



COSSA Newsletter – November 2023

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & ORIENTATION

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

Coming up at the November meeting:

November 9, 2023

Bill Buckley: China Hat Road - Yesterday & Today

Join us for our monthly membership meeting to hear Bend OHA chapter member, hometown boy and retired pharmacist Bill Beckley talk about the old days on China Hat Road and his most recent hunt with his son for a mule deer buck. Bill Beckley brings a unique perspective to the topic of homeless infrastructure and mule deer habitat.

We may also hear a presentation from the ladies at **Patriot PinUp** and hear about their work for veterans in Central Oregon. This is an opportunity to help them in their mission and they may have calendars for sale.

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 so we can have your membership card ready.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear COSSA Members

It's raining outside as I write this. October is the traditional month when some COSSA Programs "close" for winter. Frankly, it can be just too cold to ask some shooters (especially new ones) to handle guns confidently and safely during the mid-Winter months at the range. So now we batten down the hatches and look towards Spring.

We have a lot of internal business to do this Winter. We will be working on budget issues a lot in November and December. We will look at the structure of COSSA for the coming year. We have ideas on the table like creating a Range Manager position. This would be someone who will oversee day-to-day operations and see that we are shipshape for the new year. Of course, there are budget considerations for something like this. That's why the budget will come first. If anyone wants to be a part of the budgeting process, please drop me an email or give me a call (president@cossapark.com or 541 233-8009). The plan right now is to use the better part of a Saturday to hash out the details for the coming year.

Website: Our website has come a long way. If you are a Discipline Director, or even close, please, please take a look at your web page on the COSSA site to make sure it is current and correct. We get a lot of calls from folks trying desperately to reach someone, anyone, at one of our disciplines without any luck. We also have some new things happening tech-wise, including a new user-friendly map and QR system for the range. In the near future, computer (and phone) savvy members can aim their phone at a posted QR code and learn all there is to know about how to use each of our ranges and facilities. Pretty cool, eh?

That's all for now. Have a great Thanksgiving!!

-Michael Boyd

El Pres.

OCTOBER WORK PARTY

The October work party went well in spite of the fact that we had about an inch of snow when we started. We have had some problems with the gate staying partly open lately and it may have been due to the bend in the gate. Therefore, we installed a new gate that we had in reserve. The gate went on with no problems and functioned well. It was also possible to straighten the old gate because we have some equipment operators that can work magic. So we still have a reserve gate if something happens to the existing gate. A new gate takes about 6 weeks to get a new one. If anyone sees that the gate is not operating, please contact Bill Lewis at 541-480-4695.

As usual, the garbage was picked up and deposited in the trailer. Some work was done on the roads to clean out the ditches, but more needs to be done also. Clearing the area at the shotgun range was done to have a new parking area for the trap fields when completed.

The bathrooms were all cleaned, and TP installed. It was not possible to wash them out due to the cold weather and the water tanks being drained. Please try to keep them as clean as possible until we can get them washed down again in the spring. As usual, extra TP is in the storage trailer back room.

Those members present at the work party were Mike Pennavaria, Marc Robert, Steve Dunbar, Jeff Brown, Dale Hayes, Ed Moore, Dave Sweet and Bill Lewis.

GATE PROBLEM

As mentioned above, we have had problems with the gate being partially open. We hope the new gate will solve this problem. However, if the gate is partially open, **ANY** member coming into the range must swipe his entry card at the keypad. This is a requirement of the BLM to keep track of how many people are using the facilities. If members are not checking in at the keypad when the gate is partially open, this can be a problem. Not only with requirements for the BLM but could possibly require further restrictions on range entry and make it more difficult to get into the range. It may be possible for members to help with this problem. Sometime just waving the entry card at the keypad will start the gate working again. If that does not work, if a member would stop after getting through the gate and wipe off the reflector on the man gate end, there is brush for that, or wiggle the gate a little, do not force, it may start working again. If the gate is partially open and does not close when you come through, contact Bill at 541-480-4695. Please help and follow the rules.

