

Ramapoo Rifle and Revolver Club - Meeting Agenda and Content

Dear Members,

As you know, the club Annual General Meeting was scheduled for April 14th, 2020, but given the current uncertainties with respect to the current *Coronavirus* outbreak (COVID-19), it was decided that we should cancel the dinner itself, and provide an alternative way to conduct the other business of the Annual General Meeting.

This document contains a year in review with commentary from the Board, along with some explanatory notes on the recommendations and proposals the Board wishes to make to the membership. The recommendations made are subject to the vote of the membership, which will be undertaken via a web-based secret voting platform, *OpaVote*. An email will be sent to you on April 10th which will provide a link to the system. Voting will be open from the time you receive the email until 11.59PM on Tuesday April 14th.

AGENDA

1. 2019 – A Year in Review
2. Board Members' Commentary for 2019
 - a. PRESIDENT – Jon Finch
 - b. VICE PRESIDENT – Bobby Mathoda
 - c. TREASURER – Dennis Vanson
 - d. MEMBERSHIP – Steve Lockfort
 - e. EXECUTIVE OFFICER – Craig Cerone
 - f. SERGEANT-AT-ARMS – Rich Ayer
 - g. SECRETARY – Mark Groves
 - h. CHIEF INSTRUCTOR – Jeff Kahn
3. Group Reports
 - a. Action Match
 - b. Basic Pistol Class
 - c. Bullseye
 - d. Juniors
4. Current Business
 - a. Board membership for 2020
 - b. Addressing the composition of the Board for 2021 and beyond
 - c. Furnace replacement
 - d. Funding for furnace replacement
5. In Closing

2019 - A Year in Review

A number of improvements were undertaken at the club;

1. Our new ventilation system went on line due to the persistent efforts of our President and his support crew.
2. The floor out in the range was old and needed attention. We removed the tiles and cleaned up, but realized that we needed additional help. Under the leadership of Craig Cerone we located three professional companies, obtained bids and completed the project. We now have a new epoxy/urethane floor which not only looks great, but is easier to keep clean and dust-free.
3. We also had the carpet in the ready room cleaned, it looks almost as good as new now!

The Ramapoo Junior Rifle Club has been registered as a 501(c)(3) organization and we are now in a position to accept tax-deductible donations.

Sadly, we lost a number of club members in 2019.

Herman Schuster, Larry Church, Warren Petzold and Robert Diadul passed away in the last year. Other members have moved out of the area, among them Joe Dzubak and John Pendergast. We will miss them all.

Board Members' Commentary for 2019

PRESIDENT – Jon Finch

I hope that everyone is safe & healthy, in this uncharted time of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

As a summary, the highlights of 2019 were:

1. Heat is working again in the range.
2. We now have a new range exhaust air system in service.
3. We have Range Hours expanded for Mon & Tue now open @ 7pm.
4. By-Laws revised and updated, accepted at last years' AGM.
5. The range floor has been refinished.
6. The Friday night Juniors program while still under the RRRC (shares the same board positions & persons) is now its own 501(c)(3). This is important because it means that it can apply for not-for-profit grants and accept cash donations which are tax deductible.
7. the unknown costs for the past year was the electric & air filters for the new range exhaust system, electric was approximately \$1200 & air filters was approximately \$2000. Both of these are usage-dependent.

Everything that has been accomplished in 2019 was a team effort, and I'd like to thank everyone that participated.

We do have plans for 2020, many of which incur significant costs which must be submitted to the membership and voted on. The details will be provided below, but in summary:

- A door lock replacement. Two of the three electronic locks have failed and are no longer manufactured. Estimated cost is \$6000.
- The main door needs replacement when lock is replaced. Estimated cost is \$5000.
- The range furnace is 22 years old and needs to be replaced in a planned time frame, not on emergency basis. This would complete the other half of the heat/exhaust air system engineered 2 years ago. Estimated cost is approximately \$60,000.
- Upgrade individual port lighting \$1000.

VICE PRESIDENT - Bobby Mathoda

Having no specific job assignment, my objective is that I should assist everyone on the Board with whatever their projects may be.

In 2019, one of my projects has been completing the by-laws revision along with some minor changes and revisions to the Range Rules which were agreed at last year's AGM.

After a lot of paperwork, we also managed to approach and successfully apply to the NRA for a grant for the benefit of the Juniors Rifle Club.

TREASURER – Dennis Vanson

Aside from maintaining our financials in Quickbooks, I have been heavily involved in handling the details of the club's expenses, lease, permits, licenses and insurance.

