

Bullseye Newsletter

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AGAWAM REVOLVER CLUB, INC.



In this Issue...

- New Developments
- Safety
- Useful Information

Welcome, to the 2012 Bullseye.

This is Your Club

Your club is a non-profit corporation, member-owned, with a volunteer Board of Directors, which includes all club officers. Although we hire outside firms for most of the services that we require, such as cleaning, trap maintenance and our recent range expansions, there is always an opportunity to volunteer your time to assist with the operation of the club. If you have an idea that you think would make the club more efficient or safer, please contact one of the board members.

Developments This Year

This has been a very busy year. All lighting was upgraded inside and outside the building. Indoor range opportunities are being expanded. An AED has been installed. We have lots of new members and as a result safety is the top concern of your Board of Directors.

Finishing touches are still being added to the 100 yard range expansion.



And, the biggest news of all, and the largest expense, an additional indoor

trap system is in the process of being installed, with associated installations of additional lighting, doors, ceiling baffles, target carriers, electronic key access and ventilation. This new range is pretty



exciting, since it will double the number of indoor shooting ports in order to handle peak usage periods (especially Winter evenings and weekends) and will also help with special events such as training and leagues.



What has funded the expenditure of money for developments, is the dramatic increase in the number of club members. We now have over 1000 members, with 183 new members last year and over 250 new members this year. With a lot of new members, comes additional safety concerns.



Safety

The rest of this newsletter is focused on SAFETY.

AED

An AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) has been installed in the club room.

This device has saved lives by starting a heart that had stopped and is now installed in many public places. The box is alarmed, but you still MUST call 911 when it is deployed.



May 2012 Range Cleanup

Range Cleanup for Safety

In May, we had the first volunteer cleanup in a very long time. The cleanup was a success and many items were addressed. All rocks were removed from the outdoor ranges. The edges of the road, parking lot, and ranges, (that were impacted by the October 29, 2011 storm), were all expertly cleared. Other items that were addressed were general cleanup of the grounds, replacement of light bulbs, and cleanup of our right side indoor range area in preparation for the addition of a new trap system.

Safety on Our Ranges

From the Chairman of our Cleanup Committee:

We would like to thank all the volunteers that turned out for the cleanup effort that was completed on Saturday, May 19. It was a great success, accomplishing the intended goals of cleaning the ranges and making it a safe for all to enjoy. The positive attitudes and willingness

to do what needed to be done made for a speedy outcome and a shortened anticipated range closure. The cleanup email address cleanup@AgawamRevolverClub.com will remain in service for cleanup/maintenance issues. Thank you to everyone again, and lets work together to keep the ranges and clubhouse clean and safe.

Marty

Our Club Bylaws, Range Rules, and Frequently Asked Questions are all posted on our web site. New members are given a brochure with common sense information and the range rules. But, with so many new members, it is important that everyone know the rules so that we can assist new members and everybody stays safe.

Outdoor Range Safety

Bullets must impact the backstop on the range you are shooting. Not following this basic rule endangers individuals on other ranges and individuals not on our property such as hunters, hikers and golfers. Our ranges are designed for horizontal shooting into the backstops, with the bullet impacting the backstop at the same height it was fired from. Do not shoot at any target that is not horizontal. Do not put targets on top of any backstop.

In any hunting, target shooting or even defensive shooting situation, you are responsible for the path of the bullet you fire. All shooting on our ranges must be done so that your bullet hits the appropriate backstop. Shooting at rocks, irregular shaped objects, or objects that are likely to send the bullet in an undesirable or unknown direction is not appropriate for any of our ranges.

Do not climb on the backstops. This may put you in line-of-sight of firing positions on other ranges and as a result is not safe.

Shooting at items other than traditional targets can be dangerous. In the last year we have found propane tanks, computers, toasters, a power washer, aircraft window, computer hard drives, television, automotive brake disk rotors. Someone even shot and left a compact refrigerator on the range. Shooting non-traditional targets can be VERY dangerous, makes a mess of the range, and costs the club disposal fees. Do not shoot at items that may cause bullets to ricochet back at you, a bystander or something else like an automobile. Please do not shoot at rocks or bring rocks onto the range. If you want to shoot at something liquid or vegetable on the outside range, clean up after yourself. Please take home what you bring to the range.

If you want to shoot at a target that will be close to you, select a shorter range. If you wish to shoot something on the ground, remember that the 'angle of incidence is equal to the angle of reflection.' The reflected bullet must hit the backstop on that range.

You must supply your own target holders. More infor-

mation is on our web site in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).

This left-most outdoor range has a restriction regarding center-fire rifles. The reason for this restriction is the closeness of our property line to the left edge of that range.