GUEST SIGN IN PROCEDURE SUGGESTIONS

There are still problems with members signing in as guests. We are seeing more guests coming in and not signing in properly. In order for COSSA to allow members to bring in guests, they must be signed in properly. If this does not improve, we may have to take that privilege away. The directions for signing in are posted in the kiosk but will also be mentioned here:

1. Members must sign in with date, time and name, legibly. Each member should use a new page.
2. Each guest must sign in and check the payment box. This covers the guests for the day under COSSA insurance. The sign ins must be readable.
3. Members are allowed to bring in a maximum of 4 guests per day. No guest is allowed to come in more than 3 times per year. If they want to come in more then they should join COSSA.
4. The guest fee was increased to \$10.00 per guest on the first of August, some guests are still putting in \$5.00. Please think ahead and bring the proper amount for the guest fee.
5. Payment by cash or check must be put in the envelope provided and the member must sign on the front and the member must put the names of the guests on the back. Payment may also be made by Venmo.
6. Deposit fee envelopes in the fee box.

The reason we have a wooden cover over the sign in folder is to make sure the folder is out of the weather. In the past we have had the folder left out and rained on and all of the records destroyed. We realize that the wooden cover causes a problem by not staying up when raised. We are trying to find something that will allow the cover to stay open for a short period of time and then close, but we are unable to find anything yet. If anyone knows of such a device or another way of getting guests signed in, contact Bill at lewis.w.l@hotmail.com or 541-480-4695. We want to keep the guest policy intact and make it easier for them to sign in and any suggestions would be welcome.

2023 PRS NW REGIONAL FINALE

Great Basin Precision Rifle hosted The Precision Rifle Series (PRS) Northwest Regional Finale at COSSA on September 29th to October 1st. The region's best precision rifle competitors laid it all on the line at the two-day match which was the culminating event for a years worth of competitions held across Oregon, Washington and Idaho. 130 competitors and volunteer staff came together and executed a great match with zero hiccups. Saturday's course of fire took place at the Buffalo Range and was delayed a few hours thanks to thick fog that rolled in during the morning, but all 10 stages were completed before dinner. Sunday went smooth with a 10-stage course of fire at the Multi-Purpose Range, awards and prize table, and luncheon catered by Codys Country Kitchen.

Title sponsor for the event Deschutes Arms and Munitions was out there all weekend along with industry representatives from Leupold, Nosler, BadRock Rifles, Radian Weapons and Low-Bond designs demonstrating their products to competitors. Every one of these companies really came through and helped shooters diagnose and fix problems with their rifles, even providing loaner rifles and equipment to those who needed them.

Throughout August and September members of Great Basin Precision Rifle transformed the Multi-Purpose Range land on the West end of COSSA into a 190-yard-long gravel firing line filled with shooting props,

capable of hosting over 100 shooters and staff. GBPR will be hosting monthly NRL Hunter Games matches here starting in November.

For more information on some of the matches we host follow these links:

NRL Hunter: <https://nrlhunter.org/>

PRS: <https://www.precisionrifleseries.com/>

For registration and dates of the 2024 Season (starts Nov 2023) check the COSSA Calendar and go to https://practiscore.com/clubs/cossa_great_basin_precision_riflemen to sign up!

Every Second weekend of the month we have sanctioned matches of PRS, PRS22, and NRL Hunter Games for you to shoot 250-1300 yards off a variety of props and positions. You don't need a magnum caliber to shoot these distances, in fact most use either a 6mm or 6.5mm projectile. If you are interested but not ready to take the dive into long range precision marksmanship, you're more than welcome to come observe matches and interact with the amazing community of competitors. We offer 1 on 1 training as well as group classes if you want to seek formal instruction and make hitting steel at 1,000+ yards a walk in the park. Loaner rifles and equipment from Deschutes Arms and BadRock Rifles are available upon request. If you have any questions or interest, please reach out!

Dane K. Lentz

Great Basin Precision Rifle

greatbasinprecisionrifle@gmail.com





WEATHER

As many of you have noticed, the weather is changing, and winter is coming. We are at a higher elevation than Bend, by 600 to 800 feet, and the weather may be different. We have already had snow at the range last week and expect more. It is wise to check the COSSA web page before coming out and may save you a trip. If we get snow at the range where it makes it probable that a non-4-wheel drive vehicle may get stuck, we will probably close the range to all vehicles. It may be possible for 4-wheel vehicles to get around the range but that may damage the roads. If COSSA Park is closed due to snow, an e-mail will be sent out to all members and a notice put on our website.

