



HSA News

An Official Publication of the Hellertown Sportsmen's Association



January 2009

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Paul Piscator
610.847.5396

Newsletter
John Meka
610.865.6309

Monthly Membership Meeting
Third Tuesday every month 7:30 PM
Excellent refreshments by Janet Hoffert

From the President

It's hard to believe it's 2009. I hope everyone had a great New Year celebration. Mark your calendar for January 20th. That's the night of our annual election. Come to our meeting at 7:30 and make your vote count. Your club needs your support in order for us to continue to make improvements in the upcoming year.

The New Year always brings another season of the Lehigh Valley Police Revolver League, which is the oldest continuing pistol league in the country. There's no better way to improve your pistol skills than routine practice. You don't have to show up every week, so there is no excuse that you're too busy. Find that handgun you've had for years and come down on Wednesdays at 5:00 PM. You'll be surprised how fast your scores will improve.

Enclosed with this newsletter are raffle tickets for our Annual Spring Ham Shoot. The sale of these tickets brings in the much needed funds for us to continue to make improvements to the club. As many of you have already noticed, we have recently added two large much needed storage areas. The board has a few more ideas but we need the funding in order to move forward with our next project. So it's up to all of you to "Sell, Sell, Sell" all of the raffle tickets you received with your newsletter. If you need additional tickets just ask a board member or stop at the club on meeting night.

See you at the club.
Jim Bambu

L.V.P.R.L

Chuck Adams – 610.252.3169

Now that the league is in full swing, please sign up for team shooting. Teams are arranged using last years averages for each shooter so all are welcome. If you shoot better than your average you will help your team.

Many new shooters joined during the practice league. We hope to see all these shooters at the range. Please assist the new shooters in scoring targets.

Our secretary, Bill Books, has received information from the NRA about members joining the NRA or renewing their membership through the pistol league. Each NRA membership made through L.V. P. R. L. brings money to our league and gives you the NRA discount price. If you need your NRA membership renewed or if you want a new membership please see Bill books for an application.

Rich Geyer has been bringing old Guns and Ammo magazines to the league for members to read. Members can read these while waiting for their turn on the line. If you wish to bring some of your own shooting related magazines they would be appreciated. If you wish to take a magazine home please remember to return it so others may enjoy it.

All 2009 applications have a spot for your email address. For those of you who can actually read your own email Bill Lambert will be sending information via email about our league, including cancellations due to bad weather, special events, etc.

Shoot Safe,
Chuck Adams
President, L.V.P.R.L

NRA Basic

Pistol Shooting Course

The L.V.P.R.L. will host a National Rifle Association Basic Pistol Shooting Course on February 21-22, 2009. The course is scheduled to run from 9 am. to 4 pm. on Saturday and from noon to 4 pm. on Sunday, but will be concluded on Saturday if all requirements are completed.

The ten-hour course will emphasize the safe and proper handling and use of pistols through knowledge, skill and attitude. Participants will learn firearm safety, pistol parts and operation, fundamentals of pistol shooting, care and cleaning, storage options, purchasing guidelines and live-fire exercises on the Bullseye range. NRA Certified Instructors will conduct the course and an examination must be passed for completion.

The course fee of \$45.00, includes all student handbooks, brochures, notepads, handouts, ammunition and course certificate.

Registration forms will be available at the monthly meeting and at the Bullseye range. Space is limited and the registration deadline is Feb. 4th, with a \$10 deposit to order NRA materials.

For more information, contact:
John Meka – 610.865.6309 or
email: jmeka@verizon.net.

Geyer's Corner
Richard Geyer

For any new interested Pistol Shooters.... First week in January we will be starting our 72nd year!

Please see Geyer p.3

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Glenn Hoffert 610.838.6097
Al Horvath 610.838.8026
Paul Piscator 610.847.5396

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Steve Kirby 610.868.1459
Action Pistol
Ken Ortbach 908.310.2079

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Newsletter

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Hellertown Sportsmen's Association
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Telephone 610.838.7118

www.hellertownsportsmen.com

Range Hours and Rules

9:00 am - 9:00 pm Every Day

Use of Ranges Limited to Members Only

When using any of our outdoor ranges, you must have your membership card visible

Due to insurance requirements and liability issues, guests are not permitted to use the facilities except during organized events.

