



COSSA Newsletter – December 2023

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Coming up at the December meeting:

December 14, 2023

Peter Ostrovsky: Emergency Preparedness

Peter Ostrovsky will be our featured speaker. Ostrovsky is the owner of Haulover Consulting and formerly worked for Homeland Security.

Peter brings a unique perspective to the topic of Emergency Preparedness. Bonus: Peter will have just returned from a whitetail deer hunt in Missouri, so we will probably hear about that too.



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow COSSA Members

First the foremost, Merry Christmas! I hope all of you get a bunch of chances to pause with loved ones and reflect on all your blessings. Family and friends are the best things we have, especially “range friends”. Going to the range with buddies or my family just seems to amplify the fun a shooting range has to offer.

Time to Vote!! In January, we vote on our club officers for 2024. This year we have openings in several categories, like President and Vice Presidents. Our club has had many great folks who stepped up over the years to move this organization forward. I think that we’ve laid some great groundwork in 2023, so 2024 should be a very positive time of growth. I’ve enjoyed my time as part of the Executive Board team, and I look forward to helping some new members ease into leadership roles. If you are thinking about serving, relax. Joining the Executive Board is a pretty painless, but very rewarding, experience. If nothing else, please, please vote. Like they say in Chicago, vote early, and often.....

Winter Is Here! Remember, COSSA can be a challenging place in the winter. There are wood stoves on many of the bays, and we have wood available on site. The wood pile is behind the green fenced area near the wooden climbing wall. There is a splitting maul there also. Cold Fingers don’t have the same functionality as warm ones. Give yourself permission to move slower, be MORE CAREFUL and take a lot of warming breaks.

Our December General Meeting starts at 7PM. We have an in-person orientation the same night, starting at 5:30 PM (same place, VFW). Everyone is welcome to take part in both meetings.

-Michael Boyd

El Pres.

LADY HAWKS UPDATE

Hello Past Participants of Lady Hawks!

As many of you may know, Michael Boyd has transitioned out of the lead role for Lady Hawks as he prepares for a move to the east coast. The last two months the Lady Hawks have been led by Mark Sue, with assistance from Abbie & Seph Wilkiemeyer. As Mark already has a full plate running the COSSA Practical Shooters group he will continue to focus on that while Abbie & Seph take over Lady Hawks. We wanted to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves.

Abbie: Abbie is a farm girl from Ohio that grew up shooting .22 rifles and shotguns for varmint control only. She didn't shoot a pistol until well into her 20's, but now enjoys shooting all of her different pistols and rifles as often as she gets a chance. Abbie started attending Lady Hawks sessions in 2021 and has been assisting at sessions throughout 2022 and 2023 and obtained her NRA Pistol Instructor Certification in 2023. Abbie likes helping shooters become comfortable using their gun, improving their skills and increasing confidence in their gun handling abilities. When not shooting, Abbie works full time for a supply chain software company managing a team of 10 and training countless customers, teaches yoga, and depending on the season can be found outside building and maintaining trails and exploring Central Oregon by mountain bike, hiking boots, kayak, cross country skis or snowshoes.

Seph: Seph has 30+ years worth of experience teaching a wide variety of skills, from SCUBA diving to motorcycle riding to trail building and beyond. Seph's firearms journey began as a result of an abiding love for history. His first firearm was an M1 Garand purchased through the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), and he soon found himself showing up for monthly NRA High Power matches. Competition quickly led to coaching and teaching opportunities, and he soon found a love for helping people learn how to shoot in a safe and non-threatening environment. One firearm quickly led to more firearms (as many of you may be aware) and Seph now enjoys shooting a wide variety of rifles, carbines, pistols and even the occasional shotgun.

Multiple participants have expressed interest in continuing the Lady Hawks sessions year-round. We love the idea of keeping the community going throughout the year and not giving those pistol shooting skills a chance to get rusty so are going to see how year-round sessions go. Some key points for the winter sessions:

- These will not be the typical progressive Lady Hawks sessions - you need to bring your own pistol and ammunition and be familiar with how to use your gun. We'll bring along some fun and interesting firearms you may want to check out, but you should plan on using your own for most of your shooting.
- Safe gun handling will be emphasized and enforced, while still having fun.
- We will have targets setup with suggested drills to have a fun shooting experience. A belt, holster and magazine pouches are suggested for all participants and may be required for some drills.
- The 4 winter sessions are intended to help keep the skills learned during the rest of the year fresh. These sessions are not recommended for first time shooters.
- We will bring firewood and get a fire going in the wood burning stove. Dress for the weather and remember to bring along some warm beverages.

