

Sportsman Trails

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From the BGSJ Chaplain



By Rev. Tom Cottingim

I am going to have to buy a shotgun and it is not my fault! Honest. I have tried to avoid it for years now. But now, here I am with no choice, I have to buy one. Not just any shotgun, either. I have to buy a 12 gauge two shooter. And that's not all; I will also have to buy a proper gun case and then there is a cleaning kit. You can't just adapt any old cleaning kit; every gun must have its own. Then there are one or two *more* divisions I will need to join. Since I don't know much about shotguns or shooting shotguns, I probably will have to subscribe to a magazine or two. Man, this is starting to mount up! You can see why I have tried not to do this, can't you? I have done my best not to let this happen. But, as I have already told you, it's not my fault. Actually, I am totally innocent. You see, it was a conspiracy. Let me tell you what happened.

It all started a while back when I went to shoot some pistol with Terry Morgan. All went along innocently enough; we shot some with my 1911, tried out my newly acquired used Glock, then Terry's .40 S&W and one of his Cowboy revolvers. Sounds like just good clean fun doesn't it? I thought so, too. As it turns out, I had been lured into a sinister plot: the first part of a conspiracy. Terry suddenly produced a gorgeous over/under 12 gauge and casually asked, "Why don't you shoot a few rounds through this old thing?" The next thing I knew there were some of those little orange pottery pieces flying through the air and Terry was urging, "Shoot! Shoot! Shoot!" Before I could help myself, I was blasting away. Even worse, I *hit* some of them.

As terrible as this account is, it was only the first part of a diabolical plan. The next part took place a few weeks ago at the Hunter Safety class. I was there taking the class with my oldest grandson. Once again, I was completely innocent. All went well during the range part of the course, that is, until we got to the Trap Range.

There I was, minding my own business, waiting my turn to shoot. I had just taken the well used old autoloader from the shooter who had just finished, when Marc Dacci appeared at my right elbow, shoved a top line Benelli at me, and said, "Here, why don't you shoot my gun?"

Before I could even say, "*get behind me Satan,*" he had snatched the old autoloader, pushed the Benelli in my hand, tossed me a round and nudged me to the firing line. I am sure I heard him chuckling as the first pottery piece flew out in front of me. There I was again, set up! And I managed to hit some of them, too. This is clearly not my fault. I have done my best to avoid this happening. But now I have to buy a shotgun and Morgan and Dacci are to blame.

I tried to explain all this to my wife, Judy, but she just rolled her eyes and mumbled something I couldn't quite make out. I tried to look pitiful and innocent. It didn't work. "So," she finally said, "did Terry or Marc actually force you to shoot?"

"Well... no, if you put it that way," I answered, staring at the floor.

"Did either of them make you *like* shooting their shotguns?"

I tried to think of a clever answer. Nothing.

"So tell me," she demanded, sensing she had me, "What would you tell someone who came to you for pastoral counseling who was trying to justify doing something because they didn't want to look as though they had just given in to temptation?"

I hate it when she does that. But, of course, she is right. Morgan and Dacci didn't make me want a shotgun; I already wanted one. They just added to the temptation. I am the one who has given in to it. Like it, or not, I have to take responsibility for my own actions. Even so, watch out for Morgan and Dacci. See you at the club.

Blessings,
Tom

President's Corner



By Bill Blackburn

Spring is finally here. We have the water-proofing for the clubhouse and are now looking for volunteers to apply it. The block is quite rough and it will require much work to apply adequate covering. Let's get together and make our clubhouse a showplace we can be proud of and at the same time preserve the block. We will need some ladders, but paint buckets, rags, and clean up materials will be furnished. A work day will be scheduled and announced at the meeting on 6 May 2008.

Work on the ranges continues. We are in the process of qualifying range officers. Nineteen people took NRA RO course on 19 April 2008. Thanks to Bob Ball and Bill Manby for their expertise and time in helping us get started.

The Range Committee is hard at work with revisions to range rules, planning safety instructions, and qualifications for each range at BGSL. Please don't confuse Second Amendment rights with the need for safety on our ranges. We are all working to resume normal use of our ranges as soon as possible. It is a large and time consuming project.

Bill

Where's Terry?



Bass Division

Shark's Tale

Well the anticipation is over. The excitement is at hand, and manly men are ready to get out and give it their all Bass season is here, and Tournaments are taking place everywhere. This includes the BGSL.

The first Tournament was held at Dale Hollow on March 15th and 16th. As with all our season starts, along comes a cold front, and what's a cold front's best friend? Rain and lots of it.

We all stayed in cabins at the Wolf River Marina. It was just like the Boy Scouts, cooking out, singing around the campfire, and telling ghost stories. Well we kind of like ghost stories. As for fishing, it was wet but fun. We had a very good turn out, with several new guys in the club. We ended up with 24 participants in all. The fishing was kind of tough, you know, with the wind, rain, thunder and lightning. But real fisherman don't care about that, they just fish on.

This season started just where it left off. Bobby and his partner "Little Buddha" took 1st place. Second place went to Phillip and Big Fish Bob.

Third place was taken by the Shark and Chad, but we had to make them bring it back and give it to the team that really came in third, Allen and Tony. Big Fish honors went to Harold.

I hate not being able to use last names. These guys deserve for you to know who they are.

We would like to relay our condolences to Dave Nentwick who drew number 13 for the take off and blew up his motor on day one. Hang in there Dave; this can only happen so many times.

