

# *Tuscaloosa Shooting Sports*

Newsletter - Winter 2015



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**GREETINGS!** We sincerely hope all of you have had a great Thanksgiving. Those of us in the leadership of our club are most thankful that we are able to call our first phase of moving out of Moundville and into our new home ... FINISHED! Short of a few punch list items our primary ranges are all virtually 100%. With the exception of having turning targets on a Pistol Range where we could host Bullseye Competition, in every aspect what we have now is hands down better than what we had and this is just our first year, there is a lot of things on our drawing board to accomplish. That said, we have also been listening to you and please be comfortable that what we plan is not be in a vacuum, these are additions that you have asked for or we recognize as features that will help boost rapid membership growth. While on that topic, as this is written, we have 143 members and are shooting for 150 by the end of the year, if you have a prospect, there are some incentives for going ahead and joining now rather than next year. Membership growth is the fuel for our development. In Moundville we were up to 190 and it is logical that with the facilities we have now our membership capacity should be above 400, if not probably 500 members.

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**DINNER:** We will have a dinner get together again at Mr. Bill's on Monday, December 14, 2015 at 5:30 PM. These gatherings have been a big hit and we look forward to seeing you there!

**DUES:** It's that time and they are now due. Unless you have paid yours for 2016, you owe \$250. Please make checks payable to: **Tuscaloosa Shooting Sports** We will have cards like in the past with your information and how much you owe for distribution at Mr. Bill's. Those of you not receiving e-mail will see this in the USPS, those on e-mail, we will have yours at the Mr. Bill's Dinner and those not in attendance will be mailed out. If you need to mail your check, our address is now:

*Tuscaloosa Shooting Sports*

*P.O. Box 1242  
Northport, AL 35476-1242*

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### **NOTICE OF SOME CHANGES:**

Please take note that we have abandoned the use of the yellow gate that we moved up from Moundville and are now using what was our service gate (it has a fresh coat of RED paint on it) and our lock is the silver lock on top of the roadside locks (combination has not changed). Close the gate behind you when entering the ranges and ensure the gate is locked when you leave – it is okay to communicate with other members there that you are not locking the gate for their convenience, but it is then their responsibility to lock up when leaving. We also have some new lock boxes for each range that we hope to install right away, which will have the sign-in logs for that range. This will eliminate the single mailbox we have been using. You will need to sign in on each range you use. There will be waivers that any guest will need to sign and insert into the slots on these metal boxes (guest will only need to sign one waiver ever.)

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**FIRST AID KITS:** One of our punch list items is to locate First Aid Kits on all of the ranges and one item we want to add but are reluctant to do so is a “Gunshot Trauma Kit”. These are very nice and in a “molle” form (military ballistic nylon pouches), but we figure these will be gone before the Sun sets if posted on a Safety Board. Nevertheless, these are great items and some of us are going to purchase these for our own vehicles and can offer you the same deal – if we buy in bulk, they are only \$60 and normally sell for closer to \$100. If we get enough orders they will even embroider “Tuscaloosa Shooting Sports” on them. Barry is the POC – 205-886-7165

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### **President’s Message** – *George Lander*

As we approach the end of our Club year (December 31<sup>st</sup>), I would like to provide some updates.

**Ranges:** We have largely finished the major projects. A special thanks to all who helped out. We have: 1) a 50 yards pistol range with covered and baffled shooting positions; 2) a 100 yards rifle range with two shooting benches, baffled and covered; 3) a 300 yards rifle range with three shooting benches, baffled and covered; 4) three shooting bays for close range pistol shooting (two with falling plates); and 5) a designated shotgun shooting area. While still in the planning stage, we suspect the next major project will be improvements for a shotgun shooting area. At this point, we are not considering formal trap or skeet game set-ups, rather a clay target machine step-up for general shotgun shooting. Further improvements to the shotgun range (e.g., five stand or other) will be subject to membership interest and support). Any significant work will wait until 2016. We need to wait until 2016 annual dues are collected and payment of our annual rent is made, both due in December, to have a better idea of our 2016 Budget.