Due to the holidays, the November and December sessions will be on the 3rd Saturday of the month, 11/18 and 12/16 respectively, from 10 am - 1 pm. If you are going to participate, please arrive on time for the safety briefing, if you need to leave early no problem. We plan on scheduling January and February sessions for the 4th Saturday, with the regular progressive Lady Hawks sessions kicking off a new season again in March 2024.

Signups are available on [PractiScore.com](https://practiscore.com) and advance signups are preferred so we know who and how many people to expect: https://practiscore.com/clubs/lady_hawks

We look forward to shooting with you in the near future!
Abbie & Seph

NOVEMBER WORK PARTY

The work party started out cold but warmed up so that we got things done. The happiest members of the work party were the ones burning the limbs of the trees that were pulled out for the new MVHSTC trap fields. They were probably the warmest of the work party members. Signs were put up at the COWBOY area to show that it is only open for events. This is due to members abusing the area. Brush was cut at the shotgun area to get it ready for new throwers. The area set aside for personal shotgun clay throwers was looked at and it may be moved to provide enough space for the birds to fly. Grading was done on some of the roads to clear up the side ditches in case we get a rainstorm. Those members attending the work party were, Mike Pennavaria, Abbie Wilkiemeyer, Seph Wilkiemeyer, Dennis Jones, Ted Anderson, Dale Hayes, Eric Brown, Joe Dittrick and Bill Lewis

FIREWOOD

The trees that have been removed on the shotgun area are being cut up into firewood by the work party members and special work sessions. The firewood will be placed in the area for the RV parking by the tall climbing wall. A splitting axe is there for splitting into more manageable pieces to fit the stoves.

MT VIEW HIGH SCHOOL TRAP CLUB-FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

As you noted in the November COSSA Newsletter, the Mountain View High School Trap Club (MVHSTC) is now working with our Board of Directors to install a 3-Field Trap Area near where existing facilities are located. Details are spelled out in the aforementioned Newsletter. The MVHSTC will be providing for the funding for construction and could use financial support for what will be an expensive endeavor. The purpose of this article is to generate that support.

The MVHSTC is a strong, ongoing club with some 60 shooters, both young men and women participating. They have coaches, an instructor, and administrators for support. The hard work of the team and the staff resulted in both a State Championship (the Big Daddy) and a Conference Championship this year. As we are all aware, these youth programs are highly beneficial in developing young men and women into responsible adults and if one could observe a practice session this would be immediately recognized. Firearm safety, respect for others, respect for property and appreciation for support provided would be noted. It should

also be noted that this addition to our facilities will benefit COSSA in multiple ways.

The MVHSTC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and, as such, donations are deductible as allowed by law. Year-end statements for IRS purposes will be provided on any donations made.

Checks should be made out to MVHSTC and should be sent to: MVHSTC, c/o Kim Hurt, 22149 Rickard Road, Bend, OR 97702.

Thank you for your contributions.

NEW GUN OWNER CLINIC

What: Did you or someone in your life get a new gun and need some hands-on training? Learn how to operate your gun: safe handling rules, safe operation of your gun, loading, unloading, maintenance, recommended gear, and live fire under careful supervision.

When: 4th Saturday of each month from 2 pm – 4 pm

Where: COSSA Park
27050 Highway 20, Bend, OR

Cost: \$40

Bring: Your gun, ammunition for your gun, owner's manual for your gun, eye and ear protection

More info: Email Abbie & Seph Wilkiemeyer at:
WilkiemeyerTraining@gmail.com

<https://www.cossapark.com/new-gun-owner-clinics>

SHOTGUN AREA

The shotgun area is still closed, and all of the throwers have been removed. The shotgun area will remain closed until the Trap Fields are completed and the new COSSA throwers are installed. The patterning area is still open and can be used.

GATE PROBLEMS

We think the gate problems we have been having are related to the batteries and solar power. Every time the power gets low, it causes memory issues with the gate controller, and it doesn't retain the memory necessary to grant access to the gate. Last week Tami and Bill were successful in working with our gate vendor to do a reset on the memory controller. We hope this solved the problem and if so, we plan to do solar upgrades to avoid this in the future. As a reminder, if the gate is ever stuck partially open, all members should still stop at the keypad and flash their cards. This signs the member in as being on the property and gives them coverage with the COSSA insurance for the day. Also, sometimes just flashing a card at the keypad will make the gate operate properly. The cameras show that many members are going through the partially open gate much too fast. Remember the speed limit at COSSA is 15 MPH. If the gate is stuck open, call Bill, 541-480-4695.

