



The Flyer

Official Newsletter of the
Airfield Shooting Club

Volume 13 Issue 2
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Airfield Shooting Club

at the Airfield 4H Center ~ Wakefield, Virginia

P.O. Box 250, Wakefield, VA 23888



Welcome Fall, 2018 issue of the Flyer

Since the last edition of The Flyer, the club had their Annual Board of Directors Election Breakfast meeting on July 21, 2018 .

Please welcome your Board of Directors:

President:	Ray Covington
Vice President:	Tim Drewry
Secretary:	Colleen Fitzmorris
Assistant Secretary:	Mike Lawler
Treasurer:	Kirk Culpeper
Executive Officer:	Mark Fitzmorris
Webmaster:	Jon Welters
Newsletter:	Shelly Bennett
Chief Instructor:	Greg Metzgar <i>(Service Rifle Match)</i>
Shotgun Director	Jim Cofer
Gun Shows:	Gary Wyse



Fall is Here

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- Director: Richard Sutton
(Shotgun Competitions)
- Director: Doug Hower
(Asst. Instructor)
- Director: Chuck Allard
(Grounds)
- Director: Chris Austin
- Director: Don Aubuchon
- Defensive Pistol Match: VACANT
- Archery Instructor: VACANT

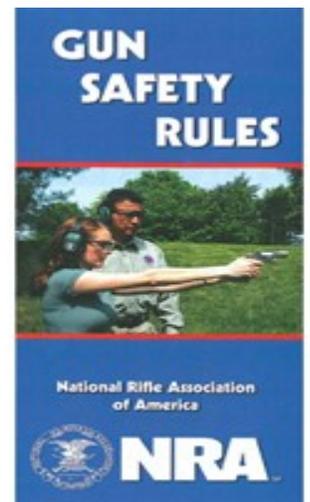
Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.

Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.

Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

If you know anyone that has experience in Defensive Pistol Matches or who wants to be an Archery Instructor and they would be interested in assisting the ASC, then please contact the ASC Chief Instructor, Greg Metzgar:

instructor@airfieldshootingclub.org



The official range rules are posted on the club website.

Please read and familiarize yourself with the updates.

[Airfield Shooting Club](#)
[Range Rules](#)



CHIEF INSTRUCTOR NOTES—TIME TO BRUSH UP ON FIREARMS SAFETY!

By Greg Metzgar

“Man dies after shooting himself at Cape Coral gun range”

Did this headline catch your attention? As a gun owner and shooting sports participant, headlines like these should cause us all to pause and realize that with the ever growing wave of anti-gun sentiment sweeping the country—we are all just **“one incident away” from seeing a gun range close!**

This headline is from an actual incident which occurred on 13 April 2018. According to the story: *“A man died after shooting himself in the head in Cape Coral on Friday at a business where gun safety is its number one priority.”* Sadly, when you read to the end of this same article, you find out that—*“However, just last week, another incident raised concern. A man, who is now banned from the business, came in and shot his gun where he was not authorized to. Nobody was injured.”* There are no excuses for “accidents”! Investigators who study them often note that there are a series of events leading to an accident—that if someone took an action, could have prevented it. It is a choice that we make, and we must be more diligent now.

Gun safety at the Airfield Shooting Club is a NON-NEGOTIABLE directive of being a member. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to come to our club—and we expect our members to abide by the basics of firearms safety. So, with the warmer weather bringing more members to the range—it’s time to annually refresh our memories on what our rules are for having a fun AND safe time on the range.

First start by going onto the new ASC website (<https://airfieldshootingclub.org/>) and once there go to the “Membership Information” tab and review the ASC Safety Rules. It might have been awhile since you walked through these “DO” and “DON’T” rules, and some of them have changed over the last couple of years. Let us remind you—as a member who is first on the range—**YOU ARE THE RANGE SAFETY OFFICER (RSO)**, so it’s in your best interest to know the rules! There are also rules posted on the range, but just to be safe—having a copy tucked into your range bag is a best practice.

Remember to make your first stop the sign-in shed on the range. If you have guests, you will need to have them read the ASC Waiver, and obtain the Guest badge(s) and RSO badge (if you are the first on your range). If there are already members on the range, checking in with the designated RSO will allow him/her to check and see what the status of the range is (e.g. COLD or HOT) and then you can begin to set up your firing point. Remember, you’re required to have your ASC Membership badge present at all times—so be on the lookout for them! If you see someone without their badge, ask to see it—and if they don’t have one, see the ASC Rules and apply corrective action.

