



KALAMAZOO ROD & GUN CLUB

7533 N. Sprinkle Rd.
Kalamazoo, Michigan
49019

Newsletter
July – September 2020

2020 Officers and Board of Directors (all #'s are area code 269 unless otherwise stated)

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
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| Membership Secretary | John Ceglarek 312-8008 | One Year Directors | John Ceglarek 312-8008 |
| Range Safety Officer | Vince Lester 838-6748 | | Bill Nichols 743-8401 |
| Newsletter | Bill Nichols 743-8401 | | Chris Ronfeldt 492-4021 |
| | | | Mike Tyler 350-6340 |

NOW is the Time

We all saw this Spring how quickly unforeseen events can arise that change our world in ways we never imagined. But one coming event is easy to predict: since this is a presidential election year, the media will undoubtedly attempt to wring every possible bit of drama from the contest. This includes talking up their typical favorites, the left-leaning politicians who favor gun control. As election day draws near, the larger gun-owning population will become concerned and will begin buying up guns and ammo at a feverish pace. The inventory at many stores is already slimmer than usual because of panic buying during the earlier phases of the pandemic. As the summer wears on, pressure from buyers fearing an unfavorable election result will further deplete available stores. I strongly suggest that we all take the time we have NOW to begin acquiring those items you will wish in November that you already had. I'm not suggesting that everyone run out and purchase a pallet load of ammunition. But it simply makes sense to begin stocking up now on those items that we can all predict will be in very short supply (if available at all) later this year. Remember the ammunition shortage of 2016? Buy a few extra boxes each time you're at the store. In times of shortage, prices usually rise (sometimes dramatically), so take the time now to stock up. Take advantage of specials sales to save money – July 4th sales are very common. Take the time NOW to stock up; you will not regret it.

Bill Nichols, editor

Mid-Year Membership Drive a Big Success

This year, the Club took the unusual step of hosting a Membership Drive mid-way through the calendar year. The Board of Directors – along with our Membership Secretary – had decided that there were enough available Memberships to warrant this effort, and nearly 100 people took advantage of the opportunity. So, the next time you are at the range, if you meet someone who is a new Member, be sure to introduce yourself and make them feel welcome. Encourage them to participate in Club activities – not only the shooting events but also the Work Party.

Summer Shooting Considerations

While we all enjoy long summer days, please remember that the Club still adheres to strict rules regarding shooting hours, as posted on the front gate and at all the ranges: shooting may begin at 9am, but all shooting MUST cease by 9pm or by dusk, whichever comes first. The official time for “dusk” may be found on any weather-related website or smartphone app (or almanac for you old timers!). Please be respectful of these rules. It is important that we maintain good relations with our neighbors.

Did You Notice?

The construction of our new lavatory facility near the ranges continues in stages. This is a good example of your dues at work!

Summer Events Starting Up

After a very difficult and disappointing Spring, we can all now look forward to many of our standard events starting back up at the Club. The calendar included in this edition of the Newsletter represents the most up to date schedule available at the time of this publishing. But as we all know, events can arise that cause cancellations or re-scheduling. As always, I encourage everyone to check the Club’s website often for the most up-to-date information on Club events. But in general, our usual scheduled shoots are starting back up at the beginning of July. It’s time to dust off those pistols, rifles, and shotguns!

Volunteers Needed for Fort Custer Honor Guard

The Fort is in need of volunteers for the honor guard. Those interested must be veterans. They have a different crew for each day of the week, Monday thru Friday. If you are interested, please call Dwight Easley (269) 344-0685.



Fall Work Party

Because this Spring’s Work Party was cancelled, many of our usual projects remain undone around the Club. A handful of volunteers did manage to assemble a number of target backers, so these should be available in the shed near the pistol ranges if anybody needs to replace one. We all owe a big THANK YOU to those members who volunteered their time to make sure that we all have the materials we need to keep enjoying all that the Club has to offer.

