

MINUTES OF THE PETERSBURG ROD & GUN CLUB INFORMAL PUBLIC MEETING, HELD FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M. IN BOROUGH ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS, PETERSBURG, ALASKA

Executive Committee President Chris Cotta called the meeting to order at approximately 6:10 p.m. Present: Current Executive Committee Members: President Chris Cotta, Vice President Ted Sandhofer, Treasurer Larry O'Rear, Secretary Kathy O'Rear and Director Jeremy Collison. Rod & Gun Club Members at large; Jake and Kelli Slaven, Doug Welde, Rex Friend and Stan Hjort. New Club Member Justin Blakley. Interested Citizens; Margaret Newlun, Brian Dreisbach and John Lichtenberger.

President Cotta welcomed all in attendance and informed the meeting was being held for the purposes of: discussing ideas on how to promote interest in becoming a club member; gathering information on the types of events and/or programs that the club should consider sponsoring or conducting; receive suggestions on critical and routine maintenance and operations improvements that are needed at the facility; and what participation from and with local government is expected or desired. A brief history of the Club's formation and existence since the 1970's was provided. Also noted at the start of the meeting was the \$33,000, plus of upgrades /improvements made by the Devil's Thumb Shooters over the past two to three years via grants and fund raisers for the shotgun venue; and that the handgun range cover should be completed in April.

1. **Annual Rod & Gun Club Meeting** It was announced the Club's annual meeting and range cleanup would be scheduled for Saturday, April 6 with the meeting to begin at 10:00 a.m., followed immediately by range cleanup.
2. **Election of Executive Committee Members at Annual Meeting** It was noted that the total, current Executive Committee terms of office will expire at the annual meeting. Provisions will be made on that meeting agenda to elect new Executive Committee Members with staggered two-year terms. Copies of the By-Laws for the Club were available for all those in attendance. Secretary O'Rear advised that there will be several proposed amendments to the By-Laws that will be offered for consideration at the annual meeting.
3. **How to Inspire Membership in and Participation with the R & G Club AND What Type of Events and/or Programs Should the Club Consider for the Future** The following ideas were shared on how to encourage Club membership and participation.
 - a. Club should sponsor various competition events, with awards given, in all firearms disciplines. Entry fees could be charged to cover the event operating and award costs, with club members receiving a discount on the entry fee charged to non-club members.
 - b. Events that could be considered: A police conducted Three Gun Shoot; Club sponsored family events such as turkey or easter egg shoots; rifle enthusiast of the club could consider providing an NRL22 (long range precision) competition; the National Pistol Association for Handguns could be contacted for specific activities/events geared for handguns.
 - c. Determine a means to provide public use and access to electric trap houses.
 - d. Conduct some "members only" events, such as a social gathering, i.e., annual wild game dinner/dance/banquet; conduct some competitive shoots for members only.
 - e. Offer some specific professional training such as: NRA Coach/Advance Coach Training; provide a woman's personal safety and/or hunting program; conduct a program on proper cleaning of game.
 - f. Start a "bulk order" ammo and targets program.
 - g. Erect signage along Mitkof Highway inviting and promoting use of the range and membership in the Club.
 - h. Determine a means to provide all members with clubhouse and locked gate access.

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- i. Add signage at the range that 1) better informs the Club is the primary maintenance/cleanup provider to the site; 2) each firearm field should inform of general rules of use while encouraging everyone to clean-up after themselves (trash, brass, shell casings, paper/cardboard targets, etc.)
 - j. Rent locker space at the facility for individual member supplies.
 - k. Discourage users from bringing "junk" to the rifle range for targets by providing and maintaining steel targets.
 - l. Train and provide Range Safety Officers
 - m. Create a website or Facebook page to publicly promote club activities.
 - n. Provide electronic banking for members to pay dues electronically.
 - o. Conduct raffles for firearms or other outdoor sports type prizes to help generate money for upgrade projects.
- 4. What Type of Events and/or Programs Should the Club Consider for the Future** Combined with agenda item 3 above.
- 5. Suggestions on Critical and Routine Maintenance and/or Improvements Needed at the Facility** The Club's current project/maintenance list was available at this meeting. All in attendance were given the opportunity to provide suggestions for new projects/maintenance items that can be submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration of inclusion on the list. New items to consider:
- a. Revisit the possibilities of having a caretaker on sight.
 - b. Provide and maintain stationary targets on the rifle and handgun ranges to discourage use of "junk" as targets.
 - c. Add a Club House Committee to address maintenance and improvement needs of the club house, general parking area and primary signage of the facility.
 - d. Add lighting at the trap range.
 - e. Add signage at each range venue informing of expected courtesies/obligations (as addressed in agenda item #3).
- 6. More participation from/with Local Government Needed** A general discussion was held on what help the Club should expect to receive from the Borough in maintaining and improving this public facility. A copy of the current 20 plus year-old Memorandum of Agreement between the Club and Borough was available for review. The following items were noted as areas to explore with the Borough for public funding that could be considered during the annual Borough budget process:
- a. Expand existing small bin trash pickup (currently located only in the parking lot) by replacing fire barrels with a dumpster (and/or bins) between the rifle and handgun ranges that can be emptied on a regular basis by the Sanitation Department.
 - b. Consider installing a recycling bin, with regular scheduled pickup; (cardboard and paper only?)
 - c. Explore possibilities for adding disposal containers for brass and/or ammo.
 - d. Add clearing traps at each range venue to assure firearms are safely and properly unloaded after use.
 - e. The monthly electric charge to maintain clubhouse and storage container lighting, security camera power, trap machines operations, and future field lighting should be paid by the Borough or forgiven.
 - f. Ask the Borough to fund the replacement of the 15-year-old plus failed security camera system.

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- g. Help fund initial making and posting of individual range courtesy and safety rules.
- h. Continue the ongoing cleaning and emptying of comfort station (outhouse)
- i. Provide a designated amount of gravel each year to maintain graveled areas at the facility.
- j. Provide rock, gravel and filter cloth for replacement of the rotted wood planking with a gravel walkway at the rifle range out to the 200-yard marker.
- k. Provide expenses for the materials, equipment and labor needed to repair and stabilize the back berm and corner wood wall of the handgun range.
- l. Assist with clubhouse roof and southern wall replacement.

Attendees were thanked for their participation in this meeting and will be provided with a copy of the meeting minutes.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kathy O'Rear

Kathy O'Rear, Club Secretary

February 28, 2024



**NOTICE OF ANNUAL ROD & GUN CLUB MEETING
AND
RANGE CLEANUP**

Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

The Petersburg Rod and Gun Club will conduct its annual meeting at 10:00 a.m, Saturday, April 6, 2024, at the Club House of the Public Gun Range. Immediately following the meeting, cleanup of the range will begin.

The Board encourages your participation in both the meeting and range cleanup. We are looking for new club members as well as individuals who are willing to serve on the Executive Committee of the Club. Please contact current Club Secretary Kathy O'Rear, if you are interested in serving as a club officer or desire more information about the Club. 907-518-9166 or orear@gci.net.

The annual meeting agenda and all meeting materials will be sent to Club Members prior to the meeting.

ANYONE CAN ATTEND!!!

**YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A ROD AND GUN
CLUB MEMBER TO SIT IN ON THE MEETING
OR HELP CLEANUP THE RANGE!!**