



# APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

**DUE TO THE ONGOING CONCERNS WITH THE COVID-19 VIRUS AND IN RESPONSE TO THE EFFORTS TO TRY AND CONTROL THE SPREAD, ALL SCHEDULED EVENTS FOR OUR CLUB FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL HAVE BEEN CANCELLED.**

The range will remain open for personal use. The Steel Challenge, Bowling Pin Match, and the Rimfire Rifle events will be re-evaluated prior to the end of April and a decision made as to whether to resume.

Spring, summer, and closing of what have been deemed unnecessary businesses will only increase the number of individuals using the range. With the huge uptick in first time gunowners added to the regular members, I want to stress that safety must be a consideration first. Like it or not, the primary part of our sport – firearms – can be deadly in an instant of carelessness. I didn't know, I didn't mean to, I didn't think, mean very little when you are trying to explain a needless or senseless death. People who grow too comfortable, too nonchalant, in their gun handling are the ones that suffer that one moment of inattention. It can happen. It will happen if you don't pay attention and force those around you to pay attention. **DON'T BE AFRAID TO POINT OUT SOMEONE ELSE DOING BAD THINGS.** This is your club, your life, your friends. Protect them.

1. Never point your gun at something you are not willing to destroy.
  2. Make sure any gun you are handling is unloaded – clear it!
  3. "It went off!" is not an excuse. Finger off the trigger!
  4. Be sure what is behind your target.
- 

The official numbers are not in yet, but early indications are that more than

2.5 million new guns were sold in March. Along with this spike in sales was a huge rise in the demand for popular calibers of ammunition. Some wholesalers (who thought they were comfortably sitting on a 3-month supply) were wiped out overnight. A retailer in Huntsville was selling, on an average, \$60,000 worth of ammo a day until he started limiting quantities. Why? The same reason that grocery store shelves were stripped bare of toilet paper. For the first time, a sudden realization dawned that a Platinum Card was not worth an ant hill when you couldn't buy anything. The same card was useless when Theodore Thug and his boys come knocking at your door. The "I understand the Second Amendment!" light came on for lots of people. Supplies of popular firearms and ammo will be impacted for the foreseeable future.

Even though the response to this Chinese Virus has exposed some chinks (no pun intended) in our armor, the overall response from the federal government has been good. Some states are learning a hard lesson. The federal government is there to support the states – not run them. Individual problems created on a state level cannot be blamed on a lack of direction from the feds. Lack of basic supplies, no protocols in place, disregarding guidelines (and laws) and then whining about the end result is pathetic. "They didn't tell us not to set our heads on fire!". And we wonder about warning labels...

*Let your document be studded with things the government is forever forbidden to do.*

Robert Heinlein in *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*

See you at the range!

Tim Courtney

Secretary ACSC