

# Sportsman Trails

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## President's Corner



By Bill Blackburn

For the past several years, we have had an assessment of our finances and budget six months into our fiscal year. This policy will continue and will be presented at the February BOD and at the general meeting in March. I think it might be good to have a six month assessment of all the happenings at our club over the first 6 months as well.

- ⇒ Divisions have been given responsibility for paying hazard insurance on their assets, maintaining or paying for maintenance of their assets, and paying for their utilities.
- ⇒ We have gone to an electronic newsletter [hard copy still available for \$5.00/year to those who want it.]
- ⇒ We have added preserve hunting as a member service and as a profit center.
- ⇒ A turkey hunt lottery has been established.

- ⇒ The John Deere tractor has been upgraded to a much newer [still a used] model.
- ⇒ Plans are in place for waterproofing the main clubhouse and restoring the floors as necessary.
- ⇒ Gate and fiscal policies have been revised.
- ⇒ The Constitution and By-Laws Committee has revised the constitution and by-laws of the League and they have had First reading before the general membership.

These are not all of the issues or problems discussed by your BOD, but are some of the most significant.

A recent safety issue with the GP and rifle ranges will be discussed at an emergency meeting of the BOD on 12 February and updates will be issued on the BGSL website as available until the problem is resolved.

Bill

## From the BGSL Chaplain



By Rev. Tom Cottingim

I learned a lot from my Dad. He has been gone for over six years now, and I miss him. While we didn't always see eye to eye, I always knew he loved me and I loved and respected him. He was a good man who lived an honorable life based on strong principles, and later in his life, on strong Christian principles. The things my Dad taught me were varied and it is hard to put them in order of their importance, although some do stand out because they have strongly influenced my life. I do not mean to imply my father was without flaws or mistakes. He had his share of both, like we all do, but the way he dealt with his shortcomings and errors taught me a valuable lesson.

Dad often talked to me about what it meant to be a man. So we don't get caught up in any of the recent nonsense known as being *Politically Correct*, let me define what being a man means. To be a man, regardless of one's gender, is to take on the responsibilities and behaviors of an adult. In the current vernacular, we might say it is being a grown-up. Dad not only explained to me, but also demonstrated, that one thing a grown-up does is to face up to his or her mistakes. According to him, whenever I hurt, or even inconvenienced, another person I should take the needed steps to make things right. That meant first admitting I was wrong and asking forgiveness, then making amends if possible.

Let me expand on that just a little. I do not believe it is quite enough to just say, "I'm sorry." That is technically just an expression of sorrow. "I'm sorry. Please forgive me," however, does convey what we need to say. The only other thing required is to offer to rectify the wrong..

Think about that. What if someone who had done something wrong to you came to you and apologized, asked your forgiveness, and offered to make it right? Doesn't that sound like the grown-up thing to do? Wouldn't you be more inclined to forgive them? I certainly would. I have to respect those who acknowledge their mistakes and want to fix what they have done wrong. It is just the right thing to do. How about you? Do you need to be a grown-up about something? Is there someone you need to go to and make things right? Let's see, *do to others as you would have them do to you*; sounds like someone else who has taught me a lot.

I am happy that my Dad taught me to seek forgiveness and restoration from those I offended. I have had to do so many times in my life. Asking for forgiveness brought me humility, and it is through humility that I learned to forgive others. How about that? Dad taught me one lesson, but I learned two. I wonder if he meant it that way. See you at the club.

Blessings,  
Tom

## Blue Grass Sportsmen's League

# Morgan's Meanderings



By Terry Morgan



## What Do You Do About News Like This?

Well, any one knows the first thing you do is break into a whimper and start fussing about “rights being denied” and stuff like that. It doesn't take very long for you to shift into second gear where you start wondering what fool did something to mess up your play yard. The next stage of remorse varies with the individual: either you go looking for Ben or someone else to thump around on or your imagination starts running wild with all the possibilities that could have caused this state of affairs and you start pouting and mulling over in your mind about how they can't do this to you and start planning a methodology for getting your dues back. These are all pretty natural instincts and actions and I don't think anyone could find fault in them. Most of this torment comes about because you find yourself on the short end of the stick when it comes to information that you think you have a right to have because “by gosh, I paid my dues” and this is all I get for it?

