

NITRO EXPRESS

Official Newsletter of Watauga Gun Club

March 3, 2004

March 2004

Gate code will be changed March 11th.

2003 in the opinion of myself and many of the club members was a very good year. The club has a whole prospered. ATA and IDPA and Highpower all had good seasons. Membership participation in the monthly shooting events has been great. These events are a lot of fun as they are all different and most any member should find one that they would like to shoot. Come out and get involved. If you do not have a gun, someone will be happy to loan you theirs!

Many improvements to the facilities were made as well. Some projects are on going. Such as the earthwork around the Quonset hut and in bay two to improve access and drainage and the development of a new sight-in range on bay two. The cement pad for the new bench rest shed has been installed. This will give us up to 75 yards to shoot and relieve some of the congestion on the 100-yard bench by trap house one.

One of the biggest improvements last year was on the trap fields. New trap machines and reworked trap houses. These new machines are actually paying for themselves in reliability, less costly repairs and savings in labor costs. The success of a trap program has two basic parts. First, is to have a good reputation for having good matches, which brings shooters to events. Second, to have up-to-date reliable equipment. The number of targets thrown is the main ingredient. This year the trap program should approach optimum efficiency with their new equipment in place. Glenn Miller would be proud. And, of course, good weather is a big factor but we can't do much about that!

Speaking of the weather brings up another subject. After about 9 years, we have had our 7-year flood. The rains came and flooded our property, swamped the clubhouse and tractor shed, relocated the new gravel on the road and gouged big holes in the road, flushed out the bench rest shed and wiped out the camper hook-ups and in general caused piles of trash and debris in odd locations. Many man-hours have been spent cleaning out the clubhouse and picking up trash. Thanks to the members who saw the need and pitched in to help.

There is still much to do. Most of the roadwork has been repaired and will be finished when weather permits. There are plenty of projects to do related to the flood damage and plenty of opportunities to get those work cards filled out! One of the more important projects is repair to the damaged campsite electrical

hook-ups. There are several options here. Trap house four need electrical upgrades and power to the bench rest shed needs to be restored and doing away with the meter on trap house four would be a savings. We have an electrician club member who is doing a survey and will have a proposal for our next club meeting.

The Executive Committee is working on a list of projects for our next workday. We hope that many of you will see the need, take pride in our club and come out. We don't say "thank you" enough, so I am going to thank you in advance for jobs well done in this coming year – for making Watauga Gun Club even better!

POSITION OPEN: Watauga Gun Club has the position of treasurer open. Current treasurer, George Eller, is stepping down. George has a better offer. (Must be or he wouldn't leave us.) He is relocating to a distant city and does not feel he could perform his duties effectively. He will remain a club member; but won't be in town much. We will miss him. So if you are willing and able, let us know. And, thank you.

Take notice of the issues that require a vote of members present at the next club meeting on March 11th. These are listed in the minutes of the last meeting.

Amendment VII. Concerning work cards. Each member is given a work card with their renewal of membership or a new membership. Five hours of labor during the year or an additional payment of \$50. The revision to the amendment gives the club member an opportunity to present reasons to be excused from the amendment. The Executive Committee will review each case individually. Another service to members of WGC.

A word concerning Amendment #7. This was proposed and designed to get club members more involved in the care and upkeep of the club, to improve the condition of the club grounds. The program works!! Every year there has been more and more participation. I guess the word "work" scares many of the members. I wish that I could share with you many of the excuses we have heard since this has been in effect!! A few members quit the club, OK. Many said they didn't have time. I wonder if those were the ones who didn't clean up their mess when they finished shooting! Or left the gate unlocked or the clubhouse open. Quite the opposite is actually true. Let me relate to you what many members do for their Amendment VII five hours. This will give you some ideas and maybe the word "work" will not sound so bad. First of all this is on an

honor system. Many members allocate some time every time they come to the range. Fifteen minutes or more to police the shooting areas or empty the trash cans or clean up the clubhouse. Some live near the club and stop in to check that things are okay. This is helpful during times of bad weather or storms. They check to see that the doors are closed, that the heat is on, that the water is not frozen and running all over or that the roof has not blown off. Others enjoy the workdays where more hands make light the task and get their five hours in all at one time.

