

HOWELL SHOOTING CLUB

April 2004

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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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Calendars for MORE courses and events being offered by The Howell Shooting Club and The Range and Field Training Team can be viewed at: www.howellshootingclub.com

An AWESOME year for activities and training !!!!!

HSC Events Calendar 2004

All General Membership meetings begin at 9 a.m.

April

- . April 15 Tax Day

May

- . May 2 General Meeting

June

- . NO General Meeting

July

- . NO 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

From the president - The challenge of change

David A. Lombardo

By now the word has spread and I'm sure most, if not all of you, have heard Howell Shooting Club has lost its lease.

Contrary to what it may have appeared, the Howell's decision to terminate the club's lease in April 2005 wasn't the result of recent internal issues. The

timing was just coincidental and there is no bad blood. To be sure, Clyde was unhappy with some aspects of the organization but that did not precipitate the lease action. He has asked to have a letter included in next month's newsletter to fully explain his reason.

The April general membership meeting was stressful for everyone. So many attended we had to fold the tables and there was standing room only. During the meeting Keith Tomes, Kris Krohn and Liz Tryzna informed members of their resignation from the board effective at the end of the meeting. I also informed the membership that the Howell's had given a one-year notice on our lease at the board meeting. One positive aspect was a resurgence of interest in putting on a successful camp this summer with a number of members volunteering to help in several important areas.

So now we face the future and there is much to be done. I see two major issues that I must facilitate in the remaining year. First, the land must be restored and that is clearly a larger undertaking than might meet the eye. Second, it is important to devise and implement a strategy to try to assure the future of the organization.

To that end we must initiate several parallel searches - land acquisition, incorporation into another organization, and dissolution of club assets with the capitol being transferred to another organization that meets the IRS criteria. For the record, our IRS status does not allow the organization to split the assets among its members. We either continue on as an entity or we transfer our assets to an appropriate organization.

At this point it is difficult to predict how many of those searches might bear fruit. In the end, it is my intent to ask for member input on whatever options we are able to develop. Fortunately, we have within our membership individuals who are experienced in both of these major issues and they have agreed to assist.

Meanwhile, we have a full calendar for the first time in many years. I sincerely hope you avail yourself of all the club has to offer in our last year on Howell Farm.

Best wishes and safe shooting.

dal

**To Howell shooting Club Members.
Unfortunately due to some apparent miscommunication there will be no minutes of the April General Meeting included in this newsletter. Hopefully minutes will be available at the May General Meeting and in May I can post both April and May meeting minutes.
Sincerely,
Bob Shamasko,**

To give people a chance to prepare the following rules will apply to the rifle fun matches on the 4th Wednesday of the season.

1. All shooting will be done at 50 yards.
 2. We will be using paper targets. Either standard NRA or a paper silhouette type.
 3. To equalize the advantage that scoped rifles have all shooters using scopes will have to shoot Off Hand (standing up). Iron sight competitors can choose from any of the 4 positions. Off Hand, Kneeling, Sitting or Prone (laying down).
 4. No supporting accessories will be allowed such as bipods or Slings and such. Just the rifle and the sights.
 5. There will be no restrictions on rifle modification. So all those tricked out rifles are welcome.
 6. The event will be timed. So put those sand bags away, adjust those sights, and for goodness sakes cut down on the caffeine. (At least before the match.)
- Oh by the way. Practice, Practice, Practice. I for one need to!
Keith LeDez
630-892-4517

Letter to The Editor:

Who has access to Club Member information?

As a result of our recent experience with impeachment petitions, it has come to my attention that the teenage son of a Howell Club member was given a copy of the club membership roster. Among other things, this roster includes the names of the member, their spouse and children, their address, their home, work and fax phone numbers, email addresses and car tags. This raises several questions;

- Who has access to this sensitive information?
- How did a teenager get a copy of it?
- Is this information made available to solicitors?

Is it available to anyone who might want to know the addresses of 104 homes where firearms can be found?

Are you now questioning whether you want **your** information on this roster?

Other clubs strictly protect member information. Only the membership committee has access to it. Not even the Directors and committee chairmen know the identities of the members, let alone their personal information. Have we no accountability for member information at the Howell Club?
Signed,
A concerned club member with a family and property to protect.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, one and all, the FUN MATCHES are about to begin. Come on out and shoot with other Howell members and families. We are looking forward to your participation, bring your family, get some friends to come along also. We have something for everyone; pistol, rifle and shotgun matches. Each discipline will shoot once a month from May through October with a feast and awards to be given after all is done. The league will have matches each month on the 2nd (pistol), 3rd (shotgun) and 4th (rifle) Wednesdays. Everybody earns points when they shoot and you even get bonus points when you participate in more than one event each month. The matches start at 6:00 and end at sunset. Cost is one (1) little dollar per person per match and you need to bring ammunition (.22 long rifle for pistol and rifle, 20 gauge for shotgun for club supplied firearms). The club will provide the targets and if you don't have a firearm the club has a limited number that can be used. One phone call is all it takes to sign up for one or more events: Pistol - Dave McKinney 630-552-7763, Rifle - Keith LeDez 630-892-4517, Shotgun - Ed McGunn 630-985-6804. If you have never shot trap or need a little extra experience there will be a mini trap clinic starting at 4:00 every 3rd Wednesday before the match. So drop a dime (make a phone call) and join us for

