



EAGLE CAP SHOOTERS

P.O. Box 499
Joseph, OR 97846

www.eaglecapshooters.com

General Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, February 20, 2023

Status: Approved

Board Members Present: Bill Oliver, Gary Bethscheider, John Amond, Dan Moncrief, Dean Brown, Dale Rasmussen, Gina Birkmaier, Grady Rawls

Board Members Absent: Dan Piper

Members and Guests: Kim Hutchison, John Straughan, Kyle Graham, John Haskett, Randy and Sharlee House, Milo Schleifer

Handouts: February financial statements and membership reports. Promissory note and Security Agreement

Meeting called to order at 6:35pm

Flag Salute

Introductions and Special Order of Business—Announcement by Randy House—Carpet One.

Randy, whose schedule required him to leave early, announced that Carpet One has offered to provide free Vinyl Plank flooring (100 percent waterproof) and installation for the new Education Building Bathrooms and Kitchen and explained that product would be very similar to that in the VFW hall Banquet Room and that he would do installation and that Jared, his boss, was very pleased to support the ECS building project. The donation was gratefully acknowledged with thanks to both Jared and Randy.

Last Month's Minutes

Approval of minutes, as drafted, was moved by Gina Birkmaier and seconded by John Amond. There being no corrections or additions, the vote was taken and Minutes unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

John Amond reviewed the Treasurer's report handout and noted that the numbers now reflected the combined assets and liabilities of the two former Eagle Cap Shooting organizations—now the Eagle Cap Shooters. Note the Profit and Loss statement is for the period January 1 through February 20. It was observed that the financial state of ECS appears healthy and likely to become more so as membership renewals come in. Thanks were extended to John for providing the "Available Cash Projection" including costs to complete the several grant projects underway and the "Reserve Account" description.

It was further noted that it would be a good idea to be in a position to pay Pacific Power in full for power installation since, if we do not, we will be paying an additional \$17,000 for time payment.

Membership Report

John Amond reported that 2022 membership total was 354 and that so far, more than 60 one year



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member renewals have been received, which when combined with a fifty-one 5, 10, and Life Members for a total membership of 111, is a good start since the new membership year does not begin until April 1, 2023. The new 5 year membership offer seems to be attractive since 8 have already taken that option.

Comments included suggestions that Secretary Piper should send out at least two more renewal reminders to encourage renewals by March 31—the “Drop Dead” date for **receipt** of renewals to gain raffle access and to beat the dues increase. It was also suggested that, once the Power installation loan had been received and construction contract signed with Pacific Power, that 5 and 10 year members and Life Members and others be invited to donate in support of that project, since they are not making any other current payment to the club and it was suggested that we call attention to major gifts from other donors to encourage contributions. It was agreed that such a call for donations would be formally made at the proper time.

Treasurer Amond asked members assistance in contacting various Life Members whose mail had been returned as undeliverable and several agreed to help John re-establish contact.

Treasurer Amond also announced that he, via the good offices of Tyler Stucki, former Board member and current ECS member, had received 3 firearms donated to the club by Mary Pillar, widow of former member Richard Church, who passed away in 2019, and that the guns were displayed on a table at the entrance to the meeting room and would be kept by John pending decisions as to their use for the club. It was observed that the single shot youth .22 should be kept by the club for youth shooting activities, while the Ruger .270 might best be auctioned as it was equipped with a nice Leupold scope and was in excellent condition, as is the 12 gauge shotgun that was donated. It was agreed to send a formal thank you letter to Mary Pillar and to note her interest in support of youth shooting activities.

On a motion by Dean Brown and second by John Haskett, both the Treasurer's and Membership reports were approved unanimously, with thanks to John Amond for his diligent work on our behalf.

Law Enforcement Relations Report

Kim Hutchison reported that Deputy Billy Wells has reserved our Rifle Range (only) for the full day of Friday, July 14 for training for officers from Wallowa, Union, Baker, and Umatilla County and that payment of \$300 to ECS had been offered. Both the event and payment were greeted with approval but the question of when and how much local law enforcement has paid for range use in the past was raised. It seemed that no payment has been made for several years at least. Gary Besthscheider volunteered to look into the situation and to not only pursue some sort of payment or service in lieu of payment, but also participation by local Law Enforcement officers in ECS activities such as Youth Shoot and other competitions. Kim noted that additional training sessions, including “dusk shoots” are in the planning stages.

Kim further noted that he is progressing on a project to bring all of our prior Range Rule and Management policies and documents into one coherent and comprehensive document as opposed to the rather confusing and sometimes contradictory documents now in service as “Standard Operating Procedures”. It was agreed that this would be a very desirable improvement and thanks offered for his



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offer to take on a difficult task.

