

The Bull Shooter

July - Sept 2016 Newsletter



**Pueblo Municipal
Shooters, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 427
Pueblo, CO 81003**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

We've all had a busy summer. Hopefully a safe one too. It's now time to start planning our fall activities and I hope at least one of the range's activities or programs play into those plans. The newsletter doesn't get published as regular as it used to as my summer schedule has kept me pretty busy outside the range. I am always looking for a volunteer who has the time, energy and expertise to bring the newsletter back to a regular publication. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know.

While pulling content together for this issue, I came across some little testimonials related to firearms experience, specifically from women. The club offers a great women-only program, the Pistoleras. See the last page for full details. I spotted the following testimony from an anonymous woman posted on *thewellarmedwoman.com*. It so closely matched much of the philosophy behind the Pistoleras that I thought I'd share it. The story starts in the next column and continues on the last page.

- Terry Curtis

From *thewellarmedwoman.com* ...

Guns weren't part of my upbringing and crime wasn't something I had ever been particularly concerned with. The only self-defense I recall learning was "don't talk to strangers." The first time I was raped, I didn't tell anyone because I was ashamed. The anger at the injustice was devastating, and I ended up going down a path that led to many painful experiences and heartache.

As a young woman, I lived in a town next to a military base. I befriended a serviceman pre deployment, & I planned a homecoming event for him. That evening, while we and other guys from his unit hung out, he had a psychotic break. He broke a champagne glass, shoved it through my nose, and stabbed me in my chest with a knife, though to this day, I cannot remember even seeing a knife. I was stabbed 3 times, yet can only recall the first blow.

By the time I was able to process what was happening, the damage was done. It happened so fast and was so unexpected, that I wasn't able to defend myself. My nose had to be reconstructed and I am so grateful that I am still able to fully smile. I had a difficult time coping. I became depressed and overwhelmed with anxiety and fear, which sent me further down that very destructive road.

(continued on the last page)

THE FULL MAGAZINE

Below is a full load of bullets about the range, the people of the range, the community, and the industry. Many items of interest go unmentioned because they are too small to warrant a full article. This provides a place for our members/readers to get a quick, tight grouping of information. If you have a correction, topic or notice you would like to see in a future newsletter, send it to our email address at: newsletter@pueblshooters.org.

New member night for September is not on the first Monday, but will be on Tuesday, September 6th so everyone can enjoy the Labor Day holiday. Also, since the Jr. Marksman program starts the fall session on that Tuesday, we will be starting at 6:30 PM instead of 6 PM.

We are starting to plan the annual banquet set for Jan 21st, 2017. If you are willing to help out with the planning and making the night a success, please call Terry Curtis at (719)406-8627.

Reminder: We welcome and encourage bringing guests to the range. Only 3 guests are permitted to accompany a member. This is to help you maintain the safety of your guests and the others that may be using the range.

Marijuana use (medical or recreational) is a disqualifier for purchasing or receiving a firearm under ATF Form 4473 11.e and therefore is a disqualification for range use or membership at PMS. You are responsible for assuring your guests meet this qualification as well.

Running out of ammunition can be a real drag while at the range. Would you be interested in purchasing ammo from the range on public nights? Let us know!

You may have noticed lane 4 with different lights. We are experimenting with LED lights. What do you think?

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Aug 8 : Board meeting 7 PM - 9 PM
Aug 15 : Free Gun Safety Class 6 PM - 9 PM
Aug 20 : Free Gun Safety Class 9 AM - 12 PM
Aug 30 : Jr. Marksman Signup 5 PM - 6:30 PM
Sept 1 : Jr. Marksman 5 PM - 6:30 PM
Sept 6 : Jr. Marksman 5 PM - 6:30 PM
Sept 6 : New Member Night 6:30 PM - 8 PM
Sept 8 : Jr. Marksman 5 PM - 6:30 PM
Sept 12 : Board meeting 7 PM - 9 PM
Sept 13 : Jr. Marksman 5 PM - 6:30 PM
Sept 15 : Jr. Marksman 5 PM - 6:30 PM
Sept 19 : Free Gun Safety Class 6 PM - 9 PM
Sept 20 : Jr. Marksman 5 PM - 6:30 PM
Sept 22 : Jr. Marksman 5 PM - 6:30 PM
Sept 26 : Pistoleras 5:30 PM - 7 PM
Sept 27 : Jr. Marksman 5 PM - 6:30 PM
Sept 29 : Jr. Marksman 5 PM - 6:30 PM
Sept 30 : Pistol League Shoot 5:30 PM - 9 PM

2016 Fall Pistol League

You are invited to shoot in the Pueblo Municipal Shooters' Fall Pistol League. You do not have to be a member to participate. To provide a level playing field for all shooters, there are three levels of competition; Top Gun, Pro and Match. You will only be competing against shooters at your level.



