

North Texas Shooters Association, Inc



January 2012
Newsletter
P.O. Box 2042,
Denton, TX 76202-2042
www.shootntsa.com



President's Message – Jerry Stiller

Well, another year is in the midst and in general we are prepared. We have a plan for improvements that was approved at the winter meeting and they will be started as soon as possible. Some by-laws were voted on and not much changed except that the board no longer has authority to increase the membership. The banquet was exceptional as always and the BOD is unchanged. Matches for 2012 will be soon started or already have been. Be sure to check the calendar and come on out. We have a great club; let's use it as much as we can. Look forward to another great year.

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

A Carbine Match was held on Saturday, January 7th at 0830 for 24 shooters, including 15 members and 9 non-members. The overall winners were: 1st – Kirk S. (Tactical), 2nd – Dwain M. (Open), 3rd – Shawn R. (Open), 4th – Steve H. (Iron). First in AR22 was Mark C. The shooter with the Lowest points down was David T. with 30 points. The stage winners were: Stage 1- J.P. A., Stage 2- Kirk S., Stage 3- Shawn R. and Stage 4 - Dwain M. The next carbine match will be held on February 4th at 0830.

Pistol Chairman Report – Eric DuChemin

An Action Pistol match was held on Saturday, January 21st on Pistol Bay 1 with 24 shooters. Steve H. was 1st overall and the SSP Division winner, Brian S. was first in ESP Division (2nd overall) and Rich N. was first in CDP division (12th overall). The shooter with the lowest points down was Rich N. with 17. The stage winners were: Stages 1 & 4 – Steve H., Stage 2 – Brian S., and Stage 3 – Leon F. The next Action Pistol Match will be Saturday, February 18th at 0830.

An Action Shotgun Match was held on Pistol Bay 1 on January 14th on Pistol Bay 1 with 17 shooters. The overall and Semi-auto/>5 Division winners were: 1st – Jason M., 2nd – Brian S. The winners in the Pump/>5 Division were: First - Randy O. (7th overall) and Zac B. The shooter with the Lowest Points Down was Ed P. with zero. Stage Winners: Stage 1 & 4 – Jason M., Stage 2- Carty W., and Stage 3 – Brian S. The next Action Shotgun match will be on February 11th 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)

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.

Special Board Meeting

The VP asked the President to call a special meeting of the Board to specifically discuss the action shooting bays prior to discussing the Land Subcommittee (LSC) proposal at the regular January Board meeting. The meeting was held at the club house on Wednesday, December 28 at 5 PM. The Secretary and the Trap Chairman were the only Board members not present. Members Phil B., Bob C., and Steve H. were present from the Land Subcommittee. The VP stated that the minimum criteria for the action shooting bays were provided to the LSC. The VP said that the Pistol Chairman developed three proposals to resolve the location, direction of fire issues, and shot fall issues.

Proposal 1 – This proposal is to construct four new action shooting bays located on the northeast side of new property, 150 yards minimum distance from the east neighbor's home, one bay 60 yards long and the others 40 yard long. All shooting is south, which is consistent with other NTSA pistol and rifle ranges. This location is not within the shot fall area of the skeet fields (may be within shot fall of 5-stand, which can be adjusted). There is a potential noise problem if not mitigated by a sound barrier (berms will reduce noise to some extent). There is a concern that bullets or other objects may occasionally flip out onto shooters on the pistol and rifle ranges if they hit a hard object in the berm (ensure that there are no rocks or similar objects in the berm and build the berms to 15 feet minimum). The primary issue is the cost of constructing completely new berms and not partially using existing berms (dual purpose).

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The VP stated that one of the big concerns with the shooting bays on the new property is noise abatement for the neighbor and the cost of the dirt for the berms. The VP said that regardless of where the shooting bays are located; a sound barrier needs to be installed about fifty yards long from the rifle firing line north along the fence line. This sound barrier could be a simple plank wall with cedar trees planted in a staggered formation along the wall. The President disagreed that sound abatement is necessary for the rifle range. The President thought that the biggest issue with this location is rounds that hit objects in the berms and flip out onto shooters to the south.

Proposal 2 – This proposal is to locate the four new shooting bays in the undeveloped area south of pistol bays and west of the existing rifle range. All shooting is south, which is consistent with other NTSA pistol and rifle ranges. The area south of the power lines is generally outside the shot fall area. Any rounds that flip out do not land on other NTSA ranges (low risk). There would be a cost savings on dual use of berms on the rifle range and some of the some berms already exist (need to be raised to 15 feet). There is no noise issue with neighbor to the east. There is a problem with shot fall hitting shooters and causing injuries or damage to property. The area north of the power lines is within the shot fall area. Shot curtains require a minimum distance of 80 yards to be effective. Unrestricted access must be maintained under the power lines (no problem because that area would be parking area).

