



Northeastern Arizona Sportsman's Association, Inc.
320 CR6350, P.O. Box 2715, St. Johns, Arizona 85936

Issue 2014021

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Letter from the VP:

Hello shooters!

I'll bet all of you are sick of hearing about the fence... Well, good and bad news. Good news is that the Apache County Board of Supervisors approved the construction of the fence. We all need to thank Delwin Wengert (the county manager), Barry Weller (District III Supervisor), and Joe Shirley and Tom White (District I and II Supervisors, respectively). Mr. Wengert and Supervisor Weller really came through for us.

Now the bad news about the fence... It seems that we are going to need yet another environmental impact study. I guess taking old posts out of the ground and putting new ones in might disturb some endangered mosquito population or something! It will probably push us back several months waiting for that to be finished, and then the County crews will be busy with wildfires and prepping for the County Fair. I'm certain we'll eventually get a fence in!

Now, on to the **GUN SHOW!** No, I'm not going to flex. That's not much of a gun show anyways! The Gun Show is in a week!! Saturday the 12th and Sunday the 13th. These gun shows are important to NASA. They make up a significant part of our operating budget. We're working to get improvements in, and improvements cost money. Do your part by coming to the show, and by **TELLING YOUR FRIENDS!** Get some raffle tickets too, there are a couple of nice guns up for grabs. If you "don't gamble", think of

it as a generous donation to a local non-profit organization that has similar interests to your own. Maybe an AR or a pistol will fall out of the universe and land in your possession as a result of your generosity. **We're only selling 300 tickets**, so your chances are MUCH better than all those raffles that sell just as many as they possibly can. If you want to be a vendor, call me. I'm feeling generous with tables and space, so call me up and get on the generous bandwagon! More vendors mean more attendees, which means more operating budget for NASA. Vendor packets are [here](#).

If you have any suggestions for the newsletter, or would like to provide content, please e-mail me at bowen.udall@nasashootingsports.com. While I have had plenty of 'duh' moments in my life, I'm sure that people would like to learn from your experiences as well. Our club has such a depth of knowledge that if we all shared a little bit of it, we could take over the world!

Sincerely,

Bowen Udall
Vice President
Northeastern Arizona Sportsman's Association, Inc.

Upcoming Shoots and Events:

- The **April Gun Show** will be held **April 12th and 13th – IN ONE WEEK** at the Apache County Fairgrounds in St. Johns. The doors will be open on Saturday from 9:00am until 6:00pm. Sunday from 9:00am to 4:00pm. We're expecting a good one, so be sure to bring your stuff to trade, and plenty of cash for those good deals!

We still have some table space, so get your tables now. You can get a Vendor's Packet from [here](#). It has a bunch of information to make your time at the show a better experience. It requires Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Continuous Shoots and Events:

- The **Board of Directors meeting** is held on the second Friday of every month, 6:30pm at the St. Johns public library. The next one will be **April 11th**. **This one is a special case, we will meet at the BUB (where the gun show is) instead of the library.**
- The **Scholastic Clays Target Program** is held on the first and third Saturdays of every month at 10:00am on the Shotgun Range. The next one will be **April 19th** at 10:00am. This program is funded by the Arizona Game and Fish, and is free for the youth. [Sign-up forms can be found here](#). General information about the SCTP can be found on [the Game and Fish SCTP page](#). Contact Bowen Udall at

bowen.udall@nasashootingsports.com for more information. Our Facebook page is www.facebook.com/leadingedgeshooters

- ARCHERY AND OPEN - THIRD WEEKEND 9AM THIRD WEEK END ARCHERY AND OPEN DON BORG 928-337-4387--928-245-0222 PLEASE RSVP
- The **NASA Members' meeting** is held on the fourth Friday of every month, 6:30pm at the St. Johns public library. The next one will be **April 25th**. This meeting is primarily for the members to have their voices heard by the board. Members are strongly encouraged to come participate in the Members meeting.
- The **Scholastic Clays Target Program** is held on the first and third Saturdays of every month at 10:00am on the Shotgun Range. The next one will be **May 3rd** at 10:00am. This program is funded by the Arizona Game and Fish, and is free for the youth. [Sign-up forms can be found here](#). General information about the SCTP can be found on [the Game and Fish SCTP page](#). Contact Bowen Udall at bowen.udall@nasashootingsports.com for more information. Our Facebook page is www.facebook.com/leadingedgeshooters

Range News:

Apache County has approved the construction of the fence. We just found out we have to complete another environmental impact study before it is constructed. I'll keep you updated when I find out info.

Bowen's Stupid Tips:

"Bowen's Stupid Tips" is made up of some of the 'duh' moments I've encountered. I'll try to keep them 'sportsman' related, but there are times that I might slip in a computer reference, car reference, or even a plumbing reference depending on how poorly my week has been going.

