



# COSSA Newsletter – September 2023

**EFFECTIVE 8/1/2023 GUEST FEES INCREASED TO \$10.00**

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & ORIENTATION

*New Member Orientation 5:30pm, Membership meeting 7pm. VFW Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> & Olney in Bend*

Coming up at the September meeting:

*September 14, 2023*

*Gary Lewis: Gun Battles You've Never Heard Of*

Join us for our monthly membership meeting at the VFW Hall on 4th and Olney in Bend. Gary Lewis will be our featured speaker. Gary has recently been researching some forgotten battles in Oregon and Nevada. The West....sometimes it was a lot wilder than we remember. Gary also just got back from a bear hunt in Minnesota so you'll hear about that too!

If you're coming to orientation and are a new member, please send in your application and picture in ahead of time to [membership@coSSApark.com](mailto:membership@coSSApark.com) so we can have your membership card ready.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow COSSA Members,

August was a HUGE month of upheaval at COSSA. They say that the only thing that never changes is that change is inevitable, and August proved that to be true. Another part of change is that sometimes folks read a lot more into change than what is really there. I'll do my best to explain what is going on without fueling the rumor mill. The bottom line is that COSSA is still a strong organization, and these things happen.

In the last two weeks or so, we've had several resignations from the Board of Directors at COSSA and from some programs. Unfortunately, most of these came as sudden surprises and required that we slow down, get our

bearings, and make new plans. This seemed like a reasonable and necessary thing to do. Let me be more specific:

First, our new Membership Program Coordinator, Liz Moore, resigned a few weeks after taking on the position. All I can tell you is that there was apparently an internal conflict in the organization perceived by Liz and Liz resigned. The Membership Program went back to Tami Chapin, who has done this job for COSSA for years. Within a few days, Ed Moore resigned as Vice President. Ed has done numerous amazing things for COSSA, and this is very unfortunate. Jeff Brown, our #2 VP then resigned. Finally, Rick Coufal resigned as the Coordinator of the Safety Officer program. I have to add that in none of these cases did anyone call me or ask me to call them before they resigned. This is very unfortunate.

We are blessed that Marty Martin, a very gifted and experienced member of the shooting community, has stepped up to take Ed's role in the interim. We have another potential candidate considering Jeff's #2 VP role as well.

Because of these sudden departures, the remaining Board decided to *TEMPORARILY* suspend the Range Host Program until we figured out how to manage the program best for COSSA. Before Ed resigned, he was working on a study of peak demand times at the range so we could assign Range Hosts effectively to benefit COSSA (and most specifically its members). Having a range host on duty when the range has virtually no one using the facility does not seem to me to be the best use of their time or COSSA's funds.

The Range Safety Officer program, with multiple volunteers was also *TEMPORARILY* suspended. We were advised that the RSO's had used up all the allotted volunteer credit hours. We also want to rethink this. The original plan was for RSO's to make spot checks at big events. This seemed to morph into a lot of time spent at the range when no major events were underway. COSSA has historically had a single Safety Officer. We are looking to fill this position as soon as possible. Until then, this role will be filled by another Board Member.

We plan to restart both these programs as soon as possible. Please keep in mind that the Board has the responsibility of looking out for the best interests of COSSA. If we have to push the "hold" button for 2-3 weeks to make things work better, we will do this. Also keep in mind that the Range Host Program is relatively new, and the Safety Officer Program has basically resumed its earlier form.

**Finally, let's talk about COSSA KIDS:** Due to changing laws in Oregon, we are developing a "bulletproof" release of liability for parents to sign. This involves having the form vetted by an attorney with expertise in this area. We do not want to run afoul of any of the often-confusing new laws. As soon as we get a release that protects COSSA, we will gladly invite those kids back to COSSA.

In change there also comes opportunity. We are looking for folks to help us pilot COSSA through the events of the last few weeks. Please call me at 541 233-8009 or email me at [president@cossapark.com](mailto:president@cossapark.com). Thanks. See you at the range.