The President stated that the risk with this proposal is the rounds that may flip out on to the action shooting bays. The VP said that the existing berms are to be going to be raised to 15 feet, which should lower the risk, and if necessary, railroad ties can be placed on top of the berms to further lower the risk. Member Steve H. reported that in the past several years, he has seen only one round flip over into Pistol Bay 1 and the round had no velocity. The VP said that the issue with this proposal is the shot fall north of the power lines. Member Phil B. asked where the storage barn/workshop would be located. Suggestions were made by the Treasurer and the Rifle Chairman.

Proposal 3 – This proposal is to split the Action Bays so that two bays are in the north east as described in Proposal 1 and the other bays are south of the power lines in Proposal 2. All shooting is south, which is consistent with other NTSA pistol and rifle ranges. The shot fall problem is resolved, with the exception of some from the 5-stand traps. There is a cost savings on dual use berm on the rifle range. The noise issue is reduced with the neighbor to the east because the berms would be located further west. The cost of constructing completely new berms is reduced since there are two bays. This proposal requires shooters to shoot in two different locations and move accordingly between stages, and requires two separate target storage sheds (one of which could be incorporated with the storage barn/workshop). The group then discussed the possibility of moving the east skeet field either by rotating the field counter clock wise or placing the skeet field on the new property. This discussion was dropped as not being feasible. The President asked if these shooting bays would increase our capacity. The VP said that these new bays will allow the matches to run more efficiently in less time with the same or even more shooters. The action shooting matches begin around 7AM for set up and end around 2 PM. With the new action bays, four squads can shoot four stages in approximately two hours. There will be no waiting for other squads to shoot before scoring and resetting the targets. Each shooter's squad will simply shoot each stage in turn until finished. Right now, with the present range situation, the matches are at maximum capacity because we can only run two squads. We know that we are losing members to other club matches because it takes too long to shoot our matches. With the new bays and one squad for each bay, we could increase the number of shooters that could attend a match by at least 30% and maybe more and still complete the matches in far less time than we are now. With the additional action bays, the number of shooters that we can accommodate will increase and the monthly income for the club. There is also a safety aspect related to the additional bays because of the smaller groups that will be shooting in each bay and the fact that the safety officers can better monitor the squads. The action shooting events at the club are the most popular events that are held on the rifle/pistol ranges and will continue to be so in the future. The VP said that by building dedicated action shooting bays, Pistol Bay 1 and the 50-yard range are open for casual shooters. Another important benefit is more matches can be held each week end rather than just one. The Rifle Chairman said that there is interest in conducting cowboy action matches. The Pistol Chairman said that these bays could be used for training and CHLs. The President asked if bays south of the power lines would be sufficient to keep the costs down. The VP stated that it would help a lot, but Pistol Bay 1 and the 50-yard range would still be needed. The President asked if there enough members that would support the cost of constructing the additional bays. The discussion then switched to obtaining and moving the dirt, which was the main expense. The Pistol Chairman suggested that the Board select a proposal and present it to the membership along with the

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master plan. Member Bob C. asked if this could be done in phases. The VP and Pistol Chairman said that it could be done as part of the masterplan over three years as discussed in the last Board meeting. The Treasurer stated that the \$75 land fund over the next two years will generate about \$110K and the remainder could come from the general fund, or leave the \$75 land fund in the dues for one more year. Member Phil B. asked if three bays south of the power lines would be sufficient for now to keep the costs down. The VP said that they would, but at some point in the future, the other two bays should be built on the new property to free up Pistol Bay 1 and the 50 yard range for casual shooters. The President asked if the berms can be built with internal retaining walls to minimize the footprint. The Skeet Chairman said that this is what has to be done when the 200 yard rifle berm is raised to 15 feet. The Skeet Chairman said that he supports anything that will improve the club's facilities, but he has had two issues with the Shooting Bays, the noise issue if located on the new property and the cost of material. He said that he is in favor of dirt berms that serve dual purposes. The President said that the shooting bays south of the power lines make a lot of sense. Member Steve H. said that the group needs to pick one proposal to present to the Board and the membership for approval. The Pistol Chairman suggested that three bays be installed south of the power lines and Pistol Bay 1 be split in to two bays with a short berm. Steve H. said that the club still has a shot fall issue on Pistol Bay 1. Phil B. asked if the shot curtains covering the existing pistol bays could be included in the proposal. The President asked if the eastern skeet field could be shut down for an hour or so while the action matches are being run. The Pistol Chairman said that a shot curtain placed around the pistol bays would be about 80 yards, which is the minimum distance. The President said that the shot curtain should be part of the master plan and not directly tied in to the south three action shooting bays. The President then asked what the proposal would be. The consensus was that that the three south action bays are included in the proposal along with splitting Pistol Bay 1 and the shot fall issue would be resolved later. The meeting adjourned.

