

THE GRAND MERE RIFLE AND PISTOL CLUB

The Grand Mere Rifle and Pistol Club was organized in 1930 and is affiliated with the National Rifle Association and the St. Joseph Valley Rifle and Pistol Association.

The club was incorporated on January 19, 1949. The club later merged with the Twin Cities Rifle Club in 1955 and the membership constructed the present building in Lincoln Township on Ridge Road in Stevensville, Michigan. Since its completion, there has been continuous Rifle and Pistol competition.

On February 22, 1997, a fire broke out in the attic, destroying the club, leaving just the walls and fireplace remaining. The clubhouse and range were rebuilt to its present condition by the club members.

In 2013 the range was closed for several months while the backstop was rebuilt by a local fabricator using armor plate that was donated to the club by the National Guard Armory in Dowagiac, Michigan. This upgrade allows the use of jacketed ammunition for the first time in the club's history.

In 2014 the GMR&P Club was designated as a non-smoking facility. Smoking is allowed outside the club providing that the cigarette butt bucket is used. Absolutely NO alcohol or drugs are permitted on these premises.

The club is open 24/7 to all members and their guest, except during scheduled shooting events and training classes. Member may visit the clubs website for a listing of events posted on the calendar of events, or by visiting our Facebook page.

GMR&P Club maintains a low membership fee in comparison to other ranges in the area, and continues to make upgrades and improvements to the facility. We have the only indoor competitive range in Berrien County, Michigan. The firing range is 50 feet long with eight (8) firing lanes which are equipped with a turning target system.

All members are encouraged to participate in the NRA sanctioned Indoor Rifle and Indoor Conventional Pistol matches that are held between September and April of each year (Article IX). The matches are held between GMR&P Club and the other clubs associated with the St. Joseph Valley Rifle and Pistol Association, the Elkhart Rifle and Pistol Club, and the South Bend Rifle and Pistol Club. Additional fees are required.

Your GMR&P Club membership also includes membership in the St. Joseph Valley Rifle and Pistol Association. The Association has an outdoor range located in Bistol, Indiana. Outdoor Rifle and Pistol matches are held during the summer months on a 100 yard range with 100 covered firing points. There are camping facilities with restrooms and showers available. Additional fees are required.

The club offers its members and the community a variety of firearm safety and firearm related training, including Concealed Pistol License, Range Safety Officer, Certified RSO, Home Defense and ammunition reloading classes.

The clubhouse is equipped with training aids including an overhead projector, 48" flat-screen HDTV, Comcast internet/phone and WI-FI, and 100% LED indoor lighting and a heating unit on the range and heating/AC unit in the club meeting area.

CLUB HOUSE AND FACILITY USE

Members are not allowed to use the Club for any purpose other than recreational or club-sanctioned events. No member of the media will be admitted to the club house without prior consent from the Executive Committee. Uses of the Club to support a private business such as for gun dealer, flea market, garage sale, ect. are strictly prohibited. Use of the Club and its facilities for such events as the teaching of CPL or firearm safety classes is permitted providing you have prior consent from the Executive Committee. Failure to comply may result in your suspension or expulsion (Article VIII & Article X).

ENTERING AND LEAVING THE CLUB HOUSE

An electronic key fob and key card proximity reader system has been installed eliminating the need for the deadbolt and paper key card system. Key fobs and key cards are activated at time of membership and continue to remain active as long as the membership is in good standing and annual dues are collected.

Members and guests are required to sign in to the sign-in book located in the club meeting area. Members are responsible for ensuring that their guests adhering to the Clubs Safety Rules and Etiquette policies. All activity inside and out are recorded on the Clubs surveillance system. Failure adhering to the Clubs Safety Rules may result in your suspension or expulsion (Article VIII & Article X).

LEAVING THE CLUBHOUSE AND RANGE

IF you are the last person to leave the club, THEN it is your responsibility to ensure that;

RANGE

1. Exterior emergency exit door is shut
2. Floors swept and Brass is picked up
3. Target turning system is shut off
4. Thermostat is turned down to 65 degree
5. Ventilation system is shut off
6. Lights are turned off

CLUBHOUSE

1. Water faucets are turned off
2. All lights are turned off
3. Door to range and foyer are closed

CLEANLINESS

All work done at the club is on a volunteer basis. When something is found to be in need of repair or cleaning, and you are capable of making the repair or keeping up with the housekeeping needs, please do so yourself and note your efforts to a club officer. If you are unable to make the repairs, notify one of the club officers as soon as possible. Funds expended will be refunded. If the expenditure will be a large sum, then authorization shall be obtained before proceeding with repairs.

