

Notes from the LASC Annual Membership Meeting February 7, 2008

The Los Alamos Sportmen's Club (LASC) Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet was held at the First Baptist Church in Los Alamos on February 7, 2008. The meeting portion of the event was organized by LASC President, Ken Laintz, and the banquet portion was organized by Treasurer, Angie Chipera. Seventy-seven persons, give-or-take, attended the meeting/banquet and enjoyed dinner catered by Bob's Bodacious BBQ.

The agenda for the meeting was

1800 – 1830 Dinner

Introduction of Current Board and Section Chairs – Ken Laintz

“What's Going On at the Club – Ken Laintz

2008-2009 Board Election – Ted Rockenhaus

Work Credit Program Overview – Marv Alme

New Mexico Shooting Sports Association (NMSSA) – Matt Riggs

LAPD and LASC – Captain Randy Foster

Friends of the NRA – Peter Ide

2008 NM Election Candidate Presentations

African Hunting Safaris – Brad Martin

After introducing Board members and Section Chairs, Ken summarized progress to date on various improvements to Club grounds and facilities. As many members are aware and have observed, huge improvements are underway and visible in every area. Ken's topics included the Clubhouse and indoor range, rifle range, pistol range, and shotgun trap and skeet facilities.

Ken reminded everyone that monthly LASC Board meetings are always open to all members. The meetings occur on the first Thursday of every month at 18:30. During winter, the meetings are usually held at the NROTC room at Pueblo School in the South Wing. During summer, the meetings are usually held in the LASC Clubhouse.

Ted conducted the Board Election process with all positions filled and approved by unanimous affirmation. The newly elected officers are

President - Ken Laintz

Vice President - Howard Hall

Recording Secretary - Dick Martin

Treasurer - Angie Chipera

Membership Secretary - Jung Hong

These and additional contacts can be found at <http://www.la-sc.org/contacts/index.shtml>

Marv Alme discussed the Work Credit Program and showed a long list of open tasks for which work credit can be obtained. Marv can be contacted at marv@almeassociates.com or at work.coordinator@la-sc.org

Matt Riggs discussed the New Mexico Shooting Sports Association (NMSSA), which is “a NM-based organization supporting and working for the gun owners of New Mexico.” NMSSA is affiliated with the NRA since 1935, and currently, there are over 1000 members state-wide. The

organization provides support to gun clubs throughout the state including LASC. The one-year membership fee is \$16 and discounts are available for longer duration memberships. A membership application and additional information can be obtained at www.nmssa.org. Ken Laintz is currently the Membership Secretary of NMSSA.

Captain Randy Foster of the Los Alamos Police Department (LAPD) spoke about the relationship of the PD with LASC. He pointed out that this long-term partnership is mutually beneficial. The PD tends to use Club facilities once a month for training and twice a year for officer weapons qualifications. The PD attitude is to abide by all Club rules and to make the facilities better when they leave. LAPD co-sponsors the Ladies First Step program and donates brass to the junior program (which is then polished and re-sold).

Ken noted that LAPD is not the only law-enforcement organization that uses LASC facilities. Others include NM Mounted Patrol, Bandelier Rangers, and NM Fish and Game.

NRA Field Representative, Peter Ide, discussed his job and the Friends of NRA Program. To date, over 30,600 people have attended NRA banquets and have helped raise over \$1.8M. Approximately 95% of the funds raised in NM have been used for youth programs, training, and safety. Numerous NM, and more specifically, Los Alamos organizations including the LASC, Los Alamos 4-H Shooting Sports, NJROTC Air Rifle Project (\$2000), Ladies First Steps Courses (\$2000), Mounted Patrol, and CCW start-ups have benefited from funds raised in NM.

Representative Steve Pierce sent two persons to our meeting to speak about Steve's support for the Second Amendment, gun ownership, and shooting sports in NM and in general.

African big game hunter and guide, Brad Martin and his wife, LaVelle, from Santa Fe spoke about their safari business, Sundown Safaris, which features classical hunting excursions in Zambia and South Africa. In South Africa, for example, all hunting takes place on large, private, fenced ranches with free-ranging "trophy-quality" animals. Hunting takes place out of luxury, thatched camps with ranch houses, chalets, bathrooms, and showers. Included meals are American-style. The support staff includes skimmers, trackers, cooks, waiters, and camp assistants.

In South Africa there are two types of hunts offered. The first is a package with a fixed fee for a certain number of days. Here you pay a fixed amount whether or not the hunt is successful in filling out the specie goal list. The second package is called "standard safari" where there is a daily fee and the hunter pays only for the animals killed or wounded. Here a typical daily fee is \$300 and the "trophy fees" for kills range from \$50 (baboon) to \$2700 (giraffe).

Brad emphasized that safaris include some annoyances and that the best attitude is to "go with the flow." In Zambia fences keep out the lions but not the elephants. Brad recalled an occasion in which there were 130 elephants in the camp! Brad said he was leaving for South Africa in mid-March 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Martin