

Sportsman Trails Sportsman Trails

Volume 41 Issue 6

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President's Corner



By Bill Blackburn

We started this fiscal year in September with high hopes. It seemed a balanced budget was a possibility. Big plans were made for more volunteer projects. In February, we were hit with the biggest and most divisive problem to confront us in years. We have been and are continuing to deal with our range problems. There can be no doubt that our ranges will be safer than they have ever been.

We still have projects which must be done and they must be done by volunteers. Our main clubhouse is in disrepair. The concrete block has never been adequately sealed and the tile floors

must be repaired or replaced. We have the materials to waterproof the block, but our volunteer response for "painters" has been poor. Someone told me that "volunteerism was a great idea but it wouldn't work at BGSL." I refuse to believe we can't get our own Main clubhouse waterproofed by members. We will be happy to have you come out for even one hour. We will be starting application on Wednesday 21 May 2008. Please come and help!! We have started a volunteer "call" list. If you can help, please call the office and get on the list. It is essential that we get started while the weather is cooperative.

Bill

Archery News



NASP meets BGSL

By now, most of you know that NASP means National Archery in the Schools Program. BGSL has been instrumental in getting this program instituted in the Kentucky Public School System. What you may not know, is that Archery Division member, Jessi Johnson, has represented BGSL through her school for the last 3 years.

Jessi's team, Anderson County Middle School, proved a competitive force this year on the regional, state and national levels. Jessi shot 220 and over at all the competitions helping her school team take 3rd at the regional level and 13th at the state level. They also competed at the national level.

Jessi is an ambassador for this sport and our club. She has brought other team members to our club for a little extra practice, as well as bringing in other kids and showing them what BGSL has to offer. She helped run the archery station for the Hunter's Education course and provided instruction for adults and kids who hadn't experienced archery before. She takes an active part in our Archery Division activities and meetings, bringing a youthful perspective to our group. If you see her around the club (and you will - it's almost summer break) thank her for her dedication to the outdoor sports and particularly to the BGSL.



Community
Division
Activities
Report
News



Saturday, May 10th, saw plenty of activity at the BGSL Casting Ponds. Amy Yeager and the Women on Target arrived at our station around 10:45 am and spent over an hour trying to best each other on our 5 target course. Some of the women were reluctant to leave the shooting ranges thinking "oh boring" casting. Once there, the competitive spirit emerged and "oh boring" became "I can do it!" Everyone there hit at least one target, many hit more. This sport proved more challenging according to one participant, "There's no scope on this, it makes it much more of a battle between you and the target." We hope to see more of the women utilizing our pools now that they have experienced the fun and frustration that is casting.

Derek Smith, Greg Richardson and the Youth Division arrived at the ponds around 1 pm and really showed what our kids are capable of. Several of the youth were fairly accurate in their casts, showing that a little fishing goes a long way in this sport. A couple of parents even got into the competitive spirit and competed against their kids for bragging rights at home. The weather was perfect and a good day was had by all.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Mike Kass of the Bass Division for helping to rework some of our casting equipment so we could host this event.

Youth Division News



May 10th brought the youth out for a combination casting/air rifle day. We started with lunch at noon and proceeded to the casting ponds from there. The kids were very intent on their competitions with each other, whether it be casting or catching tadpoles. For some of the kids, this was the first time they had been exposed to casting as a sport. Our 5 target range saw many hits during the afternoon by all the kids. It

was the perfect day, great weather and lots of laughter.

After getting the fidgets out with casting, the group proceeded to the air rifle range. Steve Cox and his group were very generous in providing instruction, equipment, ammo and targets for the kids. This proved to be great fun for the kids and adults and put a different perception on "shooting sports". Comments from the kids ranged from - "I'm going to get that fox" to "Hey, there's no kick with this gun" to "Can we stay longer"...

All in all, the day was a great success. Remember these events are open to the public and there is no charge to participate. Hope to see you all at Family Fun Days - June 6th, 7th & 8th!





