



The Dead Clay Journal

October 2014

The Official Newsletter of the North Country Sportsman's Club

September, October Meeting Recaps

The September Meeting was attended by Bob Otty, Mike Weaver, Tim Riddle, John Vibber, Mike Pelletier, and Geoff Greene.

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At the September meeting, the minutes of the August meeting were accepted. The financial report was accepted as presented.

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The majority of the topics that have been discussed in recent meetings are covered in articles below. In case you have missed it in recent club communications, Wednesday shooting has concluded for the year. This means that monthly meetings (the first Wednesday of each month) will return to 6:00PM. The first meeting on the winter schedule will be Wednesday 11/5.

We would also like to thank those that helped with the corporate team building event on October 8th, especially Tom Blair, Dennis Bosch, Tim Riddle all of whom helped with instruction. We had a group of about 35 come out. Most were new shooters and everyone had a great time and got to break at least a few clays. This was a great event for the club.

5-Stand Relocation/2012 Grants

Dare I say that there is a light at the end of the tunnel on the 5-Stand relocation project? Since the last newsletter, construction of the structure has been completed (including most finishing touches), electric power has been supplied to the structure and wired throughout, shooting stations have been constructed, and trap houses are nearly complete. Special thanks to Mike Weaver and his company Ten Point Renovations for the construction of the trap houses and management of many of the

project's other finishing touches. We will be discussing the final steps of the project that need to be completed before we can start shooting out of the new structure at the November meeting on Wednesday 11/5 at 6:00. We will need to have a trap swapping party to get the traps into their new houses and implement a new release system. We hope it won't be long before we're shooting out of the new structure!

Status of Fill Project

There has been some progress since the update in the August newsletter regarding the club's appeal of the Williston Development Review Board (DRB) decision that the club was not in compliance with the conditions of our fill permit. As was mentioned in the last newsletter, the process for appealing the DRB decision is through the Environmental Division of the Vermont Superior Court. The club has retained an attorney to handle our appeal. Our appeal with the court has been formally filed and a docket number has been assigned. We do not yet have a court date. When the Town of Williston was notified of our appeal to the Vermont Superior Court, the club was informed that we also needed to appeal back to the DRB. This appeal has taken place and the DRB decided to uphold their previous decision. This most recent DRB decision does not affect the court appeal, so on to the Vermont Superior Court we go. For more details, please contact a board member or attend a club meeting. Meetings occur the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 in the clubhouse.

2015 Club Officers

Geoff Greene has offered to head up the nominating committee for 2015 club officers. The current board has agreed to run again and stay on for at least one more year, if the club membership sees fit. This includes:

President – Bob Otty

Vice President – Mike Weaver

Treasurer – Tim Riddle

Secretary – John Vibber

At Large – Mike Pelletier

Should you wish to throw your hat in the ring for an officer's position please contact Geoff Greene (ggreene@together.net) or a current board member (contact information below). The slate of candidates will be presented at the November meeting on Wednesday 11/5 6:00PM. Voting will take place at the December meeting. We would love to have some new blood on the board, or at least at the monthly meetings.

Trap Camp/ Women on Target

The 2014 Trap Camp and Women on Target programs have successfully wrapped up. These are both great programs that introduce many new shooters to the shotgun sports. This year was no exception with both programs well attended.

We will be applying for 2015 grants so that these programs can be held again next year.

Special thanks to Tom Blair who handles all of the instruction for these programs. Luckily for the club, Tom has offered to instruct both programs again next year, should our grant applications be accepted.

Memberships

It's time to renew your membership for the 2015 calendar year. Memberships purchased now will carry you through the end of 2015. The current price of an annual membership is \$65, and a lifetime membership is \$650. The board will discuss at the November meeting (Wednesday 11/5 6:00PM) whether the price of an annual

membership will increase on January 1, 2015.

Club Management

The location of the new 5-Stand structure will present some unique challenges for management of club. The new structure is somewhat further from the clubhouse, and is mostly out of sight. That means that new people arriving to shoot trap, or trap shooters needing some assistance from the club manager may have difficulty finding help. To address that issue, we may have to restructure the club manager role to focus more on overall club operation and management, and less on pulling 5-Stand targets. With the target relocation and the expected spread of trap machines, there should be no requirement to reload traps during the day, so the focus at the 5-Stand location will be primarily on pulling and scoring. A new all-wireless controller has been ordered. Anyone who is interested in taking on that role on a permanent or on an occasional basis, please contact a club officer. We would love to train a few people on the new equipment!

Telephone and Internet

The club is now creeping inexorably into the 21st Century! It became apparent that we could upgrade our service and have internet access for less money than we had been spending on a very basic phone service. Consequently, we now have wireless internet access at the clubhouse. If you would like to use your WiFi device at the clubhouse, that is now a service included in your membership. Just check the whiteboard in the clubhouse for the security code. This MAY at some point enable us to accept Credit cards (but not just yet). Stay tuned!

Ammunition Prices

With the continually increasing prices of ammo and the somewhat spotty availability in the stores, we have been forced to raise our prices on ammunition. Effective immediately, the club price for ammo is \$9.00 per box for 12 and 20ga, limit of three boxes at time. At \$7.00 per box, we were at the point of losing money. Stocking ammunition is done as a service to members who want to stay and shoot another round, or were unable to buy ammo in advance, but it is not our intent for ammo sales to be a major part of our income. We have neither the storage nor the personnel resources to support substantial ammo sales.