



Wealthwood Gun Club 2019 Winter-Spring Newsletter



Letter from the President... "2018 - The Year in Review"

The colder weather has a way of slowing the activities at the gun club so it is a good time to reflect on how the year went. Several bright spots and some not so bright issues came up during the year that we need to address and resolve before Spring Shooting Season is upon us.

The bright spots I think start with the increase in volunteers when help was needed. Machine repairs, signs, electrical problems seem to grow as time goes on and volunteers helped to try to keep the systems working. Many positive comments about the "Golf Course" lawns were brought up; also a clean clubhouse during events like the hunter safety classes and pancake breakfasts.

We still get comments from first time shooters that they were not aware of our shooting facility and what we offer. This tells me that we still need to work harder to get the word out to show what we have to offer. The board of directors is looking at some new ways to publicize the club and promote more shooting customers. If members have some suggestions, please bring your ideas to the attention of a board member and no idea will be left "unturned."

The club financial situation does not look very good after the 2018 year of operation. Shooting revenue is down from 2017, multiple battery replacements due to burglaries, and several machine breakdowns have added up to an issue that the board needs to aggressively address. One issue that is taking priority, is the condition of all three trap machines. They are in need of major maintenance to repair leaking hydraulic fluid and worn out parts that are causing machine malfunctions. The plan is to remove one trap machine at a time and send it to a repair person that does nothing but repair and recondition these machines. The first machine will be removed later this month. As one machine is repaired and returned to service, the next one will be taken out of service, repaired, and returned again, until all three are completed.

The skeet machines need some attention also. The gear grease in the motor drive assembly needs to be removed, clean the gears and put in new grease.

There are some safety issues at the rifle range that need to be addressed. The problems are being investigated now so that when the summer season gets here, the range will be ready.

You may have noticed the new pistol range shelter building is up. The next stage is to install the cement floor, aprons and parking area. There are dedicated funds for some of this work, so there will be more construction work taking place in the spring and early summer.

I hope all members and visitors realize the effort that we are taking to keep the club up to date. Many of the issues have maintenance costs that are more than we can fund this winter and spring. I am making a request of "all" members to make a donation toward the cost of the trap and skeet machine work. The estimated cost is in the range of \$2000. If each member could make a cash donation toward these repairs, all of the work can be completed by April, the start of the shooting season. Please identify your contribution as dedicated for the "Trap and Skeet" fund.



*Figure 1: Pistol Range Shelter is up ...looking good!
Thank you to Grandt Builders for donating the labor
to get this structure up.*

I am looking forward to 2019 as a year that we can turn our financial situation around. With all the members help, I think 2019 looks "Great". Thanks,

-- Bill Fayo - President --

Pistol Range Update: People have been using the pistol range throughout this past summer ever since the berms were put in place. The shelter is now up. Grandt Builders donated their time and labor to construct the shelter last fall. The cement platform and overhead sound insulation will have to wait until spring to be completed. It is starting to look like a very nice addition to the club. (See Figure 1 above right.)

League Warm-up and Recruiting Time: Time passes fast when all of a sudden it's time to get your league team together and find a sponsor. The sooner you get your team together, the easier to start the competition.

Spring Shooter's Meeting will be held at the March Member's meeting.

The General Members meeting will most likely be scheduled for the 3rd Saturday in March. This is due to the annual Sports & Commerce Show in Aitkin on the 2nd weekend. We plan to schedule the Shooter's meeting to follow the General Members meeting. Bring your thoughts and ideas to share at the meeting.

Wealthwood's Website will be overhauled over the next few months; a responsive, new, fresh look with better information for our members will be priority. Start checking it around the end of March. It should be up and running by then. Members should also see more events and activities being planned for 2019.



The photo above pictures the Illinois volunteers with Corinne Drahosh, the club's dining room supervisor

Volunteers: The Board wishes to thank all the volunteers that have given their time and talent this past year to keep the club operating smoothly. Those that helped with all the little fixes and problems including mowing, security, electrical, sporting clay box repairs, toting batteries, and cooking, serving at the pancake breakfasts, teaching firearm safety, working with the high school trap team, and much more. Your volunteerism is very much appreciated.

'Special' Volunteers from Illinois: have been helping with the Thanksgiving Pancake Breakfast for several years now. As this is the only Pancake Breakfast that raises funds just for the club, they are really appreciated. Next Thanksgiving, if they're back, please thank them

personally for their commitment and support.

Firearm Safety Range Days and classroom schedule for this summer:

The consensus of the Safety Instructors is to keep the same schedule that we had over the past several years. The dates will be posted on the DNR site by March 1st. If you know of someone wanting to attend a class or range day, have him or her contact Carol Thaemert to get on a roster. Classes fill quickly; usually by the end of June, all spots are usually taken.

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