Morgan's Meanderings

By Terry Morgan

Observations and Random Thoughts

My wife finds it very difficult to get out of the house and around so she spends a lot of her time sitting in a lounge chair and watching "entertainment news". I feel sorry for her because this kind of inactivity would drive me nuts. As a consolation to her semi-confinement she always asks me the same question when I come back from anywhere: "what did you find exciting out there"? or "what kind of excitement did you get into"? Invariably my answer is something like: "Oh! Nothing at all". Maybe I saw "someone at the grocery store" or some boring response such as that. Part of this lack of interesting response is because nothing ever happens to me. Another part of this response is that what I might find interesting or exciting, she has no interest in. How would it sound if I said "I saw two hen turkeys walking down the middle of the road by Billy Carson's". She would say, "that's nice" and turn up the TV a little bit louder. Her response is governed by whether or not the information I provide can be turned into some kind of gossip that can be discussed at length on the telephone. Well, I felt I had to give you that background in preparation for what is to come. A series of small, totally unconnected (at the time of observance) happenings turns into a humorous observation for me. Please don't write to me and tell

me you find nothing funny or interesting about this happening because it won't make any difference. It just made my day and that is all there is to it.

Last Tuesday was the May BGSL club meeting. I meandered over there a few minutes early in order to get in a little BSing before the meeting started and latch onto a cup of coffee to stimulate me throughout the evening. As I walked up the front side walk, I encountered my Skeet Division President and fellow Director-At-Large, Fred Foster. Fred had a bench tightly pinned to the ground and was enjoyed the evening freshness. After a brief greeting and repartee another group of individuals started gathering round to practice the art of prevarication if possible. As we were all vying for position to try to be the last liar, Pistol Division President, Mike Foley, came sauntering out of the front door. He had a nice Nikon D40 draped around his neck with a vibration reduction zoom lens attached and it was obvious from the start that he was up to no good. When Mike is equipped with other than a handgun, he is automatically up to no good. That is just a given. It would not be until later that I would gather the enormity of situation. Pretty soon, someone yelled out the door and told us to get our heinies inside so the meeting could get started.

After the preliminaries were over and reports given, the President (his name is Blackburn or

something like that) surrendered the microphone to Mike Foley, who had come to the front of the room. I assumed that we were going to get some kind of tirade about the pistol pits. But no. It was not to be. He immediately started laying out the basis for an award that the Pistol Division was going to give and the lauds were pretty powerful. Well, it turns out that the laudée was to be Brandon Ironmonger. I cannot remember all of the gracious things that Mike said about Brandon but I can tell you that Brandon earned everyone of them and more.

If you don't know Brandon, you ought to make it a point to get to know him. He is one of the most pleasant and affable fellows you can find anywhere. This guy wears a constant smile of welcome even when he is being mad about something. You can recognize Brandon most anywhere if you will first look for a very substantial person. Think of me as being akin to a quad cab, short wheelbase pick up truck: think of Brandon as a tri axle straight bed gravel hauler with bogie wheels hung underneath. DO NOT be in his path when he starts forward. As I stated earlier, I am not aware of the reasons that the Pistol Division decided to award Brandon this plaque but he is deserving of anything they decide to give him. He works very hard on the Training Committee and has put in an enormous amount of time into trying to get the ranges back into operation. In

More Meandering on Page 8



From the BGSL Chaplain

By Rev. Tom Cottingim

Recently, I wrote an article for the newsletter with some thoughts on how to admit having hurt someone and how to ask for forgiveness. Seeking forgiveness from others and from God is essential to having peace in our lives. But, seeking forgiveness is only part of what is needed. If we are to be forgiven, the offended party must be willing to grant it. That brings us to the other side of the coin: forgiving others.

In my opinion, forgiving is usually more difficult than asking for forgiveness. But, as a Christian, and as a mature person, it is something I must do. Not only is it required of me, it is tied to how I am forgiven. If you are familiar with the *Lord's Prayer*, you know we are to ask God to forgive us of our debts, *as we forgive our debtors*. This means we should forgive the same way we are forgiven; but it can also limit how well we are forgiven by how well we forgive. If I want forgiveness, I must be willing to forgive.

When God forgives, He wipes our slate clean of the offense as though it never happened and restores our relationship fully. I don't know about you, but I have had some difficulty doing that part. It is one thing to forgive, that is, to pardon; to renounce anger and resentment; but quite another to forget. If someone attacks you and cuts off your arm, you can forgive, but you will always be reminded by the missing arm. So, what can we do?

