



## April 2025 MDRC Newsletter

All,

This will be my last newsletter as President. Life does not always give you what you want. Situations have changed and for personal reasons I need to adjust my priorities. I will still do as much as I can for the range, but I will not be able to spend as much time in the future. I will participate in shooting events, but may need to depart early. I will not be able to spend all day at events helping with setup, the match and take down. For that reason, I will resign from the board. When I first took this position, I said I would do it for 5 years, then let someone else could take the lead. Then a very dear friend asked me to continue and several other Directors agreed. You have not been forgotten Frank. I will pay my dues for the 2025 year.

I will reminisce about the range's progress. I would like to touch on improvements made over my tenure as President with the support of the other Directors.

Over the years the Board and I have worked to improve the range, make it better. It started shortly after becoming club president. The creation of the Action Bays. Allowing for practice of both IDPA and Steel every day. Before these bays were added, IDPA practice was only one evening each week. We did not have the steel plates and only one plate rack.

Over the years we also added the entry gate and camera system. The gate was a vast improvement over the old iron mining type gate, requiring the members to exit their vehicle, unlock the padlock concealed on the underside. Then after driving through again exiting, closing and relocking the gate. The card swipe and electric gate were expensive, but a great step forward.

Cameras are not monitored but are used when safety concerns arise. They have been a valuable asset since their installation.

Shooting venues have grown adding the Small-Bore Metallic Silhouette matches to Sporting Clay's, IDPA and Steel Challenge. Then last fall the completion of the Trap House and field.

Additionally, the Mason Dixon Rifle Club Juniors return to the range recently, showing our interest in keeping with the vision of helping younger shooters.

The Range Downrange Alert System has been a long overdue project. The system was originally started many years ago, the director initially in charge passed away and the project was in limbo for years. Thanks to another Director, the project was finally revived and completed.

The one major project that needs completed is the new Club House. The existing building has gone through many changes over the years. Once it contained an operating kitchen. It was removed many years ago. All the windows and one exterior door were blocked up keeping unwanted guests from "shopping" inside.

The old building is so contaminated with lead and mercury that is not healthy to serve food or drink inside of it. To clean it to the government recommended level (EPA) would exceed the cost of replacing it. Both time and money. In the future it could return to being an indoor range for club members. The bullet trap was

upgraded many years ago and would need little to make it functional. Before COVID, the Boy Scouts prepared lunch for the IDPA competitors in the Bench House, another contaminated building.

We have added three metal containers for storage of props and equipment. One downrange for IDPA props, one for the mowers and string trimmers. Some shelving no longer used. The third for metal silhouette targets, both smallbore and standard size. This got a lot of material out of the building.

As we have modernized the range, bringing it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century it only stands to reason to have a new Club House. Contaminant free. There are those against spending money on this project and some have suggested "That it be torn down and sold for "Scrap".

We, the Board, decided to erect the building in steps, as we could afford it. Yes, that will be longer than going in debt and completing it all at once. This building could become a showpiece to the range. Years ago, we offered Concealed Carry Classes, we still have yearly Safety Officer Classes and other firearms related training. Our building is a disgrace not something our range can be proud of. Going to other clubs and seeing their facilities has made not only me, but other Directors ashamed of our "clubhouse"

It is my hope the new President and Directors recognize the need to complete this project.

In closing, I want to thank you, those club members who have come to me thanking me for the work and improvements we have made to the range to make it something to be proud of. And to the Directors that have worked with me to make Mason Dixon Rifle Club a range visitors praise once they visit our facility.

Stay safe,

Bob