

North Texas Shooters Association, Inc



December 2011
Newsletter
P.O. Box 2042,
Denton, TX 76202-2042
www.shootntsa.com



President's Message – Jerry Stiller

Winter is now here along with the cold and wind. The range is slowing down, but that is pretty normal. This last year has been a great one. We purchased some land, built up a 5 stand setup, purchased a tractor and in general improved the total club. There have been a few disappointments in land purchase, but I think we are still ahead in the game to date. The winter meeting is upon us and it will be a good to attend. We are going to present a HUGE land usage and club upgrade plan and look for some guidance and approvals. We also have a handful of by-laws going out for vote. A few of them are recommended by our attorney regarding our personal information protection and the rest are submitted by members. There is a term limit for the board proposal and a by-law regarding limits on membership. We will discuss them briefly in the meeting and vote on them, so look over the mailer when you get it. Hope to see you there.

Reminders

- **Members must shoot on the same range as their guests.**
- **The ranges are now open all day on Monday since Daylight Saving Time ended.**
- **No shooting is allowed before 8 AM. Please report any violations.**
- **All pistol and rifle shooters: Please pick up your used cleaning patches and retrieve your used targets from the target backers.**
- **Please observe the posted speed limit of 7 mph.**
- **Please immediately report any By-laws, Operating Rules, or Safety Rules violations to the Range Manager or the Range Officer on duty ASAP.**

Safety Notices - Firearms Safety is the responsibility of each club member. Please remember to adhere to all the firearms safety rules, and especially these basic rules:

- Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
- Keep your finger away from the trigger until ready to shoot.
- Do not shoot any target placed directly on the ground, or shoot targets on top of the target frames.
- On the rifle and pistol ranges, ensure that your fired rounds impact into the berm and do not skip off of the ground.
- On the rifle and pistol ranges, ensure that all rounds fired pass through the black plastic backers impact into the berms. Place targets in the center of the plastic backer and avoid shooting the wood frames or the metal posts.
- Shotgun shooters, open your actions immediately upon removing your firearm from the case, and prior to placing it in the rack.
- All firearms actions are to be open while transporting without a case or on a bench unattended

2011 Board of Directors

Jerry Stiller, President	(972) 429-5000
Gary Runyon, Vice President	(214) 686-5502
George Clutter, Treasurer	(214) 930-6080
Margaret Hall, Secretary	(940) 395-6428
Frank Hughes, Trap Chair	(214) 797-8187
John Rea, Skeet Chair	(972) 467-6398
Michael Conley, Rifle Chair	(817) 713-6602
Eric DuChemin, Pistol Chair	(940) 206-8941
Range Manager	(940) 391-7376
Larry Erbskorn	
Range Officers	
Del Overstreet	
Kip Staton	
NTSA Website Administrator	
Steve Hope	(940) 391-2101

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Rifle Chairman Report – Michael Conley

The carbine match scheduled for December 3rd was cancelled due to rain. The next carbine match will be held on January 7th 2012 at 0830. We have a new stepped barricade to shoot from, thanks to Tom F.

Pistol Chairman Report – Eric DuChemin

An Action Pistol match was held on Saturday, December 15th on Pistol Bay 1 with 23 shooters. Phillip W. was 1st overall and the CDP Division winner, Steve H. was first in SSP Division (2nd overall) and Ken T. was first in ESP division (3rd overall). The shooter with the lowest points down was Ken T. with 8. The stage winners were: Stages 1 & 4 – Phillip W., Stage 2 – Steve H., and Stage 3 – Dave R. The next Action Pistol Match will be Saturday, January 21st at 0830.

An Action Shotgun Match was held on Pistol Bay 1 on December 10th on Pistol Bay 1 with 12 shooters, including 9 club members and 3 non-members. The overall and Semi-auto/>5 Division winners were: 1st – Ken T., 2nd – John W., and 3rd Steve C. (4th overall). The winner in the Pump/>5 Division was Randy O. (3rd overall). The shooters with the Lowest Points Down were Steve C., Juan M. and Tom F. Stage Winners: Stage 1 & 3 - Ken T., Stage 2- Kirk S., and Stage 4 – Randy O. The next Action Shotgun match will be on January 14th at 0830.