I can tell you that no one was more shocked than I to find the above signage in place. No one could have had any wider range of emotion than I to see this in place and not know what was behind it. But let us stop and ponder the issue a moment and see whether or not all this nervous anxiety is necessary. Okay! The moment is over and, “Yes”, I am still anxious to know what this is all about and what is being done?

I think most of you are adult enough to understand that

in our modern litigation riddled society it does not pay to go off half cocked and start blathering rumor about without knowing all the facts. While it is true that we are the natural place you would look to find the cause of some loose bullets flying around outside our grounds, it is not a proven fact that this was actually the case. But in a position such as we occupy, it is more seemly that we show an above average concern about this kind of an issue and do the best we can to protect ourselves and our investment. To stave off increased concern over this kind of an issue our President immediately closed the ranges most suspect of this kind of problem and at a recent emergency board meeting, additional ranges were closed until we can all agree on what the proper steps to take will be. At that same board meeting steps were taken to get at least part of the General Purpose Range back into operation as quickly as possible. This attempt will involve some construction, naturally some expense and will not necessarily be an “end all” fix to the problem. You can be sure of one thing: as always, just when you like the way things are going, **change** rears its ugly head and throws fear and anxiety into the smooth path you thought you had built. Let's approach this problem analytically.

First, let us consider ourselves pretty doggoned lucky that something like this has not happened before. If you start doing a little research you will find out that clubs similar to ours, all over the country, are having problems because of development around them. The fact is that we have a tendency to let the status quo rule as long as there is no immediate pressure to change it. Good business people look ahead and try to anticipate the changes that will come before they arrive so that they will not be surprised and cause the loss of the business. Let there be no doubt in your mind as to the fact that most of us would rather have a bit of inconvenience at some point than suffer a total loss; which is not unimaginable. The steps being taken to protect our League have become, over night, absolutely necessary. Many similar institutions around the country have already had the foresight to make adjustments to their ranges to contain stray projectiles. The most common technique is to build baffling which disallows the sight of blue sky. Another technique you will see and hear about is “tubing” or “porting”. The use of Range Officers and more restrictive hours of operation may also come into play. Please understand this: we are not alone in this problem and we are not leaders in the field of safety, but it is vital to the continuance of our way of life that we start taking steps now to make sure that we can continue this way of life for a long distance into the future.

## Blue Grass Sportsmen's League



If you look carefully at the picture on the left you will see some vertical posts out in front of the shooter and above those posts are some horizontally positioned baffles which prevent the visual sighting of the sky and will contain any stray shots above the berm. This is expensive. This is also the most common way and probably the best way to contain bullets and is in use by many of the better clubs. The club pictured above not only has a higher initiation fee than we do and a higher dues fee as well, but they ask their members for extra money and also levied an apportionment of the cost to each member. They have about 2000 members and are located in the far northwest of the country.

I would like to touch on another topic as well. Below is a picture taken at our General Purpose Range. If you look carefully you will notice a yellow wire drooping down from the overhead rafters. This appears to be an attempt by someone to remove and pilfer the copper wiring in the range. We cannot tell if they were interrupted in their work or did not have the right tools to do the job quickly but there is no other reason we can conjure that would justify the removal of long staples in this fashion. It just makes me sick to think that we have members in our club who would do something like this. Why do I think it was a member? Because it was done during a period of time when only members or guests of members should have been present on the property. It also may not generally be known to most members that we have had a couple of thefts of money from two different divisions and the removal of an expensive cash register from one division club house. What can be done about the



se kinds of problems? Well, I don't know all the answers but several things are being considered. One thing we would all like to avoid is having some "Nazi" range officers running around and harassing everyone but I think it would help if member on the property were to take a somewhat proprietary viewpoint and watch for things that might be suspicious. I am sure every one of you knows that you should be displaying your membership card on your external clothing when you are on any range, fishing in the lake or riding a horse on the trail. I also hope you will not take offense if I or any other member came up to you and asked you to show your membership if you are not displaying your card. We **all** have to be conscious of rules and safety considerations. I don't think any of us **want** be policemen. **Git over it!!**



# Blue Grass Sportsmen's League

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