Let's start with the forgiving part. To put it simply, our ability to forgive comes out of our need to be forgiven. No one is perfect. Let me

make that personal: I am not perfect; I fail in my relationship with God and must repent and ask to be forgiven; I fail in my relationships with others and must repent and ask to be forgiven. Having recognized that I am, in essence, no different than those who have hurt me, I am compelled by my own need of forgiveness to grant it to them. Forgiving others is really for my own benefit, then. Just like seeking forgiveness, granting it brings me peace.

People often ask if they must forgive someone who has not repented and asked for forgiveness. Indeed, God wants our repentance (literally, to turn and go in the opposite direction) first. But, God is waiting anxiously for us to come to Him. It is as though he has the forgiveness ready in His hand to give to us. That, I believe, is exactly what we should do: have our hearts prepared beforehand to forgive. In effect, we go ahead and forgive them in advance.

Only then is it possible to work toward restoring the relationship with the other person. That may be much harder to do, but since that is what God does, we must strive to do so. God is a whole lot better at all of this than are we; and how well the relationship can be mended will also depend on the other person.

Is there someone you need to forgive? Are you ready? I hope you will consider what I have presented here. If you need to know more, there is a book called, *Is Human Forgiveness Possible?*, by John Patton, Abingdon Press, Nashville, ISBN 0-687-19704-X. See you at the club.

Blessings,

Tom

Letter to the Editor

May 22, 2008

To: BGSL Members

Re: Shotgun Merit Badge for Boy Scouts

I was contacted today regarding helping the Blue Grass Council of the Boy Scouts secure some additional shotguns for use at summer camp. Many of you probably spent a few summers at Camp McKee and have fond memories of the time. Scouting is a strong supporter of the shooting sports and shooting clay targets at McKee has become an especially popular event. The Council has a Wobble Trap at McKee and several shotguns. However, they need some lighter guns for the smaller boys. One each youth model Mossberg semi-automatic 20 gauges and 12 gauge as well as an adult model of each would fill the bill.

Before anyone responds pointing out those semi-autos in the hands of youngsters is not a good idea, I have already done it. The range officer at Camp McKee is also fully aware. However, the semi-auto is the lightest; only one shell is loaded at a time and only with an adult leader supervising.

If you can help please contact Bill Montgomery, Summer Camp Director, at 859-983-8110 or email Bill at: wmontgom@bsamail.org

Very truly yours,

Boone Logan
Skeet & Sporting Clays Division Member

Morgan's Meanderings

addition to the plaque, they gave him a very nice shooting bag (which I later tried to fondle a bit but Brandon's small daughter caught me and let me know that it belonged to her Daddy).

Now, we all are pretty familiar with how these things work. First, the presentation buildup, then the actual presentation and then the picture taking. Here is where it got to be like a miniature Buster Keaton movie. As is the usual case, Mike had commandeered the closest volunteer to take the pictures of himself and Brandon. This volunteer turns out to be Tom Tryon. Now Tom is also an affable fellow and quite willing to give his Division President a helping hand. It was obvious that Tom needed to be filled in on which button to push and to say "cheese" before he actually took the picture. Mike hands Tryon the camera, says "here; this camera is fully automatic, just push this button" and assumes all will be well. Now let me depart slightly from the theme for a minute to set up this picture. I am sure all of you know that when you see kids wearing their ball caps backwards or sideways that they are trying to look cool. Why do they think they will look cool? Because when we paparazzi take pictures we turn our caps around backwards so that the bill of the cap will not interfere with the camera functions. This really looks cool because photographers are automatically cool. Another theme that ought to be remembered here is that your mother always taught you to take off your cap in the house. Now poor old Tom did not abide by either of these mandates and every time he brought the camera up to his eye to take the picture, the bill of his cap kept pushing the automatically raising flash back down and that action disconnected the automation of the camera. Let this be a lesson to you. *To look cool and take good pictures at the same time you must wear your ball cap backwards; but not if you are in the house.*



REALLY COOL PAPARAZZI



TOTALLY UNCOOL PAPARAZZI

You will notice in the picture above left that the super cool profile of the professional photographer begs to be Emulated by all young people because they also wish to be really cool. In the picture, above right, the bill of the Uncool photographer is pushing down on the pop-up flash unit of the camera, thereby disabling the automation Of the camera.

