



# Yellowknife Shooting Club

## Northwest Territories

Shoot for the fun of it!

[www.yellowknifeshootingclub.ca](http://www.yellowknifeshootingclub.ca)  
Follow us on face book for up to date event reminders!

## Winter 2015 Newsletter

### Yellowknife Shooting Club Presidents Report

What a year! I am immensely proud of the accomplishments of the Yellowknife Shooting Club and its members this year. Here are some highlights of the year from my perspective.

**Competition** – The YKSC was instrumental in providing high quality facilities and other resources for high performance shooting in the NWT. The Shooting Performance Centre provided excellent training facilities for high performance airgun shooting. Members participated in several Provincial level air rifle and pistol matches, culminating in outstanding Team NWT performances at the Canada Winter Games, Canadian Cadet Nationals, and the Canadian Airgun Grand Prix. Outside of airgun, YKSC members also placed well in Territorial, Provincial and National level shoots in a variety of other disciplines. YKSC members can and do compete successfully on the National and International scene. This is a credit to our excellent facilities, passionate volunteers, and top-notch coaches.

**Membership** – YKSC enjoyed unprecedented membership numbers again this year. Shooting sports and activities are gaining popularity, the higher membership levels allows the club breathing room to maintain and upgrade our club facilities.

**Facilities** – Untold volunteer hours provide us with excellent shooting facilities, 2015- 16 also saw many upgrades to our club. This year a 16' x 72' cover was erected over the smallbore silhouette line, and rails were installed on the rifle range to allow high power silhouette matches. New steel swingers were installed and maintained on the high power range, courtesy of the pistol section. The fall cleanup allowed major improvements in fencing off of ATV trails encroaching on the club lease, and the cadet volunteers did a fantastic job cleaning debris from the range. Going into winter we have a clean and secure facility for our activities.



*Chris Janz touches off 95grs of black powder in an antique 450-577 Martini Henry Rifle*

**Sponsorship** – Second in importance only to our volunteers, the Yellowknife Shooting Club enjoys continuing support from a variety of sponsors – **True Value Hardware** continues to accept membership forms on our behalf. **Canadian Tire** has provided prizes and distributes information about the club to their customers. The **City of Yellowknife** again provided a grant to assist training youth on safe firearms handling techniques, and contributes to snow removal at the range. **Williams Engineering** assisted with the design of our smallbore cover and **Unico Roofing** installed the roll roofing on our new cover and hauled large quantities of range debris to the dump for us. **Lapka Electrical** has assisted with lighting and other issues at the indoor range. There are many more! Why not patronize these sponsors when you are shopping – and tell them thank you for supporting the YKSC when you do.

Finally, from my interactions with people as President of the club, shooters, and the YKSC are perceived by the community, and local media, in an overwhelmingly positive light. I believe this perception of shooters is widely held, though I acknowledge this belief is in stark contrast to how our sport and activities have been portrayed by some individuals and media groups. I believe the way to counter these “minority reports” on firearms enthusiasts is simply to get more people to understand what recreational shooting is all about. So, a challenge to all members of the Club. In the coming year introduce a person who has not shot

before to the Yellowknife Shooting Club. Brag about our excellent facilities! Show them how to safely handle a firearm, and let them try your shotgun, rifle or (and!) pistol under your supervision, show them how much fun it is. If each of us did that with just one new shooter next year we would educate over 600 people, and undoubtedly gain a bunch of new supporters!

### Indoor Range

The indoor range season is upon us, the indoor range opened October 1<sup>st</sup>, and is now in full swing. The range is open to Members Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday nights 6:30 till we are done shooting (or 10:30, whichever comes first). Cadets use the range for training Mondays and Thursdays. Usage has been quite heavy, but it is usually possible to get a shooting lane with little waiting, and often with no wait.

### Some Range Safety Reminders

I urge everyone to please reread the range rules posted on each range. The rules posted there keep us safe, and shooting within the law. It is the responsibility of each member to insure you are aware of the current rules. The good news is vandalism on the range was down this year, but we still had a few incidents with folks who think computers, and other garbage make good targets. Pistol section also reported a lot of damage to their action handgun props. Please respect the range and range equipment, it is all built by our hard working volunteers.

We had a serious issue this summer where a member was firing at steel targets that were cratered by bullet impacts. If a steel target has bullet impact marks on it, the hemispherical crater in the target can cause a bullet to ricochet straight back towards the shooter. In this case the shooter was shooting from 25m and was hit in the leg by a piece of shrapnel. A hospital visit was required to remove the large fragment. Remember when shooting steel targets 1) Never closer than 10m and 2) inspect the face of the target to ensure it does not have impact craters. This incident is very troubling because the cratering damage to the targets was caused by highpower rifle fire, not allowed on the pistol range in the first place.

### Volunteer Thank You

A huge thank you is due all of our club volunteers! This Year Canadian Tire generously donated a range finder to the club, and the executive thought the prize would be best used to



recognize a volunteer. We keep track of volunteers who come out to work parties, meetings, or otherwise help out the club through keeping an attendance log. We took the names from all of our attendance logs this year and put them in a hat, and then drew a name from this hat at the AGM. I am happy to report that the prize went to one of our junior members Logan Cairns. Looking through the entries; Logan had attended no less than six work parties over the course of the year, a worthy winner!

Know you Range Rules, please be sure you are shooting on the correct range!