The Board is considering scheduling a Work Party for this Fall, so be sure to watch the Club’s website for updates. Or better yet, stay informed by attending our monthly Board Meetings. If possible, a notice will also be published in the next edition of this Newsletter.

2021 Officer Election

The election for next year’s Club Officers will be held on Monday, 28 September. As always, all of the elected positions you see listed on the masthead of this Newsletter will be up for re-election, with the exception of the “Two Year Directors”, who will now become One-Year Directors and be up for re-election next year. If you have any interest in serving in any of these volunteer positions, by all means attend the meeting that night and announce your interest. Of course, we will again start out the evening with a pot luck, which is always delicious and plentiful. This is a great opportunity to meet other Club Members and make new friends. The pot luck starts at 6:00, with the election to follow. If you have any questions, please contact one of the Board Members listed at the top of this Newsletter.

“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

EMPTY BRASS... by Pete DeWitt & Jason Harris kalamazoorodandgun@hotmail.com

These are just the thoughts of a couple of guys who enjoy target shooting, writing and our club. Our thoughts are not necessarily the thoughts of the KR&GC President or Board of Directors. We are not attorneys, gunsmiths, engineers, medical professionals, or your parents. Do your own research. Stay safe out there!

TO OUR CLUB'S PRESIDENT & BOARD OF DIRECTORS - "THANKS!"

Guys, we Club members have always had reasons to thank you for the many hours of unpaid time that you put into our Club. And then you topped yourselves. You kept our Club open during the Covid lock down. Every person we have met at the Club ranges during this lockdown expressed their great pleasure in being able to be outside and do something fun during these crazy times. You kept more than a few of us sane. Thank you.

...Pete D & Jason H

TRIGGER CONTROL & THE SHIRT POCKET TRIGGER CONTROL TRAINER

Other than the safety rules, the most important step in shooting may be trigger control. Most of us learned to "squeeze the trigger". Instructors are now often using the expression "press the trigger".

This change of vocabulary has come about because a novice shooter firing a rifle or pistol by "squeezing" the trigger may also inadvertently be "squeezing" their grip on the firearm. This may in turn lead inconsistent sight alignment at the moment when the shot is fired. So, "squeeze the trigger" isn't wrong, but "press the trigger" may lead to better outcomes with novice shooters.

Instructors tell us that you will likely do your best trigger work using the center of the pad of your strong side pointing finger. If you look at your finger, the first finger bone has a pad halfway between the tip and the first crease. This is where you want to contact the trigger. Placing the trigger in the 1st crease will likely push the firearm ever so slightly away from the hand. For a right-handed person, this will cause shots to go low and left. Moving the trigger too far toward the on the fingertip will cause shots by that right-handed shooter to go low and right.

And – how cool is this? – you have a great "press the trigger" trigger training device in your shirt pocket or on your desk. Yep. A standard ball point pen with a clicker.

Think of the trigger as the top of the clicker mechanism on the ballpoint pen. You want to press the pen clicker S-L-O-W-L-Y. Take two seconds pressing the clicker in. Hear the "click". Hold the clicker with the lightest possible pressure for another second after the click. Gently – and slowly - release the pressure on the clicker without fully removing your finger. Only when you have completed this process should you either (a) remove your finger from the trigger, or (b) take your next pen clicker shot.

If you watch the other end of the pen, you will see the tip move ever so slightly toward or away from the palm of your hand as you move the clicker away from the sweet spot in the middle of the your finger pad.

Note – your finger should be in a "C" shape as it presses the trigger (or our pen clicker), with visible space in the open part of the "C". Leaving your finger against the firearm without the "C" may cause a pulled shot.

For those of you who attend meetings - look around when the meeting slows down. You may see fellow attendees very discreetly and slowly "clicking" their pens in and out with their trigger fingers. *...Pete D*

A NEAT APPROACH TO TRIGGER LOCKS

I am NOT providing the following information in a context of legal advice. This just works for me.

A correctly applied trigger lock totally covers the area within the trigger guard including the trigger itself.

