter at Rio! Where else in the country can you find as much shooting opportunities as we have at our desert oasis. We don't need to shut OUR range down and strand hundreds of passengers just because of a little snow! Instead, we have hundreds of shooters coming out to enjoy our various ranges, top notch world class matches, and to meet with their friends for some friendly competition against the backdrop of the Superstition Mountains. Simply Marvelous!

All of this takes lots of work to keep everything running smoothly. Have you been out to the public range lately? New concrete and fencing work has been done which really opens up the area. Have you pointed a shotgun up in the sky on our Sporting Clays Range? Those little birds are on a one-way trip and need to be replenished. The Range now has a new (to us at least) dual-wheeled truck to help us get the palettes of clay pigeons from our supplier. Those little guys are heavy! And shooters and students alike get a break under the new Canopy Shades on the Sporting Clays Range and Training Bays.

We are in the process of adding power and lights to the Training Bays as well as on the Member's Gate. We also hope to have the RSSC sign at the main gate lighted soon. No more missing the entrance as you rush out after a long day of work to relax at Tuesday Night Steel!

Be sure to make plans to come out to the range on April 28th for our **Hospitality Day and Swap Meet**. If you missed last year, you don't want to repeat that mistake again! This year, we will also be setting up tables for a Swap Meet. The event is free but be sure to bring some cash for swap meet as well as the Full Auto Machine Gun Shoot. The ammo ain't free but the smiles while pulling the triggers can't be beat!

The Board works hard each month on all the administrative tasks that are necessary to manage a club with over 2600 members. Some of it is quite boring but we have come a long way to getting everything working smoothly. We have some big projects ahead such as our Maintenance Facility and additional work on our berms and ranges. All members are welcome to come to our monthly Board meeting held the Third Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm in the Activity Center. Help make YOUR club even better!
See you at the Range!

Pete Carstensen
vp@riosaladosportsmans.com

From The Desk of the Chief Instructor

It has been a busy year at the range for training beginning shooters and range personnel. During this last year, we have trained approximately 46 individuals ranging from 8 years old to 79 years old in NRA basic pistol, rifle, and shotgun courses. All courses have been well received and many students have returned to receive other training.

Also, all line officers were certified as NRA Range Safety Officers, as well as receiving training in basic first aid. During this next year, we are planning to certify several of these range safety officers in basic CPR.

I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to all the members and divisions who were so gracious to donate youth rifles, pistols, and shotguns to be used in training classes. Not everyone who attends these classes has a firearm of their own so this will allow them to attend and still be able to shoot.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the instructors who freely gave their time to help teach all the new shooters who attended classes. These selfless individuals received no compensation other than my gratitude and thanks for their assistance. Without their help, these classes would not have happened.

For all those youngsters and adults who receive a new rifle for Christmas, there will be an NRA basic rifle class on January 13 & 14 of 2007. This is a great way to bring in the New Year by safely learning how to use that new rifle. Call 480 924 1551 for reservations.

Hope you had a Merry Christmas, and Have a joyous and safe New Year.

Craig Cox
Chief Instructor

Special Assistant to the President

The 115th Washington's Birthday Match will be held February 17 & 18 at Ben Avery Shooting Range. Check the Web Site; www.geocities.com/washbday?200627 for more information and application forms. Limit of 45 Teams!!! Cost is \$20.00 each. 50 shot 200 yards reduced targets.

John Martin
Special Assistant to the President

Hospitality Day and Swap Meet Saturday, April 28, 2007 10:00am – 3:00pm

Last year, almost 1000 people came out to see what all the noise was about. This year is going to be even bigger since there will be tables where you can buy, sell, or swap that excess stuff from the back of your safe! Yes, it is time to come back out to enjoy a day of fun and activities for the entire family at one of the best outdoor shooting ranges in the country.

Are you interested in learning more about the Shooting Sports in Arizona? Want to find out where you can bring your family for a safe, fun experience and improve your marksmanship skills? Come and join us for a wonderful day of exploring all that Rio Salado Sportsman's Club has to offer. We will have events across the range including the fast paced, *run and gun* of USPSA Action Pistol or the very family friendly (and addictive!) Tuesday Night Steel. We will take you back to the 1880's with the Cowboy Posse or get your adrenaline pumping with some fully automatic machine gun fire with our Full Auto Division. Slow it down a bit and learn how to load a blackpowder rifle or pistol and then try your hand at throwing the hawk and knife. Can you cut the card? Not so easy, huh? Maybe a .22 will be easier but those targets are mighty small! For all these events, we will have equipment you can use or just bring your own. Here is your chance to try something new!

We wouldn't want you to have all the fun yourselves. We will have a number of exhibition events to demonstrate various shooting techniques by some of our own members that have become national or even world champions. They make it easy but it took years of practice and hundreds of thousands of rounds to get there. We will also have a number of community organizations put on demonstrations so stay tuned for details as we fill in the schedule!

There will also be swap meet tables setup to display your excess stuff and pick up that one of a kind piece of equipment you were looking for. If you are interested in exhibiting, please send an email to Pete Carstensen at membership@riosaladosportsmans.com for more details.

