



THE GOPHER GAZETTE

www.grrc.org December 20, 2011 Volume 4 No. 7

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Warm greetings for a healthy and happy 2012 from the staff of the GRRC Gazette.

Winter is upon us, and the holidays are practically here. That has not stopped diehard HP workers from cleaning up red willow growth on the MP range. Many thanks to Curt and Co. for their hard work. Colder weather tends to draw us indoors- so don't forget to take some pictures and send the Gazette ideas for articles of general interest, or special interest to you. Get your membership renewal taken care of- to avoid penalties. The next GMM is December 20 at Kraus-Hartig (you can pay threere). The annual BPCR Freeze Your Parts Off Match and strategy meeting is set for January 7 at the Red Shed. Have a wonderful holiday season, drive carefully and stay off the ice until it is really safe. - KN

Red Shed Report

Facility Management: This fall **Les Eckhardt** has decided to retire from the Facility Management chair. We cannot list everything he has done for GRRC. The club will be forever thankful for all the time and energy that Les has put into the Harris range. **Dave Anderson** has agreed to take over this important job. Please extend your cooperation to Dave and assist him with his new responsibility.

High Power Help Wanted: GRRC will host sixteen days of High Power events in 2012 and you may be able to help us out. Specifically, we need line officers, pit personel and stat officers. If you have an interest in making GRRC look good to its guests at formal competitive events, please consider this opportunity. Our goal is to have a group of folks who can commit to helping run events during the season. These include CMP Games events, Over-the-Course High Power matches as well as Long-Range matches. **We will begin introducing the training segments in February prior to the monthly meeting.** Running an event is an all-day affair and you will be in the elements. You should be prepared for the rigors of these activities. If you are interested in more info, please contact HP Chair Kurt Borlaug via e-mail. (kubeborlaug@msn.com). See article pg 7.

Campground fees of \$120 are due by 12-31 or your GRRC membership is at risk. You can mail your check to Steve Marden at 2136 Ford Pkwy, PMB359, St Paul, MN 55116.

Tractor auction: At the December 20, 2011 meeting the club will be auctioning off the Ford 8N tractor. All members in good standing are invited to bid on the tractor. The winning bidder has 30 days to pay and make arrangements for removal. The tractor is "Sold AS IS, no warranty express nor implied".

Heads up, BOD: The Board of Directors meetings will be held the **week prior to the GMM meetings.** Mondays will be the designated night, but one week before the usual time. This will allow time for actions on business, and **not** give you two GRRC obligations in one week. January 9, 2012 will be the first BOD date reflecting this change.

Winter Toilets: Dave Anderson reported that five of the toilets at the range have been made winter-ready. Both men's and women's are open for use at the Red Shed. The men's biffs at the campground, pistol, and MP range have been winterized. If a discipline chair needs other toilets made useable, he/she can add **four gallons of windshield washer fluid** to the holding tank.

GRRC Annual Banquet is scheduled for Saturday, February 18 at Kraus-Hartig VFW. Details will follow in the January Gazette. Be sure to mark those new 2012 calendars with February 18, and plan to join us for a terrific evening of dining, friendship and lie telling.

The annual **BPCR Freeze Your Parts Off Shoot** and planning session will be held on January 7, 2012 at the Red Shed. 9:00 ish start, with lunch provided. Join us!

| Date | Time | Location | Event | Contact |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|---|-----------------|
| 12/20/2011 | 1900-Adjourn | Kraus-Hartig | General Membership Meeting | Rik Rarick |
| 1/7/2012 | 900 | KD 1000 | BPCR Freeze Your Parts Off | Rik, Bruce Aune |
| 1/9/2012* | 1900-adjrn | Kraus-Hartig | GRRC Board of Directors Meeting* | CLUB |
| 1/12/2012 | 1800-2000 | Forest Lake | Junior club practice Legion Post 225 | Joe Showalter |
| 1/17/2012 | 1900-adjrn | Kraus-Hartig | General Membership Meeting | Dave Newell |
| 2/18/12 | | Kraus- Hartig | GRRCAnnual Banquet | Dave Newell |

* BOD meetings will take place Mondays, one week prior to GMM meetings

GRRC General Membership Minutes 10/25/11

Editor's note- The October minutes were delayed due to the death of Ed Pekarik. Our thanks to **Steve Marden** for taking minutes of the October meeting, and reporting for Laurie.

