



The Bullet-IN

River Bend Gun Club is a club for members, founded in 1958.

Issue No. 304

January 2023

Happy New Year!

As we begin calendar year 2023, River Bend Gun Club is half way through its fiscal year that began on July 1, 2022 and ends on June 30, 2023. This is a time when club management evaluates what we've accomplished and identifies priorities for the next six months.

Club membership is growing at a steady pace with 2,233 total members in December '22 versus 2,152 in Dec. '21. As of Nov. 30, 2022, the club had \$495,255 in the bank including \$100,220 in the Capitol Reserve account and \$42,360 in the Scholarship Fund account. Nov. YTD income from initiation fees and dues remains steady and income increased \$15,000 YTD versus the previous year.

Some of the club's ongoing challenges are our relatively small staff and the fact that all Board Members are unpaid volunteers who serve in their spare time. Much of the real work studying, measuring and evaluating budget and resources needed for range improvements is done by various committees comprised of members who volunteer their time and labor and there aren't enough volunteers.

One of the tools I use to help the Board of Directors and Club Officers maintain awareness of projects is the Potential Project List. This report is updated monthly and is designed to list potential projects that are in consideration so that we don't lose sight of projects that may not be an immediate priority. The balancing of time and available funds is often the subject of spirited debate during monthly Board meetings. Between available discretionary funds (funds that are not required for routine expenses like maintenance and repair of club facilities and grounds) and the inclement weather encountered from December through February, we must be very selective about which projects to fund and when to do the work.

Listed below are some of the projects on the current Potential Projects List:

1. Develop and activate MP3 pursuant to the existing Action Complex plan and configure it into a 100 yard rifle range to accommodate practice for same pending BoD approval and available budget.

Facilities Committee, MP3 Committee, MP2 ROs, AP ROs (budget TBD)

Status: The MP3 Committee is evaluating proposals for the Board. This is a medium-term project with a two to three year time line.

2. Develop a proposal to remediate water runoff to address water drainage issues on CB Hill bays 1 through 11.

Facilities Committee, CB Hill ROs (budget TBD)

Status: Pending outcome of Action Pistol bay 3 test case.

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Happy New Year!

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- 2a. Develop a proposal to remediate water runoff and improve the bay flooring surfaces to address drainage issues on AP bays. Initial “test” remediation will be AP Bay 3. Material to be used: M-10 manufactured sand.

Facilities Committee, AP ROs (estimated cost: \$47,772)

Status: The estimated cost of \$47,772 for one bay is well beyond the financial resources available. Revised action is under study by the Facilities Committee.

3. Develop a scope of work and proposal for use of the area between AP bays 3 and 4 to include check-in/registration area and ramp from the AP parking lot.

Facilities Committee, AP ROs (budget TBD)

Status: Pending.

4. Evaluate impact of continuing conservation status for 55-acre parcel purchased on 11/1/18. The conservation status for this parcel expires in Dec. 2022 and, if reassigned for some or all of the 55 acres, will remain in effect for an additional 10 years extending through 2032.

Land Use Committee (budget TBD)

Status: The Land Use Committee Chairman resigned in October. Appointing another committee chairman and extending the conservation status for this parcel is now a high priority.

- 4a. Develop and present to the BoD specific plans to manage and utilize the newly purchased property for camping, hiking and leisure activities (not including hunting or shooting) for the foreseeable future.

Land Use Committee (budget TBD)

Status: See number 4 above.

5. Purchase a used Ford F150 range truck with 8’ bed and dual cab to replace the blue range truck and serve as a back up to the primary range truck.

Club Manager, Board of Directors (estimated cost: \$15,000)

Status: Pending approval by the Board of Directors. The concern is that, with only one work truck available, if that truck is damaged or down for repair, groundskeeping and maintenance stops.

6. Evaluate replacement, redesign and potential relocation of the large River Bend Gun Club sign displayed on the property on the southeast corner of Yellow Creek Rd. and Shiloh Church Rd. The current sign is old and faded and not as visible as it should be.

Facilities Committee, Club Manager (budget TBD)

Status: Pending.

7. Determine a location for a clubhouse facility that is easily accessible to members and non-members. A proposed drawing should include office space and conference rooms. Develop and present to the Board proposed locations, plans, drawings, timeline and budget to build the clubhouse.

Facilities Committee, Board of Directors (budget TBD)

Status: This is a long-term project that will take multiple years to complete. However, there are several actions that may be taken short-term that will contribute to the project. Examples: Determining the best location(s) and specific footprint of the building and parking area.

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Happy New Year!

(Continued from page 2)

8. Evaluate High Power Rifle Range covered firing line at 600 yards that may include a concrete pad, Astroturf or other type of ground covering and ancillary upgrades to the immediate area as related to the ADA accessibility requirements.

Facilities Committee, High Power ROs (budget TBD)

Status: This represents a significantly large investment in the High Power Range that is currently pending ongoing evaluation and study by the Facilities Committee.

In order to keep River Bend Gun Club open for members 365 days a year and running smoothly, it requires a delicate balance of available personnel to do the work and financial resources to fund it. Talented volunteers who want to run for the Board of Directors or who are willing to serve on committees are in critically short supply. Applicants for paid positions on the club's staff are rare. A want ad for an Assistant Club Manager has been posted in the Bullet-In and on the RBGC Forum since mid-October and only two members have applied.

We have this 377 acre gun club in this beautiful location because of the hard work of the dedicated members who built it. They planned the layout, moved the earth, graded the roads and erected the buildings and structures that allowed River Bend Gun Club to exist, to grow and to thrive. Many of these members are now gone, some remain and only a few are still active in the club. This club would not be here today without their efforts. If River Bend Gun Club is to continue into the future, it will require the help, support and hard work of club members who want to see it through. If you share the vision and are willing to put the hours in, please let me know.

Will Owensby

willborner@aol.com

RIVER BEND SCHOLARSHIP AR-15 RAFFLE FOR 2023

River Bend Scholarship Committee will be raffling a Radical Firearms RF-15 5.56 caliber rifle in 2023.

This prize is being generously donated by River Bend members Keith and Lynda Hudson of Appalachian Armory in Dawsonville, GA.

To purchase \$20.00 raffle tickets or for more information, please contact Ernie Knoche or Phil Henderson at scholarship@RBGC.org. The winning ticket will be drawn in May at the 2023 River Bend Gun Club Annual Business Meeting and Picnic.



Father—Son Hunting Trip

One of River Bend Gun Club members, Steven Porter, recently sent in an email to Assistant Club Manager, Greg Hughes, about a terrific hunting experience he and his Son, Will Porter, shared this hunting season in South Dakota. He was most appreciative of RBGC and having the opportunity to practice his shooting skills on the Silhouette Range. When Greg shared this with me, I contacted Steven and asked him if he would like to share this with the membership in the Bullet-In. This is what he had to say.....

