

MEMBER HANDBOOK

- 2023 -

For additional information, visit our website:

www.billingsrodandgun.org



New Members: send an email to brgc.info33@gmail.com
to complete your application to the Billings Rod and Gun Club.
Add your first and last name to email subject line.

Version 2023 v1

**Changing your
address?**



Please send notice to
Box 33 Billings, MT 59103



**NO SMOKING IS ALLOWED ON CLUB GROUNDS
EXCEPT IN ENCLOSED PERSONAL VEHICLES.**

**NO ALCOHOL IS ALLOWED
ON ANY RANGE**

**INDISCRIMINATE SHOOTING
AT WILDLIFE AND INAPPROPRIATE TARGETS IS
PROHIBITED.**

Billings Rod & Gun Club Contact Information:

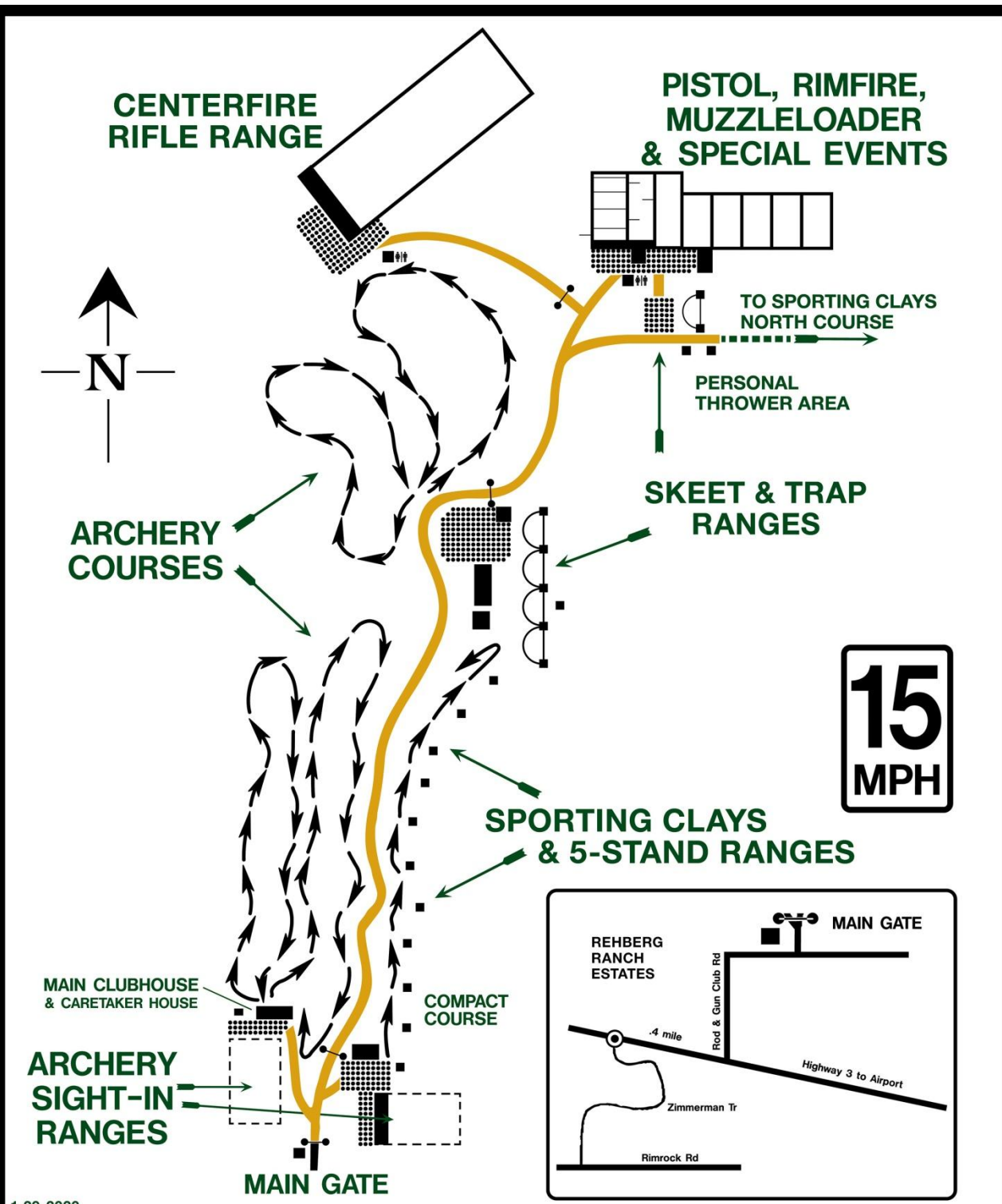
Main clubhouse and caretaker: 406-259-0006

Mailing address: P.O. Box 33 Billings, MT 59103

Website: www.billingsrodandgun.org

BILLINGS ROD & GUN CLUB MEMBER HANDBOOK

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1-29-2020



Billings Rod & Gun Club is located west of Logan International Airport on Rod & Gun Club Road.