After some research and background work we have registered the Ramapoo Juniors Rifle Club with state & federal agencies to establish this a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

In 2019 we made significant effort to simplify membership payments and recording in Quickbooks.

MEMBERSHIP – Steve Lockfort

2019 saw a change in the way memberships are tracked, and with the help of Dennis Vanson, membership reporting for membership is now undertaken directly from Quickbooks, which simplifies subscription tracking considerably.

We also saw a change in the by-laws from last year which has helped in managing subscriptions, the introduction of a 1-month payment period for renewals of membership.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER – Craig Cerone

Maintaining the range seems a never-ending exercise, and this year was no different. Club volunteers attempted to repair the range floor by removing the loose floor tile and carpet.

When this proved to be a project beyond our abilities we found 3 local contractors and selected the best one for our project.

We've made some changes to other range hardware, changing target traveler lines from clothesline to nylon paracord. There are always filters to change on the exhaust system.

We have identified - as Jon notes above - that we need to attend to the range doors and their locks – three of them need to be repaired or replaced. We have obtained quotes for both repairs and replacements from five.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS – Rich Ayer

Aside from the routine tasks of ensuring that the range is fully stocked with the needed office equipment, cleaning supplies, paper goods and all the other items we need to stay operational, I have begun updating the “HOW TO BOOK” – the Ramapoo Range Officers Guide for new & existing Range Safety Officers which is a “living document” that needs to be kept current.

SECRETARY – Mark Groves

This year has been largely a continuation of the tasks from 2018 when we launched the new ramapoo.com website. In addition to this, we have now consolidated and moved all of our web services to low- or no- cost providers that are easier to manage and more reliable.

As the membership will see, we have engaged with an electronic voting system to ensure that the membership can participate in a fully-electronic AGM.

CHIEF INSTRUCTOR – Jeff Kahn

We try and make sure that there are plenty of opportunities for beginner and advanced shooters, and so this year we have coordinated and run courses on:

- Ladies' Self Defense.
- The popular “Managing Bleeding” Class, and I'd like to thank Dr. Lew Kohl for the great presentation he gave this year.
- Our annual “Free Skills” Class - and while I have the opportunity I'd like to say a thank you to all the NRA Instructors from the club who volunteered to help.
- The annual NRA Instructor Class, and once again I want to thank Sandy Reddin for running the class – it's of great benefit to the club and as always - I appreciate his time and effort.
- Every year we run the “Pistol 1”, “Pistol 2” and “Pistol 3” courses when there's sufficient demand – again, I'd like to thank all of the NRA Instructors at Ramapoo that volunteer their time and expertise to help members develop their practical skills.
- NRA Range Safety Officer training is a course we run which is very important, so that we can qualify NRA Pistol Instructors as Ramapoo RSOs who are so important for helping ensure the safety and provide supervision of club activities.

Group Reports

ACTION MATCH

The Board would like to thank Roger Restaino and Craig Cerone for giving up their Wednesday nights to run their challenging and well-received courses at the scheduled events.

BASIC PISTOL CLASS

These important courses are often the first introduction that the general public have to experience the use and safe handling of firearms which is so important to us as responsible citizens and committed firearm owners.

With that in mind we'd like to extend our thanks to Roger Restaino, Bob Evans, Brian Sferra, and Rich Ayer for giving up their Saturdays to run the scheduled NRA Basic Pistol Certification Class.

Further thanks go to the committed and experienced Range Safety Officers that volunteer their time for the Live Fire portion of the class to ensure that trainees have acquired the required level of competence to complete the course.

BULLSEYE

The Ramapoo Bullseye Team is one of five teams that comprise the South Western Connecticut Pistol League, which is NRA sponsored. Last year 2018/2019 we finished in second place.

This year several of our regular participants have not been available and our ranking has reflected their absence, but we are still having fun competing.

RAMAPOO JUNIORS

We would like to extend our thanks to Mark Halupa, Bob Evens, Drew Helmus, Rob Power, Anthony Markett and Jon Finch for giving up their Friday nights for the Juniors' Program.

1. On most Friday nights during the school year we have 4~7 boys and girls learning and shooting bolt action rifles in a safe environment. In some cases, they are shooting for fun and in others, they are working on the NRA Winchester Rifle Program requirements.
2. This past year Mark Halupa & Bobby Mathoda submitted a Friends of the NRA Grant request for benefit the Ramapoo Juniors Rifle Club (registered as a 501(c)(3)). We did receive a partial award of our request, one ANSCHUTZ JR bolt action 22 rifle which will be put to good use.