“2022 marked our sixth-year deer hunting in South Dakota. This year we had three generations on the trip including my father-in-law and my oldest son taking his first trip with us. My son Will shot his first buck ever, a nice 9-point, from about 100 yards on our first morning hunting. We got him a Savage 6.5 Creedmoor last year for Christmas and he's shot several boxes at 100 and 200 on the multipurpose ranges to get ready. In past years, we'd routinely see lots of big deer at 400+ yards, but didn't feel confident shooting that far. Prior to this year's trip, I spent all of my free time on the silhouette range shooting steel from various positions and



ranges to get confident. All of that work culminated in a beautiful 10-point that my son spotted on a faraway ridge at 513 yards. We had the trip of a lifetime this year and we couldn't have done it without RBGC.”



Thank you, Steven, and congratulations on a couple of fine South Dakota Bucks! I am sure the memories will last longer than the venison. Also thank you for sharing this with the RBGC members. Your dedication to taking the time and expense to practice at those ranges and make a clean shot is commendable to say the least. We can all now learn from your experience.

The 2023 Edition Range Rules is out!!

Available now (as of 1.1.23), on the Club website in the documents section. [Click here](#) to see the 2023 Range Rules. Select from a 'viewable' layout, or print your own 'booklet' to keep with you --its your choice! Some of the 2023 Range Rule highlights:

- Parents are included in the "Family" sign-in sheet category
- Overnighting in Club building(s) is not allowed
- Shotgun Patterning Range new location
- Full-auto .223 & 5.56 live-fire now allowed [read carefully]
- Consolidation of the range use chart [aka 'the matrix'] where finding the right range for your firearm is easy as pie.

Lastly, there are a limited number of large-print range rules. If you desire to read the range rules without your glasses or readers, these are first come, first served copies that must be picked up at the Club.

Thank you!

Jim Garner

Chief Range Officer, River Bend Gun Club

First Annual RBGC Pheasant Hunt

The first annual RBGC Pheasant Hunt has come and past. Six of us traveled to Kimball South Dakota to the world renown Red Barn Hunting Retreat to enjoy three days of world class pheasant hunting. Hunters included Cliff Buckalew, Todd Campbell, Bill Goode, Greg Hughes, Bill Illg, and Jim Stickley.



These six men represented RBGC very well and had no trouble shooting a limit of pheasant every day. We even finished the third and final day before we broke for lunch. As you can tell in the pictures, the weather was perfect and we even had a couple inches of snow on the ground which helps make for a most memorable experience.

The folks at The Red Barn know how to treat their customers with three home cooked meals every day, super clean and comfortable accommodations, and wonderful guides with well trained retrievers that made the experience even that much better. Evenings were spent around the poker table in the lodge for a friendly game of dealer's choice and reminiscing on the events of the day.

Everyone enjoyed the trip so much we have already reserved the facility for next years hunt. I know many of you were interested in the trip and could not make it. We have room for a few more hunters next year, however we expect them to fill up quickly. If you would like to join us next December, please contact me as soon as possible to reserve your slot.

Bill Goode

rbgcacro2@gmail.com



USCCA Training Update

Hello fellow River Bend Gun Club members. I want to wish everyone a very Happy New Year. I hoped you all enjoyed a very Merry Christmas. By the time you read this all of the classes and dates for the approved USCCA training will be listed on the club calendar under events.

United States Concealed Carry Association (USCCA) is the leading source for firearms training for the use of personal protection and defense of self and family. Here is the training schedule for 2023.

- Concealed Carry and Home Defense Fundamentals will be taught in six classroom mini courses on the first Wednesday evening of the month and will include a range day for the actual shooting portion of the training.
- The AR-15 Fundamentals course is a six-hour course that will be taught on the Fourth Saturday of March, April, May, June, September, and October.
- Defensive Shooting Fundamentals is a three-part series that starts with defensive shooting fundamentals. The second part of the series works with applying those fundamentals in the real world and finishes up with applying those fundamentals to defend you and your family in your home environment. These courses will be offered on the first Saturday of April, May, June, September, October, and November.



Firearms training for personal defense is not a one size fits all type of training. There are many variables. Are you planning on carrying a firearm on your body or are you staging one at home and in your vehicle? Do you have small children to consider? What are the true legal issues to consider? Our goal is to help you answer these questions and to help you develop a training plan for the most likely situations you may find yourself confronted with.

If you are not sure which courses meet your personal goals, please contact me at 678-409-5383 or email me at rbgcacro2@gmail.com. I look forward to working with you to develop a personal protection plan for you and the people you love.

Bill Goode
RBGC ACRO

"Come see me on the range"

SECOND ANNUAL RIVER BEND GUN CLUB PHEASANT HUNT

Konechne's Red Barn Hunting Retreat

www.redbarnhunting.com

When: December 9th- 11th, 2023

Where: 35809 254th Street Kimball, SD 57355

We have the entire lodge booked for the above hunting dates and are looking for six more hunters to fill up the party. The accommodations include all meals, lodging, licensing, and shotgun ammunition for the hunt and warm up rounds of clays.



Contact Bill Goode for pricing and to book your reservation.

rbgcacro2@gmail.com

678-409-5383

Firearm Training at River Bend Gun Club

As we start into the new year training at River Bend Gun Club is moving forward with our regular NRA based training. We will continue to offer training for adult and youth programs. This training is designed for the new shooter and those who have shot for a long time but need to review the basic or improve their skills. Our youth training is the best way to start a young man or woman learning gun safety and the right way to shoot. We concentrate on firearm safety and the fundamentals of shooting. Our regular training date is the second Saturday of each month starting in the conference room then moving to the range.

We are also planning to offer USCCA modular training on some Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

Please check the events calendar on the club web site for all dates and times.

All training offered at River Bend Gun Club is for the benefit of the members and their guests. The training committee works to provide the best training available to you the members. To continue a quality training program, we need your help. All members have a family member or friend that talks about learning to shoot or a youth that would like to learn.

Why not give them the opportunity and sign them up? Or give a Christmas present that will last a lifetime.