President Rick Rarick called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM, and a quorum was present. Vice-President David Newell led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence was observed to honor absent companions and those serving in the military. Ed Pekarik has been in ICU for over a month, and was taken off the ventilator today per Caring Bridge. Please pray for the entire family. The Secretary's Report, as published in the Gazette, from the September 2011 GMM was approved (Motion by Jim Townsend, 2nd by Dave Secord).

Bruce Aune, XO, reported that the logging will likely be done this week, the BOD will let everyone know. Announcements will be made, so watch your emails and voice mails. Next Tuesday there is a scheduled meeting for selection of days for 2012 Range usage. It is open to all members.

First readings occurred for Jeff Banister and Matthew Beckman. Second readings occurred for Steve Beddor, Charles Adams, Robert Nordlund and Jeremy Mielke. The acting Sergeant at Arms then lead the guests and non-members from the room. The Treasurer's report was made by Rich Williams and approved (Motion by John Campbell, seconded by Rick Loye). Budget requests need to be in by the next BOD meeting. Maintenance requests should be made separately. Major budget requests to date were mentioned. The Second Readings were accepted as a group (Motion by Kurt Borlaug, seconded by Dave Secord). The group was accepted as members of GRRC (Motion by Wade Brown, seconded by Rick Loye).

Upon return of all attendees, **Committee reports** were made as follows:

BPCR- Rick Rarick reported that the last Gopher Black Powder Cartridge shoot for 2011 occurred on October 1 & 2.

Camp Ground- It was again announced that Camp Ground fees (\$120/yr) are due and payable for 2011, by 12/31/11.

Hi Power- Kurt Borlaug has High Power T-shirts available if you are interested.

Newsletter- Dave Newell reported: you should watch your US Mail for the October Newsletter for renewal and application forms. You can now sign up for email notifications and information on the GRRC website. Be careful - don't change the general membership password. It changes for all members when you do.

Shotgun- Larry Sparks says if you have any trouble with the battery-operated thrower, give him a call; it's up and running and should be serviceable all winter.

1000 Yd Bench Rest- Gordy reported that there were 28 shooters last weekend, attending from MN, ND, SD, IA and WI (don't worry - the new State Champion is a Minnesotan.) About \$1500 to the good for the event.

Tuesday Practice- Mike Kaluza says there will be open shooting on Tuesday nights when the range reopens.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) On two occasions, members have ignored signs, schedules, and warnings about range closures. Action will be taken on one violation. The details on the second instance are not yet clear.
- 2) Gate problems: Tom Torborg reports that parts have been replaced for the gate, but the latch is out of alignment, and being repaired. Use the big brown layover bar to keep the gate shut until the problem is fixed.
- 3) Discipline chairs - let's communicate about special projects for work day assignments.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Two new members (Jeff Banister and Mike Connor) are joining Lowell Rogers (they have forestry backgrounds) and will work together on the reforestation plan and the forestry/environmental committee.
- 2) Half the satellite toilets tipped over during the windstorm. We discussed permanent toilets and holding tanks, and handicapped accommodation. Discipline chairs and Match Directors: check the toilets before your event and have them serviced as needed. We have received quick responses, but calls need to be made.
- 3) Tractor: The committee recommends that we need a three point hitch for spraying, seeding, and food plots in some new cleared areas. We also need a tractor with a front-end loader to move recycled gravel to potholes on the roadways. Also, for storm damage and cleanup, there are wet ground conditions in some areas that the "loggers" could not access, together with a lot of firewood that was not accessible. A new tractor would take pressure off the other equipment for Gopher's part in the clean up.
- 4) REMINDER - All hunters, shooters, archers, guests, etc. on the Range are required to meet the Minnesota blaze orange hat and clothing requirements during the deer firearm and muzzle-loader seasons. Be careful out there.
- 5) Election of new officers and directors for 2012 will be held at the November 15, 2011 General Meeting.
- 6) Dick Shaw proposed a new match in 2012 - "Long range BPCR Silhouette" (referring to format - not requiring the use of black powder) using .22 rimfire at 100 yds: Cowboy silhouette at 100 yds; and Mini-Creedmore events at 100, 150 and 200 yds. This would be a fun shoot.