SHOTGUN SURVEY RESULTS

First off, I want to thank all the members that responded to the shotgun survey. Keep adding to it if you wish. Up to this point, we see very few members using the shotgun area and no input on damaged throwers. Because of the response from the shotgun survey, we hope this will change.

Initially, I think it is necessary to give some background of what we have or have not had for the shotgun area. COSSA was at first thought to be a rifle and pistol club because Bend Trap club had been in existence for many years and was well established and we did not want to compete with them. COSSA was built by volunteers and when money was available. Members came forward with both for several different types of ranges, rifle and pistol. No members were interested in heading up any shotgun range. The rifle and pistol ranges were laid out according to what was desired and what we thought we would need for the future. As the range was developed, we decided that we had enough space for a shotgun area and built the patterning shed and set up some simple throwers. Several years later we had some members that wanted to head up the shotgun area and they took care of it and made sure the throwers were working and things were kept clean. This went on for several years until those members moved out of the area.

All the other COSSA disciplines are headed by members and are kept up and repaired by the shooters that are using them. The equipment needed for these ranges is paid for by fees charged by the disciplines for their shooting events. The two ranges that are not run by disciplines are the Gong Range and the Sighting-in range. These two ranges are kept up and repaired by the monthly work party. This is also true with the shotgun area. The shotgun area has always been a free area and members must supply their own shells and clay birds. With no money coming in from the shotgun area, there has been no money for major improvements. This is one of the reasons why no improvements have been made. Another reason is because no members have come forward and requested any improvements. The personal thrower concrete pad put down this year was done because of requests from members that use their own throwers. We do not get any input on broken throwers or lack of paper for the patterning shed. When we first put up the throwers, they were covered by a cover made by one of our members, they were to protect the throwers but many times it was found that they were not put back on when members were through with the throwers, and they were being blown around and damaged. The same with the board forms for the paper in the patterning shed. They were not put back when members were through with them. If members are not going to take care of what COSSA provides, then they will have to do without.

COSSA is considering making major changes to the shotgun area. Partially due to the Shotgun survey results but the main reason for this is because we have been approached by the Mountain View High School Trap

Club. They are looking for an area that they can use for their team to practice. We all need to encourage our youth to enter the shooting and hunting sports arena, and this would provide them with that area. They are willing to get funding and contractors to build a 3-field trap area at COSSA Park. This has been looked into and the COSSA board has decided to work with them on this project.

The shotgun area would be redesigned with the Shotgun Pattern area being the left base. Next would be the COSSA throwers, probably 2. These would be improved throwers over what we had in the past. Next would be the MVHSTC 3 field trap area. Bringing up the right end of the shogun area would be the Personal Thrower area and the base pad. The changes we are looking at are:

PATTERNING AREAS

1. This would remain in the same location and would be cleaned up and the brush removed.
2. Cleanup and repair would still be done by the monthly work party.
3. No other changes unless we get input from members.

COSSA THROWERS

1. Two throwers would be installed. One would be a simple thrower a grade higher than the others we have had. This thrower would be able to throw 2 birds. The second thrower type may be determined by what the membership would like. If we get input from members that they would like a much better thrower it could be a multiple bird thrower that would be operated by a battery. This thrower could be a simple 2 bird thrower or a multiple bird thrower. If we determine that a multiple bird thrower is desired it may be with an additional fee

MVHSTC FIELDS

1. The 3 trap fields would be constructed by volunteers and funded by MVHSTC funds and MVHSTC would have priority use of this area.
2. MVHSTC has agreed that COSSA could use the first trap field for its members. This would require a fee and registration for time of use. After a member has finished his appointed time at this field, he would report to the park hosts so the field could be inspected. Members of COSSA using this field would supply their own birds.
3. COSSA would repair and keep in good working order the first trap field. Any COSSA member that wantonly damages this field would pay for damages and repairs.

Personal Thrower Area

1. This area will remain the same, with some cleanup and tree removal.

This is a preliminary layout of the new shotgun area. Work will begin soon, and all of the shotgun areas will be closed when workers are present. We are looking for input from the members. Send any suggestions to any board member, or to lewis.w.l@hotmail.com. If Hosts are present at the range, leave any suggestions with them.

BUILT FOR BLACK POWDER AND BACK IN BUSINESS

Two ways to put that wall-hanger back to work with low-pressure reloads!

