

B.A.S.A.

Bemidji Area Shooters Association

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www.bemidjishooters.org



Fall 2014 Update

Board of Directors and Officers:

President, Mark Farabee

Vice-President, Peter Milli

Secretary, Ken Curfman

Treasurer, Darwin Hawkins

Board members; John Ellis,
Dick Klovstad, Curt Lundquist,
Bob Naylor, John Noraas,
Nolan Roberts, Bill Schroeder,
Brad Trask

Inquiries-comments-suggestions
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There has been so much going on since the last newsletter of June 2013 and there's lots of great news to report. The effort at fundraising for the construction of the ranges has met with some success. In the last 12 months there have been a \$600,000 award from GW Neilson Foundation, a \$14,000 and a \$5,000 award from the Beltrami County Community Development grant and a \$2,000 award from the North Country Snowmobile Club. This brings the total to \$621,000.00 in cash available for the project start up. Also, Beltrami County has committed \$30,000 as an in kind contribution to assist in the construction of the parking lots for the ranges. A big "Thank You" goes out to those involved in this team effort. This is a GREAT START!

GREAT START, yes most definitely; however there is more fund development to be done. Until now, the general membership of BASA (and BTSC) has not really lifted it's head and opened its' collective wallets. Before that \$621,000 can be utilized there is an additional amount that is needed and during the rest of 2014 the clubs and those that enjoy a similar aspect of the outdoor lifestyle need to step up and donate and pledge some cash. How much is needed? Another \$650,000 to \$850,000 would build a 100 yd. small bore range, (2) 50 yd. pistol ranges, (4) trap fields, (1) combination trap/skeet field and (1) skeet field. It will also build (2) range buildings with sewer and water and electrical service, fencing with gates and parking lots. Please view the "site plan map" included or view it on BASA web page www.bemidjishooters.org or "like" BASA at www.facebook.com/BemidjiShooters.

Please understand, the clubs' membership is not expected to come up with all of the (\$650,000 to \$850,000) in cash donations and pledges this year but there is a goal of \$200,000 for the rest of 2014 that must be achieved if the project is to start in 2015.

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There are other fund raising goals to come and those, as well as this year's goal, have always been there and known to us. They are as follows: \$200,000 from major donors, \$65,000 from local fundraising, \$125,000 in grants, \$198,000 from in-kind contributions, \$49,000 in discounted/donated materials and, if possible, \$180,000 from the sale of the Trap and Skeet Club's building now located on the airport.

The people directly involved in planning this project had expected it would be started this year as a result of \$600,000 grant award from the Neilson Foundation in 2013. It is now abundantly clear that the County's commitment to cash flow the start of the project (and be repaid at \$120,000 per year for four years) was contingent on our doing some fund raising before the project could be started.

At this time there is a committee of 18 people that is working on a capital campaign, most all are either members of BASA and/or BTSC. It is the belief of this committee, the Trustees of the Neilson Foundation and the Beltrami County Board that the members of the clubs and other local supporters must now demonstrate a financial commitment to this project. At this moment in time the County and the Neilson Foundation each have approximately \$650,000 committed to this project and the project can get underway when we do our part. We must now view this effort as a challenge match grant and promote it as such until our fund raising goal is achieved.

Included in this mailing is a brochure that will assist you in making a donation to the Northland Regional Shooting Sports Fund (NRSSF), a collaborative fund with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation. Donations to the "Special Project" portion of the fund are to be used for the construction of our ranges, are tax-deductible and will be receipted by NMF but are not refundable. There are 240 BASA member applications that have been submitted since reactivation in 2009 and at \$416 donation per member we will raise \$100,000 and at \$500 per member we are above our goal. It is so important to remember that for the first time in BASA history, we will have the benefit of a long-term lease on a permanent range site.

What I am asking you to do is consider how much having this Range is worth to you, your family and friends. If finding the money today is possible then make that donation to the NRSSF right away. If you don't have the funds today but it can be found in the next few months, fill out the form and make a pledge to donate to the NRSSF by the end of the year. If possible consider a larger donation or pledge amount and schedule payments for the next 3 years. As the cash donations and pledge forms come in, they will be totaled and as we reach that \$100,000 goal for 2014 in early winter we can update our funding partners and members. It may be possible to plan a "get together" to celebrate our successes and share ideas about sustaining our forward momentum but your collective participation is crucial.

In closing I would like to thank those community members that have donated professional services, technical know how and materials as well as those who continue to work as volunteers for this project and the Directors that have served on the BASA board. The hours of dedicated effort have kept us in the hunt for a way to do this range project.