Yard work, mowing, trash removal, cleaning the kitchen area, dusting, cleaning the restroom, washing windows, sweeping and hanging new cardboard target backers can be done at any point during your visit. Please place old cardboard backers and used targets in the recycling bin provided.

Trash cans in the kitchen area, and restroom will need to be emptied as necessary and placed in the curbside container. Curbside container will need to be place at the curb once a week.

We need everyone's help and cooperation in order to make this volunteer system work.

Grand Mere's Rifle Pistol Club - Range Rules and Safety Policy

GENERAL RULES – SAFETY - ETTIQUETTE

- 1. THERE WILL BE NO HANDLING OF FIREARMS WHEN ANYONE IS FORWARD OF AN ACTIVE FIRING LINE!**
- All members and their guests are required to wear eye and ear protection on the range when active shooters are at the firing line.
- Handgun shooters under 21 years of age and long gun shooters under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a non-shooting parent or guardian at all times while on the range.
- All children under the age of 18 are prohibited in the range area unless accompanied by a non-shooting parent or guardian.
- Shooters will conduct themselves in an orderly manner at all times and will be responsible for the conduct of their guest. All activities inside and outside of the club are recorded on the Clubs surveillance system.
- All firearms must arrive and leave the firing line in a case. No uncased firearm may leave the shooting area (except holstered handguns carried by CPL licensees or open carry).
- The use of Empty Chamber Indicators (ECI's) is mandatory while on the range.
- Be sure that your firearm is safe to operate and know how to operate it safely. Always keep your firearm unloaded, your finger off of the trigger and pointed in a safe direction until ready to shoot.
- All range doors must be closed once shooting has commenced.
- Unless a command has been given to load and begin firing, all firearms shall be in a SAFE condition, magazines out, bolts and slides back, cylinders open, ECI are in place. NO cartridges in the firearm.
- If a misfire or other malfunction occurs, keep the firearm pointed downrange; seek assistance and DO NOT leave the firing line with a loaded or jammed firearm.
- Never hand a loaded firearm to another person. It is highly recommended that you do not pass any firearm back and forth between shooters. Change firing lanes, not firearms.
- No cross-firing between shooting lanes. Shooting is only permitted in your designated numbered lane.
- Only paper targets of the appropriate size may be used. NO silhouette targets.
***Ceiling Baffles and Lane number signs are NOT targets. ***
- When two or more shooters are present, one shall be designated as being in charge and function as the ranger officer. He or she will determine when it is safe to go forward and change targets.
- Obey ALL range Officer commands IMMEDIATELY! Range Officers are authorized to remove any shooter whose behavior is detrimental to the safe operations on the range.
- Do not handle a firearm or stand at the firing line while others are downrange.
- Shooting at anything other than your own target is strictly prohibited.
- Drawing a fire arm from a holster while on the range is NOT permitted.
- Always keep your firearm pointed down range, NEVER AT THE CEILING!
- Should a round penetrate the ceiling drywall, it is your responsibility to notify a Club Officer as soon as possible so the roof can be inspected for damage.
- Do not use the shooting lane dividers as a wall-brace for shooting.
- Do not create a disturbance while others are shooting, keep talking to a minimum.
- No coaching of shooters is allowed during a match.
- Jacketed bullets should not be purposely fired into the lower backstop. Only the upper backstop is armor plate, designed for jacketed ammunition.
- The last person to leave the range is responsible for ensuring that the complete floor area is swept and all brass has been removed from the range floor.
- Any hazardous behavior or violation of range safety rules could result in IMMEDIATE dismissal from this club. (There will be no refunds of any kind given to parties expelled for safety violations).

FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION

1. NO PISTOL THAT IS CHAMBERED FOR CENTERFIRE RIFLE OR SHOT GUN CARTRIDGES ALLOWED.
2. Pistol ammunition is limited to .45 caliber and .44 Magnum power level.
3. Full Metal Jacket (ball), Jacketed Hollow Point, as well as lead bullets are acceptable for pistols.
4. NO armor-piercing, steel core, exploding or tracer ammunition is allowed on the range.
5. NO fully automatic rifles or pistols are allowed on the range
6. NO black powder rifles, shot guns or shotgun pistols are allowed on the range.
7. Air powered pellet rifles and pistols are allowed.
8. NO use of steel BB's, due to the danger of ricochets.
9. Rifles can only be .22 rimfire. No .17 caliber rimfire will also be allowed.
10. Should you have any doubts concerning your ammunition, check with the Clubs Chief Range Safety Officer before you use it.