Old Business

Range Report

Dean Brown reported that he had fabricated brackets that will be welded to steel target holders now installed at all berms on the rifle range and that target holders and foam board target holders will be installed in May and June, prior to the Sniper School in mid June. Dean has collected a large supply of foam board from Jerry Hayes, who is terminating his printing business and Charlie Danforth has reported that he will be returning to the County on June 1 and will also be bringing a new supply of target mounting boards. Dan Moncrief noted that he will be working with Charlie and Dean to get the range in shape for the summer, including weed spraying by Casey Crum, weed pulling and burning, along with brass pick up by probation and parole "volunteers" and repair of steel targets as needed.

It was reported that the First Aid Boxes are in need of repair due to weather damage and that supplies need to be renewed and that Dan Moncrief and Dean Brown will be in contact with Don Taggart to get his help and ideas.

Dean also reported that 6 stools and a long steel table for the pistol range had been completed by Wup Winn and the RDF&P company and that he and Dan would be picking them up and installing them in the Pistol Bay shortly. Dean also offered to pick up the 6 or so signs that were in progress at Hayes Printing and it was suggested that Amber Love, who had Bird Dog signs in downtown Enterprise, was currently working at RDF&P and perhaps could make signs for us.

There followed a discussion of how best to prevent ricochets from the steel targets in the pistol bay and it was agreed that the best solution, in addition to increasing the height of the surrounding berms, was to create new berms at 10 to 15 yards immediately behind the steel targets, since the present berms are too far from the steel targets to effectively contain ricochets. Gary Bethscheider agreed to implement the plan once he had the necessary earth moving equipment at the range.

New Education Building Project

Completion of the Education Building is currently awaiting installation of propane heating equipment since that is necessary for installation of drywall over insulation and other interior work.

Trap & Skeet Range and Moving Target Range Projects

Work on the Shotgun shooting range and moving target facility is awaiting arrival of better weather and earth moving equipment but the Jersey barriers and gravel are in place so completion of both in early summer is expected.

Funding for Line Power for the Range

Bill Oliver reported that Pacific Power has been provided with maps and deeds for all the properties that must be crossed in order to bring power to the range from the West side of the highway opposite the north end of Ant Flat Road. Easements must be obtained from four property owners, including ourselves, and Pacific Power will be preparing the necessary document based on the deeds provided.



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Bill also announced that Steven Wolfe, longtime member and a Past President of both ECSEA and ECSA, has offered to loan the \$100,000 needed to implement the power project and has graciously agreed to take only a lien on the membership income stream, rather than requiring the property as collateral. This news was greeted both with relief and gratitude, as was the very welcome surprise that Steve had offered to reduce the interest rate from 6.5 to 4 percent per annum!! The proposed promissory note and security agreement (sent with call for meeting and copies available at meeting) calls for a ten year loan with required minimum payment of \$10,200 per year beginning June 15, 2024 and full payoff of any remaining balance in June of 2033. However, there is no penalty for any prepayment or more frequent payments on the loan, which will be deposited in a bank account designated by Steve for that purpose. After a period of discussion and responses to questions and minor editorial changes to the agreement, the Board, on a motion by Dale Rasmussen and second by John Amond, voted to recommend approval of the proposal and obligation documents to the membership, by a vote of 8-0 with one board member absent and not voting. Next, the members present, on a motion by John Straughn and a second by Gina Birkmaier, voted to adopt the Board's recommendation by a vote of 13 in favor and none opposed. The next step is to send the Promissory Note and Security Agreement to Steve Wolfe for his review and approval. If he does approve, the signed Security Agreement will be returned to signature by all Board members, attesting to the members vote to approve the obligation.

It was also noted that just one \$5,000 payment to principal only in June of 2023 would reduce the payoff balance due at the end of the note by \$10,000, that ECS should make as many early payments to principal as possible, so that at the end of ten years there is no remaining balance. There followed a discussion of various strategies to raise funds to meet that goal, but it was also noted that other expenses may need to be paid so that caution and careful analysis would be needed.

New Business

Civilian Marksmanship Program

It was reported that John Amond, with Bill Oliver's concurrence, has renewed ECS membership in CMP for \$30 annually and update our club name and other required information. There followed a general discussion of the purposes and opportunities to buy surplus military weapons etc, and the requirement that applied. Kim Hutchison gave details and offered to send information to members and to establish at least one qualifying competitive shoot that would meet CMP requirements. A tentative date of July 22 was set, and more information will be provided.

2023 Grand Opening/Season Opener Event

Gina Birkmaier graciously agreed to take leadership with this event and there followed a general discussion of an outline of a morning shooting competition open to all comers, members or not, a luncheon with food and possibly music at which time the new facilities would be dedicated and a ceremony of thanks and recognition, including Life Members and local officials, followed by open "fun shoot" activities for rifle, pistol, and shotgun would ensue. Gina agreed to put together ideas and questioned when the event should be scheduled and it seemed that June was the month, with a date to be set.