Many members get their time in when they help out at the club-sanctioned events. The ATA and IDPA and Highpower Rifle events can always use some extra hands. Some require paper work, processing score sheets, keeping score, clean up and helping wherever needed. You can get your time in quick or a bit at a time by coming out for one of these events.

When the weather clears there will be many projects that helping hands can be put to constructively. The club has some special needs as well, involving research and telephoning various organizations for information. There are some issues concerning the welfare of the club where we need to be better informed. If you are able to help in this area, let me know.

Hopefully after you read my ramblings you can see a need to help the club in whatever way you can and maybe the "work" word won't be so frightening. A big thank you to all who take part in the activities of the club and thanks to you who see the need and pay the fifty dollars. It all comes together in the end for the good of the club.

Gary Hoyle, Publicity Officer

Watauga Gun Club

Meeting Minutes: February 12, 2004

Call to order at 6:54 pm

No guests

New applicants for membership – Lee Shastal (sp?)

Motion to accept applicants at second meeting by Walter McCracken, seconded by Dave Richardson.

Minutes from January meeting read and motion to accept by Walter McCracken, seconded by Wayne Green. – passed

Treasurer's report read and motion to accept by Ricky Oakes, seconded by Walter McCracken. – passed

Officer's reports:

President: Executive committee held a meeting February 8, 2004.

The check to Ray Clark will have a stop payment put on it and a new check will be sent.

Discussed "indigent cases" for work hours.

Discussed By-Law corrections and amendments.

Discussed "neighbor lady" Morgan brought up at previous meeting.

Discussed NRA Certification for club.

Long Range Planning Committee brought up lead reclamation.

Change to application to add if sponsor has been a member for more than six months.

Some people are sending in \$50/\$50 for membership/work instead of \$100/\$50.

Approved purchase of 2 new propane tanks to meet new requirements.

New combination under advisement.

Discussed repair of outdoor wiring, will get with Randy Jones for planning.

Vice President: Discussed putting out an ad for the Bench Rest match. Still checking on replacement stove for club.

Chief Instructor: Getting lots of WEB hits.

Range Officer: Reiterated his information in the past newsletter article.

Publicity Officer: 30,000 hits on WEB site from June 2003 through mid-February 2004.

Discipline Reports:

IDPA: Safety Officer Class February 21, 2004. Carbine Clinic and Sniper shoot in March.

ATA: (get from Tom Pitts or Morgan)

High Power: Joe West is the new director for High Power rifle.

Old Business:

A proposal for wording of a new amendment for people that are not able to work their hours or pay \$50 was accepted as worded below:

Addition to Amendment VII:

Hardship (financial or health) cases may submit a request in writing, explaining why the member cannot complete his or her work hour, to waive requirements for working five hours or paying fifty dollars to the club. The Executive Committee will decide each case on an individual basis. Original motion was made by Wayne Green and seconded by Dave Richardson.

Motion to amend "Indigent" to "Hardship" by Walter McCracken, seconded by Wayne Green, and motion to define hardship as financial or health by Walter McCracken seconded by Arvin. No vote was taken because this is a change to the By Laws and the motion will be published in the newsletter and voted on at the March Meeting.

Lead reclamation was discussed and will be looked into again.

Humphrey Hayes is unable to continue as High Power Rifle director and Joe West has agreed to take that position.

Discussion on "neighbor lady" included asking her to keep an eye on our gate and to offer her a free membership so she can walk the driveway to the gate in peace. Motion for free membership by Walter McCracken and seconded by Arvin Pearson. – passed

Wayne Green has contacted the Field Representative for the NRA about our certification and will report later.

