



2023 MDRC Newsletter



All,

I hope everyone has enjoyed their time at the range and the shooting activities we offer during the summer.

Evolution Contracting got the landscaping of the Trap field completed and it is looking good. However, there is still much to be done, the pad for the Trap House has been poured by Rising Sun Contracting and a member has agreed to lay the blocks. We didn't get there.

Another project needed completing is the Range Alert System, to warn all other on the range that someone is moving downrange. I hope to see this early spring.

Work Details are a part of range life. It is a must requiring all members to do their part or contribute to the fund to hire workers..

Folks, the last Saturday of each month is the scheduled Work Day. These work days are for you to fulfill your work requirement, not for Tom or I. Twice this year with no workers showed up. If this continues, I will no longer waste my time, Tom's or any other Board member's time sitting at an empty range. We will collect the Waiver Fee or just raise membership by the 200 dollars. I do not want to do this. We could then hire workers or maintenance crews to complete projects as needed. To say I am displeased with turnout is not expressing my true feelings. I have allowed workers to receive the full 8 hours credit even when we finish early on work days, after we complete the scheduled tasks. No more! In the future there will be a starting time listed for each person as they show up and an ending time when that person leaves. If it takes more than one day to complete the work requirement (8 hours), so be it.

Also, anyone showing up to shoot before 6 pm on a scheduled Work Detail Day will be asked to leave. No exceptions! Mark the last Saturday on your Calendar, Smart Phone or Smart Watch. Get in the habit of checking our Web Page. I will try to keep it updated.

I also know that many will decide to show up on match day, late for setup, help score, then leave expecting that time to count as their Work Day. This too may change in the future posting arrival and departure times. One suggestion by a Board member was to let those who help set up and tear down or S.O., shoot the match for free; that time no longer being considered toward the Work Waiver. This would be decided on by the Board later this year and not changed until next year.

Now that I am off that rant we will move on; with the influx of new members, we all need to practice safety. If you see someone/anyone doing an unsafe act. Call it to their attention. They may not realize what they have done. Major infractions should be brought to the attention of any of the Directors or myself. Give us date and time of incident and the person's name if known. Describe what transpired.

Remember the 4 Basic Safety Rules:

1. Treat all guns as if they are loaded.
2. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Never point at anything you are not ready to destroy.
3. Be aware of your target and what is beyond, paper will not stop a bullet. Target frames are not a backstop
4. Keep your finger off the trigger and out of the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot.

When at the range the only safe direction is downrange into the berm, not to either side or toward the parking lot. When you bring the cased gun to the shooting bench, the muzzle should already be pointing downrange before the case is ever opened. Mark your hard case so you know without opening it.

Make sure the 100-yard frames are not in line with your target and your target is mounted high enough for the bullet to strike the berm, not midfield. No shooting at targets laying on the ground, they may be fun to watch them jump or move, but we do not need furrows plowed in the infield as we have had in the past.

Keep your finger outside of the trigger guard when not shooting, a sympathetic muscle retraction can cause a discharge. An accidental slip of the hand, loss of balance or a startled reaction could cause a discharge.

When you hand a handgun or rifle to someone where do you point the muzzle? When taking the pistol, grasp the pistol by the grip, finger outside the trigger guard, inspect it for ammunition yourself while pointing downrange in a safe direction. **Always pass it with the action open.**

Range etiquette. When shooting in the action bays or under one of the canopies, when finished police you brass or at least an equal number of hulls or cartridge cases, ammunition boxes, target paper or anything else you may have brought to the range. Help us keep our house clean.

Remove all paper targets from downrange

Lastly, we have increased the membership and do have a few open positions. If you know anyone interested in joining, please relay this information to them and where to find the forms they need to complete. This spring I am sure we will lose a few members because of the increased Waiver Fee, but it has not changed for many years, that old \$100 fee does not go as far now as it did 10 years ago.

I hope you all got that special gift under the tree and have a safe and healthy new year.

Stay safe,

Bob Cheslock,
President MDRC, Inc.