2023 Calendar – Approved courses for monthly trainings (second Saturday of the month)

January 14 - Basic Rifle	https://tinyurl.com/yj9rcdsh
February 11 - Youth Pistol	https://tinyurl.com/5cz5htax
March 11 - Youth Rifle	https://tinyurl.com/24p5p46z
April 8 - Women on Target	https://tinyurl.com/33k5zhsv
May 13 - Basic Pistol	https://tinyurl.com/y599jfns
June 10 - Women on Target	https://tinyurl.com/4yuhhsns
July 8 - Basic Pistol	https://tinyurl.com/2m462znz
August 12 - CCW (Basic Pistol pre-requisite)	https://tinyurl.com/2b22kxrf
September 9 - Women on Target	https://tinyurl.com/48p38sw4
October 14 - Youth Rifle	https://tinyurl.com/34kaussk
November 11 - Youth Shotgun	https://tinyurl.com/ycku55ct
December 9 - Basic Pistol	https://tinyurl.com/2p897aev



If you have any question or just need more information, please contact us.

Jerry Rioux, Training Committee Chairman 404-731-4937



NRA Range Safety Officer Course

The NRA Range Safety Officer program was developed in response to the demand for a nationally recognized range safety officer certification. NRA Range Safety Officers are people who possess the knowledge, skills, and attitude essential to organizing, conducting, and supervising safe shooting activities and range operations.



When: January 7th, 2023 9:00am – 6:00pm

Where: Gene Mowell Conference Center

988 Riverbend Gun Club Dr.

Dawsonville, Ga. 30534

This course is being offered by River Bend Gun Club for Match Range Officers and Assistant Range Officers to meet the requirement of the club to officiate at club sponsored matches. This course is free to these RO's and ARO's as well as any RBGC Member interested in obtaining this NRA Certification.

For further information please contact Bill Goode at rbgcacro2@gmail.com.

Registration Links:

January 7, 2023 [Course Details | NRA Training \(nrainstructors.org\)](https://nrainstructors.org/course-details)

July 29, 2023 [Course Details | NRA Training \(nrainstructors.org\)](https://nrainstructors.org/course-details)

2023 Annual Election of RBGC President & Directors

As provided in the club By-Laws, the President and Directors of the Club are elected by a majority vote of the respective classes of members in good standing, present and voting, in person or by proxy, at the annual meeting of the Club.

All members seeking office (Directors or President) in the 2023 election must complete an application fulfilling all requirements and submit it to the club secretary no later than February 1, 2023. Such application must be made on the official 2023 Board of Directors Official Candidate Application form.

The 2023 Board of Directors Official Candidate Application form is included in this newsletter and may be downloaded and printed. The Official Application is also available on the Club Forum, as well as on the RBGC website on the homepage, and is available upon request from the Club Secretary via email at sec@rbgc.org.

The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers will be held on Sunday, May 21, 2023 at Multi-Purpose Range 1 (MP1). The President, two Life Directors and two Annual Directors will be elected. (One of the Life Directors will be for a one-year term.)

Please submit your completed candidate application to the RBGC Secretary via email at sec@rbgc.org, or via regular mail to RBGC, PO Box 1482, Cumming, GA 30028. Applications must be received no later than 5:00 PM on February 1, 2023.

River Bend Gun Club, Inc.
2023 Board of Directors Official Candidate Application

Name: Primary Tel. Number:

E-mail Address: Alternate Tel. Number:

Membership Type: ☐ Annual ☐ Senior ☐ Life RBGC Member Since:

Candidacy For: ☐ Annual Director ☐ Life Director ☐ President

How frequently do you use the club (approximate monthly average)?:

In what shooting disciplines are you active?:

Summarize your previous service to RBGC including offices held, committees on which you have served, etc.:

Briefly describe your short- and long-term goals and objectives for the club if elected (attach additional sheets if needed):

Please include any other comments or information you wish to provide:

Candidate's Signature: Date:

Please use page 2 of this application to collect endorsement signatures of at least ten members in good standing. Only Life Members may endorse candidates for President or Life Directors. Only Annual and Senior Members may endorse candidates for Annual Directors.

Member Endorsements of Candidate for Election to Board of Directors

Candidate's name: (please print) _____

Candidacy For:

☐

Annual Director

☐

Life Director

☐

President

I endorse the above candidate for election to the RBGC Board of Directors office sought at the next annual meeting.

	<u>Membership Type</u> (Life or Annual/Senior only)	<u>Name</u> (Please Print)	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Date</u>
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

In accordance with By-laws Article X(B), the Board of Directors requires at least 10 endorsement signatures. The spaces below may be used at the candidate's discretion for additional endorsements (recommended).

	<u>Membership Type</u> (Life or Annual/Senior only)	<u>Name</u> (Please Print)	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Date</u>
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				

Applications must be received by the RBGC Secretary on or before 5:00 PM on February 1, 2023 and may be submitted by US mail or e-mail as follows:

US Mail: **RBGC, Inc.
PO Box 1482
Cumming, GA 30028**

E-mail: **sec@rbgc.org**

To confirm receipt of your application (recommended) or for questions about the election of officers, please contact:

**Erica D'Amico, RBGC Secretary
470-865-0754
sec@rbgc.org**

Additional Instructions: Please attach a brief candidate statement (300 words or less) explaining your reasons and qualifications for your candidacy. Your statement will be published in the RBGC newsletter in April and May.

Official Club Business

Highlights of the November 14, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting

President Will Owensby presided over a quorum of seven Board members. Also attending were the Club Manager, the Assistant Club Manager, five club officers, one life member, four annual members, and one life member spouse. The meeting was convened at 7:00PM on Monday, November 14, 2022. The meeting was held at RBGC's Gene Mowell Conference Center on club property.

A quorum was confirmed, the proposed agenda was adopted, the minutes of the October 10, 2022, Board meeting were amended and approved, and the following officer and manager reports were presented and accepted:

Treasurer Secretary Chief Range Officer Club Manager Shotgun Manager

Board decisions made, actions taken, and items of interest:

- Treasurer Geoff Rhines reported that October FYTD income was \$708K, an increase of approximately \$18K versus the same period in FY 2021.
- October FYTD expense was \$341K, a decrease of approximately \$62K versus the same period in FY 2021.
- Cash in the bank as of 10/31/22 was \$530,717 including \$100,220 in Capital Reserve Fund.
- Club Secretary Erica D'Amico reported that the membership total at the beginning of the November 2022 meeting was 2,216; 79 members more than this time last year.
- The number of Senior Members at the beginning of the November 2022 meeting was 203; 9.16% of RBGC membership and 12 members more than this time last year.
- Chief Range Officer James Garner reported that the Range Use Summary Report for October 2022 totaled 2,182 (1,799 members and 383 guests).
- Eighteen venues submitted Match Use Summary Reports for October 2022. Total entries were 701 (247 members, 431 non-members, and 33 juniors). October match income was \$35,985.00 with \$2,503.25 reported to the club.
- There was a New Member Orientation (NMO) class held on October 23, 2022, for 18 attendees. An additional NMO class was held on October 30, 2022, for 18 attendees.
- There were 18 Tac Rifle Certifications, 0 NFA Certifications, 0 Supergun Certifications, and 0 Stop the Bleed Certifications in October.
- The board approved Bill Goode for SuperGun Certification ARO.
- The board approved Mauro Bisiacchi as ARO for 100-yard Reduced Clinic Match, as well as ARO for the Rifleman's Weekend.
- Club Manager Eric Leid reported that Bobby's Bridge has been repaired and is now serviceable.
- New sign has been posted on CB Bay 11 reference PCC only.
- Shotgun Hill Associate and Assistant Club Manager jobs are posted on the RBGC forum.
- HP range target boards have been repaired and repainted.
- HP sign-in box was moved from the pits to the 600-yard line as was requested during the range committee meeting.
- MP2 Kiosk shutters were repaired and light bulbs replaced.
- Shotgun Hill Manager Bill Wettingfeld reported that shotgun range use in October 2022 was 381 shooters (318 members and 63 guests). 1,591 rounds were fired during October with 49 cart rentals. Total October revenue to the club was \$11,674.00.
- Member Communications Manager David Norcross reported that the November Bullet-IN reached 2,298 recipients with 2,247 successful deliveries (97.8%). Open rate was 1,589 (70.7%) and 652 (29.0%) members clicked through the newsletter.
- Facilities Chairman Art Thompson reported that bids were received for MP3 project, however, project summaries were extremely generalized and contractors will need to outline parameters for scope of work.
- Bids were received for the AP Bay 3 Restoration Project. Since the Cowboy 11 Range needs drainage work as well as AP Bays 3, 4, and 5, it was recommended that project be revisited next month.

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Official Club Business

(Continued from page 11)

- The Board approved 23 new members and 0 reinstatements.
- Range Committee Chairman James Garner reported that a meeting was held on 11/6/22 with 28 of 34 venues present. New liability release sign-in sheets were covered and confirmed to be in use by all.
- HP Pits sign-in box to be moved to HP 600-yard berm area.
- 2023 venue calendar was covered and confirmed. There was 1 venue conflict remaining as of the board meeting.
- Finance Committee Chairman Geoff Rhines reported that the 2021 Form 990 has been filed. 990s are available for members who request them. Member's name and contact information will be recorded.
- Infrastructure Committee Chairman Eric Leid reported that Byrd Electrical conducted a safety and efficiency audit of the club on 11/10/2022. Priority will be given to safety considerations first. Lighting will be installed on AP4 as requested by David Norcross. Lighting will be installed facing the side parking area of the maintenance area.
- Range Maintenance Committee Chairman Steve Hardin reported that the Cowboy Hill Bay 11 impact berm will be moved back 6 feet and it will be made higher by adding dirt on top. It is recommended that range use is stopped until the berm is repaired.
- Training Committee Chairman Jerry Rioux reported that the following monthly training courses were approved: 1/14/23, Basic Pistol; 2/11/23, Youth Pistol; 3/11/23, Youth Rifle; 4/8/23, Women on Target; 5/13/23, Basic Pistol; 6/10/23, Women on Target; 7/8/23, Basic Rifle; 8/12/23, CCW (Basic Pistol pre-requisite); 9/9/23, Women on Target; 10/14/23, Youth Rifle; 11/11/23, Youth Shotgun; 12/9/23, Basic Pistol.
- Training will be expanded to include USCCA training opportunities presented by Bill Goode. Dates TBD.

Regular monthly Board meetings are called to order at 7:00 PM on the second Monday of each month in the Gene Mowell Conference Center. RBGC members and families are cordially invited to attend.

Membership Statistics

	NOV 2022	OCT 2022	NOV 2021
Annual and Non-Resident Members	1,820	1,793	1,760
Life Members	187	187	182
Senior Members	204	203	191
Honorary Members	5	5	4
Total Active Members	2,216	2,188	2,137

New Members Approved

Mike Brown, Cumming	Dick Gray, Braselton	Louis Pittaluga, Monroe
Dave Carter, Cumming	Matt Harden, Canton	Russ Rogers, Cumming
Daniel Cicarelli, Jasper	Rick Howell, Cumming	Taylor Rutherford, Woodstock
Clay Constant, Roswell	Roy Kelley, Canton	Kirk Swanson, Jasper
Jim Craig, Dahlonega	David Lemcoe Jr., Johns Creek	Brandon Truesdell, Woodstock
Benjamin Crom, Marietta	Tom Lewek, Cumming	Chuck Welch Jr., Cumming
Dustin Dalton, Canton	Stan Padgett, Dawsonville	Michael Yaun, Alpharetta
Yen Edwards, Dawsonville	Ray Perry, Jasper	

Action Pistol

Christmas Don't Shoot Your Eye Out Action Pistol Match

Mother Nature blessed River Bend Action Pistol's closeout of our 2022 season with a chilly but beautiful day for a match dedicated to Santa, all his elves and A Christmas Story tribute. Forty-three Action Pistol shooters came out to compete and do their best to rescue Santa from Bad Santa, protect his elves from the Grinch and practice with that brand new Daisy Red Ryder. The Sprite can didn't stand a chance and nobody shot their eye out! Safety First, Fun Second.

Bay 1: Two Stars Appeared -- Our season finale brought out not one but two Christmas Stars. Lots of Christmas colors on plenty of steel to challenge even the best shooters. And, of course, don't forget, first a **Red Star** then a **Green Star**. How hard could that be? Apparently, it can be...



Bay 2: Banish Bad Santa -- Christmas 2022 saw the return of Bad Santa and the Grinch at Action Pistol. Run and gun and save the reputation of Jolly Saint Nick was the scenario for this stage. Shoot fast, run slippery and fast, shoot on the move, shoot around the door, shoot after going through the door, shoot around the wall. Everyone who enjoys an aerobic workout got their Christmas wish on this Bay.



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Action Pistol

(Continued from page 13)

Bay 3: Save The Elves But First Don't Shoot Your Eye Out! -- Everyone started with their new Daisy Red Ryder and a shiny Sprite can then it was a run to opening presents to find the necessities to rescue Santa's elves from those Elf Hostage Holders (EHH's) who would spoil Christmas. Santa and the elves were excited that most of the elves were saved... and nobody shot their eye out.

As is the Action Pistol tradition, the match was followed up with another great lunch. Our Grill Master, Art Thompson, cooked the dogs to perfection. Karen Busey surprised us with incredible steaming and spicy gumbo and tasty literal cupcakes and then it was all topped off by a Christmas present from Mamiko -- her world-famous brownies. All of this delivered above and beyond the call of duty to put a smile on everyone's faces.