January Board Meeting

The January Board meeting was held on Wednesday, January 11th. The meeting was called to order at 6:20 PM. The Trap Chairman was out of town.

The Board voted-in one new member. 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 January 12th, the NTSA has 750 voting members, three honorary members, and 19 Legacy members for a total of 772. There are 21 applicants on the membership waiting list.)

The Range Manager (RM) reported that he had been going through all the member files and pulling out those files of people who were no longer members. He asked the Board if there was any reason to keep them.

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

The Board reviewed and discussed the December Treasury Report. The Treasurer reported that he changed the format of the report slightly. He removed the CD's that had been cashed in to pay for the Belcher property and left only the active CD's. The total cash that the club has as of the end of December is \$215,525. There is a note on the account balances page that the Belcher land purchase used \$56,915 from the general fund to complete the purchase. The majority of the funds used to pay for the Belcher property were land fund CD's and the \$75 portion of each member's 2011 dues earmarked for land. On the balance sheet, the total liabilities were \$2,344, which were taxes, and they were paid in January, so the club currently has no debt. On the Profit and Loss sheet, the profit for December was \$7,700 and the expenses were \$16K, which consisted of clay targets, belt buckles, and property taxes. The Treasurer and the bookkeeper are getting ready for filing the 2011 taxes. The W-4's and 1099's have been sent. The tax information will be sent to the accountant by the middle of February. They are due May 15. The only other expense coming up will be the Annual Winter Meeting. Member Bob C. asked about the Agricultural exemptions. The Treasurer stated that he received a letter from the county that he wanted to discuss under new business. The Board voted to accept the Treasurer's Report.

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The Rifle Chairman reported that the carbine match had 24 shooters and went real smooth. He said that it seems to be growing with lots of new shooters.

The Pistol Chairman reported that the VP ran the December pistol match and had 23 shooters. The VP and RM elected not to shoot because of the number of shooters and finishing at a reasonable time. The January pistol match is scheduled for Saturday, January 21st with the VP as the match director. The Pistol Chairman thanked the VP for acting as match director for those matches, and said that he is recovering from surgery and will run the February match. The VP introduced member Carty W., who is now the match director for the action shotgun matches.

The Skeet Chairman reported that the next club skeet match will be on Saturday, January 21st. The Skeet Chair said that the 5-stand winter league is going strong. The Treasurer asked the Skeet Chairman if he could change the account classification from sporting clays to 5-stand, and he said that was okay.

The Trap Chairman was out of town so there was no report.

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 were going to install the walls but the 25-yard target frame on Pistol Bay 1 needs to be moved a few feet to the west first. This move will prevent crossfires on the 50-yard target supports. The VP said that the berm maintenance/upgrades are part of the land subcommittee's proposals.

The President asked the status of 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 President asked about the ancillary equipment for the tractor. The Skeet Chairman advised that he is still looking for a 7' mower deck.

The President asked about the issue of lead mining. Member Steve T. said the next step is to get estimates from some companies to see if it is worthwhile. He said that he would take the lead on this project.

The President asked about the 30-foot tower on the 5-stand field. The Skeet Chairman said that he would have something for the next meeting.

The President asked the status of the You-Tube Videos requested by the Rifle Chairman. The President envisioned a column on the sign-up sheets where the shooters would check a block whether or not they wanted to be videotaped for inclusion on You-Tube. He said again that the Board needed to develop a policy for protection of membership privacy before a You-Tube link is established. This opened a lengthy discussion of privacy issues between the President and members Jim M, Gunter K., and Ben D. The President stated that the Board received advice from legal counsel on dealing with privacy issues in compliance with state laws.

Under new business, member and current Action Shotgun Match Director Carty W. asked permission to use the 50-yard intermediate range during the Action Shotgun match, which is held on the second Saturday on Pistol Bay 1. He stated that he would shoot one stage on the 50-yard range and clear it for casual shooters as soon as possible. The VP asked how often he wanted to use the range and have it marked on the calendar. He said that he would use it every other month. The Board voted and approved the use of the 50-yard intermediate range to be used for the action shotgun match every other month for a certain period of time beginning with January 14th, and that it would be marked on the calendar.