Notice:

As the Ramapoo Juniors Rifle Club is now a non-profit 501(c)(3) all charitable donations made to it are tax deductible. Supporting the Ramapoo Juniors has in the past has always been an important part of the mission of Ramapoo Rifle & Revolver Club and we see that continuing.

We are always looking for members themselves to support the Juniors program, which fosters an interest and develops the next generation of Americans' interest in the future of our sport.

Current Business

Board membership for 2020

This proposal will be subject to a vote on the April 10th email ballot.

Our by-laws stipulate that “No Officer shall hold the same office for more than four consecutive years.” (current by-laws, section E.7).

At present some of our current Board members have completed four years in the same role.

The current Board has been very collegial, working successfully as a team, and when required, other Board members gladly step in to help. This level of co-operation is important to the smooth operation of the club and the current board seeks to ensure that this continues.

The Board is petitioning the membership for permission to relax this rule for membership year 2020 only, and leave the current Board in place in order to implement our plans outlined below.

Addressing the composition of the Board for 2021 and beyond

In order to address and resolve the issue presented above, the Board also believes that it is in the best interests of the club that the composition of the Board should change and evolve with time, and it is with this in mind that we seek volunteers who are interested in taking a more active role in the running of the Club.

While some Board positions have specific requirements, (President and Vice President need to be Ridgefield residents, Treasurer, Chief Instructor and Membership have specific knowledge requirements), the common requirements for any of the positions are enthusiasm, willingness to pitch in, and a time commitment that varies by the role.

If you are interested in serving on the Board or in any other volunteer capacity with the club, please contact any of the Board members to find out the key tasks required for a particular slot. We will then discuss the role with you, applicants will be able to evaluate the role and the necessary commitment, and the Board will be in a position to make recommendations for candidates for the 2021 AGM.

Furnace replacement

This proposal will be subject to a vote on the April 10th email ballot.

The current furnace for the range is 22 years old and when Branchville Oil serviced it in the fall of 2018 the hope was to get two more years of service. Besides providing some heat, the furnace blower is used to supplement (approx. 2/3 of the air) the fresh air duct for ventilation. If the blower section of the furnace fails, we will NOT be able to use the range at all and it would have to be closed.

Due to the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) environment Mulvaney has not been able to get back to us with updated price on the heating replacement.

Also, the natural gas line will have to be provided. Two years ago the gas company was going to do this for free. We are not sure if this is still true.

We need to do this in a planned manner in warmer weather to minimize disruption in range use and so both installation of the system and gas lines can be done easier.

Taking the original estimate for the entire heating and exhaust system and subtracting the exhaust system the heating cost should be approximately \$60,000.

Funding for furnace replacement

These proposals will be subject to a vote on the April 10th email ballot.

In order to undertake the replacement of the furnace, we could borrow the funds currently in the restricted Backstop CDs (approximate value \$50,000), and make up the difference from our RRRC savings account (approximate value \$30,000). However, these funds would need to be replenished. We propose to do this by asking the AGM to vote on the following proposals.

1. Currently, Range Officers and Board Members are given a credit for volunteering and serving the Club. Their role is vital but as we face significant expenses in the near future, we propose that we should start to charge everyone dues. This means that all Range Officers and Board Members will need to pay annual dues just like other members commencing January 2021.
2. A levy of a "Special Assessment". This assessment is to be paid by ALL current members, including Range Officers and Board Members. This Special Assessment would be a total of \$150, to be paid in January 2021 with dues for 2021.
3. New Member fees will also need to increase. All new Members joining after November 1, 2020 will be asked to pay \$450. This is because we customarily waive next year's dues for new members joining after November 1. This increase will effectively be the current membership costs for a new member, plus the total value of the Special Assessment detailed above, made as a single payment.
4. Life members and Honorary members will not be subject to these fees.

In Closing

The Board would like to thank everyone who has attended this, our first electronic AGM.

One request we would make is to remind members that the abbreviated financials provided should be considered "business confidential" and are not suitable for public distribution. Please treat electronic and paper copies accordingly.

A final reminder – on April 10th, you will receive an email link to an electronic voting site where you can vote on the propositions announced above. We would encourage you to use this system rather than physical ballots.

Thank you once again for your membership of Ramapoo Rifle & Revolver Club. We look forward to meeting once again once the current inconvenience of the Coronavirus outbreak has been contained.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Groves', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mark Groves – Secretary
secretary@ramapoo.com
on behalf of the Board, Ramapoo Rifle & Revolver Club