



NEWSLETTER

Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:30 p.m.

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The August meeting of the Bloomer rod and Gun Club will be held on Tuesday, August 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse. On line for the August lunch committee are Jeff Steinmetz, Duzzy Carlson, John Schwartz, Francis Yohnk, and Roger Anderson.

Good Grief! August already, dog days are here. August is a very slow news month, so I'm scratching for items to fill the gaps. I have been paging through a couple of magazines that we get at the Club, and I found a few interesting items. A Missouri shooting club (shotgun only) started up 1993. In 2004 a person filed suit claiming the noise was "unbearable". As of 2009 a judgment of \$700,000 stood against the club that went out of business in 2008--in other words, bankrupt. It "ain't over yet", the plaintiffs are trying to find someone to hang the judgment on and have Missouri's range protection laws declared unconstitutional. A range in Florida says, "We have a very large draw, 55000 registered shooters." At a couple of indoor ranges in California, one offers a membership for \$150 with unlimited range time; the other has a fee of \$15 for two hours, or \$240 with no range fees and unlimited time. A couple of things that I get from looking at these magazines and newsletters are that "WE" have

it pretty darned good around here at "our" club grounds and range areas. The bottom line here is this: When you see some careless shooters on the range, as in leaving trash, unsafe shooting, damaging the facilities, call them on it. Be as polite as possible, even though they probably won't be. If "WE" expect to keep the range in open status, "We" need to police our own ranks. Most of the people causing problems are members, and can be removed from the membership list. With that, let there be a "Huge" thank you to the few that work at keeping the place looking as good as possible.

MEMBERSHIPS

If you didn't renew your membership at the fair booth, you can still qualify for the Second Chance drawing if you renew by October 31.

EVENTS FOR AUGUST and SEPTEMBER

There will be **Pistol Practice**, Aug. 14 and Sept. 18 from 10-noon.

A **2-day 3-D Outdoor archery match** will be held Aug. 21-22. Please note the rifle range will be closed for this event.

TOM KNAPP

The next big event will be **Sept. 25, the Tom Knapp** exhibition shoot. This is going to be a lot more elaborate than it was last year. More information will be given at the meeting. Don't forget to get

those tickets sold--\$10 advance. Tickets at the gate will be \$15.

FALL PARTY

The date for the fall party has been set **for Saturday, Dec. 11**. That's the second Saturday in December. Plan ahead. The way time flies these days, it's not that far ahead.

HISTORY LESSON

The "American gun culture" goes back a long way. In the 1630's there were gunsmiths that built and repaired all sorts of guns, both sporting and military. There were family businesses that went on for generations. Some names are still with us--the Henry, Browning, Winchester, Sharps, Remington, and Mausers. Most of these had two areas of work--civilian and military. As time progressed, a lot of military weapons were sold off as surplus. This evolved into the business of "sporterizing" these weapons for hunting and recreation. Early Sharps, Springfields, and others were customized to individual tastes. After WWI, thousands of Mausers, Springfields, and Enfields were turned into custom rifles. Some were very elaborate. After WWII, thousands more were converted. Today the prices of ones that survived untouched are very high. With the coming of the semi autos, fewer were altered as they were still pretty heavy. Then came some other names on the scene--one being a man named Stoner. Some 60 years ago he came up with the AR15, the civilian version of the M16. It is a military look-alike that has evolved into a popular hunting and recreational rifle that is now available in a number of hunting calibers, with untold numbers of custom accessories. Thus a custom rifle can be built from scratch instead of remodeling an old military rifle.