The next BOD meeting will be Monday, Nov 14, 2011 at 7 PM at Kraus- Hartig. The next General Membership meeting will be Tuesday, Nov 15, 2011 at 7 PM at Kraus-Hartig. A motion was made by Dave Secord, second by Larry Sparks, to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Marden, acting Secretary.



GRRC Board of Directors Minutes 11/14/11

The President called the meeting to order on 14 November 2011 at 7:05 pm. Present were: Rik Rarick, Dave Newell, Laurie Pekarik, Rich Williams, Joe Showalter, Bruce Aune, Tom Torborg, Dave Secord, Kurt Borlaug, Mike Gjersvig, Joe Groshens, Steve Marden, Steve Shimek, Larry Sparks. Excused: Rick Loye.

The Vice-President led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for departed members and those serving in the military.

Secretary's Report: Motion made by Dave Secord, with second by Larry Sparks to accept the October BOD minutes, which were published in the November Gazette. Corrections are note: that Lowell Rogers and Mike Connors are co-Chairs of the Forestry Management Program Committee. Also, that the end of the sentence regarding the sale of the Ford tractor should be deleted to read: "After much discussion, it was agreed that the Ford unit should first be sold for \$1,000 to \$1,500." before any commitment was made to purchase a new tractor. Motion carried with corrections.

Executive Officer's Report: Version 2 of the 2012 Range Schedule is ready for the Discipline Chairs to provide feedback to Bruce for corrections. Please e-mail Bruce with your corrections for Version 3. HP season is done in August. Handgun schedule is okay. Discussion ensued on clarifications of leagues and matches as they pertain to Schedule Footer that appears at the end of the schedule.

Treasurer's Report: Rich commented about the month-to-month electrical usage at the range. The Treasurer also brought forward the matter of two checks from the same GRRC member that have been returned NSF. Rich reported that the member has not yet made the two checks good. Motion made by Joe Showalter, second by Mike Gjersvig to deactivate this member's gate combo immediately; to send a formal letter demanding payment of the two checks plus bank fees. Letter sent by the Treasurer, with a copy to the Secretary for attachment onto the member records. After more discussion, motion carried.

No committee reports or correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS

Ford Tractor update: Discussion ensued about the error in the sentence that appeared in the October Gazette. An article in the Gazette will have the details. Motion by Joe Showalter, with second by Tom Torborg that the **Ford 8N will be sold at a live auction at the December GMM with a minimum opening bid of \$800.** Carried.

BOD meeting attendance: Secretary, Laurie Pekarik provided a spreadsheet with attendance records at the BOD meetings. NAT as there has been no evidence of more than two BOD meetings being missed by any one board member.

Change of BOD meeting date: Much discussion about the pros and cons of having two consecutive evenings of each month dedicated to GRRC meetings. Generally agreed to change the meeting date to the **Monday of the week prior to the GMM**, or the second Monday of any month that BOD meetings are scheduled.

Update on the GMM summer meeting schedule: This subject has come before the BOD on several occasions over the last year with no solution. The BOD decided to throw this question out to the membership to make a determination if the June and July

general membership meetings should be cancelled due to the difficulty achieving a quorum in summer months. The GRRC members need to give suggestions on how to resolve the problem of not having a quorum at the summer general membership meetings. An article to appear in the Gazette with this request.

NEW BUSINESS

Report on logging: Dave Anderson gave a very detailed report on the recent logging that has occurred at the range due to storm damage and other natural causes for fallen trees. The net proceeds to date are \$20,755.40. Larry Sparks made a motion, with second by Mike Gjersvig that co-chairs of Forestry Management Program to have control of \$8,000 of these funds for five years to fund the reforestation management program. After a lot of discussion, this motion was defeated. Motion by Mike Gjersvig, with second by Joe Showalter to set these proceeds aside and wait to see where the final expenses are from the storm damage, and to pay off expenses already incurred because of the storm. The question was called. The question carried. The original motion also carried.

Larry Sparks made a motion, with second to **consider a Skeet Range** behind the MP range to the northeast, which would utilize the existing battery-operated throwers. He requested a \$200 budget. After much discussion, the question was called. The question carried. The original motion carried.