I am not a fan of most of the trigger locks that are supplied by the firearm retailers with the purchase of a new firearm. I generally find these trigger locks to be of lower quality than I want for an important safety task. And then there is the problem of all those incompatible little keys to keep organized and track of...

What works well for me is to have multiple high-quality trigger locks that all use the same key.

I like and use the "Club" brand trigger locks. These are painted in a high visibility yellow, they are not so wide when attached that they interfere with my gun cases, and they have what appears to be a high quality lock mechanism. And – they all use the same key when purchased in a "pack". The following prices are approximate. Other brands are available:

- 6 Pack Premium Keyed Alike Club Brand Gun Trigger Locks \$40
- 12 Pack Premium Keyed Alike Club Brand Gun Trigger Locks \$65
- 24 Pack Premium Keyed Alike Club Brand Gun Trigger Locks \$130 ...*Pete D*

MY IN-PROGRESS .45 ACP TARGET PISTOL BUILD

I am an enthusiastic gunsmith-as-a-hobby guy. To date I have accurized a good number of firearms for myself and friends. These accurizing steps have included replacing stock barrels with target grade barrels, smoothing out actions, bedding rifle stocks, upgrading sights, trigger replacements and tuning, installing enhancements such as better extractors and firing pins, and similar work. All of these projects have had a functioning firearm as their baseline starting point.

I have just started a new project to build a full size 1911 style semiautomatic pistol in .45 caliber from the ground up. This will be a first for me. I want this pistol to look like a very traditional 1950s or 1960s target pistol. My intention is to use this pistol for in Bullseye target pistol competitions. A pistol used in Bullseye competitions has to be (a) reliable, and (b) able to consistently place shots within a 3 inch group at 50 yards to be considered competitive. So, I have my work cut out for me...

My core design is built around these major parts:

- 5 inch Kart Precision barrel
- BoMar target sights
- Les Baer frame & Les Baer slide, with a cut in the frame for the Bo Mar sights

The parts have been ordered and will likely have been delivered by the time this newsletter is published. I have also ordered a slide fitting file and lapping compound. Fitting the slide to the frame will literally take days. Good thing I am a patient guy! The Les Baer frame is serialized and is being shipped to my FFL for me to pick up after the required background check has been completed. In a legal sense the serialized frame is the firearm.

This project will likely take several months to complete. I anticipate tapping numerous advanced shooters and gunsmiths for advice, and likely making new friends and acquaintances along the way. A few inappropriate words will likely be muttered, and maybe a few adult beverages consumed at milestones in the pistol build.

Updates to follow!

...**Jason H.**

RIFLE CLUB MEMBERS VS. GERMAN PARATROOPERS IN WWII NORWAY

Background: on April 9, 1940 Nazi Germany invaded neutral Norway. The strategic justifications were to (a) give the German Army and Navy ice-free harbors to control the North Atlantic, (b) to secure the routes used to transport iron ore from Sweden, and (c) to pre-empt a British and French invasion with the same purposes. The less strategic reason was that Adolf Hitler was a complete a**hole. The battle for Norway lasted 62 days. Norway remained under German occupation up to the German surrender in May 1945.

The Battle of Midtskogen Farm was between German paratroopers (called “Fallschirmjäger” in German) and an improvised Norwegian defensive force early in the morning of April 10, 1940. The Midtskogen Farm is in southern Norway. The invading German troops were out on a raid to capture the Norwegian King, Haakon VII, and his cabinet and thereby force Norway to surrender to the attacking Germans.

At 2:10 AM, a German force of 120 men, most of them paratroopers, drove into a Norwegian roadblock. The Norwegians opened fire and the Germans returned fire. One Norwegian infantryman was seriously injured. Two Germans are killed, one of which is the group’s commander German military attaché Eberhart Spiller. After a short battle, the Germans retreated to Oslo, Norway.