-Michael Boyd

El Prez

## **AUGUST WORK PARTY**

The work party day was a fine day for working outside, no smoke. We are attempting to get our range shop completed and are getting it done slowly. The main tools have been installed and we will be requesting a work party in the future to do the electrical work. Watch for this. The weeds are a constant problem and must be trimmed at each work party. If you have a weed eater and can help, come out to the next work party. Some of our problems keep piling up and that is especially true with the pit toilets. However, we have solved that problem for the time being by adding water to the vaults. This should keep us okay for several years. We think the intruder that cut the fence on the East end has decided not to return. We were able to get pictures of his vehicle and know what to look for. The fence was fixed at this work party, and we hope will remain so.

The cowboy bays have been closed to casual shooting and signs have been put up to notify members of that fact. The signs do not seem to be enough because we had one of the bays used for shooting clay birds and they were not cleaned up. The work party cleaned them up. Clay birds are not an approved target to be used on any of the ranges except at the shotgun area. Rope has been installed in front of the bays and more signs will be put on the ropes to inform members that they are off limits to casual shooting.

The work parties are attended by volunteers that keep COSSA Park looking good. If not for those volunteers, all the ranges and bays would look like the shooting areas on China Hat Road. The members attending this work party were Mike Pennavaria, Larry Confer, Jeremy Lewis, Dennis Jones, Joe Dittrick, Audie Eggleston, Dale Hayes, Tom Nitcher, Ted Anderson, and Bill Lewis.

## **HONOR SYSTEM**

COSSA has rules and regulations that are intended to keep all our members safe and all the ranges in good condition. The enforcement of these rules and regulations is based on the Honor System. However, it seems that the Honor System has broken down and members think they can do what they want that pleases them. This will not be the case. If the COSSA board determines that more regulations need to be put in place to keep members safe and keep the entire range operable, it will be done. If members want to be freer of regulations that restrict what they can do on COSSA property, they must follow the current regulations and rules. The question of what is to be done is up to the members. COSSA Park is a unique shooting range and will continue to improve and support the shooting sports. If members are not willing to help by doing what is right, then they will no longer be allowed to be a member. The board feels that many members are not assuming the responsibilities of being a member and may have to be supervised more by introducing stricter rules and regulations. If any member is unsure of what can be done, the Policy Manual on the web site will answer most questions. If the Policy Manual does not cover your question any board member may be contacted to answer any questions or find someone who can answer that question. Members may also call the COSSA number to find out who can answer questions, 1-541-241-8138. Let's work together and keep COSSA Park a great range.

## **ROAD CONDITIONS**

The main roads on the range are all gravel and must be graded periodically to keep them from wash boarding. Wash boarding is caused by excessive speed. The speed limit on all COSSA roads is 15 MPH. We are seeing many members exceeding the 15 MPH limit on the main road and especially after going through the gate on leaving and going out to the highway. Please slow down and preserve the roads.

## **GUEST SIGN IN**

The board decided to increase the guest fee on August 1<sup>st</sup>, to \$10.00 per guest. Prices for everything have gone up in recent years and the guest fee has not. The guest fee has been \$5.00 for over 25 years, and it was decided that it should be increased to match what other ranges charge and to keep up with inflation. Signs were changed to reflect this change. August was the month designated as the transition period for this change. Any member not paying the \$10.00 fee in the future will be notified. It is very important that guests are signed in properly and this is not being done. All guests must personally sign in on the guest line and their name must be legible in order to be covered by COSSA insurance. If guests are not shooting or are under 18, they do not pay the fee. The BLM requires COSSA to report how many members and guests are using the facilities. Please sign in properly and if you are unsure, read the directions posted at the sign-in kiosk.

## **RODENT PROBLEM**

For many years, we had a mice and rat problem with some to the COSSA buildings. Then for some reason, we had as many as 3 cats taking care of that problem. The difference was very noticeable. However, sometime this year, we lost all our cats. We know that one was shot and if we could find out who did that, that person would no longer be a member. We do not know if the others were shot also. We are now looking for some new barn/feral cats to take over the rodent problem. If we can find cats to take over, we will provide water and food for them. If anyone know where we can get barn cats, please let us know. Call Bill Lewis, 541-480-4695 or at lewis.w.l@hotmail.com.