Skeet Chairman Report – John Rea

The club skeet matches continue to be held on the third Saturday of every month, at 10:00 AM. No advance registration is required; just show up ready to participate. If you would like to receive an email reminder of upcoming Club Skeet Matches, send your email address to the Skeet Chairman and you will be added to the distribution list. John Rea (jrea06@earthlink.net)

"Have you noticed a gathering of cars and shooters in the northwest corner of our expanded property? Have you taken the opportunity to go see what all the activity is about? Welcome to NTSA 5-stand, the newest addition to our shotgun games. This game includes five shooting cages and six clay target traps, to present a variety of single, report and true pair targets. This game is a great way to tune-up for your bird hunting adventures while utilizing state-of-art wireless controllers and solar charged batteries. Come try your hand at the challenging but entertaining presentations." (John Rea)

Trap Chairman Report – Frank Hughes

Our monthly club trap shoot is at noon the second Saturday of the month. Please come and shoot with us.

December Board Meeting

The December Board meeting was scheduled for Thursday, December 15th, instead of Wednesday, December 14th. The meeting was called to order at 6:25 PM.

The Board voted-in one membership transfer. The President gave the new member a brief overview of the club. Earlier, the Range Manager spoke to the new member about basic operating rules and procedures. The new member is required to attend a Safety Orientation at the club on the second Saturday at 9AM conducted by member Van Glover. However, there will be no Safety Orientation in December. (Note: As of December 19th, the NTSA has 749 voting members, three honorary members, and 19 Legacy members for a total of 771. There is one opening and fifteen applicants on the membership waiting list.)

The Range Manager (RM) reported that the trap door was fixed. The ventriloquist was sent in for repair and was returned with a heavier duty circuit board and a new red switch on the transmitter. This unit was built in 1993 and was one of the first ones made. It was suggested that if it continues to cause problems, it should be replaced. The club would receive a \$200 allowance on the old one. John R. purchased and delivered a new box blade for the tractor. Target backers are in good shape. The club has a 9 month supply of plastic for target backers, but needs more 2x4 lateral supports. A large order of targets was delivered at a cost of \$15K plus freight including 20 pallets of regular targets and some rabbits.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the November meeting, presented by the Secretary, and voted to accept them.

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The Board reviewed and discussed the November Treasury Report. The Treasurer advised that he met with the CPA to adjust the Accumulated Depreciation Schedule. The schedule was not updated in 2008, 2009, or 2010. The schedule went up \$61K to \$232K. On the Profit & Loss Comparison, in November 2010, the club had a negative entry of \$5K in net income, and November, 2011, it is a positive \$194, which means that the shooting income has increased. Also, there is one notation called "Unidentified Shooting Income of \$174". The bank made a mistake in the deposit in our favor, which will be taken out next month. The report showed that the club has \$232K in various cash accounts and that the land fund owed \$58.2K to the General Fund. The Treasurer said that he will start the insurance for the tractor on January 1st. It is \$620 annually. The Board voted to accept the Treasurer's Report.

The Rifle Chairman reported that the carbine match was cancelled due to rain. He said that the action shotgun match had 12 shooters.

The Pistol Chairman reported that the November pistol match had 19 shooters and the December pistol match was scheduled for Saturday, December 17th. The Pistol Chairman thanked the VP for acting as match director for those two matches, and the one coming up in January while he recovers from surgery.

The Skeet Chairman reported that the club skeet match on Saturday, November 19th had eight shooters. The Skeet Chair said there are 14 shooters participating in the 8-week 5-stand winter league. There were 18 shooters in the Women's Shotgun clinic on Sunday, December 11th and lots of positive feedback.

The Trap Chairman reported that member Steve T. held a club match on Saturday, December 10th, but he did not know how many shooters competed. He stated that the Big 50's are over for the season.

Under old business, the Board discussed the status of the anti-skip walls to be installed on Pistol Bay 1 and the 50-yard Intermediate Range to prevent rounds shot into the ground from skipping over the berms. The VP stated that he and the RM would purchase about 25 grade one railroad ties and install them in January. The VP said that the berm maintenance/upgrades are part of the land subcommittee's proposals.

The Board discussed the Secretary's request to conduct a women's shooting clinic for members of the club and their guests. She stated that the clinic is still on hold.