Match Dates: September 30th, October 7th, 14th, (NO SHOOT on 21st), 28th, November 4th, 11th.

Eligibility: Open to any shooter. Shooters under 18 years old will need a guardian at the meet.

Time: 5:30pm to 9:00pm

Location: PMS Indoor Range (In the city park next to the zoo entrance.)

Targets: B2, B3 for all hand guns.

Sights: Iron sights only. NO red dots, NO optic sights, NO calibers to exceed 44 mag.

Categories:

Rimfire: Any .22 revolver, .22 semi-auto pistol or both in the same category (\$5 per gun).

Centerfire: Any centerfire revolver and/or centerfire semi-auto or both (\$5 per gun).

Centerfire at 50 ft: Centerfire revolver and/or semi-auto or both (\$5 per gun)

FEES for 2016 Fall League: \$10 Entry Fee Plus \$5 Per Category

Rules: SAFETY IS A TOP PRIORITY! All range rules apply. Case and uncase guns in the shooting booth only. NRA rules will be used. Pistols will be at 25 feet for men, women shoot at 17 feet. You can use one or two hands for pistols. No supporting of shooter or gun.

Notice: In order to accommodate shooters during hunting season, you will be allowed to shoot in advance or after a date in which you cannot be present. One exception: If you cannot be there on the last league night, you must shoot for that date in advance rather than after the league ends.

Course of fire: Pistol Slow Fire: 10 minutes for ten shots. Timed Fire: 20 seconds per 5 shot string (2 strings). Rapid Fire: 10 seconds per 5 shot string (2 strings).

Scoring: All scoring will be done by match officials. NO one except officials will be allowed to plug targets.

Awards: Based on the number of shooters in each category, 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place winners will receive awards.

League Rules and Regulations will be posted on the north end of the range classroom.

For more information, call Bill at (719) 250-1541 or Rick at (719) 924-9065.



Board meetings are the second Monday of the month. 7 PM to 9 PM

Board meetings are OPEN to members.



Answers

- 1) When handling firearms, always assume every firearm to be loaded. True - Handling firearms as though they are loaded and following all safe gun handling rules helps avoid accidents.
- 2) When handling or carrying a firearm, you should always point the gun towards the sky, that is the only "safe direction" False - The safest direction to point the firearms is highly situational. At the range, pointing the gun down-range and level with the floor is safest.
- 3) You should always keep your finger off the trigger until you actually intend to shoot. True - Until your sights are on the target, your finger should not be on the trigger. Any sudden noises or tripping or loss of concentration may result in your finger involuntarily squeezing the trigger causing a negligent discharge and possible harm to property or people.
- 4) All firearms should be unloaded when they are not in use. True - The firearms not intended for self-defense service should be unloaded when not in use. This helps avoid an unauthorized access to the firearm from having access to the loaded gun.
- 5) You should always store your ammunition in a locked location separated from your firearms. True - Similar to answer 4, having the gun and ammo separate will make it less likely a would-be unauthorized user having access to both thus a loaded gun.
- 6) It's important to educate only the people who are authorized and old enough to handle firearms in your family. False - anyone in the home should be educated on the safe handling of the firearms, even if the handling is to leave it alone and call for an adult. A firearms in the hands of an uneducated individual is dangerous.
- 7) When accepting a firearm from another person, you should make sure the action is open and you visually and physically check the chamber and magazine. True - You want to be absolutely sure of the condition of the firearm as you take control of it.
- 8) You only need to learn about the operation and features of your firearm if you plan on hunting with it. No need if it's for home protection and you just leave it in the safe. False - You should be familiar with the features and operation of any firearm you own, regardless of the purpose. Failure to be familiar with your firearms can lead to dangerous situations.
- 9) A safety is 100% reliable. So if you have the safety on, your gun will not fire! False - The safety is a mechanical device and can fail. Even if the safety is enabled, you must follow the safe gun handling rules.

2016 Fall Jr. Marksman

Our summer is about over and we are about to start our fall Jr. Marksman program. **Signup will be Tuesday, August 30th from 5:00 pm until 6:30 pm.** The program is open to kids 10 years old up to 18 years old. The safety class for new participants will be on September 1st at 5:00 pm.



The Jr. Marksman program is a 12-week program and we are expecting full classes so please come early on signup day. You pick one of the four sessions available: Tuesday 5:00 pm to 5:45 pm or 5:45 pm to 6:30 pm.; or Thursday 5:00 pm to 5:45 pm or 5:45 pm to 6:30 pm. You attend the same session for the entire 12-week program.

I would like to thank all who helped last year for making this program so successful: Leonard Jimenez, Les Keator, Nick Mangini, Charles Fogg, Bob Covington, Rick Roberts, Ralph Walker, Christina Shearer, Alex Mitchell, Robin Shearer, Paula Mitchell and all the parents who helped count targets. We looking forward to seeing you again.