The VP made a motion to make a member that became inactive last September become active again and the motion carried. The member paid the RM the dues for the remainder of the year.

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The Board discussed the Annual Winter Meeting. The Secretary needed to know how many plates of food needed to be ordered and if a projector needed to be reserved for the improvements presentation. The Secretary said that last year 110 plates were served and 130 were available. The VP suggested 150 plates because of the added members and the interest in voting on the by-laws and improvements.

The Treasurer said that the Denton County Appraisal District sent the club a letter noting that they had removed the open spaces exemption. The Treasurer requested help in completing the forms for submission to the county to re-qualify for the exemption. The Treasurer believes that roll back taxes would have to be paid for five years for change in use. The Treasurer suggested that the club continue to lease the unused property for growing and selling hay. The Skeet Chairman asked if the club wants to keep the property in Ag. The VP stated last month that the club exists primarily for its members to have a place to shoot. The club property should be developed for maximizing that purpose. The Ag exemption should be secondary to that purpose, but if there are open spaces that can be leased for growing hay to qualify for the Ag exemption, the Board should do it. The Treasurer said that the existing property is not on an Ag exemption because it has only been in three of the five years needed. The new property was in an Ag exemption but is now subject to a change in use.

The President discussed the agenda for the Annual Winter Meeting. He asked the Secretary if the minutes were available for the summer meeting. He asked for an overview from the different Chairs for the past years matches. He said that the land committee presentation would be next and then the discussion/voting on the by-laws and the Board members. Member Jim M. stated that in the past the by-law voting and Board member elections were done earlier. The President said that it was changed after the last Board meeting discussion of member Ben D's proposed by-law for the term limits and when they were to become effective. The Secretary said that the term limit by-law should take effect after the meeting. The President asked if the Board wanted to buy gift cards for giving away during drawing at the meeting. The Treasurer said that a member had donated \$50 to be given away. The Board decided to use that money, supplement it with club funds, and purchase some gift cards from Cabalas or Wal-Mart. There was a lengthy discussion about how much time would be taken to discuss each of the by-laws. It was decided that a sufficient time would be afforded to each by-law for a clear understanding of the pros and cons with each relevant point made. However, when the relevant points are being repeated, the President would ask to close the discussion on that by-law. The VP and the Pistol Chairman felt that the membership may not know the background and therefore each by-law proposal needs an explanation.

The President asked the Skeet Chairman to discuss the Land Subcommittee recommendation. He passed out a Google map view of the club that had been modified to include the locations of the parking lots, the storage barn/workshop, the pavilion and the action shooting bays. The only item not on the map was the short berm splitting Pistol Bay 1, which was approved in the Special Meeting. The Skeet Chairman advised that it was not included because he did not know how much it would cost, and there were some logistical problems with getting the equipment in place to do the work. The Skeet Chairman suggested that dirt be warehoused to do the berm work on Pistol Bay 1 at a later date. The Skeet Chairman then discussed the estimated costs for each of the items, which are realistic. The Skeet Chairman said that the big ticket item is the dirt. The preferred dirt for backstops is black clay, not the sandy soil, which would deteriorate rapidly on impact. He located two places nearby that have the dirt needed. The total cost for the improvements was estimated at \$197K. The Treasurer suggested that a 10% contingency be built in to the costs. The VP recommended that a motion be made by the Board to approve the proposal and recommend that it be presented to the membership for approval. The motion was seconded by the Treasurer and unanimously approved. The plan is to present the recommendations to the membership for approval to be done over a three year period. (Note: Over the next two years, the \$75 land fund which is incorporated in the dues will provide \$112K of the funding needed for the improvements.) Member Gunter K. asked if these improvements would resolve the shot fall issue on the pistol and rifle ranges. The President said that these improvements neither increase nor decrease the shot fall. The VP said that he and the Pistol Chairman estimated that the shot fall issue could be resolved for approximately \$30K in shot screens. They would be about 100 yards long and be located on the east side of the center road and adjacent to the existing pistol berm. He said that he did not want this issue to be included in the presentation, but would propose this at the Summer Meeting.

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

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Annual Winter Meeting

The Annual Winter Business Meeting was held at the Denton Country Club on January 21st at 5:00 PM. There were 110 voting members (or 14% of the NTSA membership) who attended with their wives, friends, etc., for a total of about 160 people. Dinner was served at 5:30 PM and was excellent. The meeting began at 6:30 PM.