**Trap Range** – Shotgun only, no. 7 ½ shot and finer.

**Rifle Range** – No shotguns allowed

– Any rifle or pistol except no 50 BMG

**Pistol Range** – Handguns only

**Plinking Range** – .22 rim fire, shotgun and black powder only

**.22 Silhouette Range** - .22 standard velocity rimfire

### The Thrill of Competitive Action Pistol

You are just called to the line to "load and make ready". As you load your pistol under the watchful eye of the Range officer your heart is pounding out of your chest, your knees are shaking and your hands are sweaty. All you can think about is the course of fire, 16 multiple targets spread out in the maze ahead both paper and steel targets. You know that once the buzzer sounds you have to go full out and get the most points on target in the least amount of time for a high hit factor. You are already thinking about the walls to go around and the swinging bridge that will need to cross before you can open the door at the end to get the last 3 targets, while you are actively engaging the other 13 targets on the move without hitting any of the no shoot penalty targets.

The R.O yells out "Are you ready", your muscles tighten "stand by" **BEEP** goes the timer as you start moving, drawing your pistol from the holster, your legs are on fire as you push your body to the extreme bringing your sights up on the first target to crack off 2 hits. You tell yourself keep going, 15 more targets to go, planning where you need to reload to maximize the plan you just made seconds before. You are moving as one with the pistol as you twist for the next target and doing all this with the utmost in care to ensure that you are being safe. Then the door is the last obstacle that you need to overcome to get to the last targets, eyes are bulging out of your head as you turn the knob. As the door swings open you present the sight to the targets and finish the last shots. A deep breath enters your body as you unload the pistol. A smile is across your face as the rush of having so much fun you can hardly wait for the next stage to do it all over again.

What steps you need to get into Pistol events.

- 1) Get your restricted PAL
- 2) Find the RIGHT gun for you and buy it!
- 3) Get familiar with your gun.
- 4) Buy your equipment (Holster, Mag Pouches, Etc.)
- 5) Take the Black Badge Training Course.
- 6) Practice
- 7) Come out to shoot some activities
- 8) Have Fun!!!!

### **What is The Black Badge Course?**

This course is commonly known as Black Badge Training and IS NOT the same as a "Hunter Training Course" or the "PAL Training Course". The Black Badge Course is a (2) day Handgun safety training course combining classroom lectures followed by live firing exercises. This course is designed to teach the new shooter how to SAFELY draw from a holster, reload on the move, proper range commands and much more. The new shooter will come out of this course with a NEW sense of safe gun handling and a new respect for firearms.

The Black Badge course national training program offers in-depth training in the safe competitive shooting techniques required not only to compete at IPSC events but to deliver the confidence and expertise to use handguns in the safest possible manner while engaged in pistol shooting activities at your club. Black Badge course is acknowledged Canada wide and in over 60 countries World Wide. Many gun

clubs require the Black Badge course for pistol shooters attending events and activities as the minimum requirement. YKSC requires all users on the range who draw a firearm from a holster to have Black Badge training.

Check the YKSC pistol section on the web page to see future dates. Class space is limited so ensure you register early to avoid not getting in.

### **Gear Selection Tips**

So it's time to get some gear and get all your stuff ready for the spring so you can join the YKSC club and show your support by coming out to have some fun. As we need new shooters like you to come out and get involved to make the sport fun. Winter is a great time to go about collecting the stuff you will need.

First off, you have to decide what type of pistol you want to shoot. Do some research and ask other pistol shooters what will be reasonable for you. A few questions can save you money down the road. Pistols are a personal preference, some like certain ones over others. You will want to get a pistol that fits your hands well and you can manipulate all the controls with ease with both hands. 9mm is the minimum caliber needed for competition. Consider when picking yourself a pistol. 9mm ammunition is also cheaper.

- Pistol must be reliable, nothing worse than a pistol that is malfunctioning, making you frustrated.
- Insure that you can get the extra magazines that you will need , I suggest having at least 5 magazines, 6 is better
- Get out and practice with it so you become comfortable in the control and operation.
- A sturdy belt to hold your holster and mag pouches ( 1.5 inch competition Velcro belts are very popular , they have 2 pieces inner and outer ) the inner loops through your belt loops and the outer wraps around.
- Holster needs to cover the trigger completely and retain the pistol from falling out. (kydex holsters like blade tech are popular and affordable )

- Mag pouches at least 4 or 5 are needed to carry your magazines on the belt.
- Ear protection (electronics assist with hearing others around you)
- Eye protection
- Ammunition
- Range bag
- Pistol case that is lockable
- Trigger lock

As you progress as a shooter you will be adding other items to the list such as spare parts for repairs, comfortable clothing and shoes for the range. Be safe and see you on the range.

John Dzurka

### Coming Soon – Bring a new shooter Coupon

Members are permitted to bring guests to the indoor or outdoor range by filling out a guest insurance card (available on the door of the grain bin behind the silhouette range at the outdoor range, or at the desk at the indoor range). The guest insurance fee is \$5, and one may only attend YKSC facilities as a guest twice. This year we are adding to the program. When you purchase, or renew your membership, you will receive a new shooter coupon. This coupon is good to cover the \$5 insurance fee. To use, simply fill out the coupon, and attach it to the guest insurance card – remember it is for New Shooters only, as a way to introduce them to the shooting sports, and YKSC range facilities.



### 2013-14 Executive and Contact Information

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