Safety. Yeah, safety. We are all at different levels with our safety, and we all think we are safe. Think about it. I'm sure you've seen some idiot doing something stupid and thought, "That idiot is going to kill himself". Somehow, the 'idiot' gets through without killing himself, but you know it's only a matter of time... Well, I have bad news for you: Someone somewhere has seen something you were doing and thought, "That idiot is going to kill himself". Put your pride aside for a minute, and accept that fact. We've all done stupid stuff, me included. There are three incidents in my life (that I know of) that should have put me in the ground. Two literally had me on my death bed. All three were from me making a stupid decision that almost killed me... thankfully, none were firearm related.

Not that I am and always have been "Mr. Safe" with guns, but because it hasn't happened in that realm. I'm positive that I've been plenty unsafe growing up. The only 'rules' I knew growing up were that bullets can travel a mile and a half, and getting shot would at least hurt a lot, and at most kill. I'm certain that while shooting with my

friends, there was muzzle sweeping happening, all sorts of other things. Not to mention the BB-gun fights my brother and I had all the time. Oh, and the time the same brother put a round in his .22 rifle, pointed it at me and pulled the trigger. He didn't tell me that he had secretly pulled the bullet out, dumped the powder out, and then replaced the bullet. I think I almost died of a heart attack. I still remember the sound of the bullet rolling down the barrel and softly popping out the end.

I know a lot more about safety now. I'm very happy I do, not just for me, but because I take my kids shooting all the time. I don't want any of them being as dangerous as I was, and I don't want them killing each other. Any and all safety I learn, I pass on to my kids. I want them to outlive me.

So, on to safety. There are many different sets of rules. The NRA has their set of safety rules, gun manufacturers have a different set, and I have my own set. I'll show you the NRA rules and a sample of rules from Remington, then I'll go over the set of rules I have.

The NRA has come up with three basic rules:

1. ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
2. ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
3. ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

These are well thought out, probably decided in a committee after lots of research rules. If they are your rules, good. Keep them, live them.

Gun manufacturers like Remington have a different set of rules. I believe these rules were made by lawyers. They are:

1. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
2. Firearms should be unloaded when not actually in use.
3. Don't rely on your gun's safety.
4. Be sure of your target and what's beyond it.
5. Use proper ammunition.
6. If the gun fails to fire when the trigger is pulled, handle with care.
7. Always wear eye and ear protection when shooting.
8. Be sure the barrel is clear of obstructions before shooting.
9. Don't alter or modify your gun and have it serviced regularly.
10. Learn the mechanics and handling characteristics of your firearm.

All very well thought out and seeming designed to make Remington un-suable.

Now, on to my rules. Why do I have my own set of rules? Am I smarter than the NRA or Remington? No, I'm not smarter than the NRA or Remington. Definitely not smarter than Remington's lawyers. I have my own set of rules because I feel the NRA's rules aren't quite thorough enough, and Remington's are too specific and too long. Safety rules are only good if they cover the important stuff, and are short enough to remember. If they don't cover the stuff that will cause immediate death, or are too long and complex to remember, what good are they really?

Here are mine, they are based on Jeff Cooper's rules:

1. EVERY gun is ALWAYS loaded, even when it's not.
2. Never point your gun at anything you are not willing to destroy. (For those who insist that your gun is unloaded, see Rule 1.)
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready for it to go bang.
4. Know what you're shooting at, and what is behind it.

So, why these instead of the NRA's or Remingtons? Simple, these rules work for me. The NRA rules don't work for me, and Remington's rules are too long to even remember.

So let me explain why I use the rules I use.

1. **Every gun is ALWAYS loaded, even when it's not.** What does that mean? Well, it's simple. A rule that says, "treat your gun as if it's loaded" is way too open ended. When someone unloads, or thinks they unload their gun, they then say, "well, it's not loaded, so I don't have to treat it like it is". So many accidents have happened with 'unloaded' guns. My mother-in-law put a hole through her kitchen hutch. A local law enforcement official shot his hand with an 'unloaded' gun. My son shot his toe with an 'unloaded' gun (luckily it was a pellet gun). If you have the mindset of "every gun is always loaded, **even when it's not**", puts me and my kids in a mindset of, "this gun is unloaded, but I still have to treat it like it's loaded". It works. My kids will correct each other and even other people when they see that being violated. They even catch it on TV and in movies.
2. **Never point your gun at anything you are not willing to destroy.** Yeah, this sounds like a lot like the NRA rule. However, it has wording that creates a more memorable rule. The NRA rule is way too passive to me. What is a 'safe direction'? Kids don't know what a 'safe direction' is. They do know all about destruction though. If they understand that anything the gun is pointed at could be forever destroyed, it makes more sense to them. It also makes more sense to adults.
3. **Keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready for it to go bang.** Yeah, it sounds a little silly, but saying, "until you're ready to shoot" is ambiguous. People know when it goes 'bang'. Kids leave the house ready to shoot, I don't want their fingers on the trigger the whole time. I dislike more ambiguous terms like, "trigger discipline" or "keep your booger hook off the bang switch". To me, trigger discipline is properly squeezing instead of jerking the trigger, and why do I want to think about boogers when I'm shooting?
4. **Know what you're shooting at, and what is behind it.** This is about the only rule I knew growing up. I knew about over penetration and ricochet, and what happens when I missed. I think it's about the only thing that kept me from killing everyone when I was young. It's important for people to understand that the bullet doesn't always magically stop at the target, and understand that bullets don't always travel where you want them to.