all the fun. Hope to see you soon and often. **Your FUN MATCH team.**

The Best Kept Howell Club Secret

Our first club fun match is coming up on Sunday, May 2nd, following the General Meeting. That may seem like a long way off, and maybe it is for those of you who don't need to practice, but the rest of us mere mortals may wish to get in a little quality time on the range before then. Here's what we'll be shooting; it's called an 'El Presidente'. Now to me that's a cigar but John Millington assures me that not only is it a pistol match, it is an historic match which had its start in Mexico. Originally the match called for the shooter to begin with his back to the targets with his pistol holstered. He would turn, draw and fire two shots at each of three targets. Not to be outdone, the Americans added a reload and six more shots. Since we are Americans and to help celebrate 'Dos de Mayo', we'll be shooting the American version and holsters will be required. (Per club rules, no cross draw holsters will be allowed.) Revolvers, semi-autos, rimfire and center fire with any sights are welcome. Due to the reload, a speed-loader or second magazine would be helpful but are not required. John will be making some of his personal holsters available for use. They may or may not fit your pistol. Even if one does, this means that you will have had no time to practice with it. John will also very generously make a .357 revolver, speed-loader and appropriate holster available. You will need to provide the ammunition and if you are using any of John's holsters, you will need to provide a belt. Suspenders won't cut it. Using an equation that only he knows, John will determine a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winner based on speed, accuracy, dress, deportment and bribery. **Prizes Will Be Awarded!!!** Among others, there will be a certificate from The Range and Field Training Team toward any of the NRA courses they offer. There is no age requirement but safe firearm handling and use rules will be strictly adhered to. I have shot with and competed against

John for years. He is an enthusiastic and competent instructor with a great deal of experience. To those willing to listen instead of talking at the line, he is a wealth of useful information. I would strongly encourage you to bring your kids along. If needs be, we'll add a Junior Division just for them. Don't let the word 'Match' keep you away or intimidate you. These matches are **FUN!** If your skills are as marginal as mine, this is a great opportunity to learn and gain experience in a friendly atmosphere. Our club now has over 100 members. We all share a love of the sport and each of us brings something unique to it. Come out and share your knowledge, share the comraderie and meet some of the members of your 'extended family'. There just may be a shooter there who needs your specific piece of advice or vice versa. You can't beat the price either,... **It's Free!** If you can't be there for the General Meeting, just come out at about 10:30ish and you'll be right on time. You need to clean your pistols once a year anyway so why not have some fun for the effort? So come out on May 2nd and see what this 'Best Kept Secret' is all about. If you don't have a **Great** time,... you don't have to do it again,... but you **will** be back. As John would say, your preparation period begins now. Make this the year that you attend all five club, fun matches. Besides,... if you're not there,... we'll talk about ya.

From the desk of the Chief Firearms Instructor:

Based on a comment in an article from the January newsletter, the question was asked if the NRA courses taught were being disassociated from the Howell Shooting Club. The answer is, 'No, the NRA firearm courses are still very much a part of HSC'. In fact, the number of courses scheduled for 2004 are more than double those taught in 2003. This year there will be nineteen courses taught with the addition of three new course offerings, 'Home Firearm Safety', 'Range Safety Officer' and 'Reloading'. To accomplish this ambitious schedule, several courses have been moved to

locations other than HSC. This provides several benefits: it promotes HSC to a wider area than Church Road and increases HSC name recognition with other clubs and the shooting community as a whole. Other facilities also offer additional amenities such as kitchen facilities, indoor plumbing and larger classrooms which are all beneficial for both the classes and the students. Teaching off premises did necessitate two things, #1 Providing private insurance to cover offsite courses and #2 The formation of a training team to help accomplish the expanded schedule. The rate of financial compensation to HSC was proposed by the club President at the December, education meeting. The HSC Board of Directors voted on and approved the proposed compensation at their next board meeting in January. Each of the training team members provides their own insurance which matches the Club's policy. The training team also provides all course materials and training aids in addition to promoting and conducting the courses. The HSC reaps the benefits of having the Club name attached to courses taught offsite and the financial compensation it requested and approved. The HSC will no longer be responsible for course expenses as it was in the past. It is hoped that this has helped to eliminate any confusion.

