



Williams Sportsman's Club

PO Box 131

Williams AZ 86046-0131

www.williamssportsmansclub.COM

wscsz2020@hotmail.com

"On Target!"



February 2021

A Word from the President

Why Range Safety Rules

The WSC has seven Range Safety Rules. Why seven and not five or maybe nine? Which safety rules are the most important? Good questions all. The NRA has the three "Always" safety rules and the Arizona Game and Fish Department has the TAB+1 rules they teach at Hunter Education classes. Which are right? The reality is they are all right. It is just a matter of preference by individual groups. Training instills good habits.

The #7 safety rule for the WSC is: "Be sure of your target and what is beyond it". Now some might question why that safety rule is appropriate on a "controlled" shooting range. Isn't it more appropriate to hunting situations? Learned habits, good and bad, will always surface during times of stress. Safe handling of firearms cannot be a part time effort—we must always treat firearms as if our lives or others depend on them. Knowing your target and what lies beyond is obviously quite important in any hunting situation. But what about a situation where one is forced to employ your firearm in a self-defense situation—say within the confines of your home. Just how important is it to know what lies beyond your target?

Training instills good habits. Practice determining what is 'down range' or 'what is your backstop' every time you shoot. This is important as you subconsciously revert to 'learned behavior' in times of stress.

We all need to practice knowing 'what is beyond our target' at WSC also. There are numerous wooden blocks on the range designed to be used to prevent your target stands from tipping over in the wind and to protect the metal target stands. There is also the 100 yard steel gong target. Anytime active targets are placed at shorter distances, it is important that each shooter take a look downrange to see what might be beyond the intended target.

Recently the horizontal support mechanism for the 100 yard gong target needed some repair and 32 bullet holes were discovered in the horizontal support structure. The target gong hangs at least 14 inches below this support pipe. So just how did so many holes occur? It most probably was a consequence of shooters not checking what was beyond their close in targets.



Failing to determine “What’s down range.” The sad result – a severely shot up target frame.

An old crusty Range Master once told me, “anything down range will get shot”—and guess that will always be true, but the requirement of determining what lies ‘downrange’ as a common practice, and even on a “controlled” range like ours, instills a habit that if the time should ever come in a critical self-defense situation, we will instinctively act and look beyond our target. Even if it is for a brief second, because what lies beyond in this situation could very well be a family member.

Keith Heimes, WSC President

Announcements

New Informational WSC Sign Posted at Range Entrance

We discovered that people have been looking for us! So to help them the WSC has this new sign mounted on the Range entrance gate. This effort is the result of several people who stopped in and telling the on duty RSO “I drive up and down State Route 64 going back and forth from home and Williams and finally, just FINALLY, I came by on a day the range was OPEN. I want to join!” Go to page 9 for an additional picture.

We are also working with Google Maps to ‘show’ the Range as a location and link pictures to it.

And as always feel free and forward your WSC Newsletter to those friends you think might be interested in joining our organization.

Williams Sportsman's Club

Open: Wed., Sat. and the 1st and 3rd Sun.

Summer Hours (April 1-November 30)

9:00am-1:00 pm

Winter Hours (December 1- March 31)

10:00am-2:00pm

Website: williamssportsmansclub.com

Email: wscsz2020@hotmail.com

WSC has this new sign mounted at the Range entrance gate.

Club Management

Monthly meetings

WSC Board and General meetings are held the second Wednesday evening of every month starting at 5:30 PM at the American Legion Hall, 425 West Grant Ave. All WSC members and the public are welcome to attend.

February 10th Board Meeting Highlights –

- A suggested WSC “For Sale” listing proposal was approved,
- 2021 Ladies Shoot approved for May 15th and further info will be forthcoming
- Next meeting March 10th 5:30 PM @ Legion hall

Range Improvement Project

Planning to move into “Phase II” Approved

The board will take into consideration what the next set of improvements should be. First on the list next to be completed shall be grooming of the pistol impact berm, lateral berm, and down range surface area, and then finished off by the construction of two more covered ramadas. The WSC has some materials at the range now under tarps. Whatever else is needed will be identified, sourced, and procured. Stay tuned as a call for volunteers will be issued.

It's our version of “Fixer Upper!”

Range Activities

Got Snow?

We certainly did but the deep stuff is now gone. The road was cleared by the City of Williams Public Works Department and we are grateful for their efforts.



Two foot hard berm – an expected result of road clearing efforts.



*Williams Public Works clearing the Range parking lot and entrance road.
Thank you!*

Partial Range Shooting Area Restriction

Until further notice the newly expanded pistol use area that is adjacent to and north of the existing rifle range ramadas is closed to shooting.

An unintended consequence was discovered in the character of materials utilized in the building of the new pistol area impact berm. At the conclusion of grading it was realized that the materials used at the time were comprised of an unacceptable level of rock material. This presents an increased ricochet hazard potential.

So, what is the fix? To mitigate this risk a more suitable material needs to be acquired and faced onto the existing berm. Efforts are underway to locate and deliver material with a much finer composition to the Range. In the meantime, this area is closed for use.

Thanks for your attention to this important issue and efforts to keep our Range safe.



The **RED X's** denote the newly constructed pistol use area impact berm. This area is now closed to any shooting until corrective actions are implemented.

WSC Shotgun Activities

Sporting Clays Update

Fellow scatter gunners: Last month's newsletter told you about our ongoing effort to find the correct combination of operable machines and clays to provide a consistent launching platform for our sporting clays operation. Good news---We think we are there!

