

# MCSA NEWS

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MAY 2021



## Saying Good-Bye to Gene

By Suzy Sands

I did not know Gene very well. I first met him at the first or second class I took at MCSA. He was one of the RSOs that stood with me as I took my turn shooting. Gene patiently watched me shoot, then gave me tips on how to improve. I was struck by his knowledge and his patience.

I can also remember, on several occasions, hearing other members say, "We will have to ask Gene, he is the expert!"

Gene Scherer was loved and respected by many at MCSA.



Gene at a rifle shoot.



This picture was taken from the January 2019 newsletter. The NROTC students were thanking Gene Scherer for the computerized scoring system he purchased for the team.



Christmas Party

Here is the Member Profile article, featuring Gene, from the February 2017 edition of the newsletter.

### Member Profile

**From time to time we may add a member profile to the Newsletter. This month, please be introduced to:**  
Gene Scherer



MCSA member Gene Scherer moved to Shelton in 1966. Gene did not realize there was a shooting range here until much later but had been shooting since he was a kid. As an adult, he especially enjoyed rifles and then, about 1953, some work friends talked him into trying to shoot trap. Gene didn't think he'd

like shooting trap but found out he did. In fact there was a time when Gene was often shooting 300 shells a day!

Gene finally did discover the club and joined in 1993. At that time it was called Shelton Rifle and Pistol club. He joined because he enjoyed their outdoor range. Gene has always been a hunter and has been an instructor both for Hunter Ed for 24 years and a NRA certified instructor for 22 years. Gene also really enjoyed the big matches the club used to hold at the outdoor range. The 3-gun shoots and the Glock matches were his favorites.

When I asked him about why he was such an advocate of getting an outdoor range again, he said it was a little hard to put to words. It has to do with hunting. Gene added more by saying when you go out and leave the road, you are surrounded by what there is right there in nature. All around you, the trees and plants, what they smell like and sound like in the breeze; the sounds of different birds and small animals that you pick up as you walk further in. You might see rabbit, squirrel, chipmunk, raccoon... The views all around you can take your breath away.

Gene hunted elk and deer in Western Washington for years, mostly with family members. It was always part of the fall ritual. When he was younger, Gene hunted pheasant, lots of ducks, geese and grouse, as well as rabbits and squirrels. Gene went with Jerry Marcy to British Columbia on 4 successful moose hunts. When you go to Canada, you have to hire a guide, but it's good because the guide does the heavy work! He says that they helped but mostly it was up to the guide to get the moose back to the camp site and then dressed out and hung. Gene tells about having to stand guard with his rifle while his guide worked on dressing out a moose, because the grizzly bears would come in when they smelled the meat.

One time they were camping near a river and their guide asked for two of them to stand guard while some other hunters brought in two moose by boat down the river. Gene stood guard that night for about three hours while the guide and other hunters got the moose off the boats, dressed them and hung them up high in the trees. They would put electric fencing around the hanging meat but one grizzly must not have minded the shocks, he got in and ate some of someone's hanging moose. That hunter lost about 100 pounds of meat to the bear.

Gene had a 338 Winchester magnum, about 4200 foot pounds of muzzle energy. These grizzlies are very fast, able to travel about 20 feet in 2 seconds or so!

Once Gene spotted a grizzly and a cub near where he was hunting. He was by himself, out in a clear cut with an area he was watching, about 400 yards away. At 6 pm he heard a woof sound. He knew what

that was, only a Grizzly makes that sound. He got up, packed up his things and left, headed toward the pickup about 3/4 mile away. Across the way there was

some fireweed growing up about 4 ft tall and he had seen the grizzly sow stand up at least 3 feet higher than the fireweed, and she had a cub with her. Gene kept walking, looking back from time to time and did see her following him. She got as close as 60 feet

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### 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

## Upcoming Events and Classes at MCSA

### UPCOMING EVENTS AND CLASSES SCHEDULE

June 2 – MCSA Membership Meeting

June 3 - Winchester .22 Pistol, first Thursday of the month

June 12 & 13 – NRA Basic Pistol

June 16 – MCSA Board of Directors Meeting

June 19 – New Member Orientation

June 24 - Winchester Defensive Pistol, 4th Thurs of month — CANCELLED

June 26 – Pistol for Beginners (SOLD OUT)

July 1 — Winchester .22 Pistol, first Thursday of the month

July 7 – MCSA Membership Meeting

NRA Range Safety Officer Certification Course September 11/12, 2021





## **MCSA Member Volunteers Needed!**

**W**e are looking for some member volunteers for the following positions:

- ♦ Help with various MCSA sanctioned events and programs as they are added back to our schedule, both organizational and during the event duties.
- ♦ Secretary and Member of the MCSA Board of Directors.
- ♦ Someone who'd like to help with grant committee tasks, such as doing some research on available grants, possibly making phone calls to get more information, etc.
- ♦ Someone who'd like to take photographs and/or write articles for the club newsletter.

If you think you might be able to help or even just have questions, contact anyone on the MCSA Board of Directors...click on the link below.



club contact list.pdf

## Ladies of Caliber is Coming Back!

**T**he Ladies of Caliber will have our first event of 2021 on July 18 from 3 – 6PM! (as long as the Washington State Covid Restrictions have been lifted....)

The cost for each event is \$8 for MCSA members and \$10 for non-members. For our first event in July, we'll re-familiarize ourselves with the range with some target practice and also discuss what programs we'd like to schedule for the rest of the year.