And of course, the Action Pistol Door Prizes were kicked up a notch for Christmas and included lots of ammo, and the TWO Grand Prizes – a Daisy Red Rider Carbine with AP match use provenance and another brand new one. No lumps of coal for this year's AP shooters as we put a ribbon on the final AP match of 2022 and got everyone in the Holiday mood!

A heartfelt thank you to the AROs, Administrative Staff and all the volunteers who made RBGC Action Pistol a success in 2022.

The 2023 RBGC Action Pistol Season Begins February 18, 2022

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Shotgun Hill Open Normal Hours New Year's Day</i> <u>RBGC Precision Rifle Match</u>	2 <i>Silhouette Range Closed for Maintenance</i>	3	4 <u>Concealed Carry and Home Defense Fundamentals</u>	5 <i>Cowboy Hill (CB) Bay 2 is Closed</i>	6 <i>Cowboy Hill (CB) Bay 2-7 is Closed</i>	7 <u>Cowboy Action</u> <u>NRA RSO Training Course - Mowell Conference Room</u>
8 <u>Steel Challenge</u>	9 <u>Board Meeting</u>	10	11	12	13	14 <u>Centerfire Benchrest</u> <u>NRA Basic Rifle Class</u>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 <u>Action Pistol RO Meeting - Mowell Conference Room</u> <u>Hunting Rifle Shoot - Silhouette</u> <u>Tactical Rifle Certification</u> <i>Cowboy Bays 1 through 6 Closed from 9:00am to 1:00pm for USPSA Setup</i>
22 <i>New Member Orientation Meeting</i>	23	24	25	26	27	28 <u>USPSA Match</u> <u>100 Yard Match/Clinic</u> <u>Buffalo Rifle Match</u>
29	30	31				

Events on calendar are subject to change.
Please visit: <https://www.rbgc.org/> for the most current events.

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <u>Self Defense</u> <u>Firearm Basics</u>	2 <i>Cowboy Hill (CB)</i> <i>Bay 2 is Closed</i>	3 <i>Cowboy Hill (CB)</i> <i>Bay 2-7 is Closed</i>	4 <u>Cowboy Action</u>
5 <u>IDPA Match</u> <u>RBGC Precision Rifle</u> <u>Match</u>	6	7	8	9	10	11 <u>Centerfire Benchrest</u> <u>NRA Pistol First Steps</u> <u>Orientation - Youth Shooting</u> <i>High Power Range Workday</i>
12 <u>Steel Challenge</u> <i>High Power Range</i> <i>Workday</i>	13 <u>Board</u> <u>Meeting</u>	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> <i>- Don't Forget</i> <i>Him or Her</i>	15	16	17 <i>AP Bays 1-3</i> <i>Closed for Match</i> <i>Setup After</i> <i>2:00PM</i>	18 <u>Action Pistol</u> <u>Hunting Rifle Shoot - Silhouette</u> <u>Tactical Rifle Certification</u> <i>Cowboy Bays 1 through 6 Closed</i> <i>from 9:00am to 1:00pm for</i>
19	20 <i>Presidents</i> <i>Day</i>	21	22	23	24	25 <u>USPSA Match</u> <u>100 Yard Match/Clinic</u> <u>Buffalo Rifle Match</u>
26 <i>New Member</i> <i>Orientation Meeting</i>	27	28				

Events on calendar are subject to change.
Please visit: <https://www.rbgc.org/> for the most current events.

Bench Tech—Chapter 2: How to Shoot off a Bench

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The notion that shooting off a bench needs foot-by-foot, on-foot instruction is a tough sell, particularly when the salesman has repeatedly been accused of needing a scaffold, a rotating stool, and two assistants on step ladders for him to change an overhead light bulb. For those of you shooting 22-caliber gas guns or 6-mm hunting rifles, I would pretty much agree, particularly if your accuracy criterion is minute of IPSC target or minute of deer. Whatever works, works. However, as recoil from a selected chambering increases and/or the stipulated accuracy becomes strategic rather than casual, the precision and consistency of the shooting technique become progressively more important in order to craft high-quality ammunition.

The following bench-shooting technique is the same one I use to shoot my 1000-yard benchrest light gun. My preferred chambering is equivalent to a hot-rodged, 300 Winchester shooting bullets weighing up to 240 grains. This technique was used in setting my light gun, 6-target aggregate score record when chambered in a 338-wildcat using triple-digit powder charges. (Masochistic self-abuse knows no age limit, particularly when supplemented by periodic doses of stupid-fearless pills) The only difference between the technique I will describe in this chapter and my light gun technique is that an off-the-shelf bipod has been substituted for a 45-pound custom front rest. Honest.

Full disclosure: this technique has only conceptual application to positions in other shooting venues. Although I do not claim any expertise in shooting venues other than 1000-yard benchrest, I suspect there is limited-to-no direct transference. In addition, this technique is aggravating and potentially expensive to implement, as exemplified by pictures 2-1 and 2-2. Picture 2-1 shows the scope location I use when shooting off a bench for load development, and picture 2-2 shows the scope location when I hunt critters. The ring marks on the scope are a testament to the intense “fun” I had setting up this particular scope to work on both a magnum and short action system.



Picture 2-1



Picture 2-2

I expect some degree of disparate scope positions, as indicated by these pictures, is likely no matter what the final (intended) shooting venue. Note I have never claimed that any aspect of Bench Tech implementation was gonna be easy.....

The objective of the technique is to lock in the system to the point you can convince yourself you don't need your hands to do anything other than aim and squeeze the trigger. In my (unwashed) opinion, this is the same operative concept in the high-power prone position that uses a sling and shooting coat to secure the system. (Yes, I have participated in this bondage ritual) Both techniques lock the system in the shoulder pocket for a consistent cheek weld (to eliminate parallax) and minimal trigger-hand grip that facilitates a trigger squeeze instead of trigger chaos.

Hot Tip: If you feel the need to grip the system hard enough with your trigger hand to prevent the system from “getting away from you” during recoil, you are, by definition, doing this wrong. Think “no- grip grip”.

There are five sequential steps to this bench-shooting technique:

- 1) Positioning and aligning the system (with an attached bipod) and rear bag on the bench
- 2) Stool placement and adjustment to initially place the head
- 3) Bag hand placement to efficiently control the rear bag and facilitate loading the bipod
- 4) Placement of the system's stock in the shoulder pocket by positioning of the trigger hand
- 5) Final head placement for achieving bipod loading, cheek weld, and sight picture.

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The following narratives describe these sequential steps, along with brief discussions of applicable sidebar issues. I also present a final sidebar issue that I believe requires consideration to achieve “true” target impacts that are fundamental for expeditiously tuning the load.