Joe Showalter made a motion, with second by Tom Torborg to reimburse Carmen Fry \$500 towards her personal expenses to go to Colorado Springs to attend the Olympic Training Center. Discussion. Motion Carried.

NO ANNOUNCEMENTS

On the request to adjourn, Dave Secord made the motion, with a second by Tom Torborg to adjourn at 9:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie A. Pekarik
GRRC Secretary

GRRC GMM Minutes 11/15/11

The President called the meeting to order on 15 Nov 2011 at 7:11 pm with a quorum present. The Vice-President led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence was observed to honor departed members and those serving in the military.

Secretary's Report: Motion was made by Dave Secord and seconded by Lance Wells to accept the October GMM minutes as printed in the Gazette. Motion carried.

The Executive Officer: Reminder given that everyone wears blaze orange while at the range during hunting season.

Chief Instructor: No report.

1st Readings - None 2nd Readings - Jeff Bannister, Matthew Beckman, and David Lindmark. The Sergeant at Arms led the applicants and guests from the room. **Treasurer's Report:** Motion made by Ron Schwachtgen with second by Jodie Showalter to accept the Treasurer's Report as given. Carried. Motion made by Joe Groshens with second by Dave Secord to accept the second readings as a group. Carried.

Motion made by Dave Anderson with second by Rick Repovsch to accept the group as members of GRRRC. Carried. The Sergeant at Arms brought guests and new members back into the meeting room. The Vice President re-introduced and welcomed three new members who will go on the Waiting List. President Rick Rarick reminded the new members to see the Secretary after the meeting to take care of paperwork and pay initiation fees.

Committee reports were dispensed with tonight due to the election of new officers.

OLD BUSINESS

An article to be placed in the December Gazette announcing that the Ford 8N tractor will be auctioned off at the December GMM.

NEW BUSINESS

The President sounded the gavel and declared the meeting recessed to prepare for the election. The President re-sounded the gavel and announced that the meeting would reconvene for the purpose of the election of the 2012 Executive Board and General Board Members. Kurt Nelson, Sergeant at Arms presiding.

President –David Newell was nominated from the floor as President. With no more nominations, David Newell was elected President by acclamation.

Vice President – Kim Frick was nominated from the floor as Vice President. With no more nominations, Kim Frick was elected Vice President by acclamation.

Treasurer – Rick Williams was nominated from the floor as Treasurer. With no more nominations, Rich Williams was elected Treasurer by acclamation..

Secretary – Laurie Pekarik was nominated from the floor as Secretary. With no more nominations, Laurie Pekarik was elected Secretary by acclamation.

Executive Officer – Bruce Aune was nominated from the floor as Executive Officer. With no more nominations, Bruce Aune was elected Executive Officer by acclamation.

Chief Instructor – Andy Mager was nominated from the floor as Chief Instructor. With no more nominations, Andy Mager was elected Chief Instructor by acclamation.

General Board Members – Eight nominations were accepted from the floor for the six positions as General Board Members. After a paper ballot, and in no particular order, the following were elected: Steve Shimek, Rut McGhee, Steve Marden, Mike Gjersvig, Morgan Prock, and Bruce Peglow. The elections were pronounced closed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If anyone needs a 2011 membership renewal form, please see Dave Newell or Laurie Pekarik. Members can also print one off the GRRRC website.

General Membership Meeting - Tuesday, 20Dec2011 at 1900hrs, Kraus-Hartig VFW

Board of Directors Meeting - Monday, 9Jan2012 at 1900hrs, Kraus-Hartig VFW

The President, Rik Rarick asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Dave Secord with second by Dave Anderson to adjourn at 8:34pm. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie A. Pekarik, GRRRC Secretary

All-Around Match Deadline Changed

Due to the range being closed for the logging then followed by the hunting season, the **deadline for turning in 2011 targets has been moved to the January meeting**. If you need to shoot your targets without another club member present, you may do so. With the holidays and cold weather it may be difficult to find another member to accompany you to the range to verify targets. Remember you are on your honor to shoot them at the proper distance, with the proper sights etc., as the rules state. Prizes will still be awarded at the club banquet in February.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me.