Now you may notice my rules don't include things like, "keep the gun unloaded", or "keep the safety on". I have very specific reasons for not having those rules as general

rules. Yes, I keep *most* of my guns unloaded. All the guns I leave unattended at home are unloaded and locked. However, my carry gun IS always loaded. I'll be damned if I get killed because I had to stop and load my gun. The reason I don't have the 'keep the safety on' rule is simple, in sport shooting, if you leave the safety on, you will miss the shot, or add valuable time to your score. In sport shooting, you never keep the safety on, so a hard & fast basic rule to have it on would be contrary to my needs. I do keep the safety on when I feel it's appropriate, like on my carry gun for example.

So, are my rules better? For me, yes. For you? Who knows? My point is that people should learn safety and then follow safety rules. If you want to follow Remington's, go for it! Make sure you learn them and LIVE THEM. If you want to follow the NRA's, LEARN THEM, then LIVE THEM. If you want to follow Jeff Cooper's, LEARN THEM, then LIVE THEM. If you follow mine, LEARN THEM, then LIVE THEM. If you want to make your own set, make sure your rules cover the bases, LEARN THEM, then LIVE THEM.

So my tip? Safety is YOUR responsibility. **Get a set of rules and live them.** If you only follow them once in a while, you're going to have an accident. If you're lucky, you'll only lose a kitchen hutch. If you're unlucky, you'll lose your life, or worse, your freedom while you sit in prison for manslaughter.

NASA Politics:

- **Board of Directors meeting** – The Board of Directors meets twice a month. First at the Board of Directors meeting on the second Friday of the month at 6:30pm at the St. Johns Library, second at the Members Meeting. The Board of Directors is responsible for making decisions for the club and take into consideration suggestions and opinions from members. Come to the meetings and participate.
- **Members meeting** – On the fourth Friday of the Month, the Board of Directors meets to hear from the members. The directors use members suggestions to help guide the club in the direction it needs to go.
- **Bylaws** – [NASA's bylaws can be found here.](#)
- **Your Board of Directors:**
 - **President:** DON BORG
 - - 928-245-0222 (NO TEXTS)
 - - EMAIL: DONBORG@FRONTIERNET.NET
 - **Vice President:** Bowen Udall
 - – 928-245-3666
 - – email at bowen.udall@nasashootingsports.com
 - **Treasurer:** Ben File
 - **Secretary:** Pat Hall
 - **Board members:**
 - Wiley Barnes
 - Katrina Watkins
 - René Greene.

NASA Website/Facebook/Twitter:

- We have been striving to keep our website up to date with current information. The main page has a listing of shoots and events coming up. There is also a “contact us” page, a Google calendar of events, documents to download, and information about NASA. The address is <http://www.nasashootingsports.com>.
- If you are on Facebook, liking our Facebook page will give you updates right on your wall feed. Our Facebook page is the one that gets updated most often, so it’s a good one to follow. The page is at <http://www.facebook.com/NASASports>.
- Our Twitter feed is occasionally updated, but will be the way we disseminate information during shoots, events, and the gun show. We’ll tweet who wins in categories, tweet when categories are about to start, and tweet other various information. The Twitter page is <http://www.twitter.com/NASASports>.

About NASA:

Northeastern Arizona Sportsman’s Association, Inc. was created in 1998 and incorporated in 2006. NASA’s goal is to promote safe firearm usage for children and adults alike. NASA is a non-profit corporation that is run by an elected board of directors. Everyone who works for NASA does so on a volunteer basis.

About NASA News:

NASA News is an experiment created by Bowen Udall, the NASA Vice President, in hopes of raising the communication level in the club. He wanted to make sure that all members of NASA knew about what was happening with the club, and know about all the events planned. If you have ideas for the newsletter, or complaints, or want to add or remove your name from the NASA News mailing list, or especially if you want to help, e-mail him at bowen.udall@nasashootingsports.com. Forward this e-mail to a friend that might be interested. You can get back issues of NASA News, as well as a PDF version of the current issue from our webpage: <http://nasashootingsports.com/about-us--files.html>

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