The board discussed the ancillary equipment for the tractor. The Skeet Chairman advised that he purchased a new seven foot box blade at a cost of \$1396, which will serve a dual purpose as a counter weight to the target pallets raised on the forks. The Board is still interested in purchasing a 7' mower deck.

The Board discussed the purchase of additional land adjacent to the club. The VP stated that the Jacksons declined the Board's offer in early December and the land purchase was dead. The President suggested that we contact the Jacksons each quarter to determine if they have reconsidered. Member Jim M. asked if a new contract would need to be re-submitted and the VP said that this contract has expired and a new one would need to be submitted.

The President advised that he, the VP, and the Treasurer met with attorney Rocky Haire in October regarding processing requests for club information. The attorney suggested that the Board write a new by-law pertaining to release of club information. The President read the following proposed by-law, which is also printed elsewhere in this newsletter:

"NTSA non-public information including membership, internal accounting, daily logs, match documents and/or any other internal only material will be treated as confidential. Any members requesting access to such information must petition the BOD and sign and date an access form. The request must state exactly what information is requested and the purpose for the request. The BOD has final discretion to allow access to the requested information. Any breach of confidentiality of the requested information may result in suspension or termination."

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The President stated that although it is not written in the by-law, if the Board has any questions, a request for information may be sent to the attorney for a legal opinion. The President said the by-law as written was mailed to the membership along with the notice for the annual winter meeting. Member Jim M. requested the Board to reconsider the by-law and asked what information would be considered confidential. The President stated that this by-law is what the attorney suggested. Member Gunter K. asked if he could discuss confidential information with the Board or other members. The President stated that he could discuss the information with the Board, but all other members must sign the form in order to discuss it. Information that has been placed on the website is not confidential. The VP advised Gunter that if he intended to discuss information with other club members, he could have those other members sign the one form and turn it in. The President said that if the Board is going to error on one side of the issue or the other, it will be towards protecting member privacy.

The Board discussed the issue of lead mining. Member Steve T. sent information that broke down the amount of lead mined versus the percentages of return for the club based on weight, using the same company as before. The club would get the biggest percentage if 50 tons or more was mined from the property. After conducting a survey, the company will only mine an area that has one pound of lead or more in one square foot approximately 3" deep. The President said that since the mining had been done on the original property about five years ago, the club may not have the density on the original club property to make it worthwhile at this time. Member Kenny H. stated that the company did not mine up to the fence of the new property and he did not mine the skeet field. The President requested that we get more information from the company such as costs of doing a survey and areas to be mined, and discuss this issue next month. Member Gunter K. advised the Board that last time, the former President held back five barrels of mined shot for purchase by the members and it turned out to be a fiasco as money was not collected.

The President stated that member Gunter K. completed the organizational work on the minutes of the Board meetings. Gunter said that the binders are tabbed and ready for the minutes through 2012. The club will need a new binder for 2013.

The Board discussed the 40-foot tower on the 5-stand. The Skeet Chairman said that the tower will be reduced to a 30-foot tower. They are reviewing some information from the Grand Prairie Gun Club, will do some engineering work, and will come back to the Board with a design proposal.

The President asked for an update on the Dallas Diva Shotgun Clinic. The Skeet Chairman reported that 18 women attended on a cold and dreary day and had a good time. Sixty rounds were shot on skeet, trap, and 5-stand for a total of \$360 for the club.

Member Michael S. presented a proposal for conducting three NBRSA registered regional bench rest matches on the 100/200 yard rifle range at the club in 2012 on the following dates:

1. March 31-April 1,
2. June 16-17,
3. September 22-23.

The rifle range will be closed for casual shooting on those two days (Saturday and Sunday). The Friday preceding the match is a practice day for the benchrest shooters. The range will be opened on Friday for casual shooters, but it will be controlled by a range officer or the match director. Michael asked the Board to be allowed to charge each shooter \$10 per shooter per day, which he says will make more money for the club than the daily fees. The President said that the procedure for matches now is to charge each shooter for the match, account for all the expenses and turn in the remaining funds after expenses. Michael said that the club will not be conducting IBS matches. The President said that each shooter will need to sign the match roster. Michael said that he will fund the matches himself and the club should receive about \$1600. The Board approved the matches.