The event is open to the public and is FREE. Eye and Ear protection is required for everyone. Bring your own or we will have them for a small charge. There will be activities and information for the entire family. Bring your friends, work associates, and anyone you can think of that might want to see what this shooting thing is all about. Food and drinks will be available.

Come spend *A Day at the Range!* You will have a blast. For more information as the events shape up, check out www.riosaladosportsmans.com/hospitality

Got a Question, a Change of Address or other Membership Info?

Our Email address is: office@riosaladosportsmans.com

USA SHOOTING/NRA/CMP COACH CERTIFICATION SCHOOL AIR RIFLE / SMALLBORE RIFLE

March 3-4, 2007

Date: March 3-4, 2007; 8:00am-5:00pm.

Location: Rio Salado Sportsman's Club

Costs: \$110, Cost includes school, lunch and 3 year appointment fee.

Lunch will probably consist of subs and pizza.

Register: Coarse size is limited, so first registered, first served.

Contact: Mike Costello, 602-550-8305, rifle.coach@cox.net

School Content:

Introduction Teaching Positions

Risk Management Prone Position

History Standing Position

Events Kneeling Position

Rule Book Beginning Mental Training

Equipment Shooting Opportunities

Fundamentals Quality Shooting Programs

Who may attend?

Individuals interested in attending this coach certification school must:

- Be at least 18 years of age for “Appointed Coaches”, 15 years of age for “Junior Trainers”: “Junior Trainers” directly assist NRA Certified Coaches
- Have completed the NRA Basic Rifle Course or be an NRA Certified Instructor or have other related shooting experience (Military, 4-H, American Legion, etc.). Contact me with questions.
- Be interested in learning more about coaching young athletes
- Be one of the first 20 applicants who qualify

Your Instructors:

Mike Costello is a member of the NRA's National Coach Development Staff and is an NRA Certified Advanced Level II International Rifle Coach. Mike coaches at the Rio Salado Sportsman's Club both Small-bore and Air Rifle for the last 8 years.

Craig Johnson is a member of the NRA's National Coach Development Staff and is an NRA Appointed Coach. Craig is also a Level I Coach for the US Biathlon Association. He was a Former Class “C” coach and has been coaching for over 17 years. He was the Head Coach of the Arvada Junior rifle team, during which their juniors set over 28 National Records.

RSSC Board Meeting—Third Wednesday of Each Month in the Activity Center
ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED !!!

The Junior Division

The 2007 Arizona State Junior Olympics Shooting Championships for both Air Rifle and Smallbore Rifle (.22LR) were held the week after Christmas. Both matches were sanctioned by USA Shooting, the Organization that manages shooting sports for the USA Olympic Teams.

Each state conducts Junior Olympic events during November and December. Competitors from each state can then qualify for the USA Shooting Junior National Championships in Colorado Springs based on minimum qualifying scores in their age brackets. There are three age brackets for both Junior men and women: 14 and below, 15-17, and 18-20 years old. At age 21 they begin competing as adults.

Results for Rio Salado Junior Division members at the Arizona Championships are listed below. Based on these events, we expect Tanya Gorin, Christine Costello, and Joyce Kim to receive invitations to the National Championships, and possibly others depending on how scores from the other states work out.

Two long-time members currently have shooting scholarships at major universities: Tanya Gorin is a sophomore at Texas Christian University, and Christine Costello is a freshman at University of Nebraska.

The Junior Division now has 47 members, and we sometimes have up to 30 practicing at once on Thursday nights. So far this year we almost have more new members than we can handle! We can always use more coaches so call Ed at cell 480-694-5090 if you are interested.

Ed Roberts
Director Junior Division

Precision Air Rifle – Women:

1. Tanya Gorin
2. Christine Costello
3. Joyce Kim
4. Carly Drake
5. Kate Sojka

Precision Air Rifle – Men

1. Ryan Roberts
3. Devin Kramer
9. Gage Clark
10. Joseph Virga

Smallbore Rifle – Women:

1. Christine Costello
2. Tanya Gorin
3. Carly Drake
4. Joyce Kim
5. Erika Besthoff
6. Kate Sojka
7. Hannah Virga

Smallbore Rifle – Men:

1. Ryan Roberts
3. Devin Kramer
9. Gage Clark
10. Joseph Virga

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

Pictures from the Tribune



AIMING HIGH: Tanya Gorin, 19, of Mesa, left, and Carly Drake, 17, of Mesa prepare to shoot their air rifles during a meeting of the Rio Juniors Shooting Club at the Rio Salado Sportsman’s Club. JULIO JIMENEZ, TRIBUNE



Gage Clark, 11, of Apache Junction looks through the sights of his air rifle. JULIO JIMENEZ, TRIBUNE

3 Position Smallbore on Tuesday Evenings

Did anybody get a new .22 rimfire rifle as a gift during the holidays? Tuesday evening would be a great time to come out to the range. Try out your new rifle and get it sighted in. Since this is a rimfire only match, you won’t be distracted by the noise and blast of centerfire rifles.

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 as 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 \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for juniors (under 18). Hope to see you there!

Ray Sutyak
3 Position Smallbore

Gift Certificates are available in the office.
We have Family, Individual, Sporting Clays and Daily Certificates. What a great gift!