

Marin Rod & Gun Club

PO BOX 150900, SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA 94915-0900

(415) 456-8142, clubhouse (415) 456-3123, office (415) 456-0109, fax

www.marinrodandgunclub.com



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scamiccia@tambank.com, www.tambank.com

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Jack Marshall, Loan Consultant

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1701 Novato Blvd., Ste. 209
Novato, CA 94945
Phone: 415.602.6947
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JMarshall463@HomeLoanExperts.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Todd Meyer

Plan Your Work, and Work Your Plan

Last month in this column my subject centered on the Club Committee structure and how we the membership make up the basis for getting things done. I'm so very pleased to report to you that the quality of leadership that has emerged in our committees thus far, both chairs and members, is genuinely of high quality as is the response of the membership in general to help perform the tasks at hand. So, this month I'd like to take the concept of how we move the Club forward one step further and look at how we get to a plan that we all can work within.

It may come as a shock to you that our Club has run for many years without an annual budget. At best, we've compared monthly year-over-year and year-to-date profit/loss statements, but we've had no yearly plan (budget) to measure against or determine if we are performing at an acceptable level or not during the course of the year. Further, we have not maintained a written inventory of our assets nor calculated what our projected maintenance costs should be. We simply have not calculated or tracked what we need to do in the future to maintain what we have today. In turn, it should come as little surprise why decision making at the board level is all too frequently confusing, and why many areas of maintenance are obviously neglected; the blacktop parking areas being a perfect example. So then, how do we go about getting our arms around what we have, what needs to be done this year and how do we determine a feasible budget within which to do it?

The good news is that the answer is straightforward.

The first step is to determine what our income and expenses should be. Income wise we've been steady for a long time, consisting of membership dues, bingo, special events, bar, investment income and some miscellaneous one-time revenue. Last year we began making the Club available for event rental (led by Dianne Rodrigues), which adds a new dimension to our income. Bottom line though is that we would need to make some drastic changes to significantly improve our income. Unfortunately, our expenses have continuously increased at a much greater rate over the past few years. As inflation builds year-over-year our operating P&L has had a growing loss now for many years, with a positive bottom line saved only by one-time bequeathments or incomes such as the pilot desalination rental. In this situation, it makes it difficult for leadership to allocate money for repairs, even when

they are necessary for proper maintenance that will keep even costlier repairs from being required down the road.

The three primary "maintenance" committees; building, pier and grounds, are already taking the steps necessary to understand what repairs need to be done this year and what amounts we will need to set aside each year to assure our assets are maintained and improved to keep them sound and attractive in the years to come. The first step in doing this is to prepare a Reserve Study that lists out all the components that make up the assets, detail out when each component was installed, how long it will remain useful and what the expected replacement cost will be. By dividing up these components for their "useful remaining life", we are left with how much cost we can expect to maintain our assets in first rate condition. Priorities for this year can then be submitted to the Finance Committee who can compile the various requests, consider our income and finally make recommendations to the board what items and/or projects we proceed with for the coming year.

A perfect example of how this can work is the pier. Let me begin by passing along the unanimous position of the pier committee that the pier is NOT FALLING DOWN anytime soon provided we properly continue to maintain it. That said, what does the pier need this year? After initial review it appears one could sum up pier maintenance in three words: Boards, Pins and Beams. For example, to determine the cost associated with boards: Count the number of planking boards that need replacement, determine how many boards an X member work party team can do in Y hours and you have a good estimate of how much volunteer labor you need as well as the anticipated cost of lumber. Take it a step further and realize that you now can break the work into small teams led by an experienced pier hand that can pass their knowledge on to younger members who can meaningfully get involved in the work, not to mention negotiate a better lumber rate based on a total number for the year vs. piece meal purchases, and we have a perfect example of how good planning makes life better and more cost effective for us all.

At year's end, I have every expectation that we will have had a banner year for improving our facility, actively involving more members than ever, and that we will get this work done at a fraction of the cost of jobbing it out. The committees are hard at work preparing the plan. Let's all have some fun pitching in and working it together.

PIER REPORT

By Mario Perrando

Fishing started picking up since the first of March. To sum up what was caught, we have two "keeper" stripers, quite a few perch, even a few Red-tails. Small flounders, 7-9 inches, are in the area and even small bullheads that haven't been around in years are coming back. There has also been quite a few Leopard Sharks caught. On some days you can feel many "hits" on your line by the small fish. On other days, you can't buy a bite. Two sturgeon were caught this past month. **John Arruda** brought up one and when we measured it, too bad, it was just 42 inches so it went back to grow up. Then Past President **Ron Jerome** and his wife thought they would catch some perch. While using small perch hooks, **Ron** hooked a large sturgeon. BUT, after the sturgeon was brought close to the pier, it decided it had seen enough of this and there went **Ron's** line, hooks and sinker. The days have been so beautiful. We have also seen more ladies fishing on the square. That's great. You can't beat the current wonderful weather. Try it, you'll like it.

FRONT GATE

Because of construction at the front gate, access to the club during construction hours (7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.) may require up to a fifteen minute wait. Please be patient with the construction crew. They are doing the best they can.

By-Laws Changes

All of the proposed changes were defeated in accord with the recommendation of the Board of Directors.

Gun Notes From Here & There

By Fielding Greaves

Hallelujah! D.C. gun ban ruled unconstitutional! The US Circuit Court of Appeal for DC on March 9th ruled for the Second Amendment in *Parker vs. DC* and struck down the 1976 DC handgun ban, the nation's *first* gun law overturned on purely Second Amendment grounds. Because in some cases, other Appeals Courts issued contrary rulings, it's almost certain the *Parker* case will go to the US Supreme Court, where I am confident the ruling will be upheld by the high court. Meanwhile, the ruling should cause other jurisdictions to be much more cautious about launching any new gun laws.