The Board discussed two by-laws proposed by member Ben D. to be voted on by the membership at the Annual Winter Meeting. The President read the first by-law, as originally presented, as follows:

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“I.1.8. Limits of Membership* The quantity of Family Memberships available at NTSA shall be initially established by a simple majority vote of the members present at the next Annual Membership Meeting. Future changes to the Family Membership Limits shall require a two thirds majority vote of members present at an Annual Membership Meeting. In the event the number of existing Family memberships exceeds the approved limit, applications for new memberships shall not be approved until normal attrition has reduced the number of existing Family Memberships to the approved limit. The requirements for other NTSA membership classifications shall remain in effect unchanged, and shall continue to be administered as stated in other subsections of these by-laws.”

The President asked if there was any Board discussion of this proposed by-law. The VP asked Ben if the first by-law would affect a member selling his or her membership, and Ben said that it would not. The VP asked Ben how the Board would handle attrition if the membership voted to reduce the limit to 600 members. Ben stated that no new members would be brought on until the level was reduced through attrition below the approved cap. Ben said that he was fine with the current cap, but worried that a future board may suddenly raise the level 200 members to the detriment of the club. The Skeet Chairman asked what kind of change this proposal represents. Ben stated that it takes away the Board’s authority to increase the membership and places it with the membership. Member Michael S. (former VP) said that this change would tie the hands of the Board and require a discussion at every membership meeting to increase or decrease the membership to fund improvements. The Pistol Chairman said that this by-law will cause problems for applicants on the waiting list who have paid a \$50 fee and waited for an opening, to find out that the membership cap may be reduced. The Pistol Chairman felt that there would need to be a provision for returning the fee. The VP said that he would rather see this proposal be included in a 5 or 10-year master plan of what direction the membership would like the club to go rather than tie the hands of the Board. The President asked if the Board has an obligation to present every by-law proposal to the membership. The President asked if it was too late to mail the proposed by-laws since the Annual Winter Meeting notice was mailed last week. The VP said that a second mailing can be done in early January at a cost of \$5-600. The President asked the Board for their thoughts. The Trap Chairman said that he thought the proposal was a slap in the face. The Board was elected to conduct business for the club and now some members don’t like what the Board has done so they want to place constraints on the Board. The Treasurer stated that the Board was elected to represent the membership and he feels the same as the Trap Chairman. The Rifle chair said that he is in the middle on this one and that he sees both sides. The Skeet Chairman said that he agreed with the Treasurer and the Trap Chairman. The Secretary said that the by-law needs revision before she could accept it. The Pistol Chairman agreed with the VP that a masterplan would give direction for the club and the Board should be chartered to follow the masterplan. The Pistol Chairman said that it is the responsibility of the Board to see that the masterplan is followed. The Trap Chairman agreed that a masterplan is best and that the Board does not need a by-law to follow the masterplan. The President said that he represents 750 members and that he hopes that they have a voice through the Board.

The President read the second proposed by-law, as originally presented, as follows:

“V.2.3 Term Limits* Members serving on the Board of Directors shall be ineligible for subsequent re-election or appointment to the NTSA’s Board of Directors after having served two (2) consecutive terms as a director. Eligibility for re-election or appointment shall be re-instated for former directors after the equivalent of one full term (2 years) has expired.”

The VP stated that he supports term limits for Congress and supports term limits for Board members. The Treasurer stated that he would go further, that a Board member should serve two terms period. The Pistol Chairman said that he supports two terms. The Trap Chairman asked if there are enough members willing to run for the Board. The President stated that he doesn’t have a problem with it, but feels that the Board will lose continuity. He feels that the club will have trouble filling the positions. Member Jim M. asked if the by-law is voted on and passed prior to the election, how it would affect the election. There was a lengthy discussion on the timing of the voting on the by-laws versus the election for Board members. The Treasurer asked what the fall back position would be if there are no members running for the Board. Ben stated that he wants the members to become more involved. The President stated that no one can make the members become active in the Board. The President asked if there should be a by-law that states how by-law proposals will be presented to the membership, and whether or not they need to be approved by the Board first. The majority of the Board felt that the

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proposed by-laws need to be presented to the membership with a recommendation from the Board. The Pistol Chairman said that the proposed by-law needs to be presented 60 days prior to the membership meeting, that the Board will provide a recommendation, and that the by-law will be presented to the membership for vote. The Board then had a lengthy discussion with Ben on changes he wanted to make to his proposed by-laws regarding the recommended membership cap, the change to a simple majority of members present, and when the by-laws become effective. The changes were written in and Ben said that he would get back with the VP with the final versions for inclusion into the second mailing to the membership.