Introduction

Welcome to the Billings Rod & Gun Club. You have joined the premier sportsmen's club in Montana. Your membership allows you and your immediate family access to all the club's ranges. Your membership enables you to keep abreast of important hunting, fishing and conservation issues. In addition, you get an opportunity to meet people who share similar interests.

Please read through this manual to discover the activities the Club has to offer and to become familiar with how to use the ranges safely.

We hope you enjoy your membership in the Club.

Club History and Management

The Club was founded in 1898 with the shooting range sighted "out in the country" near Black Otter Trail. The Club and original clubhouse were moved to the current 300 acre location in 1966 to meet the needs of a growing membership.

The Club is a private membership, non-profit organization and is managed by a 15 member Board of Directors. These directors include four officers and are elected by the members at the December general meeting. A list of club directors' and officers' phone numbers is located in the display case on the clubhouse front porch.

The Club is dedicated to providing safe and enjoyable shooting facilities, and to provide a forum for the members to learn about and to influence matters affecting hunting, fishing, conservation and the shooting sports.

Members are encouraged to participate and to volunteer their time and expertise in the various club activities. Members can volunteer for club projects by contacting the caretaker or the division heads listed in the newsletter.

Keeping Members Informed

The Club maintains a website: **www.billingsrodandgun.org** where information on the club ranges and activities, the monthly newsletters and club contacts are posted.

Members that provide an email address on their membership applications are registered to receive range updates/alerts, event notices and the monthly newsletter via email. Members can also elect to receive the newsletter in the mail on the annual membership application. If you have made this election but are not receiving your newsletter, please notify the Club Treasurer or Member Services.

The annual General Membership meeting is held on the first Wednesday of December and is open to all current members. The Board of Directors meets on the third Tuesday of each month. These meetings begin at 7 pm and are open to the general membership.

Dates and times for Division meetings are listed in the newsletter.

Membership

A Billings Rod & Gun Club membership is valid for 12 months from the time purchased and allows access to all of the club's facilities: archery, pistol, rifle and shotgun ranges. One membership includes you, your spouse and dependents through the age of 21. Youth under the age of 18 are required to have an adult member accompany them on club grounds.

When you first join the club, you will receive a membership wallet card and a gate access card. An additional gate card can be purchased for a fee. This card will remain activated as long as the membership remains current.

Your signed membership card must be in your possession while on club grounds to be shown to any director or the caretaker upon request. Your member number is on your membership card.

During the first week of the month in which your membership expires, you will receive a renewal form. After you complete and return the form with your payment, you will receive a membership card valid for the next 12 months and your current gate card will remain activated. If you do not return the form by the last day of your renewal month, your gate card will be deactivated until your renewal is received. You have a 2 month grace period beyond that to re-activate your membership and gate card. After that, you may be required to put yourself on the waitlist if a membership is not currently available.

A BRGC membership is non-transferable.

Upon the death of a member, the surviving spouse will retain the membership. In the case of divorce, the membership will be retained by the primary member unless otherwise stated in the divorce decree.

A collegiate membership is available for dependents through the age of 24 who are attending school. This \$20 membership is considered part of the family membership and runs a concurrent term. Proof of enrollment is required. This membership is not eligible to vote in club elections and does not automatically convert into a regular membership.

When a dependent is no longer eligible, this membership expires and does not convert into a regular membership. Collegiate members should contact the club caretaker to purchase a regular membership or to put their name on the wait list if a membership is not currently available.

If you lose your white gate card, please notify the Club caretaker. Your lost card will be deactivated when your new card is issued. A fee will be charged for the new card except if you request a replacement in the month you renew your membership.

If your gate card won't operate the gates or is broken, contact the caretaker to reactivate or replace your card at no fee if you are a current member.

Using the Facilities

Ranges are open from ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset except for organized shoots sanctioned by the club.

