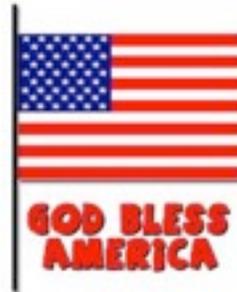
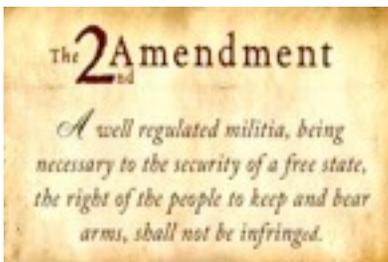


Ocala Sportsman's Association

Monthly Newsletter for the Ocala Sportsman's Association: March 2017
Issue # 3, Volume 5

The Ocala Sportsman's Association is a private gun club, firearms training facility and outdoor shooting range. It is dedicated to the shooting sports, to preserving the rights provided by the Second Amendment and a safe, friendly facility for training in the safe use of firearms.



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OSA Board of Directors

**President
Chief Instructor
Steel Challenge Match
Director**

Ray Radank
(352) 804-1575

Vice President
Bruce Dill

Secretary
John Bentley

**Treasurer
OSA Web Master
I.T. Director**
Feg Henkel

Director
Dave Michaels

**Director
Chief Range Officer
President Emeritus**
Mike Bryant

**Director
Bowling Pin Match Director**
Bill Heffernan

Range Volunteers

**NRA Chief Range Safety
Officer**

Ray Radank/Feg Henkel

Range Safety Officer

Tom & Joyce Schulke,
Bill Heffernan
Rich Brown, Fred Bernstein
Dave Michaels, John Thomas, Dan
Sauro, Mike Morris
George Norwood, 'Jumbo' Carlton,
Randy Blumenschein, Scott
Vanbeek

Ladies Class
Joyce Schulke

The President's Corner

Our annual election meeting was this past Sunday. We had a much smaller turn out than expected. I guess it might have been the threat of rain that kept the attendance low. Enough members showed up to make a quorum and that's what counts. With the low percentage of turn out, there was no shortage of food, plenty was had by all and a lot of to-go boxes went home.

I want to thank all the people that showed up early to help setup, also all the extra cooks and the members that stayed behind to help clean up and put everything away, it was a big help.

Our elections went as anticipated, President Ray Radank, Secretary John Bentley, Directors Dave Michaels and Mike Bryant were re-elected by unanimous acclamation. At the December meeting we asked for volunteers to be on the Nominating Committee but no takers. Feg asked for floor nominations for any of the open positions but all you could hear in response was the crickets. I/we, thank you for your vote of confidence! Those members in attendance got to see Mike Bryant up and around again! Mike has rebounded well from his bout with cancer, resulting chemo treatments, and surgery to remove a nasty gallbladder. Mike had to step down from board activities due to his health but since he started feeling better now he expressed an interest in coming back on the board. Glad to have you back Mike! And thanks to all that supported Mike!

The Firing Line

After several recent incidents concerning member treatment of Range Safety Officers at OSA I would like to address proper etiquette as it relates to the volunteer Range Safety Officers and your fellow shooters. The main reason that a Range Safety Officer program was initiated at OSA was of course for shooter safety. In the

beginning we received many complaints from members that felt that they were being watched by BIG BROTHER. Most of you found out that was not the case and are very happy that we are there. The other benefit of full time Range Safety Officers is a reduced insurance rate for OSA.

The Range Safety Officer on duty is in complete charge of the range. No single person can challenge or overrule the Range Safety Officer's decisions. Nor does the Range Safety Officer have to justify his/her decision to anyone except the Board of Directors or to Mike Bryant the Chief Range Officer for OSA. If you feel that a Range Safety Officer made a poor or wrong decision then please just follow his/her directive and then make a complaint with the Board of Directors. Nobody is perfect, mistakes are not only going to happen but they are to be expected. Range Safety Officers have been known to be taken behind the wood shed for some counseling.

When you converse with a Range Safety Officer over an issue or incident please do it in a civil respectful manor. Losing your temper will only accomplish having your ID badge turned off preventing your access to the range and having to come before the Board to justify your actions, and losing your temper is not justifiable. Depending on the degree of offense you will face the possibility of suspension of range access or termination of membership. To my knowledge termination of membership has been applied less than a handful of times. If you loose your temper with a range Safety Officer or another shooter you will most certainly incur some form of disciplinary action.