Under new business, the Rifle Chairman asked if the club could have a You-tube link. The President said that the Board needs to develop a policy for protection of membership privacy before a You-Tube link is established

The VP stated that member Dan P. wanted Board permission to bring some Explorer Scouts, four at a time, to shoot .22's on one of the Pistol Bays. The Board requested more information before granting approval. Specifically, does the member have insurance to cover an incident, will a parent be accompanying the scout, or will each scout have written permission from the parent.

The Board discussed the Land Subcommittee's progress on the master plan. The Skeet Chairman reported that he had two data sets to share with the Board. One was a survey developed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on "Best Practices for Shooting Ranges". First, he had the Land Subcommittee take the survey of 17 elements, and then sent it to the Board members. The results showed that the club scored 31.8 out of a possible 80, which means that the ranges are rated on the scale between poor and minimum. The second data set was the Priority List and Ranking of the improvements to the club, as follows:

- Rifle and Pistol Parking Area
- Rifle and Pistol Berm restoration
- Storage Barn
- New Action Shooting Bays
- Pavilion
- Trap Field sun shade enlargement
- Skeet Field sun shade enlargement

The Skeet Chairman discussed each of the improvements in detail.

- The Rifle and Pistol Parking Lot would be a 100' x 300' all weather base located north of the existing ranges, and tied into the existing parking area. The cost estimate was \$15K.
- The Rifle and Pistol Range Berms would consist of constructing 350 feet of 12' berms on the 200-yard rifle range; rebuild the 200-yard backstop to 15' minimum; and restore all other berms to a 12' minimum. This requires 4.5K yards of clean fill dirt at a cost of \$60K.
- The Metal Barn would be a centrally located building to store the tractor, traps, and target storage; be a workshop for maintenance and repairs; measure 30' x 50' with a 15' x 50' covered area; and be plumbed for water and electric. The cost of the barn would be \$25K.
- The New Action Shooting Bays would consist of four separate bays, one 60-yard long and three 40-yards long. Two locations are under consideration. Cost is estimated at 100K depending on location and the amount of dirt needed for the berms.
- The Pavilion would be a covered gathering facility with an all-weather roof and a concrete floor, capable of seating 150 minimum and designed for meetings, cookouts, and other club functions. The estimated cost is \$25K.

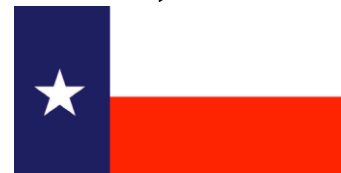
The Skeet Chairman presented a series of questions for consideration:

- What is the club's appetite for improvement?
- Do we have a reasonable improvement plan?

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- Do we have an empowered improvement committee?
- What is our land plan for our Ag Exemption?
- Do we have a vision for what we want our club to be and how to get there?

The Skeet Chairman stated that the club has no mechanism in place to address these considerations. The proposal of the Land Subcommittee is to move forward with all the six of the priority items. At a minimum, the club needs to construct the parking lot and do the berm maintenance and improvements at a cost of \$75K. The Trap Chairman asked if the committee has identified funds for paying for these items. The Skeet Chairman said that the committee did not look at the funding, only the basic requirements and the costs. The Skeet Chairman stated that the only thing he did not agree with in the plan as presented was the placement of the Action Pistol Bays as requested by the VP. The Skeet Chairman believes that the proper location is south of the existing pistol bays and adjacent to the 200-yard rifle range so there is no duplication in the amount of dirt needed for berms. The VP asked that the Skeet Chairman put the northeast corner in the presentation as a proposed location for the bays due to the shot fall issue and the power line easement. The Board discussed the issue at length with no immediate resolution. The VP commented on the question of the Ag exemption, stating that the Ag exemption should be considered secondary to developing the club's property for maximum use of the membership as a great place to shoot. The club paid \$2100 in taxes on the original property this year. The VP stated the club has 750 members that pay dues every year to shoot and the priority should be to develop the property for shooting. There was another discussion on sound abatement. The VP stated that the club has been remiss in not installing a sound barrier on the east side between the firing ranges and the homeowner to the east. The discussion then shifted to how to pay for the \$225K in improvements. The VP said that it doesn't have to be done in one year. After discussing the issue, the Board decided that the improvements could be done in three years with the majority of the funding coming from the \$75 per member land fund over the three year period. The Pistol Chairman said that the current proposal does not address all the items in the "Best Practices for Shooting Ranges" survey. The Skeet Chairman said that the "Best Practices" survey is a benchmark, and the work done by the Subcommittee since July prioritizes the immediate things needed. The discussion shifted to the presentation for the membership at the annual meeting. The Board intends to discuss the proposal and ask for membership approval to fund the complete project.