Members who permit guests to use the ranges will immediately lose their membership for a minimum of one year. *Guests can observe but may not participate or take an active role in the use of the ranges.*

**USE PAPER TARGETS ONLY
AFTER SHOOTING, TAKE OFF ALL
USED TARGETS AND PICK UP
YOUR SPENT BRASS.**

Observe all club/gun safety rules printed on the back of your membership card and also posted at the ranges. You will lose your membership privileges for not obeying the rules.

Calendar of Events

Monthly Membership Meeting Third Tuesday of every month 7:30 pm

Action Pistol

1st, 4th, & 5th Tuesday - 6:00 pm
Ken Ortbach 908.310.2079

L.V.P.R.L. Bullseye

Wednesdays 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Chuck Adams 610.252.3169

Hellertown Archers

Wednesdays 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Ray Matey 610.838.9239

Jr. Archers

Mondays 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Don Jenny 610.691.1903

Trap Shooting

Tuesdays 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Thursdays 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Rich Geyer 610.838.8908

2009 Firearms Training Schedule

**NRA Basic Pistol Shooting Course
Sat-Sun, Feb. 21-22, 2009**

**Introduction to the Handgun
(One day program)
Sunday, February 15, 2009
Saturday, June 13, 2009
Sunday, October 25, 2009**

**Concealed Carry Level I
(Day and half program)
Saturday, March 7 & 14, 2009
Sunday, July 19 & 26, 2009
Saturday, November, 14 & 21, 2009**

**Concealed Carry Level II
(Two day program)
Saturday, May 16 & 23, 2009
Sunday, December 6 & 13, 2009**

Private instruction is available.
For further information on these courses and other programs available, please contact Paul Piscator, S&W Certified Instructor at 610.847.5396 or padona@epix.net

Paul Piscator

Smith & Wesson Training Instructor
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Geyer's Corner cont....

I'm talking about the OLDEST continuous pistol league in the entire US! This is a BULLSEYE league. No fast draw, no two handed, no leaning or using any type of support while shooting. HOWEVER... IF you are unable to follow the rather strict rules of bullseye.... we have made, over the years some 'bending' of rules... and all that means, is that if you have a problem following above outlines.... You are still MOST WELCOME to come join us... you just cannot qualify towards trophies. I well recall some elder gent, years ago sez to me: "*Rich, I don't care about no dang trophy... I just wanna hit the bullseye!*"

So again, briefly... We shoot 30 shots total: 10 shots slow fire (within five minutes); 10 shots again (two - 5 shot strings) 5 each time within 20 seconds; finally, rapid shooting 10 rounds (two - 5 shot strings) 5 each time within 10 seconds. ANY safe handgun is allowed. 22's of course being the most common (low price, low recoil and not much noise). I have got to tell yah, with the advent of the "DOT" scopes recently... it brought a bunch of older shooters back into this game... no problems with seeing the sights and/or targets. A suggestion... Chuck Adams, Bill Lambert and a few other "regulars" are down there EVERY WEDNESDAY evening... get yourself acquainted with the system... see what it's all about... and you will not have a tough time meeting... and being associated with a better bunch of helpful guy!! A range officer is in charge at all times.

When I think back... years ago... 1990 actually, when we (1990) proposed building this grand range... I gotta tell you, there was some opposition... not everyone was in favor of a pistol range. Well, we now host a bunch of various shooting groups. For example .22 Long Rifle high school rifle teams... several Pennsylvania organizations... training groups... two local police departments... state law enforcement agencies... federal law enforcement agencies... so come down and look us over!

I can't say just when I first saw the movie "*Saving Pvt. Ryan*," but it certainly was a memorable one with some realistic action.... Now, I'm quite certain that more than half of our readers do not recall the story of the Sullivan Brothers... 'five' from the same family that lost their lives on the same ship. Well, we'll have to go back to the civil war era... to ANOTHER mother, a widow, who ALSO lost 'five' sons in war. Well, that situation was the theme for "*Saving Private Ryan*." In the movie, I recall... VERY WELL... the reading of a letter from Abe Lincoln... to a mother who lost her five sons... the manner... the tone of voice... the delivery... was not lost on this writer... For some time I was determined to 'find' this letter to Mrs. Lydia Bixby. It is, as far as I am concerned, one of the most memorable of documents or letters... written to one who has certainly endured the loss of her sons. As it turned out... I am looking now, at an OLD Civil War Issue, an insert in the Philadelphia Sunday Inquirer of April, 1961... I found the copy of this outstanding letter... I think you will find it, like I did... most moving. Can you imagine ANY of our political leaders today... capable of coming close to writing anything so grand? So eloquent?