On another note: Many of you may not know that Pat Barbera is the editor of our newsletter. Well, now you know. What would you think about me if I said to you that I thought Pat was cute? After giving me a sideways glance and quickly backing up about three feet you would probably start trying to formulate a question to find out what I was all about. Well, I will come right out and say it: I think that Pat Barbera is getting pretty cute. Let me put your mind at ease right about now. Here is how the Merriam-Webster Dictionary de-

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finer cute: *1 a: clever or shrewd often in an underhanded manner b: impertinent, smart-alecky <don't get cute with me>*. Now placed in this context, let me explain why I say this. I missed a deadline for the May newsletter and editor Barbera had to fill in space so he concocted a plan to punish me for causing him this pain and he put a price on my head and had people trying to figure out what I looked like and counting my pictures. On the other hand, I probably should not complain. It was a pretty crafty way out of a dilemma. Let me add to that Merriam-Webster definition. Pat Barbera is a crafty rascal. By the way, the photographer in the pictures above is Pat Barbera. I will leave it to your interpretation if you think he is cute or not.

I am certainly glad I do not have Tom Cottingim's job. In case you don't recognize the name, Tom is our club Chaplain. He is also a practicing pastor of a church. His job consists largely of ministering to people through many ways, including a Sunday preaching job. I'll be honest with you; I don't particularly desire to be preached to (even though I might need it and benefit from it) and I have a strong feeling that you, as a club member, feel much the same way. What follows is not an attempt at preaching but is a revelation about attitude that I feel is necessary to bring up during our club's foregoing "crisis" situation with the ranges.

This is a "Tale of Two Cities" sort of thing. You know; kinda the "we are the best and we are the worst" story. It lends itself to our situation, not only because it has already reared its head in meetings and decision making but because it is evident in our daily news about our politics and our current public officials. I feel it is important to relate this story because it has to do with the club that you and I both belong to and how we participate in its everyday existence.

If you have been keeping up with these newsletters, you have been plied with information about the new "Tubes" on the General Purpose Range and other efforts being made to bring about a restoration of the range facilities at the club and to try to minimize your inconvenience, especially with warm weather events and activities coming along on the calendar at a high rate of speed.

To get to the heart of the matter, I must tell you that several club members have been volunteering their time to function in many different capacities to make available a cadre of Range Safety Officers that can man the GP range during its open hours to, at least, have a place to go to shoot a rifle when no particular organized event is being held. As one of those volunteers, I have had the opportunity to witness some of this "best" and "worst" situations and, quite honestly, I was quite surprised at what I saw.

Scene One:

Some other guys and I were standing around doing the "bs" thing when a car pulled up to the range and stopped. It contained a man, a woman and a pet dog. The man got out (I am going to call him HE from now on) and carried his cased gun to the range apron and the woman (I will refer to her as SHE from now on) drove off with the doggie. The young man (everybody is young to me) chose an open bench in front of one of the new "tubes" and proceeded to uncase his gun and ammo and other paraphernalia. While he was setting up he made a few comments about the tubes and that he did not like the idea too much and we agreed with him but reiterated that this was the best we could do on short notice and we hoped that we did not have to put up with these tubes for too long because we are going to get to work on a better solution as soon as we get the pistol shed finished. He set up his spotting scope on a tripod near the door to the target section of the range and took up his position at the bench after having read the new rules of operation for the tube range. He got back up after checking his gun for safety considerations and obtained a target stand, mounted a piece of cardboard from the stack on one of the benches and proceeded to staple four targets to the cardboard. After waiting for another shooter who was utilizing

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the other tube to finish his current course of fire, we got an “all clear”, shut the tube doors, turned on the Klaxon horn and lights, announced a “cold range” and sent HE down range to post his target frame at the 50 yard position. After he returned and the range was “made hot” HE made sure he had the muzzle of his rifle inside the tube and proceeded to load his rifle with his clip in preparation for his course of fire. I might add that the rifle was brand new and never fired by HE before.