Step one is strategically positioning and aligning the system and (highly recommended) benchrest-style rear bag on the bench. Position the rear bag first, “aiming” it if necessary, using the slot between the ears. The bag should be positioned so that it is at the very edge of the bench, as shown in picture 2-3.

Next, position the system on the bench with its bipod legs deployed. The long axis of both the system and the rear bag should be concentric, oriented perpendicular to the target. The butt end of the stock should approximately coincide with the rear end of the bag. (picture 2-4) While the system is in this position, assess if the height of the bipod’s legs is sufficient to get on target without radically moving the



Picture 2-3



Picture 2-4



Picture 2-5

rear bag fore and aft to achieve the proper muzzle elevation. Adjust the bipod’s legs, as necessary. Shims of various thickness placed beneath the rear bag may be required to obtain a strategic elevation alignment. (picture 2-5) In an ideal world, an on-target alignment of the system should result in the rear bag positioned at the edge of the bench (mandatory) and at the rear of the stock at or slightly beyond the rear end of the bag, as shown in picture 2-4.



Picture 2-6



Picture 2-7

In order to load the bipod, it must be restrained to prevent any forward leg movement toward the target. Pictures 2-6, 2-7, and 2-8 present various ways of how that could be accomplished. I use the plywood fixture of my own design and construction (picture 2-9) that I clamp to the bench. Placement of the restraining device should be performed once the system and rear bag have been positioned.

Once the system, its restraint device and bag have been set up/aligned, the primary wind flag can be positioned. For load development at 100 yards, one flag is satisfactory for most shooters. I customarily place this primary flag with about a 2 to 3-foot offset from the system’s alignment, about 10 to 15 yards down range so I can watch it with my non-aiming eye (off eye) as shown in picture 2-10. (Yes, both eyes are open when I squeeze the trigger)

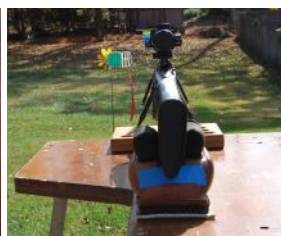
Folks, if you are truly serious about crafting high-quality ammo to max out the accuracy of your system, I urge you to rig (and force yourself to use) at least one wind flag. During load development, it’s possible to get a combination of powder charge and seating depth that cause the group to string almost perfectly horizontal. Honest. Using a wind flag to **know** when that occurs versus assuming the wind caused the target’s horizontal impact string can be the difference between a good load and a spectacular one.



Picture 2-8



Picture 2-9



Picture 2-10

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Before I move on to step two, I want to stress the importance of using a high-quality, formal benchrest-style rear bag. With the bench-shooting method I will present, the rear bag “steers” the system, guides it with virtually no lateral (east-to-west) displacement during recoil, and allows a consistent, quick return to battery. Think of the benchrest-style rear bag as a precision rack-and-pinion steering system. As with most everything, money buys quality.



Picture 2-11



Picture 2-12



Picture 2-13

Pictures 2-11 and 2-12 show that an otherwise very good bag is essentially worthless. The ears of the bag on the right in picture 2-11 are stitched too close together to allow the stock to completely rest on the full body surface of the bag. (picture 2-12)

There are numerous, less-expensive alternatives to a high-quality, benchrest-style rear bag, one of which is shown in picture 2-13. It is simply a sock partially

filled with plastic beads. This sock is what I used when I taught my grandsons to shoot off a bench. Their hands were not big enough nor strong enough to manipulate the rear bag as I will subsequently describe.

Regardless of the rear rest used, picture 2-14 is a reminder to remove any item from the stock that would impede/disrupt its rearward travel during recoil. This picture identifies that the rear sling stud has been removed.



Picture 2-14



Picture 2-15

Picture 2-15 shows a side view of the rigged system and rests. Note the bag is oriented so that that the downward slope of the bag's top

is toward the rear of the bench, the direction where recoil will displace the system. This bag orientation allows greater surface area contact between the stock and the bag, enhancing guidance of the system during recoil. This orientation also puts the bag with its vertical end facing the target. This vertical surface is gripped by the bag hand during “aiming” the system with the bag, as will be subsequently described.

Step two begins with the strategic placement of the stool. This strategic stool placement is referenced by the resultant head placement relative to the system's stock. This head placement is fundamental for both locking the system in the shoulder and furnishing a component of forward compression on the bipod. This forward compression is known as loading the bipod.

The objective of the stool placement is to have the chin just clear the stock, with the nose aligned concentric with the rear of the stock. (picture 2-16) If you lay your chin on the stock as shown, you can feel the end of the stock on the chin's cleft. The stool should be close enough to the bench so that this head placement occurs when sitting **upright** with the chest placed firmly against the bench.



Picture 2-16

For most shooters, the club's furnished (low) wooden stools have a height that allows chin placement within spittin' distance of what I have recommended. At MP-1, there are a few donated, pneumatic secretary seats with the backs removed. The pneumatic adjustment of these seats (if still operational) can allow the strategic height placement of the chin. I have my own pneumatic stool, as I consider the chin clearance on the stock is instrumental for achieving optimal body placement.

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A consequence of the recommended chest and nose placement is that your legs will be splayed open no matter what club bench you use. Moving everything (the system, bipod restraint, rear bag, and stool) toward the rear of the bench could potentially provide some relief for your rear leg, based on the bench being used. The bipod restraint devices shown in pictures 2-7 and 2-8 offer simple field expedience to accommodate this rearward shift. An extended throat C-clamp can be used with the plywood restraining fixture shown in picture 2-6.

No matter what is done with the system placement on the bench, the resultant leg placement will likely be assessed as ranging from strange to uncomfortable to totally unacceptable. I view my leg placement as a necessary evil to accommodate the designs of the benches furnished by the club. The reason associated with the word “necessary” is that I believe this initial head and torso placement is fundamental for achieving a consistent and secure placement of the system’s stock in the shoulder pocket, a consistent cheek weld, and a consistent loading of the bipod. I believe the targets produced by my hunting systems, as presented in the Introduction and Chapter 1, are testimony to that consistency. Metaphorically, I am gladly dancing with the partner RBGC has given me.

Step three in this process (which some of you now suspect is a shotgun wedding between you and the bench) is the positioning of the non-trigger hand (bag hand). Picture 2-17 shows the result of this bag hand deployment. The bag hand is placed on the bag so that the elbow points **directly** at the target. The angle between the bag hand arm and the target should be 90 degrees.

The bag hand arm should be flat on the bench, as shown.

As you rotate the bag hand’s arm on the bench’s surface to point directly at the target, you can feel your torso incline toward the target as if you had initiated an oblique crunch. The resultant sliding of the torso toward the target along the bench edge caused by this arcing movement results in both the head and shoulders moving toward the target. (picture 2-17) The torso’s movement ultimately results in a component of forward displacement that contributes to loading the bipod.