- Rick Taullie

- 10) If the ammunition fits in the magazine or in the chamber, it is okay to use it even if it is not the exact caliber for your firearm. False - Attempting to use ammunition that is not intended for your firearm can lead to dangerous situations such as the bullet being lodged in the barrel, or even firearm blowing up.
- 11) It is okay to shoot into the air because you are not aiming at anyone. False - The bullet will eventually return to ground and possible strike a person. You are responsible for every round that leaves your gun.
- 12) At PMS, aside from an instructor led class, the only place a firearm may be exposed (out of the case or holster) is in the shooting booth. True - Firearms must be cased or holstered until in position within the shooting booth.
- 13) At PMS, shooters should not go beyond the red firing line. True - Any part of your body that passes in front of the firing line is in jeopardy of being struck by a fellow shooter. Also, lead dust and other particulates accumulate down-range and persons must have proper gear when performing maintenance down-range.
- 14) At PMS, shotguns and shot shells, even in a pistol, are not allowed. True - Shot shells bounce off the walls and floor and present a hazard to the facility and shooters.
- 15) At PMS, we have the best range and best members and we do everything possible to maintain a safe shooting environment for everyone. True - Have a great and safe second half of the year.

Pistoleras

The Pistoleras is a “women-only” shooting group offered by the range. The Pistoleras provide a social get together where women can participate, in a non-judgmental environment, to learn the many aspects of handgun ownership and improve their shooting skills. Women of all skill levels are welcome.

The main goals of the program are: **Safety** - provide education, development, and reinforcement of safe gun handling practices. **Competence** - develop competence in the use of handguns by providing the support, information, and opportunities to develop gun handling skills. **Confidence** - Develop confidence through a more complete understanding of firearms and a course of instruction and practice to improve marksmanship.

Each member of the group will be asked to provide information on what their expectations are relative to what they hope to learn and achieve. Areas of interest, as identified by members, will be covered in future meetings.

Based on individual backgrounds and capabilities, several levels of instruction, starting from the very basics of handgun shooting to developing more advanced marksmanship skills will be available.

Each meeting will begin by covering the various aspects of handling handguns and safety. This will be followed by discussions on topics of interest as identified in previous meetings by members. The group will then proceed to the range area for live fire demonstrations and individual practice. Instructors will be available to assist individual shooters. Eye and hearing protection are required for all live firing exercises.

The Pistoleras meet the second Monday of each month at 5:30 PM at the PMS range and at least one other time per month depending on range availability. The cost per meeting to participate is \$2.00 for PMS members and \$60.00, per 3-month period, for non-members.

The initial meeting for the 2016 fall session of the Pistoleras will be held on September 26th at 5:30 at the PMS range. The coordinators are looking forward to working with ladies interested in developing both their basic hand gun and defensive hand gun skill. The Pistoleras group size is held to a maximum of 10 members. Based on that limitation, if you wish to participate and/or desire more information, please contact one of the follow coordinators: Ron Ragazzi at 547-0738, Bob Covington at 250-5487, Leonard Jimenez at 561-3224 or Shannon Richter at 334-4884.

I met my husband and we quickly married. When he was discharged, we moved to his hometown- just south of Oakland, Ca, and that's when we purchased our first gun, a Remington 870 Express. We had to wait 10 days and received many disapproving looks for our purchase. I fired it once to make sure I could, and it stayed tucked away at home. I relied heavily on my husband for my safety. I couldn't be alone or go out at night, and I was suffering physically from the effects of my intense fear.

Years later, I received my restitution and I decided I was going to learn to shoot. We purchased a variety of firearms, and my husband taught me the fundamentals. I eventually got my enhanced CCW, and I joined the NRA, the USCCA, and The Well Armed Woman. The more I learned & trained, the more confident I became, and the once crippling anxiety subsided.

I changed my mindset. I made the conscious decision to stop living like a victim and became a survivor. I've learned a few of things from my experiences:

1) During a critical incident, I can't count on someone coming to rescue me- I learned that from my rape experience. My personal safety is my responsibility- not my husband's, not the police's-mine. It is my responsibility to be aware of my surroundings and to not insert myself into dangerous situations.

2) It is my right to arm myself as I see fit. I have lost too much, too many times and I refuse to be victimized any further!

3) It's also my responsibility to train regularly. Having first-hand experience of the effects of stress during a critical incident, I can testify that reality based defensive training is extremely important. There is so much to overcome in a critical incident: identifying the threat and being able to access and present my weapon, all while battling my body's instinct to freeze while processing the information, not to mention the loss of coordination in my extremities! I will always fall back on my training, so I work to make it count and train often!

I want to take my painful memories and use them for good. My dream is to become an instructor and to teach women to effectively defend themselves. If my story inspires one woman to start taking her personal defense into her own hands, then it is worth sharing. ANONYMOUS

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