The President read the minutes of the Annual Summer Meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes and the motion carried.

The Treasurer discussed the Treasurer's Report for the month ending December 2011. He stated that the club has \$215K in cash. The current assets of the club are \$538K and the current liabilities were \$3.1K. These were paid in January. The net assets are \$535K. He then discussed the Profit & Loss Previous Year Comparison. The dues income for this year was \$192K versus \$155K for last year for an increase of 23%. The shooting income was \$88K versus \$70K or an increase of 25%. The total expenses for 2011 were \$166K versus \$130K for 2010, or an increase of 28%. The net income was \$129K for 2011 and 107K for 2010 for an increase of \$19.8%. Besides the dues income, the club has income from the annual winter meeting, hay sales, and rent. The Treasurer then reviewed the budget. The budgeted income was \$197K and actual income was \$301K, or an increase of 52%. The budgeted expenses were \$166K and the actual were \$171K, or an increase of 4%. The sporting clays income was \$14K. The pistol income is significantly higher. The expenses that were over budget included three loads of targets at \$37K this year instead of two. There was a question from the floor regarding the 221% increase in the land fund from dues. The Treasurer responded that that increase was from the new members that were brought on this year. Another question pertained to the budgeted amount of pistol and rifle targets at \$800 and the actual was \$7.7K. The Treasurer explained that some steel targets were purchased this year as well as a large order of cardboard targets (which would last two years). A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report and the motion carried.

The President then discussed the range reports. The action shooting sports have been very popular with excellent attendance. The benchrest matches are down in participation. The rimfire rifle has picked up some new shooters. The Skeet matches are doing well, particularly the 5-stand leagues. The Trap is doing well with the Big Fifties and the Buckle shoots.

The Shooter of the Year for bench rest was Jason G. Ralph S. and Mike S. did all the work for the shooter of the year. Congratulations to Jason!

Under old business, the President said that most of the items were accomplished. The land was purchased, a tractor was purchased, a really nice 5-stand system was purchased for 1/3rd the cost and a camera security system was installed on the rifle and pistol ranges. The Land Subcommittee completed their recommendations on improvements to the club, which were on the agenda under new business.

The President asked if there was any new business from the floor, and there was none.

Under new business, the next item on the agenda was the election of Board members. Since seven members were running for five Board positions, the membership indicated their choices by one ballot per membership. The five incumbents (Gary Runyon, George Clutter, Eric DuChemin, Margaret Hall, and Mike Conley) were on the ballot along with Ben Dobson and Don Jones. The ballots were tallied by Frank Hughes and Harry Hettinger, and announced later at the end of the meeting.

There were several proposed by-law changes as described in the special mailings and in previous newsletters. The first by-law proposal discussed was the Obligation to Members Privacy and Internal Club Information.

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

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to allow access to the requested information. Any breach of confidentiality of the requested information may result in suspension or termination.

The President read the proposal and provided the reasoning behind it. He stated that the Board consulted with an attorney and the proposal was in compliance with Texas law, which states that the member requesting information must state the purpose of the demand, and upon doing so, the member is entitled to examine the books and records for a proper purpose and relevant to that purpose. The President stated that upon receiving a written request and upon execution of a form requesting access to sensitive information, the Board would review and grant the request. If the Board felt uncomfortable with the purpose of the request or the type of information requested, the request would be sent to the attorney for review and a determination would be made whether or not to grant access to the information. The President discussed new procedures for protecting member's privacy while shooting matches such as checking a box on the match roster if the person did not want to be videotaped. A member from the floor asked if there was an incident that caused the proposal and the President said that last summer a request was received to submit information pertaining to benchrest matches including the names of the competitors. Two other members asked if the Board could just say no to these requests. The President said that they consulted with an attorney who suggested the by-law proposal and the form. Jim M. spoke about his opposition to the by-law proposal. Gunter K. and Pat B. passed out to all members some information pertaining to the proposed by-laws and their recommendation to vote, a copy of a form signed by Gunter requesting access to sensitive information, and a copy of the state regulation. Jim M's position is that anyone that shoots on club property should accept that their information should be available to other members. One lady stated that she has the right to see any information that pertains to the club as an owner. Art B. said that the question addressed was discussed in previous Boards and the decision was made not to publish a list of members for obvious reasons. He said that beyond that, the Board does not have any personal information and a by-law was not needed. Vern H. said that a member could request every member's mailing information on the pretext of sending out Christmas cards, sell that list, and there is nothing to prevent that. Joe A. thought that two issues were being mixed together. He said that no list of members has been published. He thought that this by-law and the form are censorship. Another member said that he has been disappointed in the politics in the club. He said that he has a large investment in firearms and shooting equipment and he does not want others to know his name or where he lives. Mike B. commended the Board for trying to protect the member's privacy, but thought that the proposal was too broad. He thought it should be a simple matter for members to check a box when they pay their annual dues that they don't want their information made public. He believes that a person competing should not be protected. He is suspicious of anyone who wants to close the books. The President said that no one is closing the books, only developing a procedure for access to information. Del O. said that State and Federal laws are not logical regarding privacy, and the club should be very careful. Another member agreed that a procedure was needed for accessing club information so that it could be tracked. A motion was made to stop the discussion. The President asked for a show of hands to in favor of the by-law and then a show of hands for those opposed. The vote was very close and it was decided to vote again. Mike B. suggested that a committee be formed consisting of three Board members and four regular members to develop a proposal for the next meeting to satisfy both sides. The President said that a motion was already on the floor and asked that all in favor stand up and the votes were counted. After they were counted, those opposed stood up. **The by-law was defeated 54 to 51.** A member made a motion that Mike B's motion of forming a subcommittee to revisit this issue be voted on. Ben D. suggested that members interested in being on the committee submit their name for a drawing. Mike B. revised his motion such that at the next Board meeting, a committee would be formed and the details of choosing those members determined. **The motion carried.**