Hot Tip: Let the body move with the bag hand arm placement as it is literally inclined to do.

This elbow placement also facilitates efficient manipulation of the rear bag by the bag hand. The bag hand actually aims the system by moving the bag fore and aft (relative to the target) for crude elevation adjustments, and by squeezing the bag for fine elevation and lateral adjustments.

Hot Tip: Position the scope’s reticle at one o’clock to your target’s aim point, about an inch or two above it. Squeezing the bag will drop and shift the reticle to this aim point.

Picture 2-17

Note in picture 2-17 that the bag hand’s elbow placement places the arm in axial alignment of the system. Any rotation of the elbow from this coaxial alignment ultimately results in a less-efficient grip, also potentially torquing the bag to the point where the system does not perfectly track (binds) in the ears during recoil. Such binding can cause uncalled fliers.

The bag hand is responsible for the majority of the follow-through, supplemented by keeping the head fixed during recoil. As you practice/learn this technique, you should consciously focus on the performance objective of maintaining the same squeeze pressure during the violence of the recoil as you did during aiming. Variation in bag squeeze pressure during recoil can result in ugly vertical flier impacts on the target.

Step four is placement of the system’s stock in the shoulder as a direct result of the trigger-hand placement. If you have correctly implemented the first three steps, the result of step four will be an “automatic” placement of the system’s stock in the shoulder with the trigger-hand placement. This step is facilitated by first extending the trigger-hand’s arm 90 degrees to the bench (picture 2-18), then arcing it toward the system’s stock for ultimate placement of the hand.



Picture 2-18

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The arcing movement of the trigger-hand arm will engage and place the shoulder on the end of the system's stock. Think of this arcing movement as embracing the stock with an exaggerated, one-arm hug.

As the trigger hand interfaces with the stock, (using words like "grips" or "grasps" instead of "interfaces" implies too much hand pressure) you should feel a modest loading of the bipod. More importantly, you should assess that the end of the stock has been appropriately placed on the shoulder for final lockdown that will occur in response to step five. If the stock doesn't feel satisfactorily secure and/or you have achieved absolutely no component of forward compression to load the bipod, you likely need to adjust the stool to get your head and/or chest in a better alignment. Picture 2-19 shows the body position at the completion of the trigger-hand arm arc movement.

Step five begins by rotating the head about 90 degrees toward the target (picture 2-20). When you have rotated your head sufficiently to the point you believe your sighting eye is on an axis perpendicular to the scope for future scope-eye alignment, keep your head fixed and **arc your entire body to lower your head onto the stock to achieve a cheek weld**. The completed position is shown in picture 2-21.

This final, subtle arcing movement should once again feel like an oblique crunch. You are doing this movement correctly if your neck does not kink above the shoulders and you feel your chest sliding slightly along the edge of the bench. Arcing your body with this final torso-crunching movement applies the final forward-compression component to load the bipod.



Picture 2-19



Picture 2-20



Picture 2-21

After your cheek welds to the stock, check the fore and aft placement of the scope for a full sight picture. Move the scope to achieve a good sight picture, more than likely requiring forward movement of the scope from its current position.

For those of you without Pic rail or Kelbly dovetail-mounted scope rings, this scope adjustment exercise might ultimately be considered a deal breaker. Recall I used the words "aggravating" and "expensive" at the beginning of this chapter.....

Obtaining scope placement consistent with a full sight picture can be expedited by keeping both eyes closed until you believe you have achieved a cheek weld that your body is normally inclined to produce. When you open your eyes, you should instantaneously see a "perfect" sight picture.

At the risk of being sued for false advertising, my expectation is that after all the positioning, arcing, rotating, and crunching have been completed, you will feel surprised (dare I say "pleased"?) at how good the completed position actually feels. I expect you will believe there is a high degree of confidence that you have control of the system and not vice versa. Dry firing should add to that degree of confidence, particularly if you convince yourself that you do not need a death grip on the stock with your trigger hand to "control" the rifle during recoil.

The degree of compression required to adequately load the bipod is really not much. If you assess that the applied compression has "taken the slop out", you have likely loaded the bipod sufficiently.

The final sidebar issue of precision shooting off a bench with a bipod front rest is system cant, not to be confused with shooter can't, as administered by your evil twin Hu Flung Dung. Cant is simply rotation of the system that causes the scope to deviate beyond pure vertical or horizontal, your choice of word. System cant of only one degree can pitch a shot about ½ inch at 100 yards. Obviously, this amount of group-size variability could obscure an otherwise excellent load.

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A remedy to reduce/eliminate system cant is a level mounted on the scope, as shown in picture 2-22. I prefer the level to be of a flip-out style, as shown, viewed by my off-eye. A scope level, coupled with a locking lever on the bipod to keep it from rotating, was used to produce the hunting system groups shown in the Introduction and Chapter 1.

Even with a tightly cinched-down locking lever, the torque produced from boomer chamberings, heavy-for-caliber bullets, and fast-twist barrels can be sufficient to cause system rotational creep. Besides using the off-eye to assess orientation/condition of the wind flag, I self-impose a mandatory shot-to-shot assessment of system “level”.

A field expedient that can be used as a back-handed substitute for a scope level/locking lever combo is to plumb the target on the target frame by using a small torpedo level. (picture 2-23). Referencing/orienting the scope’s cross hairs with the periphery of the target during aiming can remove really ugly cant. As shown in the picture, using an actual target in which you can consistently aim the cross hairs makes the best of a potentially less-than-ideal situation.



Picture 2-22



Picture 2-23

Proper shooting technique (breath control, trigger squeeze, reading conditions, calling the shot, follow-through) matters. This topic is well beyond the scope and intent of this chapter and will not be discussed.

On a recent Sunday afternoon at MP-1, I taught this technique to Grandson #1. Because of his small hand size, he used the bead-filled sock. He used my 22-250 with a front bipod restrained by my plywood fixture. Within 15 shots, I assessed he was shooting groups consistent with the system and ammo accuracy. He obviously was not using the wind flag, and Grandpa gave him passes for some ugly, wind-induced kickers. The wind began switching violently and really kicked up for his last group of five, sometimes to the point where the flag’s propeller was spinning so fast I thought the top assembly would fly off. The resultant group was pretty-much horizontal, unkindly referred to as a “weather report” by the short-range benchrest bunch.

After his final shot, he continued to look through the scope, studying the blatantly large group size and odd linearity. He eventually mumbled something to the effect that “I guess reading the wind matters.” Grandpa gave him another pass and merely grunted “Yep”, sparing him the techno-spew that his bullet moved laterally about ½ inch for each 5-mph wind velocity change, even at a muzzle velocity of 3600 fps. Grandson #1’s final dispensation: “That was fun. I’d like to do this again.”