By: Gary Lewis

Ace locked up in the tall grass along the ditch and for once he was pointing back toward us which, if I read the English setter's body language right, the bird would flush right-to-left or possibly left-to-right. If it was the former, and if it was a rooster, I was ready.



Earlier in the hunt I had shot at and missed a rooster in the timber over the dogs. I didn't want to miss it again.

For the second hunt in a row, I was carrying a 16-gauge Remington Arms Company side-by-side manufactured about circa 1900 when bird hunters were still shooting black powder. Although it was probably shot by several generations of hunters probably up through the 1950s if I guessed right, the gun might as well have been custom ordered for me, it fits me that well.

My friend and fellow COSSA member Matthew McFarland had a hard-to-get supply of 16-gauge RST low pressure loads and brought me four boxes before the hunt - No. 7s for targets and No. 5s for pheasant and partridge. From the first time I shouldered the gun, the wood came right to my cheek and the rib disappeared, the little gold bead the only thing between my eye and the target.

On the first hunt with the old Remington, I had shot RST low-pressure No. 5 loads and made some of the longest shots of my life on partridge.

The stock is English walnut fitted sometime in the past with a recoil pad. The 30-inch barrels are crafted of three-bar Damascus steel.

Damascus steel is made through a type of forging where steel and iron are combined for greater strength. A Frenchman from Liege was among the first gunmakers to experiment with Damascus. A pair of Englishmen patented a process of turning a band of metal into a spiral twist. Barrel ribbons were wound around a mandrel. Usually, seven feet of hammered rod was required for 12 inches of barrel. Barrels were commonly made out of Damascus steel until higher-pressure smokeless powders came into use. As ammunition pressures increased, Damascus-barreled shotguns were turned into wall hangers. But low-pressure shotgun loads can help put a Damascus gun back into the field.

THE SAVAGE FOUR-TENNER

On this hunt in Tygh Valley, I had a pair of Four-tenners installed in the 16-gauge. This brilliant invention was offered for years in the Savage catalog for the discriminating shotgunner who wanted to be able to shoot .410 loads in a 12-, 16- or 20-gauge.

One of the things that makes this a great adapter is the substantial barrel length (sealed by an O-ring) that allows for proper pressure in the larger barrel. The other thing is the extractor works with the factory extractor mechanism.

Would I say it is a perfect way to shoot .410 loads? No. If you really want to shoot birds with a .410, buy a Four-Ten. But if you are looking for a good way to put an old shotgun back in the field try to picture this:

Walking toward Ace, his tail rigid, body taut, I heard the pheasant before I saw it and then time seemed to slow down, the rooster floating across in front of me right-to-left and I swung out in front of it and squeezed and saw the bird crumple over the Damascus barrels. Just like 1905. Just like 1919 - after The Great War to End All Wars. Just like 1946.

Maybe several generations of pheasant hunters are looking down from the Happy Hunting Grounds and perhaps they nod approvingly. I betcha I shot this gun at least as well as they did.

Note: Look for Savage Four-Tenners on gunbroker.com

Most of what I know about barrel adapters and conversions I have learned from our friend and former COSSA president Bill Herrick. If you know Bill and want any information on adapting your favorite gun to shoot a different cartridge, talk to him at an upcoming COSSA meeting.

Listen to Gary's podcast - Ballistic Chronicles - on Spotify, iTunes, Apple Podcasts and other podcast platforms.
Or visit www.GaryLewisOutdoors.com

TAX ASSESSOR VISIT

The Deschutes County Assessor People were out to the range to look over what we have. It seems that they forgot about us all these years. We will probably be getting a large tax bill in the future.

2024 COSSA BOARD ELECTIONS

Board elections will take place in January 2024 as opposed to February as in previous years. 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.

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: Chris Reese 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

Lady Hawks: Women's Defensive Shooting (LH)

Fourth Saturday of the month. April - October

Contact: Michael Boyd michaelboydmail@gmail.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. 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

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

Smith & Wesson M&P Bodyguard 380

Asking \$380.00

Includes: 2 magazines, a carrying case and a box of cartridges.

Contact Barbara 541-420-7561



2010 Jeep Wrangler Sport

86,000 miles

V6, automatic, removable hard top

Black with black top, almost new tires

18mpg in town and 22mpg on the highway

\$14,500

Contact Gary Lewis, garylewisoutdoors@gmail.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.