

Sportsman Trails Sportsman Trails

Volume 41 Issue 9

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President's Corner



By Bill Blackburn

Where are we now? This seems like a fair question as we approach the end of our fiscal year and September elections.

Six and a half months after our safety issue with single projectile ranges, all ranges are again open. Hours are currently curtailed, but we are making progress. We have added two full time range officers and have had many volunteer hours as range officers. Aerial and

ground survey of the club has been completed and sent to Vargas and Associates for our range design. We will have completed our modification of the entire North slope of the GP range roof by the time this newsletter is posted. Action pistol pit #2 now has an enclosed and completely baffled range. Range safety has already been much improved.

A forestry plan has been implemented which will generate income and will benefit our wildlife population.

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President's Corner Continued

Our clubhouse has been fully waterproofed and painted.

The constitution and by-laws of the League have been revised and accepted.

The John Deere tractor has been upgraded to a much newer [still used] model.

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.]

Dues have been increased to a level which should allow us to maintain our facilities and allow us to continue to upgrade our ranges.

Where do we go from here?

We will begin construction of the vertical baffles on the GP range as soon as the plans are delivered.

Renovation of the clubhouse floor needs to be completed.

Our blacktop roads need repair.

We need to continue upgrading our operations equipment.

Thanks to all who have given time and effort to our league during this very difficult year.

Bill

Airgun Division

The Airgun Division will host the American Airgun Field Target Association National Championship tournament September 12-14. This event will feature the best shooters and equipment in the country as well as visitors from England and Canada.

If you want to learn what modern airguns are all about and try out cutting edge equipment, feel free to stop by the range Friday through Sunday. This is an event that anyone interested in airgunning should not miss.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with registration, food service, assistance in transportation of equipment from the parking area to the main range, scoring and general help. Please contact me if you are able to participate.

Steve Cox - Match Director (859) 806-1431.

Archery Division

The Archery Division, along with Christian Archers of KY, hosted an ASA Shoot on July 26th & 27th and a \$1000 Stakes Shoot on August 2nd. If you weren't there you missed a really good time. We had a great turnout and good weather for both events.

Our first kids night was a roaring success, bringing out 18 youth to shoot NASP style. We had some experienced shooters and some new shooters. It was a great time for everyone - we will continue this each month for the foreseeable future.

At our monthly meeting on August 13th, we enjoyed the company of several new shooters as well as representatives from NASP. Our 3D Follow the Leader shoot was a big hit, as was our end of summer barbeque complete with homemade ice cream. During our meeting, we held an election of new officers as well as discussed our plans for the coming year.

Archery Division officers: President - Joel McClintock Vice President - Mark Dacci Treasurer - Lu Ann Johnson

Our next youth shoot will be held on August 21st and our next division meeting on September 10th. We hope to see you there.



SCOPE (Youth)

Although summer break is over and school is back in session, the Youth Committee continues to be very busy during these next 2 months. The Tuesday night Squirrel Rifle shoots have brought out a large group of kids determined to score high and shoot well. Our club will be represented by no less than 35 youth this year in the quest for the State Squirrel Rifle Championship. If you would like to see a scoreboard, there is now one on the Youth Committee site at www.bgslinc.com. We add events and scores often, so check this regularly.

September will be a very busy month - every weekend has some sort of event:

September 6th - Squirrel Rifle begins @ 10 am - followed by lunch - then Trap Shooting

September 7th - Youth/Mentor Dove Hunt - this will be on a first come - first served basis

September 13th & 14th - Air Rifle Nationals - Youth will be volunteering to assist the Air Rifle Division with target setting, scoring, serving food, etc. Please contact Lu Ann Johnson to sign up to volunteer (luann@automatemybooks.com or (502) 839-1775/(502) 598-1533)

September 20th - State 4H Tournament - We hope to provide concessions/ lunch for 4H - please contact Lu Ann Johnson to volunteer - this will be a good fundraiser for our winter activities.

September 27th - Qualification for Youth Deer Hunt - qualification to take place at Black Powder range beginning at 10 am.

Keep an eye on the events listings on the front page of the website for more information - we will update it regularly and send BGSL Blast & Youth database emails prior to each event.