There is always a Ying to the Yang. As we were buttoning up our “stuff”, an Ol’ Boy who had been shooting his 22-caliber gas gun from an adjacent bench at IPSC targets positioned at both 100 and 200 yards eased up and allowed that “the sophistication of using a wind flag on a Sunday afternoon was not in keeping with his expectation of a reasonable club experience.” He further allowed that he “may have to reconsider membership in the club.”

I think he was kidding.....but maybe not. Thank God he hadn’t noticed the scope level....

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— Scott Fletcher

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4000 \$88 per 1000 (save shipping and taxes)

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For Sale

Glock 17 Gen 5 with RMR type 2 adjustable LED (3.25 MoA dot), 4.5lb trigger job completed by GA firing line and approved by Glock, tromp on suppressor height night sights and TLR1, can switch out for new condition TLR2 if preferred.

\$700



Spam Can of Russian produced 7.62x54R ammo (440 rds) \$300

300BLK pistol/SBR upper receiver. 10.3 Daniel Defense S2W (heavy) barrel, geissele airborne charging handle, SLR BCG and superlative gas block. Ready to accept any keymo suppressor.

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Can also sell with Browe BCO/RMR type 2 combo.

chrisjohnson16@hotmail.co.uk

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3.75" barrel

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two (2) boxes Armscor 9MM 124 GR FMJ ammunition - 100 rounds

All for \$375.00

call or text Jack Calhoun 404-775-1447

email: tuxfordjack@gmail.com



Classified Ads

For Sale—Glock 19

Perfect condition.

Original case, 3 magazines, 2 loaders, extra grip, holster, and 4 boxes of 9mm ammo. \$650.

kensyarbrough@gmail.com



For Sale—Caesar Guerini Summit Sporting O/U

2-3/4 in. Chambers

32" Barrels

Includes chokes set and case

Small blemish near safety as shown in picture.

Beautiful shotgun and nice overall condition.

Will meet at my residence or RBGC for a cash sale.

Call Mark at 404-925-3699 for more information.



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Chris Kyle inspired me.

One of the most accurate rifles in the world, from Austria.

Hammer forged barrel, integrated mono pod. Factory bipod. Folding stock.

Night Force 8x32x50, SFP. Soft bag included. All the good stuff.

8 shot mag (2), 220 Custom loads with Berger 208 gr. Bullet.

150 rounds of Black Hills ammo with 165 gr. Bullet, 70 rounds of brass.

Approx. 500 rounds shot thru it. Ready to enjoy!

Got a new project.

If interested, contact Ronnie at

770-630-9258 or

Claybird8sv1@gmail.com

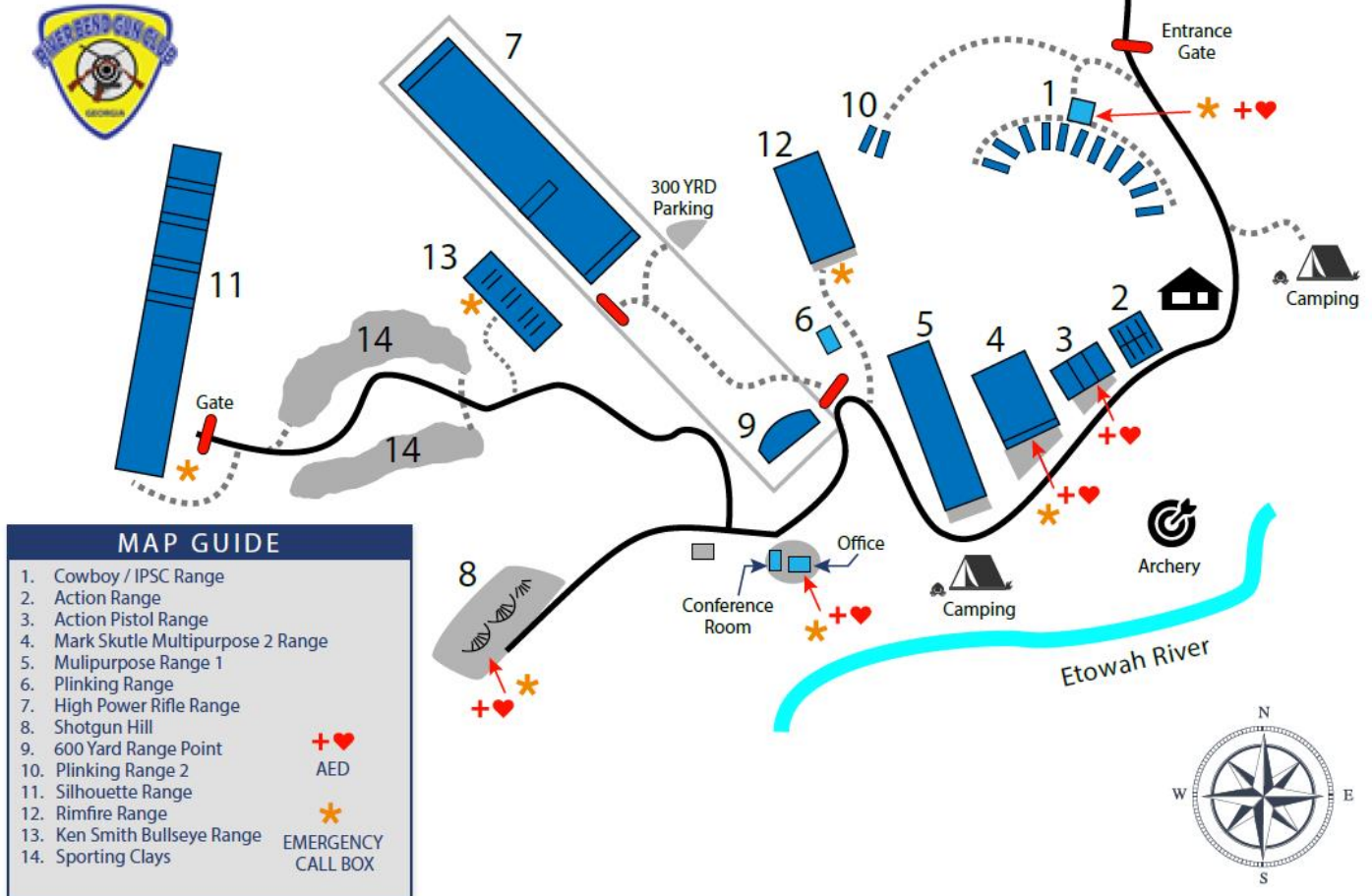


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Email to newsletter@rbgc.org **Deadline is the 28th of the Month.**

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