

# **FORKS RIFLE CLUB NEWSLETTER**

**April 2020**

## **SPRING NEWSLETTER**

**SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING CANCELLED:** The 2020 spring membership meeting scheduled for May 3, 2020, has cancelled. Individuals wanting sign up for summer leagues can do so at the league.

**APRIL RIFLE MATCHES:** The matches scheduled during April have been postponed or rescheduled. Check the calendar on the Forks Rifle Club website for new match dates.

**RANGE CLOSED:** We want to thank everyone for your patience while the range was closed during the first part of April to allow the snow banks on the range to melt and give the parking lots, range roads and the ranges a chance to dry out. One of the major challenges and expenses is maintaining the graveled areas on the range, roads and parking lots. This primarily due to the alkali soil and the high water table. By limiting vehicle traffic during the initial part of the spring thaw, we greatly reduce the damage. We will still be dealing with frost boils into May. Please avoid driving over them.

**DISPLAY MEMBERSHIP CARDS:** All members are required to display their current membership cards when utilizing the club facilities. However, cards need not be displayed while participating in organized matches, leagues, classes or meetings. These are open to non-members but are under the control of designated club members. Since the entrance gate is open during these activities, it is important to ensure that non-members are not accessing other range facilities. It is a range safety and liability issue. Members can provide their own card holders or contact a club officer for one.

**SIGHTING-IN-RANGE:** The Sighting-In-Range is normally open every day during day light hours until May when the summer leagues and matches start. Then, it is closed from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm on Monday and Tuesdays for the silhouette and handgun leagues. Check schedule for match closings. The north four bays are devoted to short range, 25 and 50 yard, rifle and handgun shooting. When shooting on the sighting-in-range, ensure that all bullets impact directly into the backstops and do not skip off the ground.

**RED LIGHTS:** A reminder the flashing red lights in the sighting-in-range are to be turned on whenever anyone is down range. Before anyone goes down range, all firearms will be unloaded and grounded, cased or holstered. No one touches a firearm while individuals are down range.

**YELLOW LIGHTS:** A yellow light has been installed on the south east wall of the unheated portion of the sighting-in-building. This is connected to the strobe on the outside of the building. When the yellow light is on it means that there is activity on the high power range and firing is limited to 200 yards or less on the sighting-in-range.

**NEWSLETTERS:** If you indicated on your application that you preferred to receive information from the club in electronic format, you will no longer be mailed a printed copy of the newsletter. In the future the newsletters will be posted to club website <forksrifleclub.org>. The winter newsletter will be posted by January 15<sup>th</sup>, the spring newsletter by April 15<sup>th</sup>, and the summer news letter by September 15<sup>th</sup>. The notice of annual meeting will continue to be mailed to all members in good standing in October per the club bylaws. Printed copies of the newsletters will be continued to be mailed to those who did not opt for the electronic format. If you wish to change the selection made on your application, e-mail the club at [info@forksrifleclub.org](mailto:info@forksrifleclub.org) or call 701-739-1988.

**DUES:** Membership dues were due prior to January 1, 2020. If you have not renewed your membership, you have no right being on the Forks Rifle Club property.

**RULES OF CONDUCT:** Copies of the updated Rules of Conduct have been provided to all members and are posted on the club website. Members are responsible for complying with the Rules of Conduct anytime they are on the Forks Rifle Club property.

**SUMMER LEAGUES:** It has been a tough spring so far. The summer outdoor leagues are scheduled to start in May, but will depend on the facilities being ready, and it being safe to do so. Keep an eye on the calendar on the website for updates. The fee for an individual summer league remains at \$35, and the combined fee remains at \$75. The combined fee permits members to participate in all summer leagues. Individuals can participate in any of the leagues for a daily fee of \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. Any member can try any league one time at no charge. Come out and give it a try!

**RIFLE SILHOUETTE LEAGUE:** The rifle silhouette league is the easiest league to get involved in, because you most likely have everything you need to participate. If you have a “deer rifle” or a “twenty-two”, you have everything you need to give it a try. If you don’t have a rifle, but are interested come on out and see what people are shooting, before you make a purchase. Be prepared, someone will probably put a rifle in your hands and suggest that you give it a try. The league meets on Monday evenings. The league includes both high power and smallbore silhouette. The league consists of twenty shots, five at chickens, five at pigs, five at turkeys and five at rams. The silhouettes are made of armor plate steel. Seven of the ten nights are devoted to the hunter silhouette where all targets are shot at 200 meters. The other three of the ten scheduled league nights will be devoted to shooting the full course of fire, 200, 300, 385 and 500 meters. The full course is what is fired a sanctioned matches. The smallbore rifle (.22 long rifle caliber) silhouette course consists of 1/5<sup>th</sup> scale targets at 40, 60, 77 and 100 meters. If you shoot light rifle in the winter you already are all set. If not, dig that .22 out of the closet and come on out. Many shooters will shoot both the high power and smallbore each night.