Previous years have included topics and events such as: target shooting and open discussion, ammunition & sight tutorial, defensive topics, and many styles of defensive drills, including how to safely access from concealment. We also explored plate race shooting and steel, discussed firearm choices and gear for women, and we can't forget our popular firearm cleaning clinic!

This year we're looking for some MCSA member volunteer help to support Kim with a little bit of organizational and event help. Ideally, 2 Ladies of Caliber MCSA members would make up a team with Kim going forward.

If you'd like more information about the Ladies of Caliber, you can call Kim at 360-507-0009 or Lynn at 206-406-35625.



## Burning Questions

By Barbara Kam

**Hi** all! I'm Barbara Kam and new, though somewhat old, to MCSA and guns.

In my thirst for information and knowledge about guns and ammo, I've been poking around on the internet and watching YouTube videos trying to figure out just who is knowledgeable and who is expressing their likes and dislikes. I'm guessing many of you other "newbies" are doing the same and finding gun and ammo terminology that lead you to believe you've entered another world!

I returned to college in my mid-50s to earn a Bachelor's degree at Evergreen. I had one professor that presented an idea that has stuck with me and served me well for the last 20 years. After the required readings, what is your "burning question" about what you've read always lead me down a fruitful path.

At foremost now is what about ammo? I recently read 10m people bought guns last year! What do I need to know? What's good, what's reliable, what's a good price (is that even a reality now?) and where do we find it?

Visiting the local gun shops, I ask my questions with little info in return. So as a new member of MCSA, I imagine long-time members with vast storages of knowledge about guns and ammo and I want to know what they have to say! What criteria do you rely upon when buying, evaluating and searching for ammo? What do you like and why? Where do you buy or search? What's good and why? What's not and why? Where and how do we "newbies" follow our quest for knowledge?

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

If you have answers to Barbara's "Burning Questions", send your replies to Suzy, [suzysands@gmail.com](mailto:suzysands@gmail.com). Your replies will be in next month's edition.

## Alternatives

By Frederick J. Nachbar

**T**he range is now open so it's back to practicing, right? Not so fast! Ammunition is in very short supply. When you get to the sporting goods store, Cabela's, Bass Pro, Big Five and the local gun shops the ammo shelves are, more often than not, bare. When you can get any, it is pretty pricey. 9mm in 2019 was 21-26 cents a round. Now the sky's the limit. Last time I bought, in September, I was lucky and got 9mm for 65 cents a round.

There are a number of alternatives available to keep your firearm skills at least in some semblance of being honed.

There are a number of manufacturers that make high tech laser ammo. These systems range from just a laser cartridge to systems where your smart phone records your hits, the tracking of your movements just prior to pulling the trigger and scores for you. These systems are great visual cues on what you are doing during your firing sequence. For the new firearm owners, a laser cartridge is a facsimile of a cartridge. Inside is a switch, laser and batteries. When you pull the trigger the firing pin hits the switch and the laser momentarily shines a small dot on your target.

Word of caution...don't go cheap!! If it is less than \$100 you will have problems. Shop on Amazon. Read the reviews as you can get a feel for quality and features.

The next way to keep your edge is air guns. Air guns come in rifles and pistols. They use air or CO<sup>2</sup> instead of gun powder and range in size from .177 to .50 caliber.

For rifles there are break barrel, pump up and pre-charged pneumatic. As to the first two their names imply how they are charged. With a break barrel one "breaks" the barrel at a hinged point thereby charging it. The "pump" is a multi-stroke endeavor to charge it. Pre-charged pneumatic has an air cylinder screwed, usually, under the barrel. The cylinder is charged from a high-pressure air compressor or a scuba tank. These are the most expensive type.

For just trying to maintain your techniques I would recommend using an air gun in .177 or .22 caliber. The advantage of these calibers are availability of pellets/BBs and the array of air guns that use them. Also, these air guns are reasonably priced and more or less readily available. Again, Amazon is a great place to look or air gun specialty sites such as Pyramyd Air. With the air gun specialty sites, you will be able to read the specs and performance of different guns as well as communicate with people who know and use air guns.

The advantages of using an air gun are as follows.

1. The ammo is relatively available and inexpensive. From Wal-Mart to Big 5 to Cabela's and Bass Pro you can usually find pellets or BBs. Some hardware stores sell pellets and BBs also. You can shop online at sites such as Airguns of Arizona.

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2. Depending where you are, you can shoot in your backyard, garage or basement.
  3. Although air guns are not quiet, they are much more so than firearms.
  4. Air guns have a recoil. Not as much as a comparable firearm but some for you to remain somewhat used to recoil.
  5. Air guns are in some ways more challenging than firearms. There are a lot of profiles and weights of pellets as well as power of a particular air gun.
- Both systems, laser ammo and air guns have their advantages and disadvantages but the advantage they both have is for you to keep your skills without driving you into bankruptcy.



Laser ammo: To the left is the laser cartridge. The threaded pieces



Upper is a pump type  
Lower is a break barrel or break action/hinge action.



Pump type with pump handle down.

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Break barrel/action in loading configuration.

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**We gladly consider article submissions from any member on topics of their choosing! The newsletter depends on articles of interest to the members. Please let us know if you have any ideas for an article, or if you would care to write one. Email Suzy Sands... [suzy-sands@gmail.com](mailto:suzy-sands@gmail.com).**



## Mason County Sportsman's Association

### MASON COUNTY SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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