

Good afternoon Mr. Mayor and Assembly Members. Thank you for the opportunity to update you on the activities and progress of the Petersburg Rod and Gun Club at the Petersburg Shooting Range. I hope this will become an annual tradition.

Rifle Range

We have hosted two National Rifle League (.22) events, with clubs from across the country competing by shooting identical targets at the same distances. The scores are then submitted to a national database.

Our club members have built new shooting benches, and we will be replacing the stairs for the shooting shelter.

Our next project will focus on replacing the boardwalk extending to the 200-yard line. We are now in the process of planning the logistics using grant funds provided by the State of Alaska and will apply for an NRA community range matching grant.

Pistol Range

Regular cleanup of the field is necessary, especially removing shot-up pallets and aluminum cans. The safety berm has settled in some places, which was expected.

We have completed a shelter for the pistol range, funded by a grant from the NRA Foundation. In the future, we plan to install a concrete pad in the shelter to improve footing for shooters and simplify the cleanup of spent cartridges.

Shotgun Range

The Devils Thumb Shooters now have a new Conex container to safely store their mobile trap machines.

We have held an Adult Shotgun League, open to the public, twice a month throughout the year (weather and daylight permitting).

We have added 100 yards of rock to expand the shotgun range and now have a regulation trap field. Additionally, we have removed the old scoring stands and plan to install two light poles with LED field lights to extend practice hours and encourage greater community involvement.

Club House and Parking Lot

Home Port Electronics has installed new security cameras, thanks to a project valued at \$8,000, funded by club members and matched by Petersburg Mental Health.

Public Works has removed the old outhouse and filled the vault with rock, and they have moved the Petersburg Shooting Range sign closer to the highway for better visibility.

We are currently in discussions with PIA about leveling up unused space in front of the clubhouse to create a rest area with a picnic table and potentially a fire pit. This would make this facility more user-friendly for family's and improve accessibility, especially for the elderly, disabled, and handicapped visitors.

Our next major project is to rebuild the aging clubhouse. We hope to secure grant funds related to youth education, training, and safety in hunting, sport fishing, and outdoor activities. We are exploring grants from the Pittman-Robertson fund and the Alaska Fish and Game Hunter Safety Program to support this initiative.

Other Range Events

Our Annual Outdoor Show, held at the Moose Lodge on September 7th, and the 4th of July membership drive were both successful. We currently have 75 members.

Our annual range cleanup, supported by the sanitation department, helps us maintain the range. Additionally, we have started a new partnership with the State Department of Transportation to clean the highway from Mile 13 through Mile 15.

We plan to host a Hunter Safety Education class every other year or annually, depending on interest. Additionally, we plan to host a Women's Defensive Handgun Training class in partnership with Cheryl Stickler from Hanes, she is a certified instructor who specializes in firearm training for women.

The U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Coast Guard, and local police department also use the range for training purposes.

We have discussed other events and fundraisers to be held in the future. However, more community and club member involvement are required to have a successful range with so much to offer.

Requests for 2025

For the year 2025, the Rod and Gun Club would like to request the following from the borough:

- Installation of a streetlight on the power pole next to the outhouse to illuminate the public parking lot and supply power at no cost to the club.
- Provide a few loads of rock to assist with our efforts to achieve ADA compliance.

Acknowledgements

Finally, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our sponsors, the borough manager and the public works directors, both past and present, for their continued support and due diligence in assisting us with matters related to the Petersburg shooting range.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these requests. The Rod and Gun Club is committed to maintaining and improving this public shooting range for the benefit of the entire community, and we look forward to continuing to work together.

To become a member or have a discussion at the range please call me anytime.

President of the Petersburg Rod and Gun Club

Jake Slaven 907-518-4025