The Norwegian defensive force consisted of uniformed Norwegian Royal Guards troops and volunteer members of the local rifle clubs. The Norwegian troops were armed with 6.5x55 caliber Mauser rifles. I think that this is the same 6.5 MM round referred to in the US as 6.5 Swedish Mauser. The Norwegian Rifle Club volunteers appear to have been armed primarily with Krag–Jørgensen rifles. The Norwegians also had two water cooled machine guns that were not positioned in a way that they could actively participate in the battle.

The attacking German force was armed primarily with 8mm Mauser rifles, 9mm submachine guns, MG34 machine guns and hand grenades.

The battle at Midtskogen is a small skirmish with great strategic consequences: The Germans are not successful at capturing the King Of Norway and his senior government. The Norwegian King was later evacuated to England where he formed a government in exile until the German surrender.

There are multiple references to volunteer members of the Norwegian rifle clubs participating actively in the defense of Norway. On one occasion they provided the guard force for Norway’s gold bullion until the gold could be loaded on a British naval ship

... *Pete D*

TAKE YOUR SHOT AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR BREATHING CYCLE

I recently attended a Project Appleseed marksmanship training event. Appleseed teaches their student shooters to take their shot at the bottom of the breathing cycle.

The Appleseed instructors drive that point home by having the students get into very stable prone positions with dummy training rifles. There are lasers attached to these training rifles, and the laser beams are clearly visible on paper targets 10 yards away.

We were told to try dry firing these training rifles from all points of our breathing cycle. So we did. It was visually very apparent to all of us that our point of aim was most stable at the bottom of our breathing cycle.

Breath in. Breath out. Take a brief pause. Press the trigger... Appleseed calls this the respiratory pause cycle.

Go to an Appleseed training event. Your marksmanship will improve. Your understanding of early American history will deepen. They are inexpensive and family friendly. Read up at <https://appleseedinfo.org>. ... *Pete D*

AMMUNITION MALFUNCTIONS

Misfire: Occurs when the trigger is pressed with a cartridge in the chamber and the cartridge does not fire. This is surprisingly common with 22 Long Rifle ammunition. Keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction for 30 seconds in case this misfire is a hangfire. After 30 seconds you can eject the cartridge and dispose of it.

Hangfire: Occurs when there is a delay between when the trigger is pressed and the cartridge firing. The ignition process within the cartridge is proceeding – but very slowly. You will not initially know the difference between a hangfire and a misfire. Keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction for 30 seconds before ejecting the cartridge. You do not want to eject the possible hangfire from the firearm before 30 seconds in case it ignites outside the firearm. That could be dangerous to the shooter or bystanders.

Squib: A squib occurs when the cartridge fires but the bullet does not exit the firearm's barrel. Most often this is caused by the propellant powder missing from the cartridge. A squib is dangerous due to the risk of another cartridge being fired when the projectile from the squib round is still blocking the barrel. Firing this second cartridge with the squib round blocking the barrel will likely cause damage to the firearm and possible injury to the shooter or those near the shooter.

Squibs are sometimes experienced with incorrectly reloaded ammunition. They also may occur when using old ammunition or ammunition that has been stored improperly.

Squibs may have less sound and recoil than a normal cartridge being fired. Some semi-automatic firearms may not eject the squib's cartridge case correctly. If you experience the symptoms of a squib or a possible squib – STOP! Do not fire another cartridge. Make your firearm safe and check the barrel for obstructions with a cleaning rod. Take the firearm to a gunsmith if you are unsure about this process. **... Jason H**

WHAT ARE YOUR PAPER RIFLE TARGETS TELLING YOU?

The patterns on your paper rifle targets may be trying to tell you something important. The following notes are specific to rifles shots when fired from a standing position. Start by shooting 5 shots per target at several different paper targets from a standing position. Then look for a pattern in the groups on your targets. Consider the following recommendations if a consistent problematic pattern is evident.