Dear Madam:

I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost and the solemn pride that must be yours to have paid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

Yours very sincerely and respectfully,

A. Lincoln

You may care to show this letter to ANY mother of a son or daughter... who served ANY time in the military.

Please see Geyer p.4

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Geyer's Corner cont...

BUSY ARMS REACH LONGER THEN GOOD LUCK

Have any idea how long ago MARGARINE was invented?? 1870... French Navy commissioned HIPPOLYTE MEGE-MOURIES to find a substitute for butter... at a time of an acute shortage. He was awarded a prize from Napoleon III. Original recipe was an unappetizing mixture of beef suet, crushed with warm milk and sheep's stomach wall. (Now made chiefly from vegetable oil)

Do you have a CENTER-FIRE revolver... and would you care to do a bit of experimenting during these bitter cold days?? Wanna make up some low noise, low recoil and low cost ammo? Ever think of wax bullets? Using some basic hand loading tools... You'll of course need to take the old fired primer out... Put a new one in and most likely that fired case needs to be re-sized to fit back in the cylinder... Do you recall that plain 'ole canning wax grandma used to put on top of the jelly jars? Well, "THAT'S the BULLET." Take that primed case and press it over the slab of wax (It'll be a help IF that wax is slightly warm. Only one little glitch in this thing... that FLASHHOLE in the case needs to be opened up a bit! Under the pressure of a normal powder/bullet charge, the primer is flattened out... without that pressure, the primer will BACK OUT... enough that you will NOT be able to turn the cylinder. So, enlarge that flash

hole... and oh yeah... keep those cases separate and use them only for your wax bullet demonstrations. You may be surprised to see that they are actually fairly accurate... Many years ago I showed that very same set-up to a shooting pal, Al Gross... he thought it quite nifty. We fired a few of them in my cellar... He loaded a few and at the time had a 4" combat .38 Special. It was a VERY cold night... he had these loaded wax jobs in his revolver. When he got home he was anxious to show his wife this new "Ammunition." As soon as he got in the kitchen he said to his wife "Hey, Blondie... watch this..." And he set a cardboard cereal box on the table... drew and fired... *wingo!* The bullet zipped thru the box and zipped around the kitchen... and all he could say was, when his wife asked if he was crazy... All he could muster was "Hey, it didn't do that down at Rich's place." Well, in the cellar... the bullet was warm... by the time HE fired at home... bullet was now a hard chunk of wax. Ay yes. Some fun... some memories. *It is the belief among some... that if after one dies... and people still recall and think of him... he lives. And, who am I to sav otherwise???*

Club and Range Closings

*Obey All Posted Signs
During Special Events & Activities*

Regular Ongoing Closings

Rifle Range Closed
Every Tuesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
and

Every Thursday 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
During Trap Shooting Sessions

All Club Ranges and Facilities Closed for Special Activities

Please direct all requests for special activities to the HSA Board of Directors so the facilities can be made safe with closings if necessary and the posting of the event in the newsletter.

A Second Amendment moment...

"The laws that forbid the carrying of arms... disarm those only who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes... Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man."

Thomas Jefferson, "Commomplace Book" 1774-1776

TIME TO RENEW YOUR 2009 MEMBERSHIPS

2009 membership cards are available now.

You may renew your membership at the monthly membership meeting, the Spring Shoot or by mail.
Senior renewals are \$25.00. Spouse and junior renewals are \$7.00.

Mail to: Hellertown Sportsmen's Association

P. O. Box 30

Hellertown, PA 18055-0030

Raffle Tickets

Enclosed you will find three Spring Club Improvement Raffle Tickets. Please sell these tickets to your friends and return the ticket stubs with appropriate funds in the self-addressed envelope. We need all of our members to participate in this very worthwhile and needed effort.

HSA Silent Auction

Back by Popular Demand

Donate your unwanted items to this very worthwhile fundraiser activity.

Bring your items to the Monthly Membership Meeting or contact one of the Board of Directors to arrange for a drop off.

Spring Ham Shoot

Sunday, April 5, 2009

Block Shoot for
Hams or Meat Trays
Wheel Spins
Silent Auction
Food and Beverages
Raffle Ticket Drawing
Fun for the entire family
From Noon Until 5:00 PM