It was one of the new “black” rifles and I believe it as an AR-10 type of gun. It was equipped with iron sights (peep rear, post front). He fired five rounds down range and all of them hit paper, which was pleasing in itself. After making a few mental adjustments and rethinking his procedure he fired five more rounds and started making a group that was quite respectable under the circumstances. After making his gun safe, he proceeded to raise his front sight because the shots were centered on the bull but low. After he made his sight adjustment his next course of fire started showing up in the bull. HE was clearly pleased with the performance of his new gun and how easily it was brought into the bull zone despite having to fool around with shooting through a darned old tube and having to suffer all that reverberation and inconvenience.

In the meantime his neighbor on the next tube was doing quite well also with his new AR-

10 and a bolt action rifle he had brought along. The neighbor was not doing well at all with a new (1942) Garand he had purchased that appeared to have a bent firing pin because it was missing the primer completely. In both shooters we saw a pair of men having a reasonably good time with their guns and doing exactly what they had come there to do; test their new purchases and find out where they stood with them.

About this time the neighbor decided to fold his tent and depart the scene after picking up his brass and retrieving his target frame. Coincident with that action, SHE pulled into the parking lot and came striding over to the range, already equipped with her eye and ear protection and a big smile as if she had enjoyed whatever SHE had been doing before SHE arrived. After some conversation issued between HE and SHE, the AR was slightly repositioned on the bench because SHE was going to try a shot or two on the new gun and as I understand it, SHE had never shot a rifle before. SHE was a left hand shooter and settled right in without a hitch to take her shots.

In the meantime, we who were not shooting were back working zealously on our “bs” and stories of questionable background when we heard someone calling to us to come and look at something . It turns out that the first shot SHE took had made an almost perfect center bull shot that would put any

other shooter to shame. (Quick Refresher: new first time rifle shooter shooting through a reverberating tube). SHE took two or three more shots and even though they were not centered, they were in the bull. Shortly thereafter, amidst some teasing, giggles, smiles, congratulations and pleasant conversation, HE and SHE packed up and departed the scene in a happy frame of mind.

Scene Two:

Another shooter arrives on the scene with another AR-10 but it is equipped with a bi-pod, optical sight and I don't know what 'all. Before he does anything else he starts berating the stupid design of the tubes and what kind of idiots would put up such an array to cause their members such pain. We explained the new rules of use on the tube range and all we got back was a tirade about how it was impossible to use and he just could not function properly in this frame of use. After a few expletives and general abusive language to the air surrounding the area he jerked up his rifle and in his rage, proceeded to cover everyone on the range as well as in the parking lot with his rifle muzzle, all the while complaining bitterly about how he was being misused and abused and he would take his business elsewhere.

Now, I have known people like this before and fortunately they are in a minor category as compared to others but this tirade of

Morgan's Meanderings

rage and impatience was coming from a professional man who you would think would have better control of himself and a better frame of mind to handle occasions like this. I can only say, that I pity those people who have him as their physician and have to leave important, life sensitive decisions to a man like that with the bedside manner of a wounded bear. As he again demonstrated his rage by spinning his tires in the parking lot, showering parked cars with a spray of gravel and raising a great cloud of dust, we all breathed a sigh of relief and hoped he would break an axle on the way home. I hate to say it, but this is the type of person who would be more than likely the guy who let accidental rounds loose into the sky and got us in this pickle in the first place. I have had

other reports that he has proven in past events to not be the worlds best and safest gun handler. I, for one, would be glad to vote for his termination of membership if I had a chance. This is one of the reasons we feel we have to post RSOs at the ranges for use other than supervised events where closely controlled firing situations are being monitored by a safety officer all the time.

I bring you this little pair of by-plays because it points out some of the problems we have to deal with at the club and how an attitude adjustment could help us quite a bit in dealing with the issues that arise. I am not saying that everyone should agree with me on everything, but I am saying that some temperance and cooperation goes a long way towards making an

unpleasant situation bearable for a short period of time rather than unbearable for an extended length of time.

If you have a rifle you want to test come out to the club and try it. These tubes are certainly not the answer to your prayers but with a little attitude adjustment they do work fine and are safe when used properly. If I was a competition shooter, I can tell you right up front that I would not like these tubes, but they were not meant for competition shooting. They were meant to give you a place to fire your rifle in a safe situation until we can finish up a better solution. Try to have a nice day even though you don't want to.

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