Indoor Range Safety

The indoor range is posted with signs indicating what types of firearms and handgun calibers (in handguns) are allowed. No drawing from the holster is permitted on the indoor range, unless part of a sanctioned event where the shooters are in front of the ports. This restriction is to prevent shooting holes in the port shelves. No rifles are allowed, except .22 LR caliber. This ensures that we stay within the rating of our trap system.

The indoor range has a minimum target distance of 25 feet. This is clearly marked on the walls and floor by yellow tape. When a target is shot closer than 25 feet, there is a good chance that the bullets are hitting the ceiling baffles, instead of the trap system funnel where it is supposed to be.

Look at the picture below.



The closest target is too close. If you look 'through' the target bullseye, you can see that the bullets would hit the ceiling baffles instead of entering the trap system 'funnel'. This target is not safe to shoot at and may cause unintended damage.

Please always place your

target out beyond the 25 foot yellow line.

Also note that the indoor range is restricted to paper targets, that that must be positioned to line up the bullet trajectory with the trap funnel.

From our Treasurer on the Subject of Safety:

The issue of safety works two ways. We not only want to insure the safety of our club members when they are using the facility, but also ensure the safety of the property itself. To this effect, the Agawam Revolver Club spends thousands of dollars every year implementing safety measures. From signage that requires eye and ear protection be used whenever on the range, to installing cameras to guard against malicious damage. Although the basic rules of safety seem to be elementary at best, rarely does a month go by when there isn't a breach in safety by one of our members. Whether it be someone shooting the dumpster or being careless with muzzle direction, one person's breach of safety has an effect on every member of the club. All of the members are the eyes and ears for our club. If you see something or someone infringing on your personal safety or the safety of the club, please let us know.

Cindy

Other Useful Information

MA Gun Laws (We don't want you to lose your FID, LTC, or the ability to obtain one, because of inaction on your part.)

Firearms Identification Card (FID) Expiration

Several people have recently mentioned that they thought their MA FID was good for 'life', since it is stamped 'valid until suspended or revoked'. All the FID's marked that way expired in 1999 & 2000, and must be renewed.

LTC or FID Change of Address

If you have an LTC or FID, a change of address must be reported to 'the proper authorities' within 30 days, or you risk the loss of your LTC or FID. Check the GOAL web site for the details:

<http://www.goal.org/masslawpages/moving.html> .

On-time Renewals

This year, 72 members did not pay their 2012 dues until after February 1st. As a result, access with their key was disabled. Late payments cause extra work to disable/re-enable keys, emails, calls and tracking of the restoration progress. This causes a delay between the time late dues are paid and the restoration of key access. This does not happen if member dues are paid on time. Attempted use of a disabled key creates a need to contact the previous member. Please renew on time.

For your convenience and that of your volunteer Board of Directors, on-line renewals will continue to be available. Although notices will be going out as usual on December 1st, membership renewals will be accepted at any time. New 2013 membership cards will be sent after January 1, 2013.

Email Addresses

We have email addresses for over 800 of our over 1000 members and this provides a powerful vehicle to quickly contact members at low cost. Many members have requested that we send to multiple email addresses (work and home or husband and wife) which enhances timely delivery of important communications from the club.

If we don't have an email address for you, or if you would like to add another email address, just send an email to the Secretary Secretary@AgawamRevolverClub.com.

Who Can Use Our Club?

This question is asked on a regular basis. All of our memberships are family memberships. This includes the shareholder, their spouse/domestic partner and their children 12-21 years of age. Any use of the range by children or guests requires direct supervision by the shareholder or spouse/domestic partner. Under no circumstances should a guest or child be at the range unsupervised. This is in direct violation of or club rules and therefore increases our liability.

What are the Hours of Operation?

Sunset means 'sunset', not 'dark'. Club hours are clearly posted on the gate and in the range rules on the web. The hours have not changed. For your safety, please limit your shooting to these hours. The only exception is training approved by the Board of Directors. Members who access the club property outside of posted hours may be contacted by the club Secretary.

Frequently Asked Questions

Our web site has the answers to most questions. Please check there for answers before requesting information.

One Last Note on Safety

Our facility is in the middle of the woods. Deer, bear, turkeys, red-tail hawks and coyotes are all seen on our ranges on a regular basis. Please be safe and just let the wildlife pass through the range. As our club President says, "They are all club life members."



If this newsletter has generated questions that are not answered in our FAQ's, please send an email to the appropriate board member, as shown on the Contacts page on our web site.

Thank you.

Secretary
Agawam Revolver Club, Inc.
PO Box 502
Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0502

Secretary@AgawamRevolverClub.com