From the April 19th "Concealed Carry" internet email page:

VOICES FOR ILLINOIS CHILDREN TAKES AIM AT GUN OWNERS

We need to respond and respond fast to the poison being disseminated by Voices For Illinois Children about guns. I'm going to tell you where to respond in a few sentences, but first here are a few claims made by this study of 501 registered voters.
*72 percent backed making the federal assault weapons ban permanent. The ban is due to expire in September.
*68 percent opposed allowing licensed adults to carry concealed weapons in public.

*60 percent favored limiting handgun purchases to one per month. One thing we don't know is how many of these 501 polled own a gun or have ever fired one? I suspect few and hence this poll should be trashed, but instead it's being used to justify dangerous anti-gun laws in Illinois. And that is why you need to take action right now to blunt this poll before it is trotted out all over Springfield as "proof" that Illinois citizens want a crackdown on law-abiding gun owners.

Also from the desk of the Chief Firearms Instructor:

We started our 2004 teaching schedule with two courses in February. At the Range Safety Officer course we had an active duty, Staff Sergeant Marine come down from his posting in Wisconsin to get his RSO certification. He brought a different point of view to the class. He was very appreciative of the discount we offer to active duty, military personnel and plans to send more Marines our way. In that same course we also certified four Howell Club members including our secretary Liz Tryzna, Al Spera, John Steib and Dave McKinney who plans to use his RSO rating to help him oversee the I.D.P.A. matches. A shooting club can never have too many RSO. Congratulations to all. Our Home Firearm Safety course was attended by, among others, HSC club member Ed McGunn who plans to get his certification to teach the course. Another student was a young mother who just wanted to educate herself. While she is not a shooter, her husband has guns in the house and she wants to do all she can to see that they are stored and handled safely. When the time comes, she will also be able to take an active role in their children's firearm safety training. Another good cross-section of students. Our next course will be Basic Pistol later this month. Please visit the Howell website or refer to the course schedule you received with your newsletter for a complete listing and description of the courses offered. Thank you to all club members who made their training aids available for these and future courses.

You know who you are. These courses couldn't be taught without your willingness to share your personal possessions with the students and they get a better learning experience for it. Education is ALWAYS a good thing. Let your friends and neighbors know about the courses we teach. You don't have to be a shooter to come across a firearm. Enjoy shooting but safety first. Keith

Please read below and remember, "Elected by the People of Illinois" did YOU vote to have them take away your "Rights" From a ISRA email alert:

GOVERNOR PROMISES VETO OF COMMON-SENSE LEGISLATION
As many of you know by now, Governor Blagojevich has promised to veto legislation that would protect citizens from prosecution under gun control laws if they use a firearm to defend their homes and families. Late last week, the both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly passed bills to extend such protections to law-abiding citizens. Despite the fact that both the House and Senate versions passed with huge bipartisan support, Blagojevich swiftly announced his plan to veto the legislation. Of course, "overwhelming bipartisan support" means nothing to Blagojevich since he serves a constituency of one - Chicago Mayor Ritchie Daley. If Blagojevich does indeed veto this life-saving legislation, we'll make sure that that decision dogs him the rest of his political career - just like his plans to raise the FOID card fee to \$500. This week, the ISRA will be working with legislators to secure enough votes to override Blagojevich's planned veto. We urge all of our readers to contact their state legislators and express opposition to the governor's planned veto of any legislation that allows citizens to defend themselves against criminals

Democratic Senate Candidate Barack Obama does not understand nor grasp the concept of the 2nd Amendment to the US Constitution. More Daleyesque gun grabbing and

outlawing support if elected. Not sure if Republican Jack Ryan has the 2nd Amendment concept either.

Remember: **"Gun owners have nothing to fear from me"** candidate Rod Blagojevich - Effingham, Illinois August 2002

From The Chicago Tribune, January 2004
This year, however, the governor said he would "enthusiastically" support such measures. "I'd fight for that," he said of the assault-weapons proposal

"The name of American...must always exalt the just pride of Patriotism, more than any appellation derived from local discriminations." --George Washington

Dangerous laws created by well intentioned people today can be used by dangerous people with evil intentions tomorrow." - Alan Eppers

State pamphlet for firearms transportation. Courtesy of Champaign County Rifle Association.
<http://www.gunssavelife.com/GSLife/carrygun.pdf>

Web Pages of interest:

www.mynra.com
www.gunsite.com
www.armedfemalesofamerica.com
www.gunssavelife.com
www.gunowners.org
www.jpfo.org
www.libertybelles.org
www.sas-aim.org
www.packing.org
www.womentoarms.net
www.scfirearms.org