As a member, you use your gate access card to access the ranges. The gate card opens the electric gates and also logs you in and out of the facility. Please use your gate access card to log in each time you enter or leave, even if the gate is open.

No person under the age of 18 years will be permitted upon any range unless accompanied by an adult who will assume responsibility for his/her conduct and safety.

If a range is closed due to maintenance, signs will be posted on that range.

Calls to the club phone number 406-259-0006 are answered by the club caretaker. Leave a message for a call back if you go to voice mail.

Restrooms are located in the lower level of the main clubhouse and can be accessed at all times through the front door. Additional restrooms can be found at the skeet facilities, the sporting clays facilities, the pistol range and the rifle range.

Club and range rules are posted throughout the club. Rules are on the back of your membership card and in the back of this handbook.

If you witness a club rule violation or vandalism, report the incident with as much information as you can safely obtain to the caretaker or a club officer.

The speed limit on club grounds is 15 mph.

Members bringing in adult guests who are using the ranges must buy a guest day pass located inside the gate house at the front gate. Members must accompany their guests while on club grounds and are responsible for any rule violation of their guests. The day pass should be completed by the member and the tear away portion carried by the guest while on club grounds. The remaining portion and the \$5 guest fee should be put in the envelope and the envelope put in the depository. The depository (mailbox) is located next to the gate house door.

Failure to pay the guest pass fee in advance at the main gate will increase the fee to \$20 to be paid immediately. Violations will be reviewed by the Board for possible disciplinary actions.

Day passes are not required for:

- **Non-members participating in events,**
- **Youth through the age of 21,**
- **Guests not using the ranges,**
- **Guests who are military or military veterans**

Organizations, members and non-members wishing to use a clubhouse and/or range for special events should contact the caretaker or the division's officers. **Use of a range for commercial instruction requires division and board approval in addition to proof of insurance.** Scheduled meeting dates of other organizations holding their meetings on club grounds are posted in the newsletter.

Pets are allowed on club grounds but must be under control at all times. Owners are responsible to clean up and dispose of all waste left by their dogs.

Conservation

The Billings Rod & Gun Club is dedicated to promoting and protecting the interests of hunters, fishermen and wildlife.

The Club supports Fish, Wildlife and Parks programs such as Bowhunter's Education and other activities which encourage the involvement of young people in hunting, fishing and the shooting sports. The Club also sponsors youth programs such as fly-tying classes in the area schools and provides the use of equipment to youth organizations to promote firearms safety.

An important part of the club's conservation effort is directed towards monitoring and influencing legislation that affects sportsmen. As stated in the Club bylaws, "it shall be our aim to pass on to our heirs and to posterity the joys and privileges of a rich, clean and free outdoors."

Archery

The Black Otter Bowmen have a monthly meeting the second Thursday of every month. If you use the archery ranges, please get involved in this division.

We offer several different archery ranges to hone your skills. At present there are two sight-in ranges at the front entrance of the club. These sight-in ranges feature target butts at various distances from 10 to 80 yards. Additionally there are two field ranges, the Canyon Range and the Black Otter Range. The two Canyon Range trails each consist of 14 target butts each. These trails start at the Northwest corner of the parking lot of the Skeet Division clubhouse.

All field archery ranges, i.e.. the Canyon Range and the black Otter Range, are maintained by club members. Range work parties are organized either annually or semi-annually. Those using the ranges are asked to volunteer.

Activities organized and offered by the Division include 3D fun shoots, field target summer league, and occasional state tournaments.. Information on these activities is listed on the BRGC website and in the BRGC newsletter.

Limited use of broad head tips is allowed under the following conditions:

- 1) You must only use the East sight-in range.
- 2) You must only use your own private target butt. Do not use the club target butts.

- 3) You must place your target butt to the side of the club butts, not in front of them.

The BRGC caretaker is responsible for replacing the target faces on the sight-in ranges only. All other target replacement on the two field ranges and the maintenance of all target butts are done by volunteers using the archery ranges. If you are using the archery ranges, we ask that you volunteer to help in their maintenance.

Archery 3-D tournaments, leagues and division meeting dates are listed in the newsletter and on the club website.

