

MCSA General Meetings through November, 2016 will begin at 6:30PM, and will be held at the PUD 3 Auditorium at 2621 E. John's Prairie Road. Our next meeting is Weds. October 5, 2016; hope to see you there!

## **Safety Topic of the Month: Gun Safety Rules**

**Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction**

**Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot**

**Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use**

These particular rules, from "Fundamental NRA rules for safe gun handling" are just a few of the many rules for safety, but a really good place to start! The context here is *safely handling your firearm at our range, at a match or other organized event* although these practices are good ones to develop and use all of the time.

### ***But what do they mean?***

For beginning shooters, do you know what a "safe direction" is at our range? For experienced, long time members, can you clearly explain what this means and do you make it a practice to demonstrate this in your actions when you are shooting at the range?

### ***Are any of us ever above an occasional review of basic safety practices?***

In our range, the "**safe direction**" is down range, toward the target line or "pit area". A general rule is that you always want to know your target and what might be *beyond* your target. In our range, it is worth noting that up is not a safe direction.

**"Finger off the trigger until ready to shoot"** might seem to be obvious, it means exactly what it says! But for a new shooter, a clarification of "ready to shoot", might save everyone some trouble. It is not when you pick your gun up to aim or at any other time you are handling it, *other than after* you've already got your sight picture and are ready to hit the bullseye! Handling the gun is almost exclusively done with the finger OFF the trigger and aligned on the frame, outside of the trigger guard.

**"Gun is kept unloaded until ready to fire"** – for those who are experienced shooters and concerned about self-defense, we could be having a different conversation. But for the purpose here, *a focus on gun safety at a class, match or event in our range*, the rule is clear and makes sense. The match director will issue a command instructing shooters to "load and make ready" when it is the appropriate time to load.

*Incidents don't occur when these 3 rules are followed.*

MCSA's #1 Purpose and Objective, as stated in our By-Laws, Article IV, is "To teach and promote responsible ownership, proper and safe handling of firearms..." Article IV goes on to focus on an emphasis for training youth, but it does not exclude those of us who are a little beyond the Jr. League in age but still interested in learning!

**For safety related questions, contact:  
Safety Chairman Steve Mutoli, 360-426-6869**

*Photo to the right shows a recent Basic Pistol 2 student learning about safe muzzle direction as NRA Pistol Instructors Dave Williams and Kevin Neubert look on.*



## **The Nominating Committee, as defined by the MCSA By-Laws, solicits verified nominees in October and November for Board positions, Executive Director, Junior Division Chair, and Trustees.**

*By Nominating Committee Chairman, Michael Bigelow*

After solicitations, the Nominating Committee makes ballots and runs the election at the December General meeting for MCSA members. More about each of these positions and the selection of Committee Chairs and Committee members in another Newsletter.

It has been a privilege to serve as Nominating Committee Chair; I have met so many of the club members through phone calls or in person. What a wonderful, diverse group of members! And, there is a primary reason to commit to any of the positions in the election – the betterment of the club, club events, the club members, and the communities in the area.

Committing to run in an election means that the members will see the diversity of ideas that can exist after the elections. Lots of persons have talked openly about ideas to strengthen the club; maybe those persons would be willing to propose the ideas as a nominee for an open position. There will be less conflict and more compromise during Board meetings; facts and data rule in decision making. Members can support one another in a way that does not exist at Training or events by divesting some time and energy on an open position.

Let's be honest about the cordial conversations on the phone during nomination solicitation: (1) members say they are too busy; (2) members say they have opinions that are too strong to be effective in a position; (3) members say they are new and probably could not contribute significantly to the club; and (4) members say they have pretty much stopped all event participation - for many reasons.

Regarding (1), everyone is busy, and scheduling an MCSA position is an individual commitment with responsibilities to the Board and members. Without that commitment, the club would not function at the highest level nor plan for the future. Members join MCSA for specific personal reasons, and supporting a position commitment would strengthen that reason.

Regarding (2), diversity in opinion in all of my working experience is welcome in any group that wants to be inclusive and create meaningful change; no ideas should be ignored or shunned. Again, it comes down to listening for the fruit of the message – not the way the message is delivered – and validating that the messenger is valued for the idea. If you have an idea or supportive comment for the club, consider being a nominee and strengthening your idea.

