

JANUARY - MARCH 2002

We are saddened to note the passing in January 2002 of William (Bill) Hippler, a lifetime member of the State Association, who has rendered untold hours of service to the shooting community. I first met Bill some 20 years ago following his retirement from Walgreen Drug Stores. It was while he was serving as a Hunter education instructor at the Lee-Kay Shooting Complex near Magna. He served tirelessly teaching our youth about the fundamentals of marksmanship, the ethics of being a good sportsman, and furthering the shooting sports. He was a fixture at the NRA and State Rifle & Pistol Association table at all of the Cross Roads of the West Gun Shows passing out literature on every shooting topic imaginable. His devoting to fostering the shooting opportunities for our junior hunters and shooters is legendary. At one time or another he has called every sporting goods store in Salt Lake County asking them to make contributions to defray the costs of our junior marksmanship programs. When he could not get what he thought were an adequate amount of contributions he would dip into his meager retirement funds and make a donation. He is to lauded for his outstanding contribution to the shooting sports in Utah.

Spring is fast approaching. It is a time of renewal. Hopefully, you have been reflecting over the winter months on your plans for the upcoming hunting and shooting season. There is much to be done in making our existing shooting facilities functional, and finding and constructing new facilities. The National Shooting Sports Federation and the National Rifle Association have asked us as part of their annual survey to identify every shooting facility in the State. The purpose is to make this information available on their web sites to all persons interested in the shooting sports. If you would please take a minute and e-mail us with any information you have., we will make sure it is passed on to the appropriate persons for public distribution.

I am renewing my annual plea for you to keep your eyes open for potential range sites in the following locations: Utah County, Box Elder County, Grand County or San Juan County, Carbon or Emery County, and Millard County some where in the vicinity of Delta. If you have some sites in mind in these locations, please e-mail me about the location.

Our 2002 legislative has just concluded. New laws were passed to further protect our state employees against the erosion of their constitutional right of self defense (HB 336), mandated that safe storage be provided at our court houses for those who were deemed to have dangerous weapons (HB 82), expanded the right to defend yourself against deadly force on all of your real property, not just your home (HB 336), and provided for one secure hearing room

on University campuses (SB 164). The biathlon shooting range at Soldier Hollow was protected from encroachment by golfers for another year (SB 1 at pp. 80-81).

We are trying to expand our e-mail address listings for each of you. Again, I ask each of you to send us a simple test message so that we can send our quarterly newsletter to you electronically.

Work will commence again on March 23, 2002 on the rifle range in Wendover. Please plan on being there at 9:00 a.m. to help with the rehabilitation work.

Please attend your neighborhood legislative caucuses on Monday, March 25, 2002, and get elected either a county or state convention delegate. The shooting sports need your support in seeing that we have candidates running for public office who support marksmanship, hunting, and the outdoor sports. This is your opportunity to have some say in the elective process.

Woody