



Teller County Shooting Society

"Promoting the shooting sports and the ideals of self-discipline, good sportsmanship, and good citizenship within our community as well as offering our members and their guests a safe and secure shooting sports facility."

2023 – 3rd Quarter Newsletter

2023 TCSS Board

President:	Harold Howell
Vice President:	Jim Dickey
Recording Secretary:	Tom Caddell
Membership Secretary:	Jerry Smith
Treasure:	Khris Myers
Range Manager:	Doc Corder
At-large Director:	Tom Beck
At-large Director:	Lacy Scott

Message from the President

- Hello to all of you, halfway through the year already. As some of you know my personal priority has been to get something at the shotgun range open to the members. Good and bad on that is this: The gravel delivery for filling the field, originally scheduled for July 5, was delayed. The gravel fill was pushed to July 18, 19 and 20. The pouring of the foundations for the trap/skeet houses should happen around that same time. I can live with that after so many years of it getting pushed, and pushed. I am confident.
- As many of you have noticed there is a new walkway on the 100-yard range. This, thanks to the rifle/pistol committee, is to keep the mud in the shoot house to a minimum during the winter months, we had a very good turnout to get this done, thanks to all.
- Let's all get ready for the next project, fixing the 200-yard berm. Those of you that use the 200, 300, and 400-yard range I'm sure have noticed that the membrane is exposed on the 200-yard berm. We have decided to try something, using sandbags to hold the dirt on the berm. Drew Ganter purchased 400 bags to put on the berm but we will need volunteers to come help fill the bags, put them in the back of trucks and stack them on the berm, the more the merrier, so when you see the call on your email please come on up. Our volunteering helps us get funding grants from CPW.

Membership Update

- 2023 membership totals as of the end of June included a total of 357 members. Of those, 216 are primary members, the others are associate members. Beginning August 1 the fee for new memberships is prorated to \$75, be sure to let friends know. We encourage our members to take an active part in helping to promote the club to friends, family, and co-workers. The more members, the better we can maintain, develop, and expand our range facilities.

Treasure Report

- As of June 30, the club's Operating Account has a balance of \$42,626. This includes a \$1,350 membership fee overpayment that was refunded on July 3. The balance compares to \$38,205 as of March 31. As of June 30, our Restricted Account has a balance of \$1262 which compares to the March 31 balance of \$1,187.

All Member General Meeting

- The next all member meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 9 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the Pikes Peak Community Center in Divide. More details will be provided prior to the meeting.

Construction Updates

- **Shotgun Range:** As Harold mentioned in his President's Message, our retaining wall is complete, permitting is done, but due to circumstances completely out of our control the back filling/leveling of the shooting field has pushed back to the end of July. We have also been fighting continual water ingress into our existing traphouse. Volunteers donated/installed new solar panels and a 2nd battery to keep the sump pump running. This seems to have helped. We will have a lot of work to do once the field is leveled including a concrete end-wall in the traphouse stairway to help the water issue, stairway cover, and putting in the shooting positions/pads for trap. Again, when you see the call in your e-mail, please come help.
- **25-yard Range:** The berm repairs/seeding/mats was completed back in January and the range is open again. And we're seeing some grass growing now under the mats for our erosion control. Unfortunately the 25-yard range is quite a bog in wet weather. So in conjunction with the shotgun range we plan on adding some roadbase to the 25-yard range field to help control the mud.
- **100-yard Range:** The 100-yard Range Walkway Project was fully completed in June. Fifteen TCSS volunteers showed up and many worked from 8:00 AM until 3:30 PM to complete the project. 3' wide recycled asphalt walkways were installed behind and the full length of the 25, 50, 75 and 100-yard timber support lines. A 3' wide walkway was built starting at the shooting shed, extending all the way to the 100-yard target line. Each walkway consisted of a base layer of landscape fabric bordered by 8' long landscape timbers secured to the ground. The ground was cleared of rocks and leveled prior to the installation of the walkways.
- **400-yard Range/Fire Mitigation:** In June TCSS Board members met at the range with Teller County Emergency Response representatives. Our goal was to come to a mutual agreement on the necessary steps to allow us to remain fully open on Red Flag Warning Days as well as during Stage 2 Fire Bans. Work required will include an all-weather fire access road to the 400-yard berm, removing rocks from the 200, 300 and 400-yard berms as well as clearing the area around each berm of all fire potential vegetation.

Grant Updates

- **CPW - Shotgun Range Grant:** Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has extended our work period on this grant until the end of this year.
- **CPW - Fire Mitigation Grant:** Includes fire mitigation roads as well as fire mitigation work on the 400-yard range. This grant will expire at the end of 2023.
- **CPW - 2024 25-yard Range Grant:** A total grant award of \$87,500 was received as compared to our original request for \$227,851. The assumed breakdown: We are responsible for spending \$21,875 cash and \$7,291 in in-kind equivalent TCSS volunteer work (~300 hours) of the total with the remainder reimbursable by CPW. The original proposal, which will require some modification, included building a 25-yard shooting shed similar to what's at the 100-yard range.
- **Friends of NRA:** The Friends of the NRA Banquet raised an impressive amount of money. Thanks to all who participated and organized, especially TCSS members Larry Marty, Phil Chase, Harold Howell. We will be preparing a grant application in anticipating of receiving a portion of the proceeds, although that amount is unknown at this time.

Public Days/ RSO

- Our 2023 public Days began on Saturday, May 6 and will run most weekends through the end of October. At the end of this month we will be halfway through our season. 13 of our 39 volunteer RSO's have covered 21 public days and we have had 15 public attendees. And we have had to cancel 3 days due to weather and fire warnings.
- As everybody knows, being open to the public on weekends is a condition of our financial grants that we depend on for maintenance & improvements to our range. And our insurance requires us to have a certified Range Safety Officer on duty for the public days.
- There is so much we would be unable to accomplish if not for our volunteers. We owe a debt of gratitude to those of you who continually step up to help out with our club activities and workdays.

Member Shoots

- Our Monthly Members-Only friendly competitive shooting events continue - don't be shy! Generally three shooting events are conducted. Events are modified from month to month with calibers ranging from .22's to larger caliber rifles and pistols. A \$5 "donation" is asked, with the event winner receiving half the pot and the remaining a donation to TCSS. Targets are provided – bring your own ammo.
- These events take a number of people to assist ranging from event administrators, to RSO's, to bar-b-que cooks. Lunch is provide free of charge with members asked to bring a side dish and their own drinks. We're always looking for suggestions and volunteers for shooting events – let us know.

Range Management

- **General Clean-up:** When you are through with your target stand, please strip your used targets and leave it ready for the next shooter. Please clean up and police your area. Take ownership in leaving your range in a clean and organized condition.
- **Range Safety:** An important reminder that safety is everyone's #1 priority when at the range and the range safety rules should be strictly adhered to. We've had a number of complaints of members handling firearms when the range is cold. As a reminder - Firearms are **NOT to be handled** in any manner when the range is cold. In addition, both the 100 and 400-yard ranges are to be cold at the same time.
- **Range Cold:** A new **orange rope** is now at the 100-yard range and should be used for medium to large groups to ensure everyone stands behind the rope when the range is cold. RSO'S should utilize as a extra step in controlling Cease Fire Line. Members can use as needed as a safety method.
- **ECI's:** When the range is cold, every uncased firearm, those in the racks and on the benches, must have an empty chamber indicator (ECI or chamber flag) inserted into the chamber.
- **Eye/Ear Protection:** A reminder that eye and hearing protection is to be worn by all shooters and spectators when the range is hot. To many reports of members not wearing eye protection.