Regarding (3), all members are “new” in view that they were a first event participant at one time: MCSA Orientation, Basic Pistol, RSO, Winchester, Steel, Cowboy, etc. And, the newer members will be the future of the club; that includes the family youth members (don't get me started). So, now is the time for new members to get involved in the direction of the club to assist in the highest level of continuation.

Regarding (4), the club has lost many outstanding Life Members in the past few years. Their passing leaves a “lessons learned” gap that means occasionally the club “re-invents the wheel” which delays timely, constructive improvements. And, members say they just do not have the hand, eye, muscle coordination to continue satisfying shooting. That having been said, the knowledge that these remaining folks have can contribute as Trustees to keep the club on track for the Board's goals and responsibilities, and be club representatives to the Community and surrounding area is invaluable.

So, that is my experience on the Nominating Committee. I am looking for two (2) more members to fill in the Committee before the October nomination solicitation start.

Call me (Michael Bigelow) at 425-260-9373 or Bruce Clapp (President) at 360-402-9555 to volunteer for the Nominating Committee.

Thank you for listening, and look forward to your participation.

Michael Bigelow

## Volunteer Needs!

**Nominating Committee**, we need two or more to join Michael Bigelow on this committee, soon! Nominations to be collected starting in October and voted on in December.

Have you **considered serving on the Board as an officer or trustee?**

**Grant Committee**, looking for members to serve on this committee as well. This is an important committee, one that has the opportunity to have a substantial positive impact on the club. **If you have an interest but not the experience, please consider joining anyway, as Steve Worthington is known for saying, many hands make light work!**

*These are great opportunities to give back to the club, have fun doing it and the bonus is your volunteer hours are fulfilled before you know it! Please consider getting involved.*

**Looking for Volunteers to help with upcoming Hunter Ed classes. RSO certification is not required. Contact Steve Mutoli at 360-426-6869 to learn how to obtain WDGW Volunteer qualification. In addition, Hunter Ed is always thinking about next year and would love to talk to you if you'd like to consider becoming an instructor in the future. Contact Steve Mutoli at the number above for more information.**

**We need someone who will clean the bathroom and club room regularly; for a month, a year or whatever period of time you are able to commit to.**

### ***CAN YOU HELP?***

As you all must know by now, there is a desire by many MCSA members to have an Outdoor Range. As the project is clarified, we are getting clearer about what our goals are and what we need in order to accomplish them. First on the priority list is land.

***Do you have or know of a 40 – 100+ acre parcel of land that could be donated for use as an outdoor shooting range? Please speak up if you do or have any ideas on how to accomplish this project!***

Our continued Thanks to the **Action Pistol League**, who had a goal after their summer series ended of setting aside 10 fun matches to raise \$ 500 to help send some of our Jr. team shooters to Oregon for a special two day instruction and match weekend in October. The guys in the APL have met their goal and then some, and did it in only 8 matches! In addition to their valiant efforts, we did have some donations from local businesses, so let's all consider returning the favor by frequenting their businesses when we can. They are:

**Olsen's Furniture**

**Gillis Auto Center**

**Shelton Appliance Repair Plus**

**The Shopper (also Shopper employee Jim Nutt)**

In addition to the local businesses shown above who've helped with the Jr. Workshop and Match in October, **We'd again like to recognize Troy at Renegade Guns, who has for many years contributed in countless ways to our club!**

***Still working on it~ and making progress but aren't quite there yet! We need more "Like's", so please do Look for Mason County Sportsman's Association on Facebook and "LIKE" us to help promote our MCSA Facebook page, tell your friends and family! This will create interest in our club, classes and events.***

## Training at MCSA

The events offered weekly or monthly at MCSA are intended to provide skill building and increased challenge for shooters as they first begin learning and then wish to become more proficient.

*As promised, this month's newsletter will feature a little more in-depth information about one of our 2 day training events.*

### RSO Training

Congratulations are in order! Please join me in welcoming 7 new RSO's to our midst! Bill Zeigler, Fred Nachbar, Kris Kord, Gary Hakala, Kathy Hakala, Linda Krase and Richard Krase all attended the August 27 & 28 RSO class and passed, earning each of them the title of RSO!