People who paid \$50/\$50 for club dues and work hours are being sent a receipt for \$50.00 on membership dues, \$50.00 on work hours, and \$50.00 balance due on membership dues.

Randy Jones made a motion to use the trap houses on Tuesdays from April through September for the \$2.00 shoots as was done last year. Seconded by Walter McCracken – passed

New Business:

Corrections being made to By Laws are as follows:

Amendment V: inserting “and Handgun” between “Long-gun” and “Use” in the title to reflect wording of the amendment.

Amendment VI: change the word “motion” to “amendment” in the last sentence of this amendment because this is an amendment not a motion.

These are terminology corrections and do not change the purpose or interpretation of the amendments and therefore do not require a vote.

Motion to Remove Part 6 of Amendment II by Dave Richardson and seconded by Walter McCracken. No vote was taken because this is a change to the By Laws. The motion will be published in the newsletter and voted on at the March Meeting. This amendment disallows Associate Members or Junior Members to attend meeting unless invited by the Executive Committee. This Executive Committee has given a blanket invitation to all Associate and Junior Members to all meetings.

Joe Moody - bills should be sent to Law Enforcement in June since their fiscal year is June to July.

Wayne Green discussed allowing members to join other pro-gun organizations such as Grass Roots NC rather than NRA. Discussion brought up that all members must be NRA members to be an NRA gun club.

Adjournment at 8:10 pm

=====

Scared Ya, Didn't I:

By Wayne Green

Years ago someone was riding in the patrol car with a local Chief of Police. They were using an old .20 gauge single shot to shoot rabbits out the window of the car.

There had been a fresh snow. The Chief found a spot in the road that was covered in snow. He cut the steering wheel and hit the brakes to make the car slide around in doughnuts and he got a good laugh at the guy doing the drive-by-shooting on the rabbits and said, “Scared ya, didn't I!”

They went on down the road until the passenger saw some rabbit tracks going into a culvert. He told the Chief to stop and ran to the other side of the culvert and announced that the rabbit was still in there. He said, “I can't see in there. Take your flashlight and shoot the rabbit with your pistol!”

The Chief took his light and pistol, got down and stuck

his head and gun arm into the culvert. The other guy fired off the .20 gauge about 18 inches above the culvert. The Chief cut a gash in the back of his head trying to get out of the culvert. As the other guy watched the blood pour, he smiled and said, “Scared ya, didn't I.”

=====

RANGE OFFICER'S REPORT

The March Match

50 feet; any sights; A-17, 10 Bull target; 10 shots from prone, 10 shots standing in 10 minutes. One shot per bull for score.

TRAP REPORT

We have been busy at making plans for the coming year. We just took delivery on our third new singles trap machine, to be installed by the first spring shoot, if the snow holds off! The plans are to start shooting league practice the first week in April, with the first official Thursday league day being the third Thursday of April.

We will be needing sponsors again for the teams Gary Hoyle. He has been giving us a good run for the money with his 20ga. pump gun. We will be shooting on Tuesday nights also, so if you can't shoot Thursday's you can shoot your scores on Tuesday to apply towards Thursday.

Info on our shooters: In North Carolina we get points for all the wins we have. At the end of the year the points are used to figure out who is on the state team, top 5. The placement for our guy's is as follows: Gerald Sparks #16, Randy Jones #22, Morgan Shaw #24, George Sudderth #26, Tom Pitts #33 in the state and, yes, there was more than 33 shooters. And Worth Miller came in third for the senior veteran division and Cody Trivette #2 in the Junior ranks. Randy is well on his way to getting his 100,000 singles targets registered, lacking around 8000 targets with hopes of breaking his 100,000th target at the Glenn Miller memorial shoot this August. He would be the 6th NC shooter to accomplish this, so come on out on Tuesday's and cheer him on.

A couple of us are planning on going down to a club in