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Range Reservation Procedures

Bill Oliver explained that the current procedure is that persons, members or not, wanting to reserve the range generally contact either the President or Secretary and make a proposal for a date, activity and payment which is then negotiated and, if approved, entered to the calendar. If in doubt, the President/Secretary engage the Board in a discussion and, if necessary, consult with membership, and in any event, tentative reservations are reported and discussed at the next general meeting for review, approval and confirmation. Consensus was that this procedure was working well enough and that a more formal process was not required at this time. It was noted that John Amond's "Twenty One Feet" organization had recently requested a reservation of the Pistol Range for March 4 and that was approved and that he would be paying ECS \$15 per person per day for his range use and that was the general amount users reserving the range would pay per adopted policy. There was general agreement that this arrangement was satisfactory and that no serious conflicts have occurred since members can generally shoot at other ranges when one range is reserved.

Upcoming Events

It was reported that the date given for the Angie Short wedding is July 3rd, not June 3rd as listed in the meeting agenda and the correction was duly noted. It was also announced that Kim Hutchison and Mike Teece had agreed on a date of March 25 from 12 - 3pm at the Pistol Range for the range portion of the Spring ODFW Hunter Safety Education Course, to be preceded with final class session at the Enterprise VFW Hall that morning. Both Mike and Kim were recognized and thanked for making the class possible once again.

Kim Hutchison announced additional event dates for Cowboy Action Shoots included on the calendar and below. A Military Shoot/CMP Qualifier was set for July 22 with another earlier date for training event managers on July 22. A tentative date for the Youth Shoot was set for September 9 with the suggestion that a shotgun demo at the new Trap and Skeet range should be planned, together with a fundraising event for parents and donors. It was suggested that local Law Enforcement should be invited to help manage the event and facilitate youth/police relationships.

- Saturday, 3/25: Range Safety Orientation at 10am. Instructor: Grady Rawls
- Saturday, 5/6: Cowboy Action Shoot
- Saturday, 6/3: Cowboy Action Shoot
- Monday, 6/12 through Thursday, 6/15: OSP Sniper School, **range closed 7am to 8pm**
- Saturday, 7/1: Cowboy Action Shoot
- Monday, 7/3: Angie Short wedding, **range closed from 7am to 8pm**
- Monday, 7/10 through Thursday, 7/13: Oregon Police Academy training, **pistol range closed 7am to 8pm**
- Saturday, 7/22: Military Shoot/CMP Qualifier
- Saturday, 8/5: Cowboy Action Shoot
- Saturday, 9/2: Cowboy Action Shoot
- Saturday, 9/9: Youth Shoot



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Training for Match Directors

It was emphasized that we desperately need to train new match directors who would take responsibility for arranging and conducting at least one match per year. Training could take place in April or May and at each event so that we have a larger pool of knowledgeable and willing Match Directors.

Good of the Order

Concern was expressed about Pistol Range ricochets. The discussion and conclusion to construct closer "split range" berms to backstop steel targets is reported above under Range Report.

Kim Hutchison requested that an elevated pad be constructed at the Rifle Range, about 10-15 yards from the bench faces to accommodate short range Cowboy Action shooting and Gary Bethscheider agreed that he would do that.

Gary then announced that he and Ken Hauxwell were planning for the next Friends of the NRA Banquet to be held in Enterprise on October 14, 2023 and that although we did not apply for a grant this year, that we should plan to apply next year and also we should attend the NRA Funding meeting held annually in Oregon (most recently in Bend) that occurs in March/April and which seems important to succeeding with grant applications.

Gary further noted that Curt White has offered to manage FFL issues related to the NRA Banquet and to be significantly involved in the Banquet as well as firearms transfers post Banquet. He also noted that four Donation Boxes have been built and soon will be installed at the range for contributions and that he was working with Old West Credit Union (Hanley Kennedy) to encourage their support for ECS.

Concern was expressed about membership forms that were out of date are still in circulation and it was pointed out that Dan Piper and John Straughan had completely revised the form and our web site to provide not only our revised name and organizational status but also a special banner on the home page for new membership information that is up to date and that old forms should be recycled and new ones printed from our web site, where all information is now current, including the new Post Office box—PO Box 499, Joseph Oregon.

This Old Gun

In addition to the three guns donated by Mary Pillar on display, Kim Hutchison shared his recent acquisition—a 6.5 x 53R, a Dutch Mannlicher M-95 carbine originally shipped to Indonesia for their military—a nice example in good condition. Thanks Kim, even if it didn't turn out to be a Carcano!!

Meeting Adjourned: 9:15 pm

Next Meeting: Monday, March 20th, 2023, at 6:30pm at the VFW Hall, Enterprise, Oregon

Submitted: Bill Oliver, acting Secretary