-Rich Williams 763-257-3653

Vintage Military Rifle Matches at GRRRC in 2012



For 2012 shooting season, the High Power Discipline is pleased to announce that we have scheduled three **Vintage Military rifle matches**. The dates are **April 21, May 5 and July 14**. The first one will be held in conjunction with our annual High Power Service Rifle Clinic. This clinic introduces and teaches people the fundamentals of rifle marksmanship. It also introduces people the High Power format of a rifle match. Anyone who takes this clinic would then be able to shoot a high power rifle match anywhere in the country including the National Matches held at Camp Perry Ohio because the range commands, pit rotations, firing styles, etc, are always the same.

A reminder: The **list of weapons that may be used** is available online at the GRRRC website. It is in Tom Torborg's article there. If you wish to download the .pdf, you may do so there. Contact Tom for further information.

Kurt Borlaug is actively seeking volunteers to work/earn work credits at these matches. See Red Shed reoport for more details.

e-Newsletter

To sign up for your e-version of this newsletter, just click on the "**contact us**" tab at the top of the GRRRC website, or send your request to pekarik1911@q.com. Please provide your member number, name and e-mail address, being sure to enter your request prior the end of any month, so the database can be updated for the next issue. As an example, to receive the January issue via e-mail, send your information prior to the end of December. Money saved on postage and printing adds up, and you are taking a small step to making GRRRC more efficient and green. And...it's in color.

-Dave and Karen

Again, Membership 2012 Renewals

The October issue of the Gazette contained your 2012 GRRC membership renewal form. PLEASE fill in all the blanks so our membership database is up to date and is complete. Pay special attention to the request for **phone numbers** (your choice of phone number will be the one entered in the GRRC database) and if you want to start receiving the **e-version of the Gazette**.

Members on the Waiting List: Because you have not yet been offered a membership slot, please ignore the renewal form. Printing technology cannot separate the members holding membership cards from those who are on the Waiting List, so everyone in the database receives the *Gazette*. If you are still concerned about the form, just e-mail the Secretary at pekarik1911@q.com with your questions.

For **long standing NRA Life, Benefactor, Patron or EPL** members, you do not need to submit the requested NRA membership information. However, if your NRA membership status has been upgraded in the last 12 months, you WILL have to provide a photocopy of your NRA magazine label or your current NRA membership card. Include the address label or photocopy of your NRA membership card with your 2012 membership renewal form.

As a **regularly renewing NRA member**, you WILL have to provide a mailing label or photocopy of your mailing label from your NRA magazine, or photocopy of your NRA membership card. Either one contains your NRA expiration date. An expiration date sometime in 2012 or later qualifies as being a current NRA member. GRRC is a 100% NRA Club. If your 2012 renewal does not contain your NRA info or has an expiration date prior to January 2012, it will be refused and mailed back.

Membership renewal season runs from October 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011. If you drop off your renewal at any GMM meeting **up to the December 2011 GMM or the envelope postmark is dated before December 31, 2011**, there are no penalties. The penalty time starts January 1, 2012. Renewals dropped off at the January 2012 GMM or postmarked **after** the December 31, 2011 have a penalty of an additional 50% of what you would have paid, i.e. Regular payment \$150 + 50% penalty = \$225.00 and so on for each level of membership. If your 2012 GRRC membership renewal is not paid by January 31, 2012, you will be dropped from membership and will have to re-apply. When re-applying, you will lose your original membership number and gate combination, lose voting privileges, and will go to the bottom of the Waiting List. For Seniors that means going back on the rolls as a Regular member for two years, plus you will again be collecting Work Day Credits.

If you are an existing Senior member, OR are coming off two years of Regular membership and are 62 or better during 2011, your membership renewal, paid prior to December 31, 2011 is \$35.00. Work Day Credits are no longer necessary. After December 31, 2011, the membership renewal with penalty added, is \$52.50.

For Regulars turning 62 in 2011, you renew as a Senior in 2012. Your 2012 membership renewal, paid prior to December 31, 2011, is \$35.00. After December 31, 2011, the membership renewal with penalty added, is \$52.50.

