

Calais Rod & Gun Club

Member Handbook

General:

The Calais Rod & Gun Club is Washington County's original Fish and Game Club and was formed on March 1, 1939 in Calais, Maine. The initial by-laws were accepted at the March 1, 1939 meeting indicating that several work sessions had taken place prior to the March meeting. The objects of this organization are social, educational and scientific for the promotion of the fish and game interests of the State of Maine, and to assist and encourage in every possible way the enforcement of the fish and game laws.

The Calais Rod & Gun Club is a private social club and is entirely run through the volunteer efforts of Club members. It is therefore incumbent for all our members to participate in maintaining Club facilities especially during and after using the facilities.

The Calais Rod & Gun Club facilities are located in Charlotte, Maine with a physical address of 199 Charlotte Road. The Club owns approximately 70 acres of land and extends back about 2000 feet from the Charlotte Road and includes the beach and boat landing on Round Pond across from the Club driveway. The club entrance gate should be closed and locked whenever no one is on the property. That means, last one out locks the gate.

Club Management:

The Calais Rod & Gun Club is managed day-to-day by Club Officers (President, Vice President(s), Treasurer, and Secretary) and has a Board of Directors who provide the Club's long-range planning and direction along with guidance to the Club Officers.

Monthly Meetings:

Club meetings are held April through December on the first Thursday of the month. The business meeting starts at 7:00pm with a potluck supper prior to the meeting that starts at 6:00pm. The May meeting is the Annual Meeting at which Club Officers and Directors are elected.

All ranges are closed 1-hour prior to the scheduled monthly Club meetings.

Club Membership:

Membership Classifications: There are three membership classifications – Single, Family and Life Memberships. Single Memberships are for individual adults. Family Memberships include a Primary Member, a Spouse and related dependent children under the age of eighteen living in the same household. Life Memberships can be Single or Family and are based on a paid-up dues figured on a predetermined formula.

Member Dues: Membership dues are as stated in the most current Club bylaws. Dues for new members are to be paid with the membership application. Renewal dues are due on January 1st.

In becoming a Club member, the member, including all qualifying family members, agree to strictly adhere to the Club Rules and Regulations, and further agree(s) to use the Club facilities solely at their own risk. Non-members

may only use the Club grounds during public shooting hours as posted on the Club website unless they are guests of members.

New Member Orientation:

Each new member must receive a Club orientation by an Officer or Director of the Club prior to being accepted officially as a Club Member and being able to use the shooting ranges.

After the new member has received the Club orientation, a Membership Card will be provided.

Member Responsibilities:

Access to the Club facilities: All members are provided the front gate lock combination. Upon unlocking the gate and entering the Club grounds for personal range use other than scheduled events, the gate should be closed but need not be locked until the member leaves the Club grounds.

Guests of Members:

Club guests are defined as individuals who are non-members that are escorted by members while on Club grounds. Except during posted public shooting hours, guests are prohibited from being on the Club grounds unless accompanied by a member. Members may bring the same guest(s) twice. After that, if the guest(s) desire(s) to use the Club facility, they must become a member in order to continue to use the facility.

A special exception shall be made for out-of-town family while visiting Club members. Visiting out-of-town family members are allowed to use the Club grounds more than twice but still must be accompanied by the member. "Out-of-town" shall be defined as living more than 50 road miles from the member.

Members shall be responsible for their guests at all times.

Members must ensure that all guests act and operate within the Club rules and regulations at all times while on the Club property.

Shooting Ranges:

The Calais Rod & Gun Club has a Rifle Range, a Pistol Range, and a Shotgun Range.

Except for scheduled events, range use is on a first come, first served basis for members.

As a courtesy to our neighbors, shooting is restricted to daylight hours beginning at 7:00am on Monday through Saturday and 9:00am Sundays until sunset.

Safety glasses and hearing protection is required for all persons, shooters and spectators, on all ranges.

Shooters must comply with the Club's RSSOP (Range Safety Standard Operating Procedure).

Signage: Shooters must comply with all posted signage at ranges.

Range Use by Minors: All persons under the age of 18 must be supervised by an adult member at all times when using the Club ranges.

Targets: Targets may be paper, metal, plastic or other materials that do not leave small and/or dangerous pieces after shooting.

Glass bottles or similar targets are **NOT** permitted.

Shooting at trees, rocks, and target frames, etc. is **not** permitted.

Exploding targets such as “Tannerite” are **not** permitted.

Steel targets may be used provided they are at least 30 feet away from the shooter.

Range Clean Up: All shooters are responsible for picking up their brass and trash on completion of shooting and either take it home or dispose of it in the Club trash receptacles.

Targets that a shooter brings must be cleaned up after the shooting session.

It is anticipated that the range will be left in the same or better condition as when the shooter arrives.

Rifle Range: The rifle range has impact berms for targets at 50-yards, 100-yards, 150-yards and 200-yards.

Any legal firearm may be used on the rifle range.

Targets are to be placed ONLY in front of a berm.

The rifle range is closed during scheduled skeet shoots.

