



WEST WALKER SPORTSMAN

P.O. BOX 141104, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49514 (616) 453-5081

NOVEMBER

2002

Ladies Only Basic Pistol

NRA Training counselor and instructor, Barry Anderson is offering an NRA "First Steps" basic pistol class designed for first time pistol shooters. Experienced and patient instruction is available for those ladies who have little or no handgun shooting experience. The course is four hours in length, including range time. Contact instructor (and club member) Barry Anderson at:

P.O. Box 141362
Grand Rapids, MI 49514

Classes will form soon based on responses. Fellows, this is a great opportunity for the ladies, so let them know about it.

DNR Deer Checks

Don't forget to check your deer at the club any Monday or Thursday from 10 to 3. Naturally, the check station will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, November 28th.

Winter Shotgun League

It's not too early to start thinking about the Winter Shotgun League starting January 4th. This year we will offer a Father/child team league also. Kids must be 14 and under, and may take all doubles as singles. Call Cory Jongsma at 457-6241 for more information.

Membership Information

Honorary	15
Charter	47
Associates (inc. apps)	1135
Charter Applicants	12

Rady Delgado will be happy to answer any of your membership questions. 735-2915

New Building update

The new clubhouse is really shaping up inside thanks to the hard work of many club members. At last month's meeting, it was decided to increase the loan amount in order to pave the parking lot. This will help a great deal to keep the inside of the facility clean. Spending is still on budget.

Vaughn McDaniel Stacks One

Member Vaughn McDaniel stacked an arrow at 20 yards while practicing on the 3-D Archery range. He used an Oregon LH bow with Easton 2315 arrows. Great shooting! Vaughn says it came on the 9th and 10th shots of the day. He really enjoys the newly refurbished range, citing great layout, weather protection for the targets, and arrow stopping ability of the backstops. We can all thank Tom Myers and his crew for the new setup. A lot of hard work and dedication made it all possible. By the way, the 3-D targets were taken down for the season on October 1st.

More on Gun Safes

Continuing on with last month's interview with **Tom Ziemer** of **Hoogerhyde Safe & Lock**, here are his tips on buying a gun safe. Part 1: What to look for, what kind to buy.

1. Brands. There are about 30 gun safe manufacturers in the U.S., only about 9 of which are found in West Michigan. Companies like Winchester, Browning, Remington, etc. do not make gun safes, they merely sell the right to use their famous brand names to the manufacturers. These well known brand names are no guarantee of quality. Hoogerhyde normally sells American Security and Frontier safes, as well as a few by Fort Knox.

2. Size. There are several "standard sizes" but dimensions vary by several inches from one manufacturer to the next. The most popular size is 60" high by 30" wide by 21" to 26" deep. The smaller "standard" is 60"x22"x16 to 20", while the larger "standard" is 60"x 38 to 40"x 24 to 26"

3. Interior. Most safes come with a "combo interior" meaning one side is set up for long guns, while the other has shelves which can be removed to make room for more long guns. An "easy access" interior is offered on some models which is great for moving guns into and out of the safe, but these hold fewer guns. The middle size safes will hold 22 to 30 guns, the smaller size about 14, while the large ones will hold up to 60 guns. Using all the spaces will leave your guns packed tightly, while scoped guns may render an adjacent space unusable.

4. Hinges. Some folks prefer the look of a safe with internal (hidden) hinges, but the downside is the door will only open 90 degrees. Externally hinged doors will allow a full 180 degree opening. External hinges are no less secure (on a good safe) because even if they are cut off, the door can not be removed.

5. Locks. Available lock types include traditional combination, electronic, and keyed. Mechanical combination locks are likely to last the longest. We still service 100 year old safes with the original combination lock. Be sure the safe lock has a UL "Group 2" security rating. Some inexpensive safes do not have a group 2 lock and are easily burgled. Electronic locks are faster to use with easily changed combinations. All but one brand of these requires batteries. Key lock safes are mostly found in Europe.