ARCHERY RANGE RULES

- 1) ARROWS MAY ONLY BE NOCKED ONCE YOU ARE AT THE DESIGNATED SHOOTING POSITION.
- 2) NO HIGH DRAW, SIDE DRAWS, ECT.
- 3) DO NOT SHOOT ACROSS LANES
- 4) DO NOT RETRIEVE SHOT ARROWS UNTIL EVERYONE IS DONE SHOOTING, ONE OR MORE SHOOTERS HAVE GIVEN THE 'CLEAR' SIGNAL, AND ALL BOWS ARE PLACED IN THE RACKS.
- 5) WHEN LOOKING FOR A LOST ARROW, HAVE ANOTHER ARCHER STAND IN FRONT OF THE TARGET BUTT TO PREVENT THE RESUMPTION OF SHOOTING.
- 6) IF AN ERRANT ARROW EMBEDS INTO THE WOOD FRAME OF A TARGET BUTT AND CANNOT BE PULLED WITHOUT DAMAGING THE WOOD FRAME, THE ERRANT ARROW IS TO BE BROKEN OFF AND PROPERLY DISPOSED OF.
- 7) ALWAYS LOOK BEYOND THE TARGET BUTT TO INSURE THE AREA IS CLEAR AND SAFE.
- 8) NEVER STEP UP TO THE SHOOTING LINE UNTIL ALL ARCHERS HAVE RETURNED BACK ACROSS THE SHOOTING LINE.
- 9) DISCHARGING OF FIREARMS ON THE ARCHERY RANGE, OR INTO ARCHERY TARGET BUTTS, IS PROHIBITED.
- 10) TARGET RANGE MARKERS ARE TO REMAIN FIXED UNLESS AN AUTHORIZED RANGE WORK PARTY IS INSTRUCTED TO MAKE CHANGES.
- 11) PLEASE REMOVE ALL TRASH
- 12) IF THERE IS A RANGE CAPTAIN PRESENT, THEN THE RANGE CAPTAIN'S INSTRUCTION MUST BE ADHERED TO.
- 13) STAY ON THE MARKED TRAIL
- 14) NO BACKTRACKING ON THE TRAIL

Pistol, Rimfire, Muzzleloader & Shotgun Slug

Shooters use a range which is divided into a sight-in range on the left and group of 7 bays on the right. A sign on the concrete retaining wall indicates the use of each range. This range is reserved for handgun, rimfire, muzzleloader, shotgun slug and rifles firing certain cartridges.

The sight-in range features nine bench rests with target butts at 7, 25, 50, 75 and 100 yards. Shooters provide their own paper targets.

Shooters should ensure that their firearm is unloaded and the action open when a cease-fire is called. **Do not touch a firearm during cease-fire or when shooters are down range.**

The 7 bays are used for paper and steel targets and special events. There are steel plate racks in some of the bays. These are **not** to be shot at with a rifle or shotgun. No glass targets are allowed on any range. Targets are to be placed at the base of the berms.

Eye and ear protection are recommended for everyone on the field, whether shooting or not.

Action pistol matches and Cowboy action matches are held on the east end of this range. For additional information, visit their websites:

Action Pistol - www.magiccityactionshooters.org

Cowboy Action - www.montanaterritorypeacemakers.org .

Silhouette and Muzzleloader matches are also held on this range.

Shooting competitions are scheduled throughout the year and are listed in the newsletter.

Organizations and members wishing to use the clubhouse and/or range for special events should contact the caretaker or the division officers.

PISTOL RANGE RULES

- 1) NO FIREARMS HANDLING (EVEN EMPTY FIREARMS) WHILE PEOPLE ARE DOWNRANGE.
- 2) ALL FIREARMS ARE TO BE UNCASSED, CASSED, AND CLEANED ON THE SHOOTING BENCH.
- 3) FIREARMS SHOULD BE EMPTY WHEN COMING ONTO THE RANGE AND ATTENDED AT ALL TIMES WHILE LOADED.
- 4) WHILE AT REST, MUZZLES ARE TO BE POINTED DOWNRANGE AND ACTIONS OPEN (IF APPLICABLE).

- 5) WAIT TO WALK DOWNRANGE FOR TARGET HANDLING UNTIL A CEASE FIRE IS VERBALLY CALLED AND ALL FIREARMS ARE NOT BEING HANDLED.
- 6) IF YOU ARE NOT WALKING DOWNRANGE DURING A CEASEFIRE, STAND BEHIND THE SHOOTING BENCHES.
- 7) ANY SHOOTER MAY CALL A CEASE FIRE IF AN UNSAFE CONDITION EXISTS.
- 8) PLEASE PICK UP ALL BRASS AND EMPTY CASES.