Once you’re on the range and starting to set up, remember ASC follows the NRA’s three safety rules—in the 4-H Youth Shooting program we have the kids memorize MAT (muzzle, action, trigger):



ALWAYS Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
ALWAYS keep the chamber open and unloaded until you're ready to shoot.
ALWAYS keep your finger off of the trigger until you're ready to shoot..

Wearing of hearing and eye protection is strongly encouraged for adult participants on the range—and mandatory for youth at ASC ranges. *“It is a safe practice to use eye protection every time you shoot in case of spalling or powder residue. Hearing protection will also protect you from a loss of hearing in the future.”*

It is a great practice to insert a “Clear Bore Indicator” (CBI) into your chamber to signify your firearm is safe when the command of “UNLOAD AND SHOW CLEAR” is given. There are a number of commercially available CBIs, but a trick we’ve learned from the 4-H Youth Program is to take an orange or yellow weed eater filament (10” for pistol, 30” for rifles) and run from the chamber down through the barrel. The illuminous filament coming out of the chamber and end of the barrel is a quick visual reminder to the RSO and others that your firearm is safe. They easily store in your case when you’re done.

Remember that we do allow approved AR500 only steel targets for use on the range—BUT YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE for ensuring they are used in accordance with the ASC established policy. Again, reviewing the ASC Safety Rules will outline the proper procedures for where and how steel targets can be used.

If you see ANYONE not following the range safely procedures and rules, take action to stop an unsafe act. Gently remind the member or guest what the rule is that they are in violation of, and if they refuse to modify their behavior—report it immediately to 4-H Center desk in the Gray Building, and let the ASC Board know. If the person(s) fail to comply and become confrontational—leave the range. **Not following the rules and negligent discharges of a firearm is life threatening.**

This primer outlines the fundamental responsibility of being on the range. You are responsible for knowing the rules of the range—so ignorance is not bliss. We trust all of our members to act responsibly on the range—and most of you do. However, we have had times in the past where an individual refused to adhere to the rules—and they found themselves being banned from the club.

Remember, we are all just **“one incident away”** from seeing a gun range close! **SAFETY IS EVERY MEMBER’S RESPONSIBILITY!**





STRICTER GUN CONTROL—ALWAYS A GOOD THING!—AT THE RANGE.

By Greg Metzgar, Chief Instructor

Actor Clint Eastwood once said, *“I have a very strict gun control policy: if there’s a gun around, I want to be in control of it.”* As members of the Airfield Shooting Club (ASC) you have a responsibility to exercise your Second Amendment Rights (2A) in a responsible manner. The purpose of this article is to highlight one of our safety rules—***“DO exercise care and common sense at the range. Watch yourself and fellow members. DO quickly and firmly act to correct unsafe practices and save someone from avoidable injury or death.”***

One of the most challenging moments when acting as a Range Safety Officer (RSO) in the transition from a “Hot” to “Cold” range and ensuring—***“All firearms are to be on the bench (or grounded) with actions open, the chambers cleared, and magazines removed or emptied.”***

According to the ASC Rules, the following procedure outlines exactly how members are to demonstrate an unloaded firearm on the range:

3. Show Clear

This command means unload your firearm, leave the action open and the muzzle pointed downrange. This is not the time for a muzzleloader to discharge his gun into the berm. That should have been done prior to the cease-fire. The RSO should personally inspect all firearms, or ask another to help confirm that the firearms on the line are unloaded. [Emphasis added] *All personnel must step behind the red line. There will be no handling of uncased firearms, including a holstered firearm, for any reason from this point until the line is again called “hot”.*

So here are some tips to assist the RSO, your fellow members on the line, and yourself to ensure you’re “clear” on the line. One simple technique employed by the 4-H Swamp Shooters is to use a piece of orange or yellow weed trimmer string run from the chamber out of the barrel. The string can be placed in your case when you’re done so you always have it with you. Another technique is a Clear Bore Indicator (CBI), or sometimes referred to as an Empty Chamber Indicator, used at the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) events.





Photos of Show Clear:



Perhaps you might decide upon a more custom look—so there are some creative ways that this can be done. If you want to have a custom look, you can order plenty of CBI-type devices on the market (capitalism is a great thing!).