Vertical stringing: This “up and down” pattern in your groups suggests that you are not taking your shot at the bottom of your breathing cycle. Set up a new target and try taking your shots at the bottom of your breathing cycle. *Breath in. Breath out. Take a brief pause. Press the trigger...*

Horizontal stringing: This “left to right” grouping may be caused by improper trigger control or trigger finger placement. Set up new targets and try the following corrections one at a time:

1. Make sure that **your trigger finger is in a “C” shape** as it presses the rifle trigger. There should be visible space in the open part of the “C”. Leaving your trigger finger against the firearm without the “C” when firing may cause a pulled shot that results in the horizontal stringing.
2. Make sure that you are **taking your shot with the center pad of your trigger finger** pressed against the trigger. Pressing the trigger from the finger crease will cause shots to go low and left. Pressing the trigger from your fingertip may cause shots to go low and right.

Diagonal stringing: This upper left corner to lower right corner pattern may be caused by two issues: (1) not taking your shot at the bottom of your breathing cycle, and/or (2) not having your support hand elbow directly underneath your rifle. The breathing cycle is discussed above. And see what moving that elbow does for you.

Perfect groups: You are John Ceglarek (Club Membership Secretary). No corrections needed. 😊 **...Jason H.**

PRACTICE DRY FIRING THOSE MOVES YOU CAN'T MAKE AT OUR RANGE

For most of us, dry firing is "firing" a firearm without live ammunition. For people working with access to dedicated practice environments such as Federal and State Law enforcement, dry firing is extended to include practicing with an inert training platform such as an iMarksman or SIRT training pistol.

One reason to train with dry fire is because our Club does not allow us to practice certain critical defensive firearm skills such as target transitions, moving while shooting, 360-degree environments, use of cover, low-light, weapon transitions, and similar. And the Club is right – these prohibited movements are DANGEROUS with live ammunition. But we can use dry fire to train on these skills and activities that we otherwise would never be able to practice at the Club “for real”. And then we can sign up for a specialty course at a range purpose built and staffed for this type of training.

Dry fire should be a completely safe activity. Unload your weapon, and visually and physically (finger in the receiver) ensure the weapon is clear. Then do that visual and physical check again. If you set your firearm down to take a break, use the restroom, etc., always re-clear the weapon before you resume training.

Store ammunition in a different room entirely from the room you are training in.

Use “snap caps” when dry firing a rimfire firearm such as a 22-long rifle, 17 HMR, or .17 WSM. ...**Jason H.**

BLAME YOUR BULLET'S DROP ON AERODYNAMIC DRAG - NOT GRAVITY

Exterior ballistics deals with the flight of the projectile after it leaves the barrel. A bullet in flight is under the influence of two forces: gravitational and aerodynamic drag. The gravitational force is the weight of the bullet. The force on an object that resists its motion through a fluid is called drag. Think wind resistance. In the context of ballistics air is a fluid. Because a bullet travels by flight, the wind resistance to the bullet is called aerodynamic drag.

Per the Norma Reloading Manual Vol 2, the force of aerodynamic drag acting on a typical 50 grain .22-caliber bullet with a muzzle velocity of 3,700 feet per second (example: a 22-250 Remington rifle varmint round) is more than 200 times the weight of the bullet. If aerodynamic drag was eliminated, this same 50 grain bullet fired at a 45 degree angle of elevation would rise to an altitude of 19 miles at mid-range and reach a maximum horizontal range of 80 miles before gravity pulled it back to earth. But with aerodynamic drag in play that same bullet will fall to earth in less than two miles.

So, blame your having to account for bullet drop on aerodynamic drag. Gravity is just an innocent bystander.

... *Pete D*

VOTE. PLEASE VOTE. Michigan has made the absentee ballot process easy and open to all voting age citizens. Be counted. Stand up for what you believe in. Do this for yourself, your family, and to honor those who have fought and sometimes died to give you this right. ...

HEY! INTRODUCE A NON-SHOOTING FRIEND OR RELATIVE TO SHOOTING

This is how we grow our shooting sports. This is how we protect our 2nd amendment rights. A lot of people have not ever fired a firearm. Give them a chance to do so in a shooting positive, safe environment.