Since there was no other new business, a motion was made to adjourn the general meeting and the motion carried.

Annual Winter Business Meeting

The Annual Winter Business Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 21st at the Denton Country Club, which is located at 1213 Country Club Road, Denton, TX. The meeting will begin at 5 PM and end at 9 PM. Dinner will be served at 5:30 PM. The cost of the dinner is \$10 per person. Thanks to Board member Margaret Hall for reserving the Denton Country Club.

The agenda for the meeting will include the following:

- A proposed list of improvements to the club in 2011 for membership approval,
- A proposed by-law amendment for membership approval pertaining to requests to the Board for proprietary information,
- An election will be held for five Board members.

Proposed By-law Amendment

Add

II.3.1 Obligations to Members Privacy and Internal Club Information * NTSA non-public information including membership, internal accounting, daily logs, match documents and/or any other internal only material will be treated as confidential. Any members requesting access to such information must petition the BOD and sign and date an access form. The request must state exactly what information is requested and the purpose for the request. The BOD has final discretion to allow access to the requested information. Any breach of confidentiality of the requested information may result in suspension or termination.

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Changes

From:

I.1.6.4 General Conduct *

Any member who acts in a manner * whether on NTSA property or not, whether pertinent to NTSA, Inc. activities or not * which, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, is injurious to the reputation or status of the shooting sports or NTSA, Inc., shall be suspended.

To:

I.1.6.4 General Conduct *

Any member who acts in a manner * whether on NTSA property or not, whether pertinent to NTSA, Inc. activities or not * which, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, is injurious and/or disruptive to the reputation, status or operations of the shooting sports or NTSA, Inc., shall be suspended.

Donations for the Winter Meeting

The Board could use some help in soliciting donations of firearms related items for the upcoming Annual Winter Business Meeting from places like Cabelas, Bass Pro, and Academy. In addition, if any member has some items they would like to donate for this purpose, please contact a Board member.

Board Meeting Agenda Items

Agenda items for the Board of Director meetings are due to the Secretary by the Friday preceding the meeting. This would mean that the agenda items deadline would be the first Friday of the month.

Steel Reactive Target Training

The remaining NTSA Steel Reactive Target Training Class schedule for next year will be posted in January. If any member is interested in teaching this class, let the VP know. NTSA members may use steel reactive targets with .22 rimfire ammunition and now 7 1/2 size birdshot on reactive mild steel targets when in compliance with the NTSA policy and after completing the NTSA training course.

Updated Addresses Needed As of November 20, 2011

The NTSA does not have correct mailing addresses for the following members: Elias El-Ayoubi, Mike Schniederjan, Bud Smith, and Harold Stewart. If you know any of these members, please have them contact the Range Manager or the VP with their new contact information.

Range Safety Rules

Please check the reference section on the NTSA website for the updated safety rules, or stop by the club for a copy. All members and their guests are requested to abide by the NTSA safety rules and to review them periodically.

Newsletters, Notifications, Changes of Address

Twice each year, before the January and June meetings, the NTSA will continue to mail an abbreviated newsletter to all members. This is basically a reminder of the Annual Winter and Summer Meetings, and notification of the proposed By-law changes, if any. Each month, soon after the Board meeting, the full version of the newsletter will be posted on the website and emailed directly to the members that are on the email list. Members may also pick up a copy of the newsletters at the clubhouse. If you would like to have the newsletter emailed directly to you along with any other notifications, please provide the Range Manager with your current email address as soon as possible. Likewise, if you have any changes in your address or other contact information, please notify the Range Manager. It is very important to keep your contact information up to date.