It appears that the biggest issue with premature clay breakage was that our existing inventory of clays was dated, had been subjected to various climate extremes, and generally was not up to the task of being launched from our throwing machines. We ordered some new, more robust clays that are performing very well for us. Testing shows they have a very high launch success rate. That said, they also tend to be somewhat more difficult to turn into small pieces by the trigger person due to their being a little "tougher". So that means we all have one more excuse to fall back on when the occasional clay seems to just float unscathed to the ground.

Now we just need the weather to cooperate. The 30 plus inches of snow has shut down the clays range until further notice. The access road needs to dry out as does the range itself. The sun and warmer weather in the last few days has helped with this situation nicely but there is

certainly more winter ahead. In the meantime, as we wait for conditions to improve, we still need those interested WSC members to contact us at wscsz2020@hotmail.com and let us know your availability, how many shooters, days of the week, and the times that work best. Groups of shooters that number between 5 and 10 work best but with all things in life we can be flexible. Let us know, bring a friend and have a good time!

Tactical Tips

Expecting Trouble? Rifle up!



The old sheriff was attending an awards dinner when a lady commented on his wearing of a sidearm. 'Sheriff, I see you have your pistol. Are you expecting trouble?' The sheriff replied 'No ma'am. If I were expecting trouble, I would have brought my rifle.'

You'd have to be clairvoyant to know when you'll be in a gunfight but if you're somewhere remote and lonely, like out in the forest or desert, or somewhere that has a high potential of danger, like near the border and such, take along a rifle. And always have extra ammo in speed loaders or magazines for all the weapons you have. Make the effort like your life depended on it.

Membership Report

Don't Forget to Renew your WSC Membership!

We will be sending out reminders. Your dues are vital to keeping our shooting sports going!



The Medic's Corner - by Annette Perkins, BSN-RN-BC

The topic for this month is getting outdoors to beat the winter blues. It is about this time during the Northland's winter season that I find myself yearning for a walk in the woods (without the risk of frostbite), feeling the sun on my face, the warmth it brings to my entire being, and the chance of spending the morning at the range with friends. Then, a quick look out the window reminds me that the snow still covers the yard and the ice field on the north side remains. I am beginning to feel the effects of too many weeks indoors! I call this the wintertime blues.

It was high time to take a little trip south. A drive down the switchbacks towards Oak Creek and Sedona was just what I needed. Oak Creek canyon is beautiful any time of year. In winter the canyon walls are frosted with snow at the upper levels, with morning sun streaming through the leafless trees. We reached Sedona as the sun was at its height. It was glorious! The four miles of hiking were effortless, surrounded by the red rocks that truly make Sedona unique. This was what I had needed to lift my spirits and soothe my soul. It was a beautiful day!

If you find yourself feeling as if winter will never end, get out into the fresh air, take a drive, change your scenery; even if for just a day. Winter will pass and spring will arrive, all in their due time. A simple change in altitude can brighten one's attitude.

Stay healthy, stay happy.



Quotable Quote - "...but if someone has a gun and is trying to kill you ... it would be reasonable to shoot back with your own gun." - Dalai Lama

Gun Shows Info

Gun Shows

Go to www.arizonagunshows.net for the most up to date information before traveling.

Feb 13-14	Casa Grande, Kingman
Feb 20-21	Wickenburg
Feb 27-28	Bullhead, Tucson
Mar 6-7	Yuma
Mar 13-14	Queen Creek, San Tan Valley, Kingman
Mar 27-28	Wickenburg

The "Big Sandy" Machinegun Shoot

The largest machinegun shoot in the world to be held March 19-21, 2021 in western AZ. It's a three day weekend of friends, weapons, targets, and gear in western Arizona's high desert. The 'Big Sandy' is the largest machine-gun shoot in the United States and is held approximately 10 miles northeast of the town of Wikieup. This is truly a uniquely American event. Drive time from Williams is about 2 hours, the distance is 115 miles, with the range located south of Interstate 40 and east of AZ 93. Go to their website for further information and pricing - <http://mgshooters.com/index.php>

WSC Lock, Stock & Barrel Trivial Pursuit - Where's the Ammo?

The answer is - These bonus videos add more information to the reporting from last month. A video message was created by Jason Vanderbrink, President of Federal, CCI, Speer and Remington, to help answer all the confusion out there on the Ammo Demand. In the second video Jason answers some of the 13,000 comments and questions they received generated by the first video like 'why not just immediately build another factory' or 'just make more ammo' and finally 'where did all the primers go?'

Watch -> www.youtube.com/watch?v=KlgvoJKovlg

Watch -> www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5zNNk130V0

Old Guy Rants - "Here's my opinion – Ought to be yours!"



"And now due to all the drama over the election results I'm busy digging holes in the yard. I got what little 1872 .50-90 Sharps ammo I own all wrapped in wax paper, stuffed into old Milk of Magnesia bottles, and ready to stash away!

At the repeated urgings of Chris Mayer my recently acquired Sharps rifle is an upgrade from the 1860 .56-56 Spencer rimfire rifle I had been shooting. He pushed me hard to go up to an 1892 .30-40 Krag but that was just way too radical for me!

When I'm shoveling away I just hope I don't break any of the jars of pickled pigs feet, beets, herring, and kimchee I've got out there. Chris said this is important just in case the Feds abandon the border wall, issue dozens and dozens of Presidential Executive Orders, outlaw the Keystone Pipeline, or increase my taxes. Now what are the chances of all that happening?"

More pictures of the Range Gate's new Sign



Here's a big "ATTA BOY!" for our WSC President and Chief Range Safety Officer for their efforts installing the sign. And thank you Chris Mayer for taking the pictures.