The next by-law proposal to be discussed was the following:

1.1.6.4 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.

Joe A. thought that the existing by-law and the proposed by-law need to be re-written to change "opinion" to "determination". A motion was made to vote on the proposal. **The membership voted and the proposal failed to pass.**

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The next by-law proposal to be discussed was the following:

III.1.3 Submission of bylaws * Submission of by-laws for consideration must be made to the BOD at least 60 days prior to the general membership meeting. All by-laws submitted must be in writing and the member sponsoring it shall attend the board meeting to finalize the wording. The by-laws submitted to the BOD will be voted on by the BOD for submission to the general membership. A 2/3 majority of the attending BOD vote, including the president, will be required to NOT submit the by-law to the general membership for consideration.

Or:

III.1.3 Submission of bylaws * Submission of by-laws for consideration must be made to the BOD at least 60 days prior to the general membership meeting. All by-laws submitted must be in writing and the member sponsoring it shall attend the board meeting to finalize the wording. The by-laws submitted to the BOD must be submitted to the general membership for a vote.

The President explained the differences in the two proposals and said that the club should have a procedure for processing by-law proposals. Joe A. thought that these two proposals were censorship. He said the 60-day period would allow the Board to form an opposition since they control the notification process. Ben D. said that he submitted his proposals at the December Board meeting and the Annual Meeting Notification had already been mailed. He said that the Board graciously agreed to spend another \$700 to mail out another notification with the additional proposals. **There was a motion to table the proposal and the motion carried.**

The next by-law proposal to be discussed was the following:

I.1.8. Limits of Membership* The maximum number of Family Memberships at the NTSA currently approved by the Board is 750. Future changes to the Family Membership Limits shall require a simple 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. **This by-law will take effect immediately.**

The President said that the Board has always had the authority to raise the membership and the membership has trusted the Board to make those decisions. Dave G. said that with additional members come problems. He encouraged the Board to not expand the club bigger than it should be. He liked the idea of placing some controls. Ben D. said that his purpose for this proposal is that the membership should have a voice in the decision. **A motion was made to vote on the proposal, and the proposal passed.**

The next by-law proposal to be discussed was the following:

V.2.3 Term Limits* Members may serve on the NTSA Board of Directors for a maximum of two consecutive terms of two years each, regardless of whether or not the member was elected or appointed. A former Board member may be re-elected or appointed again only after one full term (2 years) has expired, but can only serve one term at a time. This by-law will take effect immediately.

The President stated that only about 10% of the membership attends the meetings. He said that there are even less who want to run for the Board. He feels that there will be problems filling Board positions. Ben D. said his purpose to force the membership to be more proactive in the club. Frank H. said that he is not against term limits, but he questioned trying to get rid of someone on the Board and then allowing them to be eligible again after being off one term. He said it doesn't make any sense. Jim M. said that the Board has never had a problem appointing positions. George C. said that his arm was twisted to get on the Board and it was twisted again to run again for the Board because of all the things that are said and

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done. Mike B. wanted to speak against the amendment. He said that the Board is putting in a lot effort and doing a very good job and to force them out of office when the membership might want them to stay is wrong. Don S. said that he does not want a by-law to determine who he votes for. **A motion was made to vote on the proposal and it failed to pass.**

John Rea conducted an excellent slide presentation of the Land Subcommittee's proposal for improvements to the club that had been in development since July 3rd. He provided the background information regarding how the committee was formed and introduced the members of the subcommittee. The scope of the project included not just the new property, but the entire property. The group represented all the shooting disciplines at the club and included an audit of the entire club's infrastructure. The result of this effort was a prioritized list of improvements.