From the BGSL Chaplain

By Rev. Tom Cottingim

I filled my van with gasoline two days ago and parked it in the garage; I checked the oil, the tire pressure, washer fluid and cleaned the windshield to a spotless shine. The back seat has been removed to make room for gear. There are sports drinks chilling in the refrigerator next to some sliced turkey, a jar of pickles, tomato, lettuce and some squeeze mayo. The bread, corn chips and some snacks are in the old green tote bag. A large bag of ice waits in the freezer in the garage and the cooler is clean and ready next to it. My two favorite fly rods have been inspected and nestled in their cases. Reels have been lubed, the lines cleaned and dressed and leaders checked for knots. They, too, are resting in cases. Waders and boots have been scrutinized and packed. Three fly boxes have been inventoried and packed. Fishing clothes have been carefully chosen and are waiting on hangers. Maps and notebook are stacked on top of the wader bag. My battered stainless thermos is sitting by the coffee pot.

Every detail has been planned, listed and then checked off the list. It is all ready. So am I. For me, anticipation is a critical part of a good trip. I have enjoyed getting ready and thinking about the trip. I think my blood pressure has already dropped a few points. I wrote last month about sharpening your axe and I am doing just that. I already feel sharper. But, as good as planning and anticipation are, tomorrow is when the really neat stuff will happen.

In the morning I will wake early, put everything in the van, turn the cell phone off and head out for the Cumberland River. Then the most important element will be added: I will pick up my good friend, Rick. Having the company of

a close friend adds a dimension that cannot be supplied any other way. Rick and I will talk about family, friends, theology, politics, music and maybe even fishing.

Our friendship is decades old and has grown stronger with the years. Rick and I became friends because of shared interests. We were both Amateur Radio Operators (Hams) and we lived in the same neighborhood. Soon we discovered we both loved fishing. That's how most friendships start: we discover common ground. Not only is this how we begin friendships, but how we make them grow and last. That is also true of other relationships, even marriage. When I do counseling with couples that I am about to marry, I talk to them about making sure they always have plenty of common ground. It is certainly normal, and maybe healthy, to disagree on some things, but it is in the places we are together that we *enjoy* the relationship. My friendship with Rick has grown to include not only fly fishing, but shooting pistol, muzzle-loaders and soon, skeet. As you may have guessed, Rick is a long time member of BGSL.

I cannot stress how valuable friendship is to all of our lives and I pray you have many good friends. And I hope you recognize BGSL as a tremendous source of new friends. After all, we sportsmen have an awful lot in common. See you at the club.

Blessings,

Tom



Rick Rubeling, Cumberland River, August, 2008

Casting Division News

Mark Twain once said "The coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco." This was definitely true for the 100th Annual National Casting Championships. When leaving Kentucky's 90 degree temperatures and arriving to San Francisco's 50 degree temperatures, more than just culture shock set in - we were just plain cold.

Golden Gate Park is one of the most picturesque places in the city, and a great hosting club for this momentous occasion. Cold, wind and rain took its toll on the scores, but BGSL did manage to remain in some of the tops spots.

In the senior men's division, Bill Burke took 2nd in 5/8 oz Two-Hand Revolving Spool Distance, 1st in 5/8 oz Two-Hand Spinning Distance, 1st in Single-Hand Spinning Distance, 1st in Dry Fly Accuracy, and 1st in 5/8 oz Plug Accuracy.

In the men's division, David Roberts took 3rd in 1/4 oz Plug Accuracy.

In the women's division, Lu Ann Johnson took 3rd in 3/8 oz Plug Accuracy and 3rd in 5/8 oz Plug Accuracy.

In the intermediate's division, Jessi Johnson took 3rd in 3/8 oz Plug Accuracy and 3rd in 5/8 oz Plug Accuracy.

The BGSL Casting Team - Bill Burke, David Roberts, Pat McFadden, Lu Ann Johnson & Jessi Johnson - took 2nd place in the team event out of 8 teams.

There are a couple of midwest tournaments still to come this year, so if you see our guys & gals at the club, wish them luck or just a pat on the back for a job well done at the National Tournament.