## **21 YEARS OF THE 17 HMR**

**By: Gary Lewis**

If we had known in the early 2000s that the price of 17 HMR ammo would soar to \$19.99 a box of 50 in 2023, we might have laid in more supply. Out here in Oregon, it can be downright difficult to find 17 HMR in the store is nearly impossible in April.

Today ammo is produced by Hornady, CCI, Federal, Norma, Remington, and Winchester. Most of the 17 offerings I was able to find in a recent search are manufactured and labeled in one plant in Lewiston, Idaho, while, I believe, Winchester makes their own. Still, there are a lot of options including 15.5-grain lead-free, 16-grain TNT Green, 17-grain, and 20-grain. Here in Bend, Oregon, I can't seem to get my hands on the lead-free, but it is available from online retailers like Midway USA. A box of 15.5-grain Hornady NTX goes for upwards of \$20 to \$23 (40 to 46 cents per round) while the CCI 17-grain Speer TNT goes for \$16.99 (34 cents per round).

I stopped in at the local major sporting goods retail store and found zero boxes of 17 HMR on the shelf. When I went to a discount store downtown, they had ample supply, all in 20-grain offerings. I paid \$12.99 (sale price) for a box of 50 Hornady XTP to take to the range.

IT HAS ITS LIMITATIONS



*Kris Bales shooting the 17 HMR for sage rats out near Crane, Oregon.*

Wind is the biggest enemy of accuracy for the 17. A strong gust is going to blow a bullet off course past 100 yards. But that is part of the fun of shooting varmints anyway. There are times when shooting over a field of alfalfa when a 40-grain 22 LR or a 22 WMR is going to deliver more consistent first-round hits. But when the wind settles back to 6mph or less, watch out for sage rats.

It didn't take long for a lot of us newly minted 17 HMR enthusiasts to test the upper limit of the 17's effectiveness. At first glance I reckoned the 17 HMR would be a good rock chuck gun, and I shot a lot of them and so did my wife. The 17 HMR proved a good option in rather built-up areas because the tiny bullet tended to blow apart on a rock rather than ricochet and go spanging off into a new subdivision. And the little bullet made a satisfying sound on a well-hit rock chuck, but the critters tended to get down their holes anyway. In those days I learned to pack the 17 HMR for the rats and a 257 Roberts or a 243 for the chucks.

One day out in the Badlands I shot a coyote that came into the FoxPro at the 13-minute mark. It hid in at a dead run like it had heard the call over in the next county and couldn't be late for dinner. I had positioned the call, so the coyote had to make a hard right turn to get to it and when it spotted the decoy it was broadside. The dog jumped over the decoy and snapped at it and was still airborne with the little whippy fuzztail deke in its mouth when I shot it in the lungs with the 17 HMR.

It would have been an interesting experiment on how far a long-shot coyote would go, except my friend Lee Van Tassell shot it a half-second later with his 22-250 and that was curtains for that coyote.

My friend Darren Roe, a waterfowl guide in southern Oregon, was also an early adopter of the hummer. He carried it everywhere for at least 10 years and, while scouting duck and goose layouts, he had ample opportunity to head-shoot his canine competitors. But Darren would be the first to tell you that the 17 might be sweet, but it's not the best coyote gun.

If a hunter likes to eat rabbits, the 17 HMR is not the best choice either. Destroys too much meat. You want a 22 Long Rifle or a 22 Winchester Magnum Rimfire when you are shooting for the table.

I've never shot a badger with a 17 HMR, but I have shot one with a 204 Ruger and that was almost not enough gun either.

No, we love the 17 HMR out West because it does one thing, and it does it exceedingly well. It is dynamite for digger squirrels.

For a signed copy of Gary's latest book ***Bob Nosler Born Ballistic*** send \$29.95 to Gary Lewis Outdoors, PO Box 1364, Bend, OR 97709. Contact Gary at [www.garylewisoutdoors.com](http://www.garylewisoutdoors.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](mailto: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](mailto: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: Chris Reese** [christopher.reese51@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.reese51@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](mailto:dan@veracitypm.com)

### Lady Hawks: Women's Defensive Shooting (LH)

Fourth Saturday of the month. April - October

**Contact: Michael Boyd** [michaelboydmail@gmail.com](mailto:michaelboydmail@gmail.com)

### Central Oregon Precision Riflemen (COPR)

Long-distance high-performance rifle shoots.