FIRING LINE RULES AND ETIQUETTE

AT NO TIME AND UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE WILL THE FIRING LANES AT 50 FEET AND THE 21 FOOT BENCH FIRING LINE CONTAIN ACTIVE SHOOTING SIMULTANEOUSLY.

1. Your safety is our highest priority at all times; if you see any safety violations or concerns, please report them to a club officer so that we may remedy the situation immediately.
2. When using the 50 foot competitive firing lanes, the rolling bench firing line must be secured and stored so that there is no question as to the active or live firing line.
3. Currently, the 21 foot bench firing line has been designated for instructional use only.
4. When an Instructor wishes to instruct a class (CPL, Gun Safety, ect) at a distance other than the 50 foot firing lanes, they must first close down all 50 foot firing lanes by disabling them with the proper signage and lockdown devices prior to the use of the bench firing line.
5. It is the responsibility of the Instructor, once shooting has ceased at the 21 foot bench firing line, to ensure that the rolling bench firing line aids are secured and stored so that they are NOT down range when NOT in use.
6. Absolutely NO long guns of any kind permitted at any rolling bench firing line.
7. The use of any firing lane short of the 50 foot line will require additional training by qualified personnel. Only then will members and their guest be allowed the use of the 21 foot firing line.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be:

THE GRAND MERE RIFLE AND PISTOL CLUB

ARTICLE II

OBJECT

The object of this organization shall be the encouragement of organized rifle and pistol shooting among citizens of the United States resident in our community, with a view toward a better knowledge on the part of such citizens of safe handling and proper care of firearms, as well as improved marksmanship. It shall be our further object and purpose to forward the development of those characteristics of honesty, good fellowship, self-discipline, team play and self-reliance which are the essentials of good sportsmanship and the foundation of true patriotism.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Any citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or over may apply for membership of this organization. The request for membership will be made by completing an application form. The application will be read at a regular meeting at which the applicant is present.

The applicant will become a member after signing The N.R.A. Pledge, a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present at the next regular meeting after the meeting which the application was read, and on payment of dues.

THE N.R.A PLEDGE

I certify that I am a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or older; that I am not a member of any organization which has any part of its program the attempt to overthrow the government of the United States by force or violence; that I have never been convicted of a crime of violence, and that if admitted to membership, I will fulfill the obligation of good sportsmanship and good citizenship.

ARTICLE IV

DUES

- A. The annual dues of the Club shall be specified by a vote of the membership at any regular meeting. The specified amount, upon approval of at least 2/3 of the members in attendance at any regular meeting, will be enforced at the next Annual Meeting. Dues are payable at the Annual Meeting held on the first Monday of February in each year.
- B. New members enrolled after the month of February shall have the dues pro-rated, the annual dues divided equally by 12 months. (Amended in 2014)
- C. No member of the Club in arrears shall be eligible to vote or enjoy the use of the club and range or any of the privileges or benefits offered by this club.

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS

- A. Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting of the Club shall be held on the first Monday of February in each year. If the Annual Meeting shall not take place at the time fixed, it shall be held within a reasonable time thereafter, and the officers shall hold over until their successors shall have been elected.
- B. Regular Meetings. The regular business meeting of the Club for the transaction of ordinary business shall be held on the first Monday of each month, or the following Thursday if the regular meeting has been cancelled or interferes with a pre-arranged scheduled event. If, the first Monday is a recognized holiday, then the regular meeting shall be held on the following Monday. (Amended in 2005)
- C. Special Meetings. A special meeting of the Club may be held at any time upon the call of the President or upon the call of the Executive Committee, or upon demand in writing, stating the object of the proposed meeting, and signed by not less than twenty percent (20%) of the membership entitled to vote. Notice of the date, time and place of any special meeting shall be given to all officers and to all members in good standing in writing by United States mail, email or by notice posted on the club's website. Notice must be given no less than seven (7) days prior to the date fixed for the holding of the meeting. The place of such special meeting shall be fixed by the Executive Committee.
- D. Quorum. Ten (10) members of the Club entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.