Centerfire Rifle

Centerfire rifle cartridge shooters use a range with 20 bench rests. Only centerfire rifles and handguns firing centerfire rifle cartridges are allowed on this range.

Target butts are set at 25, 100, 200 and 300 yards. The 300-yard butts also have a set of metal gongs. No .50 cal BMG bullets can be shot at the steel targets. The 25-yard target butt is used for preliminary sight adjustment before shooting at longer distances. Only paper targets are allowed on this range. Remove your targets and spent brass when finished shooting.

Shooters should ensure that their firearm is unloaded and the action open when a cease-fire is called or the buzzer is activated.

Do not touch a firearm during cease-fire or when shooters are down range.

BIG BORE RIFLE RANGE RULES

- 1) NO FIREARMS HANDLING (EVEN EMPTY FIREARMS) WHILE PEOPLE ARE DOWNRANGE.
- 2) ALL FIREARMS ARE TO BE UNCASSED, CASSED, AND CLEANED ON THE SHOOTING BENCH.
- 3) FIREARMS SHOULD BE EMPTY WHEN COMING ONTO THE RANGE AND ATTENDED AT ALL TIMES WHILE LOADED.
- 4) WHILE AT REST, MUZZLES ARE TO BE POINTED DOWNRANGE AND ACTIONS OPEN.
- 5) “COLD” RANGE MEANS NO SHOOTING OR HANDLING OF FIREARMS FOR ANY REASON.
- 6) “HOT” RANGE MEANS SHOOTING / HANDLING / CLEANING FIREARMS ARE PERMITTED.

- 7) WAIT TO WALK DOWNRANGE FOR TARGET HANDLING UNTIL A CEASE FIRE IS CALLED AND ALL FIREARMS ARE NOT BEING HANDLED.
- 8) IF YOU ARE NOT WALKING DOWNRANGE DURING A CEASEFIRE, STAND BEHIND THE RED LINE.
- 9) ANY SHOOTER MAY CALL A CEASE FIRE IF AN UNSAFE CONDITION EXISTS.
- 10) PLEASE PICK UP ALL BRASS AND EMPTY CASES.

Skeet and Trap

There are 5 skeet fields and one trap field. Skeet Fields 1 and 2 have been designed so that members can utilize them during the week provided another event has not been scheduled on them. Instructions on how to operate the field are posted on the pole at the entrance to the field. A power switch, pull cord and token box are also on this pole. Each token inserted registers a preset number of targets that can be thrown from the houses.

Skeet and Trap clubhouse is open to members and the public each Sunday from 10 am - 3 pm. The clubhouse is also open to members and their guests on Tuesday evenings during the summer league. Tokens may be purchased on Sundays or anytime at the token vending machine located on the east side of the clubhouse.

Adult and youth target rates are posted in the Division Clubhouse and on the club's website.

Allowable lead shot sizes are 7.5, 8, 8.5 & 9. Steel shot is not allowed on the shotgun ranges.

The Club hosts leagues, NSSA registered tournaments and fun shoots open to the public. Dates for these events are listed in the newsletter and on the club's website.

Eye and ear protection are required for everyone on the field, whether shooting or not.

Sporting Clays and 5 Stand

The Sporting Clays Division features a 100-bird sporting course along with a three sided, enclosed 5-stand shed plus a patterning board. The course also features a 70' tower. Machines are automated and target presentations are changed periodically. Targets may be thrown as singles, simultaneous pairs, following pairs or report pairs. To further challenge shooters, target size may vary from the standard clay bird to the smaller "midi" and "mini" targets or a flat disc shaped "battue" target. There are even special "rabbit" targets that are thrown on end and skitter across the ground.

Shooting Hours – Members can purchase a Wi-Fi card with prepaid targets and shoot seven days a week on the Main Course, North Course or 5 Stand facilities. A list of contact names is posted on the Sporting Clays club house entrance door. Club members may contact these individuals to make arrangements for purchase of a Wi-Fi card.

The club allows daily open shooting by arrangement, Sporting Clays league (Thursdays April – June), NSCA registered shoots, and a variety of charity shoots throughout the year. Dates for all events are listed on the club's website and newsletters.

Target rates are posted in the Sporting Clays Clubhouse and on the Sporting Clays page of the Club's website.

The Sporting Clays Course can be reserved in advance for a special event or fundraiser by contacting the division officers.

