

# **BALD EAGLES NEWS**

**Bald Eagles Rifle Club, Box 604, Raton, NM 87740**

**www.baldeaglesrc.org**

**September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

## **SPIRIT OF AMERICA '09**

We had over 70 competitors from all over the USA and a lot of good scores were fired. The weather was excellent every day and we only got rain in the afternoons or at night. For me personally, coming from south Texas where it has been over 100 degrees for 59 days this summer, it was heavenly!

We used our two school busses to transport all the folks to and from the target pits, and it worked nicely with only a couple of "missed the bus" problems. One shooter missed the buss, and then the next relay caught it when he should have been on the firing line!

All of the scores from both individual and team matches are posted on our web page, **www.baldeaglesrc.org** thanks to Leo Cebula and you can check them out if you have not already done so. In the final aggregate Bryan Litz was "chaired to The Eagles Nest" in the Target Rifle category and Charles Ballard got to ride in the rocking chair as the F Class "top gun". Again, the web-site has complete results and pictures of the chairing ceremony.

## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Several items of note came up at the annual membership meeting. First, our request for the Whittington Center to construct a toilet building has been amended to make it larger, and the Center is still mulling it over. I checked with the City of Raton on what building code to use and we are on track to make it capable of handling 400 people.

Steve Cunico reported that both the Mid-Range match and the Santa Fe Long-Range Regional made money despite their modest attendance. The same can be said for the Rocky Mountain Palma match. The Spirit of America '09 was just about a "wash" financially. The Whittington Center has raised the "per-head per-day" fee from \$10 to \$15 and that really eats into the profits. *We will have to raise the entry fees next year.*

Our requests to host the 2013 F Class Nationals and the 2013 F Class World matches in Raton have both been approved. We are starting the planning now. There will be a big turnout, probably 220 or more, and this will present some logistical problems. We hope to have the toilet building completed by then, but also there is talk of expanding The Eagles Nest building to double its size. Then there is the problem of target pullers for the team matches. We hope the Raton High School football team will help, and we are asking for Bald Eagle volunteers to pitch in.

Another issue is the construction and maintenance of our targets. The Whittington Center has assigned one of the target buildings in the pits to contain all the high-power targets. Other target buildings have been assigned to the "public", the .50 cal folks and the black powder folks. Hopefully this means a lot fewer big holes in the targets we use.

Dates for our future matches have been set. The mid-range will start on 22 May. The Long-Range Regional will be combined with the Rocky Mountain Palma and will be held 10-15 July (this in 2010 and 2011), and the Spirit of America date has been chiseled in stone as the first weekend after Labor Day for the next three years.

In the election of board members, Susan Bowman was elected to serve on the board, and John Gaines was re-elected for another three year term. Board members are Lonnie Kuhns, Bill Lair, John Gaines, Larry Bartholome, Dave Driscoll, and Susan Bowman. Club officers are:

- Lonnie Kuhns, president and CEO of the Corporation.

- Bill Lair, Treasurer and CFO of the Corporation.
- John Gaines, Secretary.
- Dave Driscoll is Vice CEO of the Corporation.

### **VETERANS TEAM IN AUSTRALIA**

Eddie Newman reported that the Veterans Team in Australia had a really good and valuable trip to Australia last summer. Eleven Veterans were on the trip and they shot five ten-man team matches in Hornsby, Wingham, and Brisbane. They shot three days of ten-man team matches against seven other international teams. Even though they did not place, they created a lot of good will with the Aussies, and learned a lot about the ranges and the winds.

They had some issues in the land down-under. First, our BERC tee shirts are in great demand with the Aussies, both the men and the women. The other was with the Australian ammunition. It didn't shoot like our hand loads (sound familiar?). The rules will be changed next year to relax some of the requirements to shoot Aussie ammo. Eddie will be getting together another team in '10. The World Veterans Team Match will be held in Brisbane in 2011.

### **BALD EAGLES AT CAMP PERRY**

Bob Jones reported that the Bald Eagles had four teams entered in the team events. One team won the Romanian trophy. We had four teams in the Palma Team match, but we did not place.

### **TROPHY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Greg and Susan Bowman reported that we had some new sponsors. Donations are down by about thirty percent. The economy is to blame. Al and Millie Coots provided a new oak trophy case for the Eagles Next, but we need more secure storage for the trophies as the Whittington Center has built a new library that incorporated the storage space we enjoyed in the past.

### **HISTORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Al Coots reported that the History Committee has retrieved all the SOA match results from years gone by. He now wants pictures from the matches including the winners, the chairing, and other such memorable moments. If anyone has pictures give Al a call at 480-807-2822.

### **SPAM BLOCKER MEMBERS**

If you are receiving this message via the U.S. Mail you could be in one of two groups. Either you don't have email, or you have a "spam-blocker" feature that has cut the Bald Eagles Rifle Club out of your email. I don't blame you. I hate spam too, but it means that unless you make provision for letting this newsletter come into your computer from [jrgaines@gvvc.com](mailto:jrgaines@gvvc.com) you won't get the news or any notices from the Club. I plan to put out four newsletters each year from now on, and the last one just before Christmas will be a reminder of the dues payment. That newsletter will arrive via U.S. mail. The other three will arrive electronically.

On the subject of email, some of you change your provider and forget to let me know your new email address. No address, no email!