The course goal, as stated in the "NRA Basic Range Safety Officer Course Handbook", is to develop NRA Certified Range Safety Officers who possess the knowledge, skills and attitudes essential to organizing, conducting and supervising safe shooting activities and range operations. Some of the topics included are ensuring that the facility is safe to use, educating participants on what the safety rules are for their event, safely handling any ammunition or firearm malfunctions, supervising the safety aspects of the shooting event itself, and handling any emergency situation that might come up.

This two day RSO class includes an intense amount of information and hands on exposure, with role playing to help reinforce lessons and provide practice.

Our new RSO's learned that the RSO is IN CHARGE and must seriously assume that role to reduce any confusion; giving structure and order to the activity they are involved with. He/she may be right or wrong in their decisions, but as the RSO they are always **right at the time**, one reason why our RSO officers do not participate at our events if they are acting as RSO for that event. Their motivation in that role must be only one thing, to keep the participants safe at all times.

Bill Zeigler commented *"it is of critical understanding that as new RSO's we have only begun our journey to competence. Experience and deeper understanding over months and years will turn us and others into seasoned RSO's. I'm glad I took the course. Fred and I will use our RSO training and First Aid with our NJROTC activities, making it a safer environment for the high school shooters."*

**All of the events and classes provide opportunities for practice and skill building with an emphasis on safe practices, regardless of what the event or class is.**



LtoR: Bill Zeigler and Kathy Hakala with MCSA member and CRSO Terry Miller.

### MCSA Event & Training Schedule at a Glance

**First Sunday 9:30AM: USPSA Match**

**Third Sunday 4PM: Ladies of Caliber**

**Tuesday 5PM: PPC/APL**

**Second Wednesday: .22 Rifle Shoot**

**First Thursday: Steel Shoot**

**Second Thursday: NRA Winchester .22 Pistol Marksmanship**

**Third Thursday: NRA Winchester Self Defense Marksmanship**

**Fourth Thursday: NRA Winchester .22 Rifle Marksmanship**

**Friday 6PM: Bullseye**

**Weekend Classes: Sept. 24, Basic Pistol Phase 2**

**Oct 29, Basic Pistol Phase 2**

**Nov. 5, First Aid and CPR**

In addition to classes featured in this edition and on the list shown above, there are classes offered throughout the year such as becoming a NRA certified Firearms Instructor, Personal Protection Inside the Home and others. For the current schedule, please go to [Masoncountysa.com](http://Masoncountysa.com) and click on the "Club Calendar" tab.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Training Chairman Steve Worthington at 360-426-6486 or [357steve@gmail.com](mailto:357steve@gmail.com).

**Look for more in-depth descriptions of our programs in future Newsletters!**



## **Raffle Report from Bill Zeigler**

The Victory S&W 22 target pistol tickets are almost gone, making it the 4th raffle that will sell out. The drawing is October 5th. Net profits go a long way to assist in the club's goals of training, community charitable giving and supporting the Shelton High School NJROTC and small bore rifle teams. The Armalite Eagle-15 carbine tickets are also very popular and the drawing is December 7th. The upcoming new raffle will be for a Springfield Armory XD-9 pistol-details to follow. It has been satisfying to see the number of ticket distributors continue to rise. We have well over 15 people assisting with ticket sales now, and we continue to offer and award working hours for ticket sellers who sell 50 or more tickets to a raffle.

**Anyone wanting to help sell tickets can contact Bill Zeigler at 206-919-0488.**

The MCSA Membership Committee will be implimenting a new way that we send out the dues notices. **We will begin sending out electronic notices by email in October.** For those who do not have email, we will continue to send those by mail. Payment options will remain the same, you can either pay in person by cash or check at a meeting, you can put your cash or check along with your name and contact information in an envelope in the drop box at the range, you can mail your payment to PO Box 1122, Shelton WA 98584 or you can go to the MCSA web page and use the membership tab to pay through PayPal.

Questions? Please contact Tiffani Prouty at 360-870-1119 or [tiffaniprouty@gmail.com](mailto:tiffaniprouty@gmail.com)

*Regarding the content of this Newsletter, we gladly consider article submissions from any member on topics of their choosing! Please send your articles, ideas for future topics to cover, suggestions or feedback to [lynnl@hcc.net](mailto:lynnl@hcc.net).*