6. Fire Rating. The standard fire rating on a gun safe is 30 minutes at 1275 degrees, with some being rated to a higher temperature. You can also omit the fire insulation as a money saving option. Over the years, fire ratings have become much less believable. Most manufacturers no longer have their products tested by independent labs as they once did, due to cost. Factory fire tests not certified by independent test labs are vulnerable to cheating, a not uncommon practice in the industry.

7. Color. Most manufacturers offer a wide variety of colors, in either high gloss or textured paint. We sell more safes with the textured finish as it does not show finger prints and scratches as easily. A high gloss paint job will eventually get scratched and is almost impossible to fix. If the safe is intentionally hidden or put in a basement, a high gloss paint job adds unnecessary cost.

8. Security Features. I consider a re-locker to be a very important feature in a safe. It is a spring loaded device inside the door which snaps into position to block the safe bolts if a burglar pounds on the lock. When the re-locker is activated, the bolts can not be moved. Hard plate steel should also be built into the safe to prevent drilling into the lock mechanism. I won't sell a safe without both hard plate and re-lockers, but many dealers will. Even some of the famous brands don't have these important features.

9. Warranty. All gun safes come with some type of warranty. Most cover mechanical problems for one year, and most cover repair or replacement if the safe is burglarized. Some also cover paint for a specified time. American Security, Frontier, and Fort Knox even cover damage from house fires. But . . . read the warranties carefully and you will see language to the effect that they will "repair or replace the safe upon receiving it at the factory with freight prepaid". If you should have a problem, how will you get it out of the basement, package it for shipment, and get it onto a truck? And at what cost? These questions bring up the issues to be discussed in "Part 2: Where should I buy my gun safe", in next month's newsletter.

November

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2 Trap & Skeet 10 to 3
3 Trap & Skeet 10 to 2	4 Deer Check 10 to 3	5	6 Trap & Skeet 9 to 12 AM 6 to 10 PM	7 Deer Check 10 to 3	8	9 Plate Shoot 10 to 2 Trap & Skeet 10 to 3
10 Trap & Skeet 10 to 2	11 Deer Check 10 to 3	12	13 Trap & Skeet 9 to 12 AM 6 to 10 PM	14 Deer Check 10 to 3 No Charter Meeting	15 Opening day deer gun season	16
17	18 Deer Check 10 to 3	19	20 Trap & Skeet 9 to 12 AM only	21 Deer Check 10 to 3	22	23
24	25 Deer Check 10 to 3	26 Board Meeting 7:00 PM	27 Trap & Skeet 9 to 12 AM only	28 Thanks - giving Day	29	30 Last day deer gun season

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More Thanks

A few more of our generous building donors need to be recognized. **Clutch Holtvluwer** of **Standale Lumber** helped out with doors, insulation, and wood framing materials, while **Dennis Fuller** of **Grandville Builders Supply** donated the drywall compound. Be sure to thank these guys when you stop in to make your next purchase at their fine establishments.

Work Hours

Attention Charter members: Jim Riemersma needs to record your work hours. Call Jim at 538-9119 to be sure you are up to date. Each charter member is responsible to get his hours to Jim. Several guys who have worked many hours do not have any recorded. If you are short on hours, we need help running the desk during the shotgun events. Chuck Tenbrink would be happy to hear from you at 458-6903.

Big Gun Raffle Winner

And the winner is . . . **Dan Bekins**. Dan is the October winner in our year long gun raffle. He now owns a **Winchester Model 70** rifle. There are 10 more prizes to be given away with only 300 tickets printed. A very few tickets remain unsold. If you are interested, write the club at the address on the front page, or stop down during any shooting event.

Final note: Trap & Skeet will be open Wednesday mornings only during the deer gun season. Hope you get a deer!



Commercial-Residential

New & Used Safes
Safes Opened & Repacked
Mobile Lock Service

1033 Leonard St. NW Grand Rapids, MI 49504 Fax (616) 456-2554