

A Summary of the Major RCWA Board 2021 Activities

After a very busy year of RCWA range activities, the RCWA Board thought it would be appropriate to recap the major items that were addressed during 2021 above and beyond the normal day to day operational challenges.

- A. The new 2021 RCWA Board started off the year by addressing some key operational issues. The first action was to build an office facility for the range. The new office was constructed inside of the large barn. This is an insulated office facility (with heat and air) with a desk for each officer, filing cabinets for all of the range operational paperwork and a Wi-Fi network with a printer and internet hot spot connection. This now allows for all of the range management activities and associated paperwork to be consolidated in one place for the first time. While the office construction was taking place, new laptops, an office printer and a router for Wi-Fi were purchased and configured for the Secretary and Treasurer. The existing laptop computer resources were on life support. In addition, all associated software licensing was consolidated under range associated accounts so they were easier to manage and pass on to new board members. The existing RCWA web site (www.rcwa.club) and the existing Facebook site were upgraded to current software releases and updated to contain current range related information. These is still work in progress on making the web site and Facebook site more relevant as time allows.
- B. The range facility maintenance activities were turned over to a new manager at the start of 2021. Maintaining the range equipment comprises a big part of this effort so that we have right equipment to get the job done. Some of this is a balance between what we do ourselves or contract out.
- C. Keeping the shotgun facilities operational was an unexpected challenge for the board with the loss of Joe Earley, a range icon for the RCWA shotgun operations, in the first part of the year.
- D. A major annual focus of both the Treasurer and Secretary is keeping the bills paid and running the annual membership renewal process during the middle of the year. These are both labor intensive efforts. The membership renewals traverse much of 3 months out of the year and was accomplished with new computers and new people involved this year.
- E. The Secretary is responsible for managing all of the new member process. This effort has been very active the latter half of 2021 as we are trying to work off the backlog of member applications after raising the RCWA range membership limit. There is considerable work associated with new members – verifying all the application paperwork, payment accounting, badges and new member orientation classes.
- F. An opportunity to perform lead remediation processing on the range became available from a vendor in this business – they were in the area and had an open date which saved us some money. This needs to be done periodically and was in need of being done again. This was a major activity to perform and coordinate but ran about as smooth as could be expected and was a positive financial impact for RCWA in the end.
- G. There has been a long running dialogue with the NC dam inspection group for a number of years regarding the range lake – new regulations that needed compliance and some lake drain valve repair work. Trying to understand the state’s requirements and finding someone that is licensed to facilitate this certification process has been a very slow and frustrating process. The RCWA Board believes we now have a viable plan to finish this certification process in the near future (2022).
- H. Berms/ranges 2 thru 12 are now fully operational. Final grading and addition of tables for the 3 new berms (10 thru 12) was completed. Refurbishment and/or replacement of all of the tables on berms 2 thru 9 was completed. New steel targets were added to the longer pistol berms up near the archery

range – those longer berms are now open for use by pistol caliber guns making them a bit more flexible.

- I. The specialized printer used to create the member badges and graphics for the gate keys died during the year. After some extended dialog with the vendor, RCWA bought a new printer to get operational as quickly as possible and then had the old printer refurbished so we now have this process backed up. The new RCWA offices now provide us the ability to have this equipment installed at the range.
- J. The range front gate has provided some operational challenges throughout the year. The entire front gate electronics configuration has been susceptible to lightning impact. While dealing with those impacts, we found that the original install included backup batteries that need periodic replacement. We have just finished replacing those backup batteries – supply shortages of some batteries has added some challenges. We are still looking at options for improving the resistance to lightning.
- K. Range 1 (rifle range) was reconfigured to open up more 200 yard target options and add additional dedicated 50 yard shooting positions. There is still some clean-up/integration work on this effort that will continue into 2022.
- L. Completed some additional landscaping around the large barn to better manage water flow around the building and prep one side of the building for the addition of pole shed along one side at a later date (2022) to free up space in the barn. When the large barn was built, the normal water flow in the area was changed so that large amounts of water was channeled onto the 5 stand shotgun facilities. This will get worse with the addition of a pole shed along one side of the barn. Landscaping changes will channel most of this water flow to the tree line behind the barn and away from the barn and 5 stand shotgun facilities.
- M. The RCWA Board completed an inventory of the range facilities and equipment. This was needed to provide accurate information for taxes. The range inventory was also used to review all of the range related insurance policies and make sure that key facilities and equipment was properly covered.

In summary, the RCWA Board would like to thank all of the RCWA members for their cooperation and understanding as many of these projects impacted accessibility to some of the range facilities from time to time. We are trying to keep range impact information current on the web site and Facebook. There are a lot of moving parts to a fully functional Rowan County Wildlife Association range facility – keeps an all volunteer RCWA Board very busy.

The RCWA Board would like to wish all the RCWA members a happy holiday season and a happy and prosperous new year.