WHAT DO YOU WANT MORE OF AT THE CLUB? Let us know. Would YOU like to submit a page or two? Send emails with your thoughts to kalamazoorodandgun@hotmail.com

THE BACK PAGES. We goofed off on the Internet so that you didn't have to. Sourced from the internet, so everything listed below might be true and unbiased. Maybe. *Pete D. & Jason H*

FOOLPROOF EXCUSES FOR YOUR NEXT MISSED SHOT AT A DUCK -

Sourced from: <https://deltawaterfowl.org/11-foolproof-excuses-for-your-next-missed-shot/>

“This is the last time I ever shoot my cousin’s handloads.”

Every family has a black sheep. Yours is bad with tungsten.

“I waited so long for you to shoot that it threw off my timing.”

You've shot so many ducks that these days, your only concern is the enjoyment of your blindmates. But, you warn, maybe next time you won't be so generous.

“I had the wrong choke tube in.”

The key here is to wait until hours after the hunt has concluded, so no one can prove that you were not in fact shooting a cylinder choke.

“The sun was in my eyes.”

Remember, always set up with the sun in your face for this ready-made defense.

“I can barely see the ducks against these overcast skies.”

If there's no sun, blame the lack of sun.

“This gun just doesn't fit me unless I'm in a heavy jacket.”

It's not you. It's Climate Change. By the end of this discussion, everyone will be so uncomfortable they'll forget you missed.

“Did you see that duck jump my shot string?”

Waterfowlers greatly underutilize this classic bow-hunting excuse.

“My safety stuck.”

Regardless why you missed, always glance inquisitively at your safety and check the action for mechanical malfunction.

“You called the shot too soon!”

Of course you missed. You like it when ducks finish, unlike your sky busting shot caller.

“It's hard to adjust for these big, slow mallards when you're used to canvasbacks.”

Though you'll come across as a braggart, who could blame a man accustomed to fastballs for missing the occasional changeup? Note: A mallard hunter who goes diver hunting could use the inverse of this excuse.

“I didn't want a spoonbill in our bag, so I shot to scare it away.”

You also don't shoot mergansers or hens or banded pintails or ...

July 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|-----|------------------------|------------|-----|--------------------------|
| | | | 1 Action Pistol | 2 Trap | 3 | 4 ..22 Silhouette |
| 5 Sporting Clays/ Steel Plates | 6 Board Meeting 7:30pm | 7 | 8 Action Pistol | 9 Trap | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Action Pistol | 16 Trap | 17 | 18 Precision Rifle |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Action Pistol | 23 Trap | 24 | 25 CMP Highpower |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 Action Pistol | 30 Trap | 31 | |

August 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|-----|------------------------|------------|-----|--------------------------|
| 30 | 31 | | | | | 1 ..22 Silhouette |
| 2 Sporting Clays/ Steel Plates | 3 Board Meeting 7:30pm | 4 | 5 Action Pistol | 6 Trap | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 Action Pistol | 13 Trap | 14 | 15 Precision Rifle |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 Action Pistol | 20 Trap | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Action Pistol | 27 Trap | 28 | 29 |

September 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|-----|------------------------|------------|-----|--------------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 Action Pistol | 3 Trap | 4 | 5 ..22 Silhouette |
| 6 Sporting Clays/ Steel Plates | 7 Board Meeting 7:30pm | 8 | 9 Action Pistol | 10 Trap | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 Action Pistol | 17 Trap | 18 | 19 NRA Highpower |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Trap | 25 | 26 Precision Rifle |
| 27 CMP High- power | 28 Officer Election | 29 | 30 | | | |

Moving? New Phone Number?

Please update your information with the
Membership Secretary

John Ceglarek

10620 Chicory Trail

Mattawan, MI 49071

or email

membership@kalamazoorodandgunclub.com

Do you have feedback, suggestions, or an article
for this Newsletter? Send an email to:
kalamazoorodandgun@hotmail.com

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NEWSLETTER



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