**Contact: Jason Simes** [jsimes2012@gmail.com](mailto:jsimes2012@gmail.com)

### COSSA Kids

Currently on hold.

**Contact: Rich Fleming** [rfleming@bendbroadband.com](mailto:rfleming@bendbroadband.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.** [ri\\_camp@msn.com](mailto:ri_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: Earl McKinney** [sandemck@netscape.net](mailto:sandemck@netscape.net)

## **ADVERTISING & TRADIING POST**

### **For Sale:**

7 MM Remington Mag and .375 H & H Reloading dies, cartridges, bullets and brass-new and once fired.  
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Contact Barbara 541-420-7561



## Meeting Minutes

COSSA Monthly Meeting – August 10, 2023

VFW Hall

1. **23 members & guests present.**
2. **Guest fee raised to \$10 effective August 1.**
3. **Members and guests need to read the signs and follow the instructions at the kiosk when signing up guests.** Too many errors are occurring when forms are filled out.
4. **Corporate membership policy has been finalized** and initial fees start at \$1,000 with some flexibility for mutual benefit circumstances.
5. **COSSA has 1,345 current members.**
6. **Financial Report:** Income and expenses are running as anticipated. Checking account currently at \$25k and range improvement fund has a balance of \$80k.
7. **Cannon Range improvements:** 450>500 tons of gravel being distributed at the cannon range.
8. **Website on-line range orientation approaching completion.**
9. **Range Medical Trailer is stocked with an AED and medical supplies and is ready for use.** There is no fee for use by COSSA organizations or members.
10. **Next Gun Show is in September (date pending).** Table for COSSA is free but volunteers needed. Remember, admission is free for volunteers and you earn \$10 per hour off your COSSA membership for next year. Contact Ed Moore for more information.
11. **Next Sportsman's Show scheduled for March 2024.** Tables rent for \$900 each. Volunteers will be needed to sit the table and provide information about COSSA.
12. **Can't open the west gate because you forgot your member card?** Memorize your membership number , enter the number into the key pad followed by the # sign, gate should open
13. **BIB (Background Investigation Bureau) will be performing our background checks** for people in key positions. Cost is estimated to be \$18.20 per check but free for COSSA members.
14. **City of Mountain View:** Deschutes County is processing an application to establish the new City of Mountain View in the Millican Valley. COSSA Park is in the center of the proposed city boundary. Bill Lewis will be following developments as they progress. Stay tuned!!!
15. **COSSA Kids shoots have been suspended** pending interpretation of Oregon's laws related to placing a firearm in the hands of a minor.
16. **BLM update:** We'll be meeting with their representatives soon.
17. **Some people at COSSA Park for discipline events (not members)** are using other bays or ranges for their recreational shooting; this is not permitted. Discipline directors need to inform shooters of this prior to their discipline shoots.
18. **Inoperable clay pigeon throwers in the shotgun area** scheduled for immediate repairs.
19. **Work parties are usually held on the third Wednesday** of the month; August 16 this month.
20. **Dennis Jones was our Guest Speaker.** His topic was hunting with relic smoke poles, ie muzzleloaders. His was a very interesting presentation along with slides of his favorite hunting companion, wife LaDel and all the elk SHE has shot. Dennis not so lucky drawing elk tags! Dennis had ten rifles and two handguns for his presentation; old rifles, some handmade, relic double barreled shotguns with duce hammers and a Remington M700 in-line muzzle loader that he acknowledged was a killing machine but looked a little out of place alongside the brass adorned jewels in the lineup. We learned about flints and flintlocks, possibles bags and the true meaning of "flash in the pan". There is no doubt that Dennis loves his assorted antiques; the twinkle in his eye and the enthusiasm in his voice says it all.

Rich Fleming, Secretary




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