

This started out to be a letter of explanation to those wishing to become a member of Holton Gun & Bow Club. Instead, I am going to make it a list of FAQ's about joining and using Holton Gun & Bow Club.

**What is the best way to become a member of Holton Gun & Bow Club?**

Before our website was started everything was done on a personal basis. People came out to the club either by invitation or by word-of-mouth and got to meet the members. If the person seemed like an asset to the club, they were invited to join. The membership application is put online for a convenience to those who would like to join but forgot to get one at the clubhouse or they were out of them at the time.

**Is Holton Gun & Bow open to the public?**

We encourage people to come and view our club during events. If a shoot is listed as an Open Shoot, it is open to the public. We do not open the gate and leave it open for non-members to use at other times. If you there with a member, you are an invited guest and that is acceptable. Those not with a member will be asked to leave. You could be prosecuted for trespassing if deemed necessary. Non-member spouses and children are considered to be guests. They may not be on the grounds by themselves.

**Can my wife, children or friend go up to the club without me if I give them my membership card?**

No. If you give somebody else the combination to the gate you will have charges brought against you and possibly expelled from the club. The member must be the one opening the locks.

**How much does it cost to join Holton Gun & Bow Club?**

If you are sending in an application in the months of January through June, send one full year of Social member dues. (Social member dues for 2015 are \$50) If you are sending in an application during the months of July through December, we go on a prorated system. You will need to send in pro-rated dues for the remainder of that year and the dues for the next year. Right at this time, you will need to send in the dues for the remainder of 2014 PLUS the dues for 2015. This will take you through the end of 2015.

This is a list of the dues amounts for the rest of 2014:

<u>Apply during month of</u>	<u>Send in</u>
July	\$72
August	\$68
September	\$65
October	\$61
November	\$58
December	\$54

**Why does the application ask for a sponsor and how do I get one?**

According to bylaws, a Full member must sponsor a Social member. That is why it is important to make visits to the club during events and meet the members. There is no test that says you will be a good member. We would just like the chance for Full member to talk to you and see if you have any really radical ideas that may be trouble to the club. A for-instance would be if somebody says they have been looking for somewhere to bring their .50 cal Browning machine gun to shoot. That may not be a good fit for our club. We have neighbors that seem to be willing to work with us. We don't want to take the chance of offending them with excessive noise or bullets hitting their houses.

### **What is the difference between a Full member and a Social member?**

A Full member has all privileges the club has to offer. *The Full member has a vested interest in the club should the club ever be dissolved and is eligible for a death benefit of \$100 which is a release of any and all future benefits. The Full member may vote and be an officer. The Full member may rent the clubhouse for personal events.*

The Social member has most other rights except for the above listed in italics.

### **I have good ideas to change the way things are done at the club. Why aren't they done?**

Our club runs by volunteers for the most part. Volunteers build target stands and deliver them out to the club. Volunteers make the meals at the Sunday shoots. They may ask for a donation (which reimburses them for expenses), but they are not getting paid for the work. Ideas are looked at for practicality and cost.

### **How do I become a Full member?**

The only way to become a Full member is to be a Social member for at least one year and attend at least 10 events...of which 2 events need to be membership meetings. Once you fulfill those requirements you may contact either the Secretary or the Sergeant at Arms and inform them that you wish to be voted on for Full membership. If you meet the requirements, you will be introduced at the next membership meeting and voted on the following month.

### **I have heard that there has been theft and vandalism at the club. Is that true?**

We have not had much problem with vandalism and theft until this last year or so. It hasn't been excessive, but there has been some items come up missing. Some of the damage may be just carelessness or being inconsiderate.

Please try to follow these tips:

If you have something in mind that may damage the stands or backstops, please don't do it. Shooting at the legs of the stands because you forgot to bring a target is just plain destructive. Shooting completely through the steel targets is also considered to be vandalism. The reason I use these examples is because they are problems that we are having. As stated in another answer, volunteers made the target stands and targets. It is disheartening to see your work be ruined.

### **Do you have reduced dues for Retirees or Seniors?**

If you have been a Full member for 40 continuous years you shall pay 50% of the annual Full member dues. There are no other reductions that you would be eligible for at this time.

### **When do my dues need to be paid?**

Your dues need to be paid before the January meeting day. You may mail them or pay them in person.

Please consider this list a work in progress. I will add to it as necessary.

Bob Peterson

2014 hgbc secretary