



MDRC NEWS LETTER July 2014

It is hard to believe that this year is half over. Where has the summer gone? As hunting season approaches, I am sure we will see an increase in range use as members come to sight their hunting rifles in. Remember safety first at all times.

Range etiquette. Use the appropriate range and target stands. Place targets high enough that you are not shooting into the range surface. Use chamber flags (open bolt indicators) when the firearm is out of the case or tabled for any length of time, and make sure to notify others before going downrange. We have additional chamber flags available if you need more. Look for chamber flags in all firearms on the firing line before going downrange. When someone is downrange do not pick up or handle your firearm. Finally, leave the range better (cleaner) than it was when you arrived. Pick up your brass, used targets and cardboard. If someone before you left litter, pick it up also. There is a trash barrel inside the bench-house. This is your club, be proud of what we have.

Now a couple unsettling notes on what I covered. When arriving at the range, look for others at the firing line before going downrange. I heard of a member driving downrange to post targets without realizing there was someone already set up and shooting. Luckily that member held his fire until the other person returned to the firing line.

Also, while at the range as the roof was being installed, we discovered where someone had been firing on the high power range at a target set up so the bullets were impacting on the range surface, less than 40 yards downrange. It appears that they had fired an estimated 100 rounds of 9mm digging furrows into the field. The firing line is elevated, when setting up a target that close, you are shooting at a downward angle. The target needs to be raised high enough to have the bullets impact the 100 yard berm. Be aware of your target and what is beyond. **Always set your target up high enough that the bullets will strike in the berm not the range surface.**

Changes are taking place at our club. I hope that what we have accomplished has not caused too much inconvenience to any of you.

We have completed two barrier walls downrange in bays 4 and 5 allowing us to use both of them at our IDPA matches.

Cleaned the ditches along the parking lot and all of the IDPA bays, installed drain pipes in two of the bays and by the bench house.

To enhance the drain pipe we installed last fall bridging the stream. We built head and tail walls with concrete blocks to hold the roadway in place. Frank, Terry and Greg built forms and filled the gap between the blocks with concrete to complete that project.

We erected a clearing station for those coming to IDPA matches, allowing them to safely clear their pistols before getting to our registration area.

Finally, the big project was the installation of a new metal roof on the main building. Gene Wotring, Integrity Builders, LLC and his crew just completed this on July 17th.

I want to thank Frank Cochran, Tom Hlavsa, Greg Smith, Terry Snider and Gene Wotring for the many hours they spent completing these and other projects this year.

Our “To Do” list has shortened, we still need to get:

Raising the berm in the Action Bay and dividing the bay into two separate shooting bays. We are waiting on notification that concrete blocks are available.

The shotgun patterning target set back up.

The range warning system installed.

The indoor backstop repairs and trap refilled with media.

Repairs to the 100 yard hi-power berm. This will be put on hold until spring.

We are becoming more comfortable with our new Web Site and getting more information posted as we go. Libby DeHaan recently set up and installed an event calendar. Thanks Libby. If anyone has a suggestion for ways to improve our site send me an email.

We hope to continue to use this to get information out to you as quickly as possible. By using the site when we need to close the range for downrange work, hopefully it will save you the inconvenience of driving to the range and discovering you can't shoot. Regardless, we will always try to keep the closings as short as possible.

Our next (and final) work detail is Saturday, September 13, 2014. We again have many small jobs that you can complete to satisfy the clubs work requirement. We will start at 10am. Bring your gloves, weed eaters and favorite hand tools.

Make sure that one of the Board Officials signs off on you work detail time, to assure you get credited for that time. If disputes arise you will need to speak with the Board Official in charge of that detail, not the Treasurer.

Stay safe,
Bob Cheslock, President MDRC