



NEWSLETTER
Of The
**Southwest Louisiana
Rifle & Handgun Club,**
*Affiliated with the National Rifle Association
And the Louisiana Shooting Association*
P.O Box 518
Lake Charles, LA 70602
www.swla-rifleandHandgun.org



Inc.

October 2014

Next meeting is on Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at Genesis Fitness Center in Westlake.

New membership cards have been mailed and the gate combination has been changed. The new cards are **YELLOW. If you renewed and did not receive your **YELLOW** membership card, please call Jim Neal at 477-6440.**

If you get to the range, realize you do not have your new card and cannot open the gate, call Jim Neal, the Club Treasurer. He is currently the only one who knows who has renewed. We are working to get a membership list to the other officers, but until they have a list of members, only Jim Neal can verify membership and therefore release the combination over the phone.

Notes from September meeting called to order at 1930

Treasurer's report: On the August financial report we had 368 members. The Club purchased a truckload of thick, treated timbers for approximately \$5700 that will be used to construct more walls to separate ranges. The checkbook balance and the New Range Fund will no longer be published in the newsletter. Members are welcome to view and/or obtain a copy of these figures at a meeting.

Range Report: The range is wet. Handgun side has drained pretty well, but be careful going down to the 200-yard targets on the Rifle side. Please keep the range clean; remember we do not have a custodian or other paid staff to clean up after members. Please continue to ensure all shots impact the berms to keep rounds from leaving the range.

Match Reports: No matches were held in August. Rifle Regional Championship in Varmint for Score will be held in September and Rifle Regional Hunter Class will be held in October.

New Applicants Introduced: Jim Lewing, Keith Campbell and Manuel Fontenot petitioned the Club for membership.

New Members Voted In: William McMillan, Tony Fazzio, Craig Young, Israel Pitts and Phil Gillard were voted into the Club.

Meeting Discussions:

- We continue to have problems with improper locking of the gate. Sponsors were urged to begin their range orientation of new applicants with instruction on proper locking of the gate. The shank of the lock is supposed to be through the last link and attached to the last link of the chain with a tie-wrap. The tie-wrap is there to hold the lock in place so it does not fall in the dirt and become inoperable. Recently, one of the Club's range officers found the lock attached to the last link, but the shank was not through the last link. Folks, it takes some work to remove the shank from the last link without breaking the tie-wrap, and hence, the gate was locked only by the tie-wrap, which, of course, could be easily broken to gain access. Photos of proper gate operation are at the end of this newsletter.
- Recently, a firearms instructor was killed in Arizona in a tragic accident. This is just a reminder to always remain vigilant of safety when handling firearms. A single moment of inattention on the gun range can result in a tragedy. It can happen anywhere, anytime! Please be careful!
- Remember the Club's Rules require all members to keep their membership cards on them at all times when on the range and produce it upon request. Don't be offended or upset if you are asked to show your card.
- **Question:** What if you approach the entrance and the gate is already open?
 - Officially, the gate should always be locked behind you when you enter or leave the range. There are times when several people are leaving within minutes of each other where the first one will leave the gate open and the last one will close it. This is acceptable, but the members who agree to close the gate should verify anyone entering the range while the gate is open is, indeed, a member. There are times when a contractor, such as the porta-potty pump truck or the Coke machine vendor may enter the range for a brief time and leave the gate open. An officer may leave the gate open when expecting a contractor, such as the load of wood we received recently. Of course, the gate is left open during scheduled matches for the duration of the match.
 - If in doubt, you have two options; lock the gate behind you or enter the range and ask the people who are already in the range if there is some reason the gate is open.
- **Question:** What are the plans for the treated wood recently purchased by the Club?
 - The treated wood will be used to extend the present wooden range separation walls into the berms and back toward the firing line to better cover the adjacent ranges. Additionally, we hope to build one or possibly two additional walls, creating more separation between ranges, so more members can use the range simultaneously.
- **Meeting was adjourned at 2000.**

Announcements:

- **Range Closures during State and Regional Rifle Matches:** At the recent Varmint for Score State Championship, several members showed up to shoot on the Handgun side because it was listed as "open" on the Range Schedule, and were told (incorrectly) by some rifle competitors that the whole range was closed. Complaints were received by the President because the Range Schedule indicated the Handgun Side of the range was Open.