For Regular members, under age 62 with no Work Day Credits, your 2012 membership renewal, paid prior to December 31, 2011 is \$150.00. After December 31, 2011, the membership renewal with penalty added, is \$225.00

President's Last Notes: Rik Rarick



GRRC Members: The year is almost over and this December's General Membership Meeting will be the last one for me as President. I'd like to thank all the people who helped me throughout the year; you were all greatly appreciated. So as I hand over the gavel to our new President Dave Newell I wish him a good year and hope everyone can give him as much help as I got. Thanks Again, Rik

Vice President's Notes: Dave Newell

- There is always work to be done at the range- it's not just a summer thing, or a Fall Workday thing. Last week, **Kurt Borlaug** and a group of HP shooters took advantage of the perfect weather to cut down all of the red willow growing between the 500 yard line and the pits. This is one of those jobs that can only be done in the winter, and these men took it upon themselves to schedule their own work day, and improved the range for all of us. A **big thanks** to the crew for their work and initiative.
- If you've ever had a wish to have Santa bring you a Ford 8N tractor, you are in luck. GRRC's grey tractor will be auctioned off at the December General Membership Meeting on December 20. The winning bidder has 30 days to pay and make arrangements for removal. The tractor is "Sold **AS IS**, no warranty expressed nor implied."
- It is not too early to think about door-prizes for February's banquet.
- All members are aware of the quorum issues we have experienced in 2011 and we really want to alleviate the problem. ANY-ONE with ideas about how to streamline the meetings please contact a board member. Food for thought: many organizations have **quarterly** meetings and rely on their board to make more decisions regarding operations. These things will require a change in GRRC's bylaws, and could be very time intensive.
- Last week while talking to members hunting at the range, there was some success reported. PLEASE send any pictures or stories that could document facts. It is good news, and fun to hear that deer are being harvested on our range.
- The annual BPCR Freeze Your Parts Off Shoot and planning session will be held on January 7, 2012 at the Red Shed. Karen is knitting boot socks. 9:00-ish start, with lunch provided. Join us!

Meet Some of the New Board Members

Rut McGhee

I am honored to serve on the GRRC Board. I have been a member for five years. I am primarily a black powder competition shooter, having been actively involved in the NMLRA Territorial Matches hosted each year by GRRC. I am a hunter; with my oldest son, also a member, I have walked every inch of the range. I have volunteered to help with the re-forestation group and intend to spend most of next spring planting trees and working to restore our property. Personally, I am a retired Army Officer, Infantry; currently the Operations Manager with a Pump distributor in Plymouth. I teach accounting part-time at a local college and have three sons, who are all shooters and hunters.

Bruce Peglow

I have been a member of GRRC since 1991. My main shooting interests focus around antique firearms; muzzleloaders of both traditional and target varieties. I also have a keen interest in singleshot rifles of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Currently I serve as chairman of the Schuetzen Committee and am involved in running several matches per season. As a long-term member of this club I have a vested interest in the well-being of the organization, and I look forward to serving on its Board of Directors for 2012.

Steve Marden

Second term as a Gopher Director; Gopher Legislative chair; Gopher member for 4 years; shoots high power service rifle, black powder, shotgun, pistol, silhouettes, starting to shoot 3-gun; attorney in private practice.

Steve Shimek

I am a long time consecutive board member and Past President of Gopher Rifle and Revolver Club. Since that time I have introduced such "Action Arms" events to GRRC as USPSA sponsored practical shooting pistol competition. In addition to practical pistol shooting I introduced, 3-gun, tactical shotgun, and tactical rifle competition to the club. In the past three years I introduced Steel Challenge events which are sponsored by the U.S. Steel Challenge Association. To meet new challenges involving .22 rimfire competition such as the very popular Ruger Rimfire matches, I started allowing entry level .22 rimfire handguns and carbines along with the centerfire handguns. These matches have become a very popular. If you might be interested in any of these competitive firearm endeavors, look me up at the meetings and I would be more than happy to help get you started.

Mike Gjersvig

I've been a GRRC member for about a dozen years now. This will be my second term serving on the Board of Directors. My primary interests are in the black powder muzzle loaders and rendezvous-ing.



MN DNR: Ice Safety Reminders



No matter what you are going to do once you get on the ice - like fishing, snowmobiling, skating or even ice boating, it's a good idea to contact a local bait shop or resort on the lake about ice conditions. It's also important to do some checking yourself once you get there. Several factors affect the relative safety of ice, such as temperature, snow cover and currents. But a very important factor is the actual ice thickness.