Morgan's Meanderings

By Terry Morgan

The Internet is an amazing and very useful tool in our modern society. I, for one, am very glad that Al Gore invented it and made it useful. As with any tool, it brings a lot of good and along with the good it brings some not so good. One thing in particular that falls into that "not so good" category is the fact that some of my "good buddies" keep sending me stuff that reminds me of how old I am getting. You know how it is. I would imagine that you have seen these lists of what you can or cannot remember. Like Blackjack chewing gum and little wax bottles of flavored water and other such memorabilia. Did your mother have an old soda bottle with holes punched in the metal cap so she could sprinkle clothes before she ironed them? Well, I know these guys mean well and it is kinda fun to reminisce about old times gone by but it got just a little out of hand the other day. One of them sent me something that proved that I was as old as "dirt" and that really cinched the saddle band. To attest to the fact that I am not "as old as dirt" and even though old Mr. Arthur Ittis is closing in fast, yours truly (as depicted in the photo right) can still get with it on occasion. In this scene from the play about Paul Sawyer, we are "gettin' down" in the River Boat scene. This little shimmy shammy is called "ballin' the jack" and involves doing the "eagle rock" with style and grace. This play about our local High Bridge Community and it's connection with Paul Sawyer, one of our notable Kentucky artists, has been given each year for some several years now and it will be given for the last time this coming September the 20th before the disbanding of the troupe. Why don't you make a point to come and see it before it bites the dust. One of my purposes in mentioning it in this venerable newsletter is that I would imagine that a very large percentage of the club membership that comes to the grounds never goes beyond



More Meandering

the Handy's Bend road turnoff and completely misses some of the local history that can be found in this area. Following is a bit of that history taken from a preface that my wife wrote for the High Bridge cookbook that has been sold around here for several years.

HIGH BRIDGE

A historic and magic place made awe inspiring by the Hand of God and tamed by the will of man.

As early as 1759, the Kentucky Long Hunters came to the confluence of the Dick's (Dix) River in their canoes. They entered into their journals that the impressive rock formations of the palisades gave one a sense that the hand of the "Greater Being" had been at work here. These reflections and comments were to appear in other diaries and journals inscribed by those who traveled this way. Even yet, in 2008, these same thoughts become ours as well.

Strong pioneer families settled here. Levi and Robert Todd (ancestors of Mary Todd Lincoln) had land at the point. Revolutionary Soldier, Capt. John Curd, who had large land grants on both sides of the River, received his Land Warrant in 1779 from Virginia for a 16 acre sand bar across from the Dick's. From here he ran his ferry as early as 1783, although his Virginia Ferry License was not granted until 1785. He also built a tobacco warehouse, and a flour mill/warehouse. Farm products from the area were loaded on to flat boats and sent out to New Orleans from the dock. Bishop Francis Asbury wrote in his diary that he crossed the river on the Curd's ferry. The Bishop established his Bethel Academy one mile away on the Handy's Bend in 1799.

Due to its location at a tri-county point (Jessamine, Mercer and Garrard), political meetings and social gatherings often took place here at the big bend of the River. 15,000 people came together for a meeting to discuss the State seceding from the Union prior to the Civil War. Before the Civil War, work had begun on a railroad bridge to tame the breathtaking Kentucky River gorge.

Two huge limestone towers were constructed for a cantilever bridge designed by famed bridge builder John Roebling who also designed the New York Brooklyn Bridge and other bridges of note. Work stopped on the bridge during the war although Gen. Ambrose Burnside, who built the Camp[Nelson Civil War

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Depot, came with his Corp. of Engineers to consider the prospects of completing the bridge as part of the war effort. The cost of \$75,000 was deemed too dear a price.

After the War, bridge designer Charles S. Smith was hired to complete the task. His work proved to be a world celebrated structure that today is still a feature in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. During the bridge building era the town received its name, first it was called North Tower and then later, High Bridge, actually a boomtown with several grocery stores, taverns and a post office.

The Bridge was completed by 1877 and President Rutherford B. Hayes presided at the Dedication Ceremony. The High Bridge Association (there is still one today) secured land from local landowners that included the Pleasant Hill Shakers, for a Park with a dancing and dinning pavilion and stables for riding horses. Thus began the "Hey-Day" of High Bridge.