**OUTDOOR HANDGUN LEAGUE:** The winter indoor handgun league is one of our most popular leagues, but it is limited to .22 long rifle caliber handguns. The summer league includes both .22 caliber but also centerfire handguns. The league is held on the sighting-in-range 25 yard range. The outdoor handgun league is on Tuesday evenings starting 6:00 to 9:00 pm. The summer league like the winter league consists of both NRA conventional pistol and defensive handgun options. The course of fire for both options include slow fire, timed fire and rapid fire stages. There will also be a Thursday afternoon relay starting on 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

**HIGH POWER LEAGUE:** High power rifle competition is the reason that the W. G Coulter Rifle Range Exists. In the mid-seventies the members of the Forks Rifle Club needed a place to practice high power rifle. Twenty acres were purchased on which to construct a 600 yard national match course range. About this time the 600 yard range at Camp Grafton south of Devils Lake was closed down. The Camp Grafton range was where the regional and state high power championships had been held for years. There was no other suitable range in the state. With the help of the North Dakota National Guard, a backstop, target pit and firing points at 200, 300 and 600 yards were constructed. From the time the range was complete to date, the Forks Rifle Club has hosted the regional and state high power championships. The national match course of fire consists of 2 sighters and 20 shots for record slow fire standing followed by 2 sighters slow fire and 20 shots for record rapid fire sitting fired from 200 yards. At 300 yards, 2 sighters and 20 shots for record rapid fire from prone are fired. The last stage of the match consists of 2 sighters and 20 shots for record slow fire from the prone position. For the league the 200 yard stages of the national match course are fired. In recent years the requirements in the rifles has changed. You can now use scopes in both the NRA match rifle (center fire rifle capable of being reloaded with stripper clips or magazine) or a service rifle (M1 Garand, M1A, or military configured AR-15) divisions. If you have an AR-15 or AR-10 based rifle, you likely will qualify in one or the other category. Attach a sling and come out and give it a try. The high power league shoots on Wednesday nights on the high power range.

**VINTAGE MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE:** If you are a military history buff or just like old military rifle this league is for you. Basically, any standard as-issued military rifle, M1 Garand and older from any country qualifies. The M1 Garand and the M41 Johnson are the only semi-automatic rifles allowed. League consists of the CMP 35 shot course of fire which is shot at 200 yards on the high power range (5 sighters and 10 shots for record prone slow fire, 10 shots prone rapid fire and 10 shots slow fire standing). On any given evening there will be rifles from around the world on the line. The as-issued vintage military rifle league shoots on Thursday evenings. The Forks Rifle Club sponsors CMP sanctioned as-issued vintage military rifle, M1 carbine, and vintage sniper rifle matches; the World War I Jon Bonnet Memorial vintage rifle match; the World War II Memorial vintage rifle match; and the winter vintage sniper match. See the calendar for match dates.

**MIDRANGE PRONE MATCHES:** Conventional, F-Class and FTR midrange prone matches are schedule throughout the shooting season. Matches include the “Summer Sizzler” in July and “Frosty Barrel” in October. Both matches are approved midrange prone matches. The summer season starts off with the fast-paced F-Class “Speed-Racer” match in June. Midrange practices will be schedule on Sunday afternoons when the high power range is available. Check the calendar on the website for dates.

**NRA REGIONALS AND STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS:** Championship matches play a big part of the activities on the Forks Rifle Club. The Club will again be sponsoring and hosting a number of regional and state championship matches. The ND State Smallbore Rifle Championship is on the last weekend in May and includes 4-position, prone and 200 yard state championships. The NRA High Power Rifle Regional Championship is in June and also includes a CMP John C. Garand Match and EIC Service Rifle Match (LEG). The ND State High Power Championship is in August and also includes a CMP John C. Garand State Championship and EIC Service Rifle Match (LEG). The ND State Vintage Military Rifle, M1 Carbine and Vintage Sniper Rifle Championships are in August. Note: The sighting-in-range will be closed on Monday evenings for the silhouette league and Tuesdays evenings when the pistol league is utilizing the facility. The entire range will also be closed to other activities on the weekends of June 6&7, June 27&28, and August 29&30, when multi-day championship matches are being held.

**CLAY PIGEON THROWER:** The clay pigeon thrower on the east end of the 600 yard firing point on the high power range, is set to throw targets to the southeast and can be used as long as there is not any activity on the high power range. Ensure the yellow strobe on the side of the sighting-in-building is not flashing and visually check the high power range before shooting. Members must provide their own clay pigeons and clean up the area after shooting.