ARTICLE VI

OFFICERS

- A. The officers of this Club shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Range Officer, who acting together, shall constitute the Executive Committee. They shall be elected by a majority vote by ballot of the members in good standing present at the Annual Meeting of the Club. They shall hold offices for one year or until their successors are elected.
- B. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision and control of all the activities of the Club.
- C. Meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held at such time and place as the Committee may determine. Special meetings may be held at any time on the call of the President or on demand, in writing to the Secretary, by three (3) members of the Committee.
- D. Four (4) members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- E. Resignation of any officer may be accepted by the remaining members of the Executive Committee.
- F. A vacancy in the Executive Committee shall be filled by a majority vote of the members present at the next regular meeting.

ARTICLE VII

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- A. President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and of the Executive Committee.
- B. Vice-President. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of or at the President's request.
- C. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep a true written record of all meetings of the Executive Committee, regular monthly meetings and the annually meeting, except that of the Treasurer's book of accounts.
- D. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds of the Club and place the same such funds into the bank or banks as may be approved by the Executive Committee. Such money may only be withdrawn by check signed by the Treasurer and for payment of such bills and/or purchases, which have been approved by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all his transactions, including a list of the names of the members for whom dues are being collected and render a detailed report with vouchers at any meeting of the Executive Committee when requested and must provide an annual report to the organization at its annual meeting.
- E. Range Officer. The Range Officer shall have charge of the range of the club, the printing of score cards, and the arranging of competitions, ect. All applications for membership in the Club shall be made to the Range Officer. He shall be responsible for Club orientation and membership approval for each new applicant.

ARTICLE VIII

SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION

- A. Any officer may be removed by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members in good standing present at any special meeting called for this purpose. No vote on suspension or removal may be taken unless at least fifteen (15) days' notice in writing shall have been given to the officer stating the reasons for his removal and of the time and place of the special meeting at which such ballot on his removal is to be taken. At such special meeting, the officer shall be given a full hearing.**

- B. Any member may be suspended or expelled from the Club for any cause deemed sufficient by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the membership of the Club present at any regular or special meeting. No vote on suspension or expulsion may be taken unless at least fifteen (15) days' notice in writing shall have been given to the member of the charges preferred and the time and place of the meeting of the membership at which such charges will be considered. At such meeting the member under charges will be accorded a full hearing. Hazardous behavior and/or any violation of the "Range Rules and Safety Policy" could result in IMMEDIATE dismissal from this Club. Note that no refund of any kind will be issued under these circumstances.**

- C. Charges against any officer or member may be preferred by any member in good standing. They shall be in writing, clearly stating the facts relied upon by and accompanied by all affidavits or exhibits which are to be used in their support. Such charges shall be filed with the Secretary, who will immediately notify the President. The Secretary will give at least fifteen (15) days' notice of the meeting to hear the charges to each member of the Club, including the accuser and the accused; notice shall be in writing.**

ARTICLE IX

MATCH RULES

All rifle and pistol competition held by the Club will be governed by the rules and regulations laid down by the Nation Rifle Association of America, approved by the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice and the Secretary of the Army.

ARTICLE X
ENFORCEMENT POLICY

Violations of any policy established by Grand Mere Rifle & Pistol Club will result in disciplinary actions, including written warnings, suspension and/or membership termination.

For this policy, offenses are defined as a pattern of failing to comply with policy. When a member fails to comply with this policy, the following actions will be taken:

First Offense – Written warning issued to the member. The original signed copy will be kept on file for one year.

Second Offense – Second written warning issued to the member. The original signed copy will be kept on file for one year.

Third Offense – Written Termination of membership.

Once the membership has been terminated, there is a required 6 month waiting period before the individual is eligible to re-apply for membership. At which time it will require a (2/3) vote of the members present at a regularly scheduled meeting to re-instate or approve that membership.

Depending on the seriousness of the offenses, the Executive Committee may divert from the normal progressive disciplinary steps and many proceed with immediate membership termination.

When a member successfully completes a 6-month period from the date of the first written warning without incident, the written warning will be voided.

Should a member have two (2) or more written warnings, and successfully completes a 6-month period from the date of the last written warning, the first written warning will be voided reverting the second written warning to a first offense along with reverting the third written warning to a second offense.

ARTICLE XI
AMENDMENTS

Any proposed amendments to these By-Laws may be introduced by any member of the Club at any regular meeting or special meeting called for the purpose. Such proposed amendment must lie on the table until the next regular meeting of the Club or such special meeting of the Club, called for the purpose of acting on said proposed amendment unless the copy of the amendment, as proposed, has been sent to each club member by the United States mail at least ten (10) days' previous to the said special meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present will be necessary to pass the proposed amendment.