

Howell Shooting Club December 2003

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Any questions concerning the operation of the Club can be brought up at the Monthly Membership Meeting or by contacting any of the above Directors. You can submit your ideas or articles for the newsletter to any Board member or Bob Shamasko in the following manners:

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WEBMASTER JEFF WAGNER
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HSC Events Calendar 2004
All General Membership meetings
begin at 9 a.m.

January 2004

. Jan. 04 General Meeting

February 2004

. Feb. 01 General Meeting

March

. March 07 General Meeting
. March 31 Memberships DUE

April

. April 01 New Membership Year
. April 4 General Meeting
. April 15 Tax Day

May

. May 2 General Meeting

June

. June 6 General Meeting

July

. July 4 (?) General Meeting

August

. August 1 General Meeting

September

. September 5 General Meeting

October

. October 3 General Meeting

November

. November 7 General Meeting

December

. December 5 General Meeting

. Club Fun shoots first Sunday of the month May through October

Minutes of Howell Shooting

Club General Meeting,

December 7, 2003

Motion to approve Minutes of last meeting made by K. Tomes, seconded by B. Geopp

Treasurer's report forwarded.

REPORTS:

A: President-Our new match director is

Keith Tomes.

B: Vice President-Not present

C: Secretary: Gift certificates were passed out for appreciation of extraordinary help.

D: Treasurer: Not present

E: Range Safety Officer: Need to have a board member or Clyde present when sighting in a center fire rifle.

F: Match Director: Matches have been put together. They'll be posted well in advance in the newsletter. Please forward any ideas to Keith!

G: Member at Large: No report.

H: Chairman-Youth Camp-Four radio shows in the works. All the 2003 campers have their registration forms.

There are lots of first time campers interested. There are still many positions to be filled such as Director of Programming and Assistant Director of Support. Everything else is on schedule. Please give Jeff Wagner help with the Chicago Outdoor Show.

I: Chairman-Work Committee-We had two loads of dirt dumped on the berm, however we need black dirt, not clay. Won't be able to bring anymore in until spring. Barrels will also be straightened in the spring. Need for a weedwacker by next spring as well. Motion to approve purchase made by Krohn, seconded by Tryzna. The bulbs and fixtures outside the trailer need to be changed and the trailers need skirts on them. Will be done next year.

OLD BUSINESS:

A: There was a December 10th meeting for everyone who teaches classes to schedule courses.

B: NRA Grant-Finished, submitted, and passed around to everyone present.

C: Member survey-See enclosed. Thirty percent response rate.

D: Constitution and Bylaws-The board approved the C & B . THEY WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT NEXT MONTHS MEETING!!!! PLEASE COME AND PICK YOURS UP IF POSSIBLE!!! All others will be mailed

E: The Chicago Outdoor Show is January 14th through the 18th. Please help Jeff Wagner if you can.

F: First time guests to the club will not be charged. Anytime after, there will be a \$5 fee. Please take note!

NEW BUSINESS:

A: The parking area will be changing. Please keep your eyes open when you come to shoot.

B: Apologies to Dennis Davidson. His FOID card was NOT expired. Please disregard his name from last month's list.

C: Anyone who'll be at camp with a state certified responder certification or higher, please contact Bob Geopp at scoutmedic@hotmail.com.

Motion to adjourn made by K. Tomes, seconded by Y. Howell.

From the Desk of the President

A number of major things have occurred since the November meeting.

First, after years of development, the Board has approved and voted into being a new Constitution and By-laws. It is currently in the printing process. *Please come to the January 4th meeting and pick up your new Constitution and By-laws* because each one will cost the club \$1.29 to mail. Once everyone has their own copy I will devote a future column to going over some specific points.

For the average member the Constitution and By-laws will fundamentally be transparent, as there are no really major changes to the day-to-day working of the club. However, for the first time the club is now squarely in the hands of the membership. You now have the right to change the constitution and by-laws, recall officers and so on. It took me two years to write the document and a lot of fine-tuning based on the input of board members as well as several general members who reviewed it. I would like to mention one change that will immediately affect members.

Based on a survey response regarding the \$5 guest fee the board has changed the guest fee policy. The first time a member brings a guest to the club there is no guest charge. Subsequent visits by the same

guest will require a \$5 guest fee. It is an honor system just as the guest fee has always been an honor system. After looking at how little revenue it actually brings into the club, the Board felt it was a good suggestion and voted unanimously to enact it.

The second thing is I fulfilled my promise to ask the membership what they wanted for the club. I received an astounding 31% response rate. Graduate school statistic courses stress a survey response rate of 5-6% is about average. So we have gotten a lot of feedback from the membership.

You will find the tabulated results of the survey enclosed with this month's newsletter. If you didn't get one please let me know and I will mail a copy to you post haste. The actual forms will be bound and available at the January 4th general meeting should you like to see individual responses.

I am sure a couple of people thought I would edit the results so as to eliminate their anonymous personal attacks but that's not me. Everything everybody wrote is there, word for word, for everyone to read. The couple of negative comments stand out alone and I'll let you decide what they're worth. They are from the same couple of members who are doing their best to convince anyone who'll listen that not only shouldn't I be Camp Director but also no one should work for the camp as long as I am. They would prefer to see the Camp fail than pitch in to make it work. So it is up to you, the members, to help them or help the kids. We still need volunteers and the time is getting shorter.

On the other hand, the survey did yield some very good comments that I have taken to heart, that the board is going to, or already has, addressed, and that reflect some misconceptions about various issues that I will want to clear up. Next month in this column I will write about the survey. I'll explain what the board plans

to do and will try to clarify some misconceptions. For instance, starting next shooting season, because of member requests, we will have more structured shooting events for members.

On another note, Bill Barkstrom will unfortunately be unable to run IDPA next year. His leadership and guidance will be sorely missed. If members wish to continue having IDPA, now is the time for someone to step up to the plate. Please give me a call if you're interested so we can get it on the schedule for 2004.

I will also detail the plan for the camp next month and show you that despite what a couple of members are saying there are only minor changes to the camp primarily based on feedback from the 2003 instructors. We are adhering to the original goals for the camp.

Until then, always feel free to call me anytime to discuss concerns about anything or to make suggestions. This is our club and it is the role of the board to make it as useful to the members as is reasonably possible. I appreciate the many telephone calls and comments I've already received at meetings indicating your support and I remain dedicated to the long-term welfare of the organization.

Best wishes, safe shooting and happy holidays.
dal

“Gun owners have no thing to fear from me.” Gubernatorial candidate Rod Blagojevich.

Effingham, Illinois. August 2002

“I support Mayor Daley's reasonable gun legislation” Governor Rod Blagojevich.

Chicago, Illinois. February 14, 2003

**Have you visited the Clubs Website ?
Great layout, lots of good information !**