**CALENDAR ON WEBSITE:** You can check on the range schedule by going to the calendar on the Forks Rifle Club website at <forksrifleclub.org>. The website also contains information on matches, the code of conduct, downloadable membership applications, and more.

**RANGE MAINTENANCE:** Range maintenance must take precedence over shooting, but efforts will be made to minimize the impact on members utilizing the facilities.

**2019 FORKS RIFLE CLUB RANGE DATES: (May through October) [TENTATIVE]**

- May 13 Outdoor Range Cleanup Night and Club Officers Meeting in Clubhouse (at 7:00 pm).
- May 17 F-Class/Conventional/Hunting Rifle Mid-Range Prone Practice. Starting at 1:00 pm.
- May 18 **Silhouette League Starts.** (Range conditions permitting.) Mondays, 6:00 to 10:00 pm:  
Highpower & Smallbore Rifle Silhouette League (200m. silhouette range).
- May 20 **High Power League Starts.** (Range conditions permitting.) Wednesdays, 6:00 to 10:00 pm:  
Highpower Rifle (200 yd. high power range).
- May 21 **As-Issued Vintage Military Rifle Leagues Starts.** (Range conditions permitting.) Thursdays, 6:00 to 10:00 pm: As-Issued Vintage Military Rifle League (200 yd. high power range).

- May 26** **Outdoor Handgun League Starts.** Tuesdays, 6:00 to 10:00 pm and Thursdays, 1:00 to 3:00 pm: Outdoor Handgun League (sighting-in-range).
- May 23** **CMP As-Issued Vintage Military Rifle / CMP M1 Carbine / Vintage Sniper Rifle Matches:** Contact: Tom Reiten at 701-739-1988. **High Power Range Closed During Match.**
- May 30&31** **ND State Outdoor Smallbore Championships:** 1200 Point Aggregate 4-Position Match on Saturday followed by 200-yard SB Long Range Match. 1600 point Aggregate Prone Match on Sunday – Contact: Denny Coulter 701-213-0238. **ENTIRE RANGE CLOSED DURING MATCHES**
- June 9 F-Class/Conventional/Hunting Rifle Mid-Range Prone Practice. Starting at 1:00 pm.
- June 14 Club Officers Meeting in Clubhouse (after league shooting @ about 9:00 pm).
- June 20 F-Class, FTR and Conventional Speed Racer Match. Contact: Fred Martinez 701-212-3383.
- June 27&28** **High Power Regional Championship:** The 80 shot Regional Championship followed by a 600 yard Two Man Team Match is on Saturday. CMP John C. Garand Match followed by a CMP “Leg Match” on Sunday. Contact: Denny Coulter 701-213-0238. **ENTIRE RANGE CLOSED DURING MATCHES**
- July 12 Club Officers Meeting in Clubhouse (after league shooting @ about 9:00 pm).
- July 18** **NRA Approved F-Class / FTR / Conventional Midrange Prone Match:** 600 yards Contact: Fred Martinez 701-212-3383. **High Power Range Closed During Match**
- Aug 9 F-Class/Conventional/Hunting Rifle Prone Mid-Range Practice. Starting at 1:00 pm.
- Aug 12 Club Officers Meeting in Clubhouse at 7:00 pm.
- Aug 15** **ND State Championship CMP As-Issued Vintage Military Rifle / CMP M1 Carbine / Vintage Sniper Rifle Matches.** Contact: Tom Reiten at 701-739-1988. **High Power Range Closed During Match**
- Aug 29&30** **North Dakota High Power Championship:** CMP John C. Garand Match State Championship followed by a CMP “Leg Match” on Saturday. The 80 shot State Championship is on Sunday. Contact: Denny Coulter at 701-213-0238. **ENTIRE RANGE CLOSED DURING MATCHES**
- Sept 9 Club Officers Meeting in Clubhouse at 7:00 pm
- Sept 19** **WWI John Bonnett Memorial Vintage Rifle Match.** Contact Tom Reiten at 701-739-1988. **High Power Range Closed During Match**
- Sept 27 F-Class/Conventional/Hunting Rifle Prone Mid-Range Practice. Starting at 1:00 pm.
- Oct 3** **NRA Approved F-Class / FTR / Conventional Midrange Prone Match:** 600 yards, Contact: Fred Martinez at 701-212-3383. **High Power Range Closed During Match**
- Oct 10** **WWII Memorial Vintage Rifle Match.** Contact Tom Reiten at 701-739-1988. **High Power Range Closed During Match**
- Oct 14 Club Officers Meeting in Clubhouse at 7:00 pm.

**FORKS RIFLE CLUB, INC**

PO Box 14842

Grand Forks, ND 58201-4842