At the end of the day however, it is about making your marksmanship experience at the ASC range, or another range—SAFER! Hopefully these give you some good ideas which will assist RSOs (you, or another member) on the range quickly see that your firearms are safe, and you can get back to what we like to do on the range. If you would like to share a technique that you find useful, consider sharing it with our Editor in an upcoming issue or our club newsletter. Until then—BE SAFE!

***Thank you Greg Metzgar for the great job with the two articles. - Editor ***



In the Know

RSO/ Safety is **EVERYONE'S** responsibility. The RSO runs the range and you must do as the RSO directs. If an RSO would like to take a break or would like to shoot, someone else needs to step up and assume the RSO duties. If no one else wants to be the RSO then the range closes until an RSO is there. You **MUST** wear/display the RSO badge at all times while you are RSO. RSO's need to ensure where the bullets are going. Ensure all shots are shot in line with the target, no shooting across the lane. If the bullets are not going into the berm have the shooters adjust their targets. Before placing targets on the frames stand or sit and as if you are firing your weapon to see where the rounds will be going. Ensure the rounds are not going over the top of the berms, to side of the berms or bouncing of the ground.

Members must complete at least 6 hours of Public service. Service hours are awarded for assisting with ASC- sponsored shooting events, volunteering with the ASC youth programs, serving on a Friends of NRA committee, working the club's table at local gunshows, performing range improvements or maintenance, and other activities that may be approved by the Board of Directors.

Members who are not able to meet these public service requirements may instead contribute to the club at the rate of \$10 per hour of public service not served.

Range rules are on our web site. You are encouraged to read them as periodically to keep up with any changes made. There is also a copy posted on the range .

If you are on the range and want to move the firing line forward you can, as long as everyone shooting is in agreement. If other shooters want to move the line back, then the line needs to be moved back. If more than one person moving, then have to have a dedicated RSO. All shots have to be in line with the target and no shots across lanes. Remember range rules may be different than the ones allowed at special events.



In the Know...continued

Our Swamp Shooters program is tied in with the 4-H Shooting Education. The program teaches kids (age 9-19) safety, sportsmanship, and ethical behavior in the disciplines of Archery, Rifle, Air Pistol and Shotgun. The Swamp Shooter Instructors are looking for more kids to participate in this program.

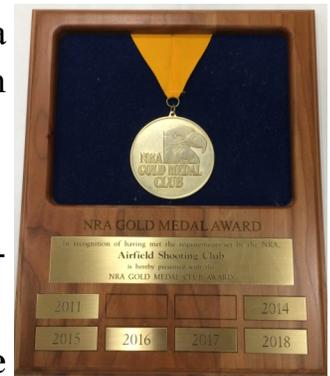
We currently rent the range from the 4H Center and have a yearly contract. We are negotiating for a longer lease, but so far they have only been offered a 5 year lease. We would like a 10 or 20 year lease. The ASC desires a longer lease to protect our investment in the Center's property. We would like to build classrooms behind the restrooms so our meetings and other ASC events could be held there.

We will be submitting the next Newsletter in December. If anyone would like to submit an article please contact Shelly Bennett or send to the following:

editor@airfieldshootingclub.org The ASC is an NRA Gold Medal club. We must publish 4 newsletters every year. We have a plaque by the desk in the Gray building. We could use your help in filling the newsletter's pages.

If you are planning on going to the range, check the calendar to ensure there is not an event that has been scheduled.

November 12th Veterans Day. Thank you to all those that have served.





Calendar of Events

October Events:

October 6th

Bowling Bin Match 50 yard Range 9am-2pm

Church Range Use 100 M and Shotgun Range 2pm-4pm

October 13th

Service Rifle/Zombie 100 m Range 8:30am-12pm

Boy Scout 50m and Shotgun Range 9am-4pm

October 20th

ASC Board Meeting Gray Building 9:30am-12pm

November Events:

November 3rd

Bowling Bin Match 50 yard Range 9am-2pm

Pistol Class - Morgan lodge - 9am—5pm (On the range 3pm-5pm)

November 10th

Service Rifle/Zombie 100 m Range 8:30am-12pm

November 11th

Swamp Shooters 50 m Range 1:30pm-4:30pm

November 17th

ASC Board Meeting Gray Building 9:30am-12pm

November 24th

Swamp Shooters 50 m Range 1:30pm-4:30pm