All shooters and spectators must wear eye and ear protection at all times. Shells must be no more than 1-1/8 oz of #7.5 shot or smaller (no hunting loads or steel shot are permitted). Ammunition and hearing protection may be purchased at the clubhouse. Safety glasses can be borrowed.

Personal Throwers

Members wishing to use personal target throwers can set up on the designated personal throwers area near skeet field 5 which is located south of the pistol range. A shotgun patterning board is also located in this area.

All vehicles must remain in the designated parking area. Please dispose of all trash and return the field equipment to designated areas.

BILLINGS ROD & GUN CLUB
CLUB RANGE RULES revised December 31, 2022

1. Participation in the club facilities is for club members and their guests only. A membership consists of the member, a spouse and any dependent children, 21 years of age and younger. Minimum age of a primary member is 18 years.
2. Ranges are open from ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset except for organized shoots sanctioned by the club.
3. Guests using club facilities must be accompanied by a member. Guests must sign in, purchase a day pass and abide by day pass rules. See posted rules for exemptions and penalties for failure to purchase.
4. Non-members may participate in events without purchasing a day pass.
5. No person under the age of 18 years will be permitted upon any range, unless accompanied by an adult who will assume responsibility for his/her conduct and safety.
6. A membership card or day pass must be in your possession at all times when using club ranges and will be shown to any director, the caretaker or range officer upon request.
7. Members are expected to use white gate card to log in and out at all access gates. Gate cards are the responsibility of the person to whom issued and cannot be transferred or loaned.
8. There will be no indiscriminate shooting of target supports, birds, animals, rocks, signs, trash barrels, range benches, etc. Fully automatic firearms, mechanical devices to simulate fully automatic firearms, armor piercing and tracer bullets and exploding targets are prohibited. No .50 cal BMG can be shot at steel targets. No thrown targets are permitted on the rifle or pistol ranges. Specific range rules posted.
9. Shot larger than #7.5 is not allowed on shotgun ranges except on the patterning board. Use of personal target throwers is limited to designated areas. See posted signs.
10. A range officer has complete authority at all times governing action on any range. Any club member may act as a range officer to call attention to an unsafe condition or violation and report such conditions or acts to the Board of Directors.
11. All shooters will cease fire and lay down all firearms: (a) on command of the range officer, (b) when the cease fire signal is flashing, (c) when anyone on the firing line calls "cease fire", (d) when anyone is down range checking or changing targets.
12. All firearms will be completely unloaded when unattended. Actions will be open except when the firearm is being fired. Barrels will be pointed in a safe direction. Cross-line shots are prohibited, ie at any target not in line with that bench or position.
13. Eye and ear protection are required on all firearm ranges.
14. Paper targets shall be attached to the backerboard only, not to the uprights or cross members. No mid-range targets are allowed.
15. No guns of any type may be taken on or used on the archery ranges.
16. Persons using the club facilities will drive at a safe speed not to exceed 15 mph and only on established roads. No unauthorized vehicles are permitted on the ranges.
17. Range closure markers or signs will be honored when displayed, such as "range closed for repair".
18. No one will enter upon a range if he has consumed alcoholic beverages on that calendar date. Under no circumstances will alcoholic beverages of any kind be allowed upon any of the ranges.
19. Unauthorized fires are prohibited. Fire danger signs will be heeded when posted. No fireworks are permitted. No smoking is allowed on club grounds except in enclosed personal vehicles.
20. There will be no unauthorized cutting of trees or shrubs.
21. Littering on the club grounds is prohibited. Shooters will dispose of used targets, spent hulls and brass when finished shooting.
22. All dogs present on Club grounds must be kept under control at all times and are not allowed to chase any wildlife. Dog owners are responsible to clean up and dispose of all animal waste left by their dogs.
23. Unsportsmanlike conduct, harassment, verbal abuse or other threatening actions toward any club member or guest will not be tolerated. Such actions should be reported in writing to the Board of Directors detailing the time and place of the infraction, persons involved, witnesses, actions leading up to the infraction and suggestions for a remedy to the situation.
24. Members and guests must remain on designated bermed ranges, shooting stations, roads or trails unless authorized by the respective Division Officers.
25. Any violation of club rules may call for disciplinary action by the Board of Directors and may include: (a) a warning, (b) loss of privilege to use ranges, (c) revocation of membership in the Billings Rod and Gun Club. If violation warrants, information will be turned over to county attorney or other authority for prosecution.