1. Expanding the rifle/pistol parking area,
2. Rifle/Pistol berm restoration,
3. Storage Barn,
4. Action Shooting Bays,
5. Pavilion,
6. Sunshade enlargement for trap field,
7. Sunshade enlargement for the skeet field.

During the presentation, each of the items was described in detail. Using a Google map of the club property, John showed the location of each of the items listed above after three years. The total cost for these items was \$195K, which would be phased over three years as follows:

- 50% of the project in 2012
- 30% of the project in 2013
- 20% of the project in 2014

The land fund from dues would provide \$56K in both 2012 and 2013 towards the project and the remainder would come from the general fund, leaving the club with a substantial buffer over the operating costs of the club. One of the main considerations is availability of materials needed for the project. For example, finding the right dirt at the right price has been a very large challenge. John has located 3000 yards of black clay soil with six miles of the club. This dirt is clean and is exactly what is needed for the berm work at a very good price. John explained that the drought has provided an advantage at this time for doing the dirt work and the economic situation has made available a lot of heavy equipment at a reasonable price. John stated that there is a very high demand nationally for firing ranges. These improvements were approved by the land subcommittee and unanimously approved by the Board. The President opened the discussion to the membership. Jim M. stated that he loved the presentation, intended to vote for it, but had one question regarding safety. He asked if there a concern with rounds fired from the existing pistol bays towards the new action bays. John explained that his experience, the closer a person is to the berm, the safer you are. He said that part of the plan is to raise the heights of the impact berms to 15 feet, which will minimize any risk. One lady stated that it seems that every year there is a discussion about berms. She asked if there is something permanent that could be done rather than spending \$30, \$40, or \$50K each year on berms. John said that most of the existing berms are made of sandy loam. He said that a black clay soil is superior for this application because it doesn't move and deteriorate. The President responded to the lady's statement and said that when Dean W. was President about five years ago, about \$25K was spent on berm enhancements. He said about five years before that, the club spent about \$5K, so it averages about \$4-5K per year. One member said that the NRA and TSRA are available for consultation for berm layouts, range development, etc. Brian S. questioned the location of the barn because of the shot fall problem. John responded that the barn location is centrally located, but he is open to suggestions. Juan M. stated that the proposal did not include a resolution of the shot fall issue, which he felt is a liability for the club both for personal injury and property damage. The Pistol Chairman said that the shot fall issue is a high priority for the Board and they hope to have a solution for the summer meeting. The President said that the Board will address the issue. One member said that he lives 10 miles from the club, and we could have all the dirt we want. Another member asked if the committee had looked at the new property when developing a different layout for the ranges. John said that this layout was chosen to take maximum advantage of the amount of dirt needed and for having a dual usage of the dirt for the 200-yard rifle range and the action shooting bays. The other consideration was the noise abatement issue on the northeast side near our neighbor. A member asked if the entire package was going to be voted on that night or if some of the safety issues could be addressed. The President said that the membership would be voting on the entire package as is, that there may be small

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changes, but this is the basic concept. Steve H. made a motion to cease the discussion and vote on the proposal. **The membership voted and was nearly unanimous in favor of the proposal.**

The last order of business was the results of the election. The President stated that it was a land slide for some and fairly close for others. The five incumbents were re-instated and retained their previous Board positions.

Thanks to Derry H. for donating \$50 for the giveaways. Thanks also to Vern H. for donating two t-shirts. Thanks again to Board Secretary Margaret Hall for making all the arrangements at the Denton Country Club.

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 NTSA Steel Reactive Target Training Class schedule for 2012 is listed below. Member Van Glover, who is a certified NRA instructor and is currently conducting the NTSA Safety Orientation Class, will conduct this training class. NTSA members may use steel reactive targets with .22 rimfire ammunition and now size 7 ½ or smaller birdshot on reactive mild steel targets when in compliance with the NTSA policy and after completing the NTSA training course. The dates are as follows:

- March 31
- June 30
- September 29
- December 29

The schedule will also be posted on the NTSA website. The class is from 9AM to 11 AM. Please email Van at vanglover@verizon.net to register, and to obtain the course materials and instructions on what to bring. There is no charge for the class, but a minimum of three members are needed to hold the class. If you have any questions, Van may be reached at 972-978-5671.