- **Explanation:** Traditionally, the Handgun Side of the range has been closed during Regional and State Rifle matches, however; the Rifle Match Director, Mike Guillot, specifically requested that the Handgun Side of the range be left open during the VFS State Championship and the Hunter Class Regional Championship that will be held on October 26. Unfortunately, some of the competitors did not get that decision, did not read the three Range Schedules posted around the range and incorrectly informed some Club members that the Handgun Side was closed. The matter was discussed at length by the Officers and Rifle Match Director. For the Hunter Class Regional, only the New Bay immediately adjacent to the Rifle Range will be closed. The rest of the Handgun range will be open, including the Action Handgun Barricade Range.
- **The entire range will be closed on October 4th and 5th during the Bullseye State Championship.**
- **Swap Meet:** A reminder that members are encouraged to bring items for sale or trade to each meeting. While our meetings are held in a firearm-friendly facility, please ensure all firearms are *UNLOADED and CASSED*.
- **New membership cards** are yellow and have been mailed to all members who renewed. If you renewed and did not receive a yellow card for 2014-2015, please call Jim Neal, whose phone numbers are on the back of your card and on the website. *Members whose renewals were not received on or prior to June 30th have been dropped from the Membership Rolls and must re-apply as new members.*
- Some additional material for Range Separation Walls similar to our existing walls is still needed. In particular, we need wood that can be used as posts, such as 4 x 6 or larger treated posts or telephone poles. Contact George Mowbray at secretary@swla-rifleandHandgun.org or 337-304-1920
- Grass has been cut.
- Range Schedule
 - Each year we work hard to publish a Match Schedule for the coming calendar year as early as we can. Because of many factors, it's sometimes necessary to revise the schedule during the year. Always check the website for the latest revision of the Range Schedule before planning your Range trip. Don't depend on a copy of the schedule that is many months old and may have had to be revised. We will always work to keep the latest schedule as accurately as possible on the website at swla-rifleandHandgun.org and posted at the Range.

2014 RANGE SCHEDULE (Revised 11/19/13)

Please keep this schedule to help in planning your range visits!

OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
4 & 5: BULLSEYE MATCH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP*** 18: ACTION HANDGUN MATCH* 26: REGIONAL RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIP: HUNTER CLASS (New Bay only will be closed. The rest of the Handgun Ranges will be open)	8: BULLSEYE MATCH* 15: ACTION HANDGUN MATCH*	13: HANDGUN FUN SHOOT*

Match dates in **BOLD** indicate that the entire range is closed.

*Asterisks indicate the portion of the range corresponding to the match discipline is closed.

PROPER GATE LOCKING PROCEDURE: We continue to experience a few problems with some members improperly locking the gate. These members certainly have good intentions, but there is a right way and a wrong way to do it. Here is a brief demonstration of the right way and a photo of an incorrect method.

Step 1: Bring the two gates together with the locking mechanism as shown.



Step 2: Drop the locking tab into the slot, securing the two gates together...



as you drop the pipe in the ground, as shown below.



Step 3: Finally, pass the chain around the frame of the gate **one time** and lock, leaving slack in the chain so the lock can be manipulated from either side of the gate.



When locking the gate at the range, **DO NOT** make an extra wrap of the chain as shown below in this last photo; it makes it very difficult to access the lock from both sides, potentially leaving someone either locked **IN** the range or locked **OUT** of the range.



Use the clean-out tool (shown below) hanging on the fence next to the gate to clean dirt out of the socket in the ground by turning clockwise and lifting the dirt out of the socket, so that the locking pipe will drop far enough down to allow the locking tab to drop into place.