Tourists by the thousands came from Cincinnati on day trips by train while others came by packet, steamboat, ferry, wagons, buggies, horseback and later, by Model T's. The visitors climbed up and down the 300 wooden steps on the palisades to the bridge foundations and back. They marveled at the Great Railroad Trestle, enjoyed the beautiful views, the good foods and the entertainments provided at the park. Religious Camp Meetings became popular and attracted well known speakers; some were nationally prominent such as William Jennings Bryan and Billy Sunday. People came in droves to camp out in tents and according to newspaper accounts, groups sometime engaged the chefs from the Phoenix Hotel in Lexington to oversee the food preparation and service. Other than Mammoth Cave, this was the best-known and most visited tourist attraction of its day.

At the turn of the century, the Dean of Kentucky Painters, Paul Sawyer, tied his shanty boat below the bridge for several years making his home among the people of High Bridge and the River. Sawyer painted his most famous and beautiful watercolors of River scenes during this period of his life. He was also the President of the Shaker Ferry Co., the old ferry started by John Curd.

The popularity of the High Bridge Park continued into the 1950's and then declined. The once beautiful white Victorian Pavilion was in a great state of dete-

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Another feature of the village is an underground lake fed by underground streams that produces a clear and good tasting water. This impressive water source was discovered deep within a man made limestone quarry. High Bridge Spring Water is now bottled and distributed throughout Kentucky and the United States. The High Bridge Kentucky River Park and village are today an important historic site and a much beloved attraction, not only for Jessamine County and the region, but the Commonwealth as well.

I hope that little bit of relatively unknown history will make you club members more inclined to visit the club and to also journey on south a couple of more miles and take in the newly rebuilt High Bridge Pavilion and the impressive "lookout" that has been built over the palisades that overlooks the entrance of the Dix River into the Kentucky. The Dix River is quite a well known Trout fishery as well.

Assuming that this issue reaches you before the next club meeting, which will be the first Tuesday in September, I want to remind you that this meeting is very important because we will be electing officers for the coming year. This is your opportunity to promote your interests in the club if you are so inclined. Bring your ID card, your appetite and your interest. Meeting starts at 7:00 and ends after supper.

Speaking of eating: if you have ever been to the clubhouse you already know that the food is served by the kitchen gang out of what they fondly call "The Road Kill Café". I thought it might be interesting to note that on a recent trip, I encountered a "real" Road Kill Kafe and they actually would prepare your road kill for you. I might also mention that the road kill they served from the menu tasted about like it ought to for road kill.



If you have been keeping up with things you are probably aware that we have commenced a logging operation on the club grounds for two different reasons. The first and by far the main reason is that we are trying to be ecologically proper in our management of our forest and it has been recommended to us by several knowledgeable authorities that we should thin our timber in order to improve habitat and

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encourage new growth. Fortunately for us, this management concept overlaps our need for cash in order to offset the monumental expenses we have incurred in order to try to make our ranges safer and to promote the longevity of the club. I took a little ride down to the base site of this operation the other day and here are some pictures of what is going on. Some of the felled trees are still lying on the ground waiting to be cut to hauling size while others have already been sized and piled awaiting the loading onto the road rig shown here. If you are anything like me, you hate to see these big beautiful trees removed from their birthplace but I keep telling myself that this is better than letting them overgrow and rotting in place. I recently had to remove a humongous maple tree from my front yard (estimated age about 200 years old) and it almost made me cry (not only from the money it cost me to have it removed but it was a real beautiful shade tree) to see that thing go but it had already started shedding big limbs and it was cracked at the base trunk as well as already full of termites (you should have seen the dance that the climber did when a big old cow sucker came out of one of the hollow limbs). I would image that the next big wind would have put most of it on top of the house. When I discussed the price of the removal with the tree guy he suggested that I make sure that my insurance is paid up and just let the thing fall on the house. I sure wish I still heated in the winter with fire-



wood. That thing should have provided me with about 5 years of energy. Anyway, the point is that, other than its beauty and shade, the tree had served its purpose well beyond expectations and now that it is gone, the area can be used for future growth. The tree itself was a waste in its deteriorating stage of life. Goodbye old friend. The chipper got most of it and I hope it makes some nice beds for some horses or such.



BGSL Board of Directors

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