It took several days to get everything dried out, but we all managed to be ready for Tournament #2 at Barren River Lake. In keeping with the fine tradition of the BGSL Bass Division, this outing was scheduled during the most rain fall recorded since the Noah's Ark thing. It rained so much that Barren Rive Lake came up a total of 9 feet in 48 hours. All I can say is that it is a good thing we were in boats. The good thing is that fish don't care if it rains. We

care, but it can't stop us.

Some people caught no fish and some caught some really great fish. That just goes to show that there are some really good fishermen in our club.

Irv and Eli showed us how to fish in those conditions. Well they showed us the results, not how they did it. They brought in a beautiful bag of fish to win 1st place. Irv still had his bait hidden in his hand, or maybe it was stuck in his hand, I don't know.

Second place went to none other than Bobby and Harold. Of course, Harold made some comment about they could have done better if only his partner had caught a fish, or something to that effect. I don't really want to start anything.

Third place went to Eric and Stuart. Eric is known for his prowess on Barren. The water conditions might have thrown him off his game a little. They still had a nice bag of fish.

I know that I'm not supposed to use last names, but this guy deserves to have his name known by all. Can you say Phillip Brinegar? Phillip broke the Big Fish Pot, that had not been busted for about four or five years. This money goes to the fisherman who catches a fish over 6 pound in a Tournament. Mr. Brinegar brought in a large-mouth that tipped the scales at 6 lbs. 2.4 oz. This not only made Phillip very happy, but gave him Big Fish of the Tournament, broke the Big Fish Pot and made a cool \$1000.00 in his pocket. Phillip is now known as the Happy Fisherman. There were also 28 other not so happy fisherman.

Our next Tournament is at Lake Barkley. This is probably our most anticipated trip of the year. Most of us will be there a couple of days early and there should be lots to report. You can read about it in our next installment, or better still, you can go with us. If you are a BGSL member, just contact anyone in the Bass Division and we will get you set up.

Submitted by: John Lingenfelter
"Shark"

The following document was presented to the April, 2008 BGSL General Meeting participants by the League Treasurer, John Ruland. This document should not be considered as an approved financial plan, but as a discussion paper of the financial issues facing the League resulting from the current safety concerns. The intention is to inform members of on-going progress, with updates as costs and plans develop.

**BLUE GRASS SPORTSMEN'S LEAGUE
FINANCIAL ISSUES
MARCH 2008**

The Operating and Capital budgets for F07-08 are tracking on target and actually projecting an increase in earnings over the fall projection. This is due in large part to League Operations expense management and the Divisions contributing to overhead in insurance, maintenance and utilities.

Another contributor is the aggressive receivables management started in October 2007. This added about 30 days of earlier collections or +/- \$20,000 to the YTD earnings. It is a one time adjustment if collections continue as current, and will not impact future earnings projection.

Financial issues facing the league for the remainder of this fiscal year and forward should be considered in two parts:

Operations income and expense
Capital requirements

OPERATIONS income for the current Fiscal year has been covering expense and investments as detailed in the F007-08 Budget. The impact of recent safety issues and range facility improvement has not been included in the P&L projections for the remainder of this fiscal year. Depending on results of the range safety committee, an amount for range/safety officers will likely have to be included for the next fiscal periods. This would include range improvement, depreciation allowance and increased maintenance.

The above translates into increased earnings for the League to cover the costs described above. Increased earnings should be considered to include a combination of dues increases, special events, creative fund raising in any combination.

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Projecting the increase required is difficult at this time, but if you assume 50K for range officers and 50K for increased maintenance this would translate into about \$22 for each item or a total of \$44 with current yearly dues paying membership. The impact of additional depreciation is not considered as a P&L cost under our current reporting system, but does increase the reserve amount available for major expense and capital investment.

CAPITAL requirements become a major issue considering the range safety improvements likely to result from the Vargas Master Plan and as determined by the Board.

To make some assumptions: (WAG'S)

Vargas Master Plan	38,000
GP Baffles	50,000
Rifle Baffles	50,000 (assume contributions)
Bulls Eye Baffles	50,000
Pistol Baffles	15,000
Total	202,000

What, if any, portion of this amount would be contributed by the Divisions should be considered.

Capital to finance these improvements becomes the major issue. There are various sources, to include the remaining and undedicated tobacco buy-out funds, timber sales, major fund raising through dues and/or other avenues such as dedicated member or organization contributions.

Possible capital available in the next six months:

Timber Harvest 50ac.X1000 per	50,000
Possible additional timber 25ac.	25,000
Loan against Tobacco Buy-out	80,000
Non-dedicated Dupree Funds	70,000
Total	225,000

Some, or all, of the above options should be considered, in addition to special contributions that could reduce the amount of tobacco funds required for the improvements.

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Considering the sensitivity in League membership to dues increases, and loans that encumber the assets, if dues increases were to be considered for operating expenses only, and the improvement capital from the sources mentioned above, none of the fixed assets would be used to guarantee any capital improvement loan.

However, until the Vargas report has been received and recommendations have been reviewed, it is not possible to finalize capital costs to determine if they might exceed the sources mentioned. If this should happen, then other sources of capital will have to be examined, that could include increased dues dedicated to a capital improvement account.

All of the above assumptions will have to be verified by the projections that will flow from Range Safety Committee report and the Vargas Master Plan.

J. Ruland
Treasurer
March, 2008

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