

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

We have made it through almost three quarters of 2014, and, like most years, this one has flown by. This has been an exceptional year for our club. We, as a club, have survived the catastrophic economic downturns that have eroded the job base in Alex City. Not only have we survived, but due to some aggressive efforts by your club officers, we have thrived. Due to some prolonged and concerted effort by a couple of club members, we now have a fully functioning website. Strides have been made to secure our range to a level we've never had. Our membership numbers have remained steady at a time when most would have expected a severe drop. Participation in our organized events has been great and shows signs of steady improvement. Involvement by members in creating shooting opportunities and groups of like-minded shooters meeting has grown immeasurably. All these signs are indicators of a healthy and growing shooting club.

That having been said, dues for the 2015 year are now payable. The new membership cards have been printed and are in hand at The Sure Shot. If you have already paid your 2015 dues or recently joined, just swing by and pick up your new card.

Although I did not participate, I understand that the September Pin Match was, as usual, a tremendous success, both in terms of number of participants and the level of competition. My congratulations go out to the winners and participants. In that vein, we are tentatively scheduling a 200 yard rimfire rifle match for 2 PM Sunday, September 14. I should finalize everything about the match tomorrow. If you have any interest, feel free to contact me or Woody.

There is currently a loosely organized group of shooters meeting on Wednesday afternoons to practice, tell lies, and enjoy one another's company. If you are interested in spending a Wednesday afternoon with some great guys, you can contact either Eb Spink at 256-750-2141 or rspink9990@charter.net or Steve Misencik at 256-496-2662 or bmisencik@hotmail.com. They will be glad to hear from you and you will be glad you called.

I have just returned from a week-long trip to Taos, New Mexico. This was just a vacation, a chance to relax and sight see. If you have never seen the desert southwest, the scenery itself is worth the trip. We were fortunate to be a short drive from the Rio Grande gorge, a huge geographical cut in the desert carved by the river it is named for. Between that and the mountains that surround Taos, it was almost mind boggling.

The longer we stayed, the more obvious it became why New Mexico has always been a heavily Democratic state. As I stated earlier, we spent most of our time in Taos, a town heavily populated by a tremendous number of artisans, musicians, and outdoor enthusiasts. Not just a few of these were holdovers from the 60's and early 70's; complete with all the trappings – long hair, beards, beads, jewelry, and an overabundance of tree huggers. At times I felt like I had

wandered onto the set of a re-make of *Alice's Restaurant*. The thought often crossed my mind as we crossed the seemingly endless stretches of high desert leading to mountain ranges, spotted with only the occasional home, as to how a people that needed to obviously be so self-reliant could lean so heavily towards a political party that wanted them to depend solely on the government. I would deign to guess that the answer lies both in demographics and population density; there are a lot more votes in the cities and those that choose to live there than there are in the widely separated homesteads.

Speaking of government – you knew I was going there, didn't you? – I have recently come across some quotes from books written by our esteemed President, Barack Hussein Obama. A couple of them I thought needed passing on.

From: Dreams from My Father

"I found a solace in nursing a pervasive sense of grievance and animosity against my mother's race."

From: Audacity of Hope

"I will stand with the Muslims should the political winds shift in an ugly direction."

These are direct quotes from books authored by the man the United States chose to its' highest office, not once, but twice. Is it any wonder that our country is the laughingstock of the civilized world? Is it clearer to you now why some decisions made at the executive level left you shaking your head in disbelief? Is it also clearer now why the mid-term elections are so very important? Obama must be rendered as effectively powerless as possible by rendering him a lame duck president. Your vote is important. Use it or lose it.

As usual, any and all opinions expressed in this newsletter are mine – unless my evil twin claims them.

See you at the range.

Tim Courtney

Secretary ACSC