For New, Clear Ice Only

- 2" or less - **STAY OFF**
- 4" - **Ice fishing or other activities on foot**
- 5" - **Snowmobile or ATV**
- 8" - 12" - **Car or small pickup**
- 12" - 15" - **Medium truck**

Remember that these thicknesses are merely guidelines for new, clear, solid ice. Many factors other than thickness can cause ice to be unsafe. Ice is seldom the same thickness over a single body of water. It can be two feet thick in one place and one inch thick a few yards away due to currents, springs, rotting vegetation or school of rough fish. You need to check the ice at least every 150 feet, especially early in the season or any situation where the thickness varies widely.

Recommended minimum thicknesses for new clear ice:

- 4" Ice fishing and small group activities
- 5" Snowmobiles and ATVs
- 8" - 10" Small to medium cars, and pickups.

White ice, sometimes called "snow ice," is only about one-half as strong as new clear ice so the above thicknesses should be doubled. Vehicles weighing about one ton such as cars, pickups or SUVs should be parked at least 50 feet apart and moved every two hours to prevent sinking. It's not a bad idea to make a hole next to the car. If water starts to overflow the top of the hole, the ice is sinking and it's time to move the vehicle!

For more information on ice safety contact the MN DNR and ask for our free ice safety publications, which include the brochures, "Danger, Thin Ice" and "Hypothermia the Cold Facts" and the wallet-sized reference card and 11X14 posters titled, "Minimum Recommended Ice Thicknesses." Metro (651) 296-6157 or toll free outside the metro area 1-888-646-6367 or email the Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us.

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**Dates to mark on your 2012 Calendar
for Kraus-Hartig Events:**

- January 9 2012 GRRRC Board meeting
- January 17 2012 GRRRC General Membership meeting
- February 13 2012 GRRRC Board meeting
- February 18 2012 GRRRC Banquet
- February 21 2012 GRRRC General Membership meeting
- March 20 2012 GRRRC General Membership meeting
- April 17 2012 GRRRC General Membership meeting

Weird, Wild & Wacky Winter Festival Fun

Sine we have lots of extra space this issue, and Bruce Aune has not submitted any recipes, here are some ideas for things to do in the upcoming winter days and nights. Details can be found at www.exploreminnesota.com

Weird, wacky and wild fun--that's how many communities celebrate Minnesota's season of ice and snow. At winter festivals across the state, a wide array of winter-only types of fun lure folks outside to play.

Turkey bowling, golf on frozen lakes, polar plunges through a hole in the ice into the frigid waters, racing beds and bar stools downhill. Silly sports take their place alongside traditional winter fun, like sleigh rides, dogsled races and chili feeds.

The oldest and biggest of all our winter festivals is the **Saint Paul Winter Carnival**, Jan. 26-Feb. 5. Billed as the "coolest celebration on earth," the Winter Carnival began in 1886. Among the highlights on the packed calendar of carnival events are the popular snow and ice sculpture contents. These fleeting works of art are truly amazing.

The **International Snow Sculpting Symposium** is part of the Ely Winter Festival (Feb. 2-12) this year, along with a voyageur encampment, dogsled rides and an art walk.

The Gunflint Trail celebrates the season with the **Winter Tracks Festival** (Feb. 3-12), featuring a candlelight ski, snowshoe hikes, bonfires, sleigh rides and a snowmobile run.

Polar Fest in Detroit Lakes (Feb. 10-20) includes turkey bowling, an iced tee golf tournament, the "freeze your buns run," a vintage snowmobile race, a "polar plunge," and fireworks.

A **traditional sleigh and cutter parade** (Feb. 11) is a key event at a Waseca festival that runs Feb. 3-25, and the tiny Iron Range town of Palo features **Finnish sliding** (laskiainen) at its festival Feb. 4-5.

Please submit your photos and articles. - Ed.

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| Range Planning: Mark Schoess | 651-462-0676 |
| Real Estate: Open | |
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| N.M.L.R.A. Field Reps: Rick Repovsch | 763-503-3711 |
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**General Membership Meeting:
Tuesday 12/20/2011 1900 hrs.**

**Kraus-Hartig VFW
Be Part of the Quorum.**

**Remember to get your
Membership renewal in by
12/31/11.**



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