

RANGE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Range Committee of the BCSA! It is our intention to publish around the first of each month, at least during the months with the most activity on the range. We hope to inform you of the goings on at the range, trends, tips and the occasional need for volunteers.

First, an introduction to the Committee:

Bubba Normandin, Club President

Rags Grenier, Rangemaster

Bruce Klinger, Immediate Past Rangemaster

Phil Tanner, Board of Directors

Ken Allen

Dustin Drew

The sign in the range building will be updated with our contact info in case you need to reach out to us.

First order of business, spring cleanup on Saturday May 13th. Plenty to do, one of our worst winters in a while for debris, damage, winter brass, etc. The 25-yard roof collapsed and needs to be torn down and removed to transfer station. Rotted wood and metal behind the building disposed of also. Brass collected from the ground and sifted. Lay proper base and place donated pavers in front of range building. We need shovels, rakes, a chainsaw, sledges, a tamper, screw guns, gloves, weedwhacker, utility trailers, saws, you get the idea.

Starts at 8 AM for coffee and donuts, picking your assignments and socializing! Work starts at 8:30. Pizza and soft drinks for lunch. Please RSVP Rags at 603-387-2368 for a headcount and tools you can bring!

Porta-Potti is back! April 1st through October 31st. This is generously donated by BOD member Wes Williams of No Limits Motorsports.

Mosquito Squad will start spraying ticks in May. Very successful last year.

Brass collection in 2022 netted approximately \$800+. This pays for cardboard, wood and other needs.

While it is behind us now, we had to lock the gate for mud season. One car got stuck and had to be pulled out. I believe that was the first time in at least 5 years we closed the gate. Range does remain open at these times, you just have to walk in.

Range expansion: we are getting closer, believe it or not! It has been a long time, but there has been work done by Bubba with donated equipment. Being all donated time and equipment, it's tough to coordinate everyone's capabilities.

Building roof: member Gary Cartier (contractor) has measured roof and had a materials list. Once purchased and on property, there will be another work detail to strip off old roof and rebuild with a pitched steel one with an overhang.

That's it for me this month. Bruce has included some helpful tips on accurizing your shooting.

Enjoy,

Rags Grenier

SHOOTING YOUR FIREARM ACCURATELY

A lot of members have purchased a handgun recently, and it may be your first handgun. So, what are the first things to consider when getting comfortable with it and developing good habits.

In my opinion, getting a good solid grip on the firearm should be first. You should be establishing a "good" grip before you draw the firearm out of your holster. Your hand should be as far up on the backstrap of the firearm as possible. This will reduce the movement (recoil) of the firearm as you shoot it. Your "gun hand" should be on the firearm in a manner to allow the tip of your finger to be on the trigger. Too much or too little finger on the trigger will adversely affect your accuracy on target. You should grip the gun about the same as a handshake. Your "support hand" should be placed so the "meat" of your hand (bottom of the palm) is on the grip and your fingers should be wrapped around the front of the gun on top of the fingers of your gun hand and your thumb should be high up and resting on the frame of the firearm (semi auto). The firearm is now in a "vise" between both hands. Too much pressure will cause you to shake, so don't overdo it.

Next is your stance. My opinion on this is the same as a golf swing. You may have something that is not conventional, but if it works for you AND results in you being accurate when shooting, then use it. There are several different stances used by shooters. Two of the most popular are the weaver and the isosceles stances.

The 'Weaver' is popular with police officers as it uses an offset stance that they use when speaking to suspects/victims/citizens. It is basically standing with your feet shoulder width apart, knees slightly bent and your "gun side" bladed away from the person/target. This is done by taking a half step back with your "gun side" foot and you are now angled at the target. When you aim the firearm at the target, your gun arm is extended straight out, and your support arm is slightly bent with your elbow towards the ground.

The Isosceles is basically making a "V" with your arms straight out towards the target. This stance also starts with your feet shoulder width apart and your knees slightly bent. Your arms are straight out from your body with equal pressure on the firearm.

The next two things are both important. They are sight alignment and trigger manipulation. Although they are both critical to accurate shooting, I have always felt that the trigger is the most important. This is because, in my opinion, you could have the perfect sight alignment possible, but if you do not smoothly manipulate the trigger, you will move the gun at the moment of “ignition” and the bullet will go where it wants to go. I use the term trigger manipulation because there are several words that people use to describe this action. Some words are as follows: pull (don’t like it) press, or squeeze. I prefer the word PRESS, because it best describes what I think a shooter should be doing.

You should have the trigger about ½ way between the end of your finger and the 1st joint. Smoothly press the trigger to the rear taking up the “slack” continuing to press the trigger until it reaches the back of the trigger guard and the firearm fires. If you are planning on firing another shot, do not release or take your finger off the trigger. Here is where you use the “trigger reset” feature. Hold the trigger to the rear after the shot. Slowly allow the trigger to go forward until you feel and hear a “click”. DO NOT let the trigger go any further. You now have the trigger reset and you only have to press the trigger ¼ of the distance to fire the next round.

The final part is the sight alignment. Firearms have many different sights and configurations. Most of the newer firearms have what is called a “three dot system”. This is two dots on the rear sight and one on the front sight. The idea is to line the dots up evenly as you aim the firearm. There should be equal space between the dots and they should be even. Instructors refer to this process as “equal height, equal light”. One thing that is critically important is that once you have identified your target, you should not be focusing on it. You should be focusing on the sights, and they should be CRYSTAL CLEAR in your focus. A shooter cannot be accurate if they are looking at the target as the sight alignment is what makes the shot accurate.

I hope that this helps new (and old) shooters to understand and develop good habits when shooting. It is easy to develop your skills with “dry firing”. But it is VERY IMPORTANT to make sure the firearm is empty and safe and there is no live ammo in the area. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Bruce Klinger (707-6398)

I am a 32 year police officer (retired) and I have been an Instructor since 1985. I am a member of the firearms training unit for the Lynnfield (MA) police academy since 1998. I was a board member of the Massachusetts Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor and Armorers Assoc. for 25 years.