Part of our new member orientation covers respect and obeying Range Safety Officer commands. if a Range Safety Officer asks you to do something, please do it, that officer is asking or telling you for a reason, do not argue or refuse to do what is asked. If you are asked or told to pack up and leave the range and you refuse to do so, the Range Safety Officer is instructed and trained to immediately contact the Sherriff's dept. When the Sherriff arrives you will be charged with armed trespass for refusing to leave. That is a felony and if convicted you will loose your privilege to own firearms and loose your concealed carry permit if you have one.

The Range Safety Officer is also not immune to the consequences of losing their temper or displaying a bad attitude. People are going to make mistakes! We are known as a great training facility. The Range Safety Officers are instructed to teach and coach. Not look down on, mistreat, punish or belittle a shooter.

According to our bylaws and articles of amendment, the OSA board of directors has the right to refuse renewal of membership or new membership at it's sole discretion. We have refused renewal of membership in the past but never without just cause. Only when a member has proven to be consistently unsafe or looses temper regularly, and the board has kicked out a few members for their actions at OSA.

The last year 2016, has seen record growth in membership at OSA and 2017 is continuing at the same growth rate which is causing the board to rethink ways to

improve the new member orientation process. One recent new member in February did not follow the guidelines that were explained to him in detail and lost his temper with a board member. If this is how he acts as a non-member, we sure don't need him as a active member at OSA.

It has been hard to get interested volunteers for Range Safety Officers and as such, disrespect or losing control of one's faculties with a fellow shooter or especially a Range Safety Officer simply will not be tolerated.

Anyone that is interested in carrying this discussion further can find me at the range every Monday, Wednesday and Friday Mornings from 9am to 1 pm and my phone number can be found on the website as well as recent newsletters.

I wish to thank everyone for their continuing efforts to keep the range a fun safe place to shoot!

Members and Guests

From time to time members bring guests to the range to introduce them to the our facility and enjoy some shooting time with family and friends. If any of your guests are active military or active law enforcement the \$10.00 guest fee for that person is waived but the form must still be filled out.

As the host member it is your responsibility to make sure your guests know and follow our safety rules. Your guests are not members so you need to take the time to inform them of our rules and regulations. It is not the RSO's job to teach them the regulations, they have a range to manage and are paying attention to the rest of the shooters. If the Range Safety Officer observes a safety issue, they are instructed to come to you and inform you of what your guest is doing incorrect. It is also recommended and in our member manual and bylaws that you stand and watch your guest while they shoot to make sure that they are safe before you continue to shoot.

From time to time we are asked "how old does a person have to be to come as a guest to shoot." As long as the host member is comfortable with the age of the guest shooter we have no age restrictions on shooters. I have seen shooters as young as five on the range shooting and supervised very well I might add.

Future Happenings at OSA

As we talked about in the election meeting, the next big project for OSA this year is the rebuilding of the berm. Our original design plans show the actual height was twenty seven and a half feet tall when built in 2003. The berm has eroded down to barely

twenty one feet at it's peak! When it was measured last year while the lead was being mined out. I had talked with Magnum construction, the company that did our rifle range but they were supposed to call me back twice! But never did.

The search was on to find another company. One of our working volunteers, Bob Sabatino, Bob's group is responsible for the rifle shooting benches you see at OSA on the pistol and rifle range. Bob reminded me of a company he had found when we were researching contractors to do the rifle range. They are called EN-RANGE, and are based in Miami but travel all over the country to do specialty range work. A representative of en-range was out last Thursday 3/9 and took about 150 photos, they also have a drone video that our Feg had made and a copy of our range design plans.

En-range has been asked to provide us with an estimate to rebuild the berm to it's original design height plus add a bullet retaining wall of an additional height of eight to ten feet on top. As fast as OSA is growing this is a needed safety net to retain as much lead as possible to OSA property. You can bet any bullet that flies over the berm has a lawyer attached to it.

Shotgun events, as you might recall, at the December meeting I asked for a show of hands on who would be interested in holding shotgun shoots at OSA. Well I was mobbed with a show of hands, I had no idea shotgun would be so popular! There were more hands for shotgun then there ever was for rifle. I was blown away!

On the second and third Thursdays of each month we hold a skills practice day in the morning for our various shooting events. We will add shotgun to those two days as well as at least one shotgun day event a month either on a Thursday or a Sunday. One of our members has graciously offered to loan us his thrower so we can get started.

Those of you that are regular shotgun shooters we would like to talk to you about ideas on what to charge for entry fees to help cover the cost of bio-degradable clays and to purchase a good thrower, it needs to be profitable for OSA like our other shooting events.

March 12, 2017 Annual Membership Meeting



Right On Time



To view more photos of the meeting, go to our website home page and watch the slide show.