

Bullseye Newsletter

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AGAWAM REVOLVER CLUB, INC.

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Welcome, to the 2014 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 your board members.

Membership News

The biggest news is that your club now has over 1400 members. The growth this year has been slow, vs. the fast growth of last year.

Our new indoor range is being used now for firearms training classes and is open to the membership for overflow during peak periods. Hours are posted and are being adjusted Summer to Winter as needed.

Safety

Our range rules state that eye and ear protection must be worn on our ranges. For the proper protection of your eyes, glasses rated as ANSI Z87 Certified are recommended. If your glasses meet this specification, 'Z87' or 'Z87+' will be printed somewhere on your glasses frame or temple.

Since our ranges are not monitored, members are responsible for themselves and their guests to ensure that everyone is wearing appropriate eye and ear protection when on any range, including ALL those on the range, not just while shooting.

Any shooting range is full of eye hazards. They are unavoidable.

A bullet could strike a target frame and ricochet, a fired case can be ejected right into your face, or bounce off a booth wall. There could be a mechanical failure of the firearm, sending brass or firearm parts toward your face. Shooting glasses could make the difference between almost being hurt and permanent blindness. Please don't take chances with your vision (or your hearing)!

Here is what happened recently when a .45 ACP cartridge case ejected directly into the Z87 safety glasses of the shooter:



Ranges

Paving

This Spring, part of our access road was repaved and the back ranges parking lot was also paved for the first time.



Indoor Range Damage

The indoor range target carriers are fragile and when errant rounds hit the target carrier, the damage can put one out of commission. If you find a shooting booth

out of commission, please report it, so that it can be fixed. Here is an example of just some of the target carrier components that were replaced last Winter:



Events Completed

Boy Scouts Firearms Orientation

St. Mary's Scout Troop #109 from Westfield were provided an 'Introduction to Shooting' on March 10, 2014. Volunteer club instructors provided a learning environment that was well received.



Top Gun Championship

This year, our club hosted the 'Top Gun' championship for all the area clubs participating in the 2013-2014 Winter .22 league.



Here is the firing line during one of the championship relays.



And scoring being done by some of the volunteers.

Reminders

Turning off the Indoor Ranges

Recently, we have had a string of complaints when one of the indoor ranges was found running with no one there. In most cases, this has happened when someone left the range with both hands full, or talking on a cell phone. Please be sure to shut off the single switch that controls the range resources when you are the last one out. Even with our active membership, it could be days before the next person uses the indoor range.

Looking for Money?

Looking for money to purchase that new firearm or ammo? Check out the State of MA website: <https://abpweb.tre.state.ma.us/abp/frmNewSrCh.aspx> to see if they are holding funds for you. The most common causes are moving or a name change, but there are a variety of other reasons why the state might be holding money for you. A bank, broker or a company many have not been able to contact you and gave the money to the state for safekeeping. Don't just check your name, there might also be funds from other family members.

Safe Use of our Facility

- Outdoor ranges are closed at sunset (not dark) for safety.
- Indoor ranges are closed at 10 PM.

- If you bring it to the range, please take it home with you.
- Do not add anything to the range and leave it.
- You are responsible for your own target holders.
- Shooting at irregularly shaped (especially hard) objects can have disastrous results.

All complaints of misuse of our ranges are reported to the Board of Directors and discussed at their next monthly meeting.

2014 Annual Meeting

The President reported on new work completed this year and planned work for next year. This work includes making the facility easier to use, safer and at lower cost.

The Secretary reported that the current membership has increased only slightly since last year (now at 1406), a newsletter will be published soon (to include these minutes), the types of member complaints reported to the board and the resulting discipline of club members, the large number of renewal problems last year (resulting in much work required to turn key access off and then back on), and a report of a large number of maintenance issues that have occurred during the last year.

The Treasurer reported a beginning balance of \$26K, deposits of \$166K, expenses of \$144K, with a fiscal year end balance of \$48K.

Colin DeForge reported on the details of the .22 league and that the 'Top Gun' Championship will again be hosted at our club this year.

Jim Markowski reported on the training that his company provides at our club, including Concealed Carry Pistol, Defensive Rifle, Personal Protection In the Home, and new for 2015 will be a Low Light course. This Spring, a \$25 discount will be instituted for ARC club members taking his courses.

The Secretary and Treasurer were both re-elected for another one year term.

Jim Markowski, Chris Szczygiel, and Rick Kominsky were re-elected for another three year term to the Board of Directors.

A member requested that the transition from the concrete to the range (on the outdoor ranges) be graded to allow for the use of a wheelchair. We will have small stone added to grade those areas on the left and center outdoor ranges.

Other Useful Information

Why good people should be armed (posted by Josie the Out-law): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20RoAffIGCM>
What to do when stopped by police and you are carrying a firearm (from Tom Gresham and Massad Ayoob) : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVReVYMLH7E>

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