“Gangs Targeting Gun Owners for Subsequent Vehicle Break-ins”

The VP received numerous emails from members regarding incidents of gun thefts from vehicles in in Corpus Christi, San Antonio, and Denver. The thefts supposedly involved gangs marking vehicles in the parking lots of guns stores, gun shows, and shooting ranges with a small adhesive dot. Allegedly, the marker is placed on the license plate, rear bumper, or rear wheels. Later when the vehicle is parked at a restaurant, hotel, or other location that is less well guarded or not under video surveillance, the gang members spot the marker and break into the car for to steal firearms. While the scenario described is certainly possible, and gun owners should be aware of such possibilities, the specific email circulating via the internet is apparently not factual. Below is the response from the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio.

NSC Response to Rumors about Gun Thefts

“Rumors have been circulating recently about gun thefts from vehicles around the country and at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio in particular. Because we take very seriously the security of our members and patrons, as well as their property, we would like to address these rumors and offer some suggestions regarding better securing your firearms, whether you’re shooting at our club or elsewhere.

As has always been the case, gun thefts from vehicles and homes are a problem around the country, and San Antonio is no different – neither better nor worse. Some rumors suggest that San Antonio is experiencing an “epidemic” of gun thefts from vehicles at gun clubs or from vehicles of traveling shooters at restaurants or other businesses. We have no reason to believe this problem is greater than in the past or than in other cities. As the largest gun club in the San Antonio area, and one of the

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largest in the country, we believe we at the National Shooting Complex are in a position to be aware of such an alarming trend, and it is simply not the case.

Many reports indicate that gangs are targeting the NSC parking lot, marking tires or placing stickers on license plates so they can later be identified by thieves. At a shoot last June, we and a commissioned officer investigated reports of marked vehicles and found no validity. There was no pattern or consistency among the marks that were identified to us, and we found that all the questionable marks reported to us were left there by manufacturers, tire services, or rental car companies. In fact, most marks were so worn or well covered that they could not have occurred in the parking lot.

We have read that because gun thefts from vehicles are so “rampant” in San Antonio that a police chief met with the 400 shooters at that event to warn them about the problem. That did not happen.

In some online discussions, the phrase “national event” has morphed into “National Championship” with implications that gun theft was a problem during that event. To be clear, in 2011, we had no reports of gun theft at the NSCA National Championship, the largest shooting event held annually at the National Shooting Complex. In previous years, we did experience some gun thefts during the National Championship, and we responded by implementing a number of procedures to eliminate as much risk as possible. We have 24-hour security on the grounds during events, and we have improved our gate security. For the past several years, we have also made 24-hour gun storage available at a very modest fee throughout all events so that shooters never have to leave their firearms in vehicles or hotel rooms.

While we can’t guarantee the security of your firearm if it is left in a vehicle on or off the NSC property, we will continue to improve our efforts to keep you and your property as safe as possible. We also offer some suggestions for securing your firearms and equipment while at the National Shooting Complex, at other gun clubs, or at any off-site amenities:

- Use our gun storage facility. At a cost of only \$5 per day during events, it is inexpensive security for your firearms. While they are there, we accept full responsibility for your guns.
- Be vigilant. Know who is around you and who is able to see what is in your vehicle. Remember that rental cars, out-of-state license plates, bumper stickers and decals, and the items you leave visible in your vehicle can identify you as a tourist or traveling shooter, so exercise additional caution.
- As soon as you leave the NSC, remove the brightly-colored mirror hangtag indicating you are authorized to be on the property during events. Place it out of view.
- Consider how you and your vehicle look to thieves. Remember that criminals don’t have to mark your car at the gun range to identify you later as transporting a gun if you give the impression you’ve just left the range. Can other shooters identify you as a shooter when they see you at a hotel or restaurant? So can criminals. Having gun-related stickers on your vehicle, walking across a hotel parking lot with a gun case, or wearing your shooting gear into a restaurant makes your vehicle a target. What does a casual look through your vehicle window reveal? Make sure all shooting-related items are out of sight, even if they aren’t themselves valuable.
- Insure your firearms. While insurance won’t keep them from getting stolen, you’ll be a lot less unhappy about losing your guns if they are adequately insured. [NSSA-NSCA offers its members discounted gun insurance through SIAL.](#)

Updated Addresses Needed As of January 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-

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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.