Pistol Range: The pistol range impact berm is at 50-yards

The pistol range is solely to be used with handguns, handgun caliber rifles (pistol caliber carbines), or other arms that use low velocity (under 1500 FPS) ammunition. The pistol range was built with the aid of a Pittman/Robinson grant through the Maine Department of Fish and Wildlife. Caliber restriction on the pistol range is limited to rimfire cartridges, pistol caliber handguns and pistol caliber long guns.

No rifle caliber firearms are allowed on the pistol range.

If targets are placed closer to the shooter than 10 feet from the berm on the pistol range, they must be placed at a height to ensure that all bullets land in the berm. Particular attention should be made to prevent ground ricochets.

The pistol range is closed during Club meetings and whenever the clubhouse is being used for a scheduled activity or class.

Shotgun Ranges: The shotgun ranges include a trap range and a skeet range.

The trap and skeet ranges are to be used solely using shotguns with ammunition using small shot (size 7.5 or smaller).

No rifle or pistol targets are to be placed or used on any shotgun range.

Rifle and pistol shooting is prohibited on shotgun ranges.

The trap range does provide for an area for hand throwing of clay birds, however, only shotguns with ammunition using small shot (size 7.5 or smaller) are allowed.

Club Calendar:

It is recommended to check the Club calendar prior to making the trip to the range to ensure the particular range you want to use hasn't been reserved. Advance notices of range closures or reservations are usually sent out to membership via email.

Scheduled reservations and Club activities which have been posted on the Club calendar take priority over individual shooter activities.

Rules and Regulations:

The following statement is crucial to Club operation and bears repeating.

The Calais Rod & Gun Club is a private social club and is entirely run through the volunteer efforts of Club members. It is therefore incumbent for all our members to participate in maintaining Club facilities especially during and after using the facilities. **This, especially, includes policing of all brass expended while using the ranges.**

Range Safety:

All shooting Club members must have a signed an “Acknowledgement of Receipt” of the “Range Safety Standard Operating Procedure” (RSSOP) on file with the Club to acknowledge having received and read the RSSOP.

All members (and their guests) must comply with the Club’s RSSOP (Range Safety Standard Operating Procedure).

Range Officers: The Club will only provide Range Safety Officers (RSO) for scheduled public shooting events. However, anyone using one of the Club ranges should consider themselves an acting Range Safety Officer (RSO) with the obligation to call a Cease Fire any time an unsafe act is observed.

For non-scheduled shooting events or practice sessions, the first responsible adult Club member on a given range is considered the RSO until he or she turns over that responsibility to another adult Club member or leaves the range.

Unsafe Act Cease Fire(s): A cease fire must be called immediately when an unsafe act is observed. The situation must be corrected prior to recommencing of any shooting activities.

Cease Fire for Going Down Range: A cease fire must be called whenever anyone desires to go downrange for any reason. When one or more people are down range, all firearms on the firing line must be unloaded, cleared and the actions left open (if the firearm design permits), or otherwise rendered safe. No one on the firing line is to handle firearms, ammunition, or magazines while anyone is down range.

Muzzle of Firearms: Firearms not in a closed case on the rifle or pistol ranges shall, at all times, point in a safe direction. This includes idle firearms resting on shooting tables, firearms being loaded or unloaded, firearms being actively fired, or firearms being cleared of malfunctions. A safe direction is considered downrange or up.

Loading of Firearms: Firearms are ONLY to be loaded just prior to firing on the rifle or pistol firing line. Any firearm at a shooting station that is not being actively fired shall be unloaded, the safety on, and with the action open as much as the firearm design allows. Empty chamber flags are encouraged.

Safety Infractions:

Safety is the number one priority when it comes to shooting on the ranges, it the responsibly of all members to ensure that all members follow the rules and regulations of the Club.

If you see something that doesn’t look quite right or is unsafe, please politely bring this to the attention of the offending party.

If the offending party refuses to comply with the safety or membership rule, the matter should be brought to the attention of a Club Officer or Director.

Continued violations of safety and/or membership rules may result in revocation of the offender's Club membership.

Range Etiquette:

Please be respectful of other members who may be shooting in proximity where you want to shoot. It is advisable to wait until they are finished shooting or you could ask if they would mind you shooting with them. Some shooters are uncomfortable shooting with others so please respect that.

Miscellaneous Items:

Pets & Hunting Dogs. Pets (other than service animals) and hunting dogs are not allowed on Club property unless they are under the full control of their owners. Owners are expected to clean up after their animals.

Alcohol/Drug Use: No persons are permitted on the Club ranges when under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs (including prescription drugs) which impair judgment or actions. Members shall not knowingly bring persons under the influence of drugs or alcohol to the Club ranges.

And a Final Reminder:

As a Member of the Calais Rod & Gun Club, you have the responsibility of disposing of all expended brass and targets used during your range use.

We hope you will enjoy your membership experience here at the Calais Rod & Gun Club.

Thank you for complying with Club requirements.

CR&GC Board of Directors