UNAUTHORIZED GATE ACCESS

There are several members that have been duped into letting “members” in the gate when in fact they are not members. If you are approached and asked to let someone in the gate, **DO NOT DO IT**. Do not listen to their story about why they can’t get in, if they have an issue with their membership, they need to call the number posted at the gate. If they have a legitimate problem with their card, they should have no problem taking a moment and calling in. The people that get mad are the ones that have let their membership lapse and are trying to get out of paying or doing the online orientation. Letting someone in the gate will result in a **SUSPENSION OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP**.

2024 COSSA BOARD ELECTIONS

Board elections will take place in January 2024, and the winners will be announced in February at the general meeting. If you are interested in a board position, please refer to the COSSA Bylaws for details on the positions and job descriptions <https://www.cossapark.com/bylaws> and send your resume to tami@cossapark.com. In order to get a better voter turnout, voting will be available electronically and in person at the January general membership meeting. Positions up for election are President, Vice President, VP2, and Secretary.

BISON AT HEART MOUNTAIN?

Returning the ancient animal to its historic homeland. Is it an idea whose time has come?

By: Gary Lewis

"In 1916, Captain Louis, a chief of the band of Piute Indians near Burns, told the writer that there used to be buffalo all over the Malheur Valley." Thus wrote Vernon Bailey in his book *The Mammals and Life Zones of Oregon*, published June 1936.

A hard winter is thought to have wiped out the last of the herd of wild bison in the early 1800s.

Once I walked along the Deschutes River with a friend and he led me up onto a cliff to show me a petroglyph of a bison surrounded by hunters. There was an arrow in the animal and another in the bent bow of an archer.

Long ago they killed a buffalo in this spot.

One of the great treasure stores of Oregon memory is a book called *Memoirs of a Backcountry Bio* by Vic and Vicki Coggins. When I bought the book, the first thing I did was turn to the chapter on bison.

Vic Coggins, recently retired from a career with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, quotes Vernon Bailey's book and provides other historic references to bison in Oregon. This chapter caused me to recall a picture I have of a bison head found near Summer Lake. An obsidian tip is buried in the skull. That ancient warrior may not have survived to carve a petroglyph!

The American Bison, the US National mammal, in captivity at the Wildlife Safari near Winston, OR.



Photo by Gary Lewis

Today, a tanned bison hide tanned sells for about \$1,500 each, and the cost of sewing and the artwork upon it would add value. When the Nez Perce (Niimiipuu) used bison hides for their lodges, the 3- or 4-pole structure might take 16 to 20 hides stretched together. Each tipi today might be valued at \$35,000 for replacement cost.

The American bison is our national mammal. They once roamed free in Oregon. Is there a place for them today, perhaps on the Zumwalt Prairie or at Hart Mountain?

Gary Lewis is the host of Frontier Unlimited TV and author of Fishing Central Oregon, Fishing Mount Hood Country, Hunting Oregon and other titles. Gary at www.GaryLewisOutdoors.com

GUEST SIGN IN PROCEDURES

Members need to read the Guest Sign in procedure. Most of the members that bring guests are not signing in properly. If a guest does not sign in on the form themselves, they are not covered by the COSSA insurance. The guest fee is \$10.00 and has been since August 1st but some members are still putting in \$5.00. If this does not improve, COSSA may rethink the present guest policy.

EXTREME MUZZLE BLASTS

It has been noted that there are times at the Bill Fockler Sight in Range that it is extremely difficult to use the range because of the many rifles being shot with muzzle brakes. The noise can be a problem, but the main problem is that the concussion coming back to the benches on each side can almost knock a shooter off the bench. We realize that members want to shoot these rifles and need to do so to sight them in or test loads. However, please be aware that this can be a problem for other shooters and try to space yourself from other shooters.

NEW OUTHOUSE PARTS NEEDED

We are getting the two new outhouses done at the Gong Range and the Archery range. Volunteers have been working on the Gong Range outhouse and the building is nearly done. We are in need of two doors for the outhouses. The doors should be 36" by 80" with the door frame. The door needed should swing out with the hinges on the right. A steel door would be best but any door donation that would work will be appreciated.