**Membership:** At last count we are showing 143 members in the Club, which is a good number considering our first year at the new range. We are very interested in growing membership in the Club for long-term stability as well as for the ability to make further improvements to the range, so talk to your friends and associates about joining. As you may know, the current membership cost is \$500 Initiation Fee and \$250 annual dues (prorated for the remainder of the Club year). The first year cost is significant, but it really is worth it. Larry Fagen and I have volunteered to be points of contact

for new members, so send us your prospects. Larry Fagen, Vice President, has more to say on membership and dues collection later in this newsletter.

**Website:** We do have a new website [tuscaloosashootingsports.com](http://tuscaloosashootingsports.com). I think you will be impressed. We are looking into adding a member's only section. At this point, we are thinking that the members might like and prefer the ability to trade shooting equipment amongst ourselves.

**Club:** The Board of Directors continues to meet each month to discuss and advance the interests of the membership. In particular, Ron Bolton is working on having our site be recognized under the Alabama Range Protection Act, which would give us further comfort that the authorities couldn't push us out. As you may know, we appointed Russ Essary as the **Membership Ombudsmen** (like a union representative). *Russ Essary* is to represent membership issues of all kinds to the Board, so if you have an issue you would like to bring to the attention of the Board, please contact Russ 205-292-7214 or [russessary@hughes.net](mailto:russessary@hughes.net).

In closing, the Board wants your active participation in the Club. Your response to surveys, ideas for improvements, and service to the Club are very important. Call me if you have any concerns or questions at 205-394-0047.

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### **Vice President Message – Larry Fagen**

There is no better source for new members than our current roster. Word of mouth speaks volumes, so promote TSSI to family and friends alike. I am sure there are many hunters and gun owners who would like a well designed and safe venue to practice and hone their skills. We offer a family friendly environment for the highly skilled to those wanting to assure that their self-defense marksmanship is up to the task. I have been a member for a few years and shoot various pistol tournaments with shooters from all over the state and region. In a society that has largely forgotten so many social proprieties, the sport shooting community still conducts itself with class and decorum. TSSI rises to that level. All we require is the same background check information need for sales through an FFL and the references included on the application. Visit the range with prospective members and contact myself, or any board member, with questions or to request an application and brochure (if needed).

George Lander discussed the initiation fee and annual dues in his President's message. Dues should be remitted by the end of the year but earlier payment will help since we have incurred, and continue to incur, startup costs for our new range. Send to Liz Maggi at the TSSI P.O. Box address. There will be some changes on the due dates for 2016 and subsequent years. We will discuss these at the annual meeting in 2016.

If you have any questions or comments on membership and/or dues issues please contact me ([lfagen01@aol.com](mailto:lfagen01@aol.com)) or any board member.

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### **Chief Range Officer Message – Harvey Yoder**

**STEEL TARGETS IN BUNKERS:** Please be aware that **ONLY NON-MAGNUM PISTOL CALIBERS** are the only rounds permitted for these targets!

**TARGETS:** One thing we can't seem to get away from is shooters posting targets where the rounds going through them are not directly impacting into the designated impact berms. We have some new target holders that are made to use 1x2" furring strips. The first bundle of these were 8' lengths and we cut them in half and the 4' lengths are generally too short and targets stapled on them are too low and the rounds will ricochet off the ground and perhaps out of that range. This length will work if you mount the backer high enough but we will go to either 6' or 8' pieces, whichever one we go with, it will still be the shooter's responsibility to make sure rounds are going into the berm. We are working towards fabricating many more of these and ask for your patience but when we have a satisfactory complement of them, we will no longer allow any shooter supplied target stands and this is due to the non-standard configuration which creates this problem. We have seen evidence and had reports of some target placement on the 100 Yard Range that are absolutely frightening and this cannot continue without some discipline to the offending parties.

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## **Leadership Team**

### **Board of Directors - Voting**

Clay Burrows – Chairman of the Board

David Hartin - Board Member

Joe Pearson – Board Member

Bryan Brinyark – Board Member

Ron Bolton – Board Member

George Lander – President

Larry Fagen – Vice President

George Newman – Secretary

Liz Maggi – Treasurer

Harvey Yoder – Chief Range Officer

### **Board of Directors – Nonvoting**

Russ Essary – Membership Ombudsman

Barry Fikes – Principal of X-Ring Property Management, LLC (Landlord)

Bert Guy – General Counsel

TBD – At-Large Member