Also needed is a single wooden drawer with or without ball bearing slides. The drawer on the inside needs to be at least 12 inches wide inside and up to 20 inches long. The depth can be from 2 to 4 inches.

Please call Bill if you have anything like these to donate, 541-480-4695.

NRL HUNTER GAMES

With the year coming to a close and hunting seasons ending some of you are probably still having nightmares of the Booner you missed. What did you do wrong? Poor marksmanship fundamentals? Unstable position? Mis-ranged your target? There are a few stigmas that plague rifle hunters:

- 1: Shooting your grandpas 70-year-old \$25 Sears and Roebuck rifle.
- 2: Rifle sits in the safe until the week before the season opener.
3. Printing a 3 round 6" group at a paper plate at 100 yards and calling it good enough.
4. Buy a \$7,000 custom .338 Lapua and think you can ethically shoot an animal at 1,500 yards with no training.
5. Shooting whatever random box ammo that's available at Sportsman's Warehouse.



Here's the thing, if you want to harvest big game with a rifle at distance it takes practice. It's time to introduce NRL Hunter into your life.

National Rifle League (NRL) Hunter is a long-range shooting competition that tests hunters' ability to find, range and engage animal shaped targets on the clock at distances of 250y - 1,000y. All targets are natural steel or animal colored, and all shooting positions are what you could find on a hunt- fallen trees, boulders, prone etc. This shooting discipline replicates hunting scenarios in a controlled environment. Bring your hunting setup (.30 cal max rifle, pack, tripod, binos, rangefinder, extra ammo, rear bag) and put it to the test. Throughout the matches you may find that you had your tripod and other gear stowed in your pack in a configuration that caused sub-optimal deployment techniques. As a solo shooter you have 4 minutes to complete each stage. As a team (2 shooters) you have 6 minutes. Time and gear management is key to performing well at matches but also dropping that 32" Muley before it crosses over the ridge and gives you nightmares for the next 11 months.

The NRL Hunter Games 1-day matches are hosted on the second Sunday of most months at the Cannon Range on the west end of COSSA. You don't need to burn up your 300 RUM barrel to participate, most shooters use a 6.5 Creedmoor. You can run a 6 Creed, .223 or whoever your heart desires as long as it's a max of .30 cal projectile. These 1-day matches are focused on improving shooting/hunting techniques through friendly competition and figuring out what you need to fix on your hunting load out. You may find a certain type of ammo shoots better than others. Maybe your binoculars are limiting your ability to identify targets. Or maybe the barrel on that old .270 is burned up and it's time for a new precision cut barrel. Think about your groups at 100 yards. A 5" group at 100 yards is going to keep you in the vitals, but that group opens up to at least 25" at only 500 yards and 50" at 1,000 yards thanks to shot-group dispersion. Fine tuning your entire hunting setup on the off season will yield optimal results when it's time to ground check next years wall hanger.

You got points saved up and have thousands of dollars worth of hunting gear. Don't wait until September of next year to pull your hunting rifle out and go afield just to miss a 360-class bull at 300 yards because you weren't dialed in properly. Start training now and be an ethical hunter making a well-placed shot from a stable position.



For those of you who regularly compete in NRL Hunter, Hunter Games points are accumulative throughout the year. So, if you shoot ten matches and get 50% on each match, you have 500 points. There are 15 Grand Slam Spots available for the top Hunter Games competitors.

For the full set of rules on the NRL Hunter matches visit <https://nrlhunter.org/>

For registration and upcoming matches visit the COSSA Calendar and https://practiscore.com/clubs/cossa_great_basin_precision_riflemen

See you out there!

Dane K. Lentz Great Basin Precision Rifle greatbasinprecisionrifle@gmail.com

COSSA DISCIPLINES

COSSA Practical Shooters

First Saturday of every month.

3 GUN-Third Saturday of months April thru October.

IDPA- Second Saturday of months April thru November.

Mixed Steel-Third Saturday of months November-February.

Contact: Mark Sue cps@cosspark.com

Cowboy Action: Horse Ridge Pistoleros (HRP)

First, Third & Fifth (if one) weekends of every month year- round. **Contact: John Merritt 541-848-2819**
johnacm@bendbroadband.com

Cowboy Action: Pine Mountain Posse (PMP)

Second Sunday of every month year-round.

Check our website or Facebook page for more information.

Contact: Bill Stanley 3220sunrise@gmail.com

Handgun Silhouette (HGS)

First Sunday and third Saturday of each month. Set up starts at 8:30am, Matches begin at 9 am. Cost \$5 per gun/per each 40 round course matches.

Contact: Dan Butala 541-410-5758

dan@veracitypm.com

Lady Hawks: Women's Defensive Shooting (LH)

Fourth Saturday of the month.

Contact: Abbie & Seph Wilkiemeyer

ladyhawks@cosspark.com

Central Oregon Precision Riflemen (COPR)

Long-distance high-performance rifle shoots.

Contact: Jason Simes jsimes2012@gmail.com

Great Basin Precision Rifle (GBPR)

First Saturday and Sunday of months April thru October on the Buffalo Range. These shoots are set up for the beginner and experienced shooter to know their rifle, scope, judge distance, windage, working together as a team, keeping up your skills and to have a fun and challenging shoot.

Match fee Saturday \$20.00 200 – 1,760 yards

Match fee Sunday \$15.00. If you do both days \$30.00

Targets: Steel, reactive targets, military infantry, iron maiden, IPSIC targets and more.

Ammunition: NO steel core, green tip, or military surplus.

Saturday:

Precision Rifle - 7:30 a.m. – 1,000 – 1,760 yards.

Shooting 15- 20 rounds. Rifle caliber up to .338

Lapua.

Approximately 10:00 a.m. – 200 – 900 yards.

Shooting 70 – 80 rounds. Rifle caliber up to 300

WM.

Sunday:

Semi-Auto – 9:00 a.m. – 200 – 750+ yards – 70-80 rounds.

Please Pre-Register. rj_camp@msn.com

Rod Campuzano, Match Director

Pine Mountain Riflemen (PMR)

Fourth weekend of every month April thru October

Friday 8:00 am -- Military Bolt Action, Military

Breech Loading single-shot, Lever Action Rifle

Cartridge. (Friday pm the range will be open to sight-in and practice)

Saturday 8:00 am -- Buffalo match: Long Range 700 to 1000 (occasionally 1200) yards; Mid-Range 300 to 600 yards.

Sunday 8:00 am -- 22 lever or vintage Match, Quarter Bore Match, Lever Action Pistol Caliber.

Contact: Dave Adams choprboy@yahoo.com

TRADING POST

For Sale:

7 MM Remington Mag and .375 H & H Reloading dies, cartridges, bullets and brass-new and once fired. Contact Bill Lewis for a full list. lewis.w.l@hotmail.com

Glock 19 Generation 2, 9MM Pistol, w/ 5 lbs. trigger pull, and two magazines, magazine loader, cleaning rod, all original paperwork in original Glock "Tupperware" box. The pistol was part of my father's estate and was only fired once. Buy for \$400 cash and you also pay any transfer fees at local FFL. Call/text club member Peter Ostrovsky at 206-856-7204.

Glock 43, 9MM Pistol, w/ 5.5 lbs. trigger pull, and two magazines, magazine loader, two Taran Tactical +3 magazine base pads, one E.M.P. +2 Magazine plate, all original paperwork, un-used Keyed Cable Lock in its original Glock box along with a Gunfighters Inc Solace Hybrid (Kydex/Leather) IWB RH Appendix Holster. The total value of the package is \$568. The pistol was my concealed carry gun and was only fired once. Buy the package for \$440 cash and you also pay any transfer fees at local FFL. Call/text club member Peter Ostrovsky at 206-856-7204.

Primers for sale

2,400 CCI #350 Large Pistol Primers (Magnum)

2,000 Remington #2 ½ Large Pistol Primers

\$.08 each or \$8.00 per 100.

Contact Jules at 541-382-9422 & leave message, or email jjwetzell@bendbroadband.com

LaRue Tactical Sniper Target

LaRue Tactical Sniper Target for sale, \$1,250 with charger and a new 12 V battery. These are identical to those used at Thunder Ranch and long range shooting schools. They cost \$2,754 new.

Specifications and details here. <https://www.larue.com/products/larue-tactical-sniper-target-tg1/>

If you have ever wondered if that was a bullet splash or a low hit into the dirt, there is no doubt with the LaRue target. It goes down! Also fun with a pistol.

Andy 541-325-6934

Wanted:

Late model reproduction 1858 Remington percussion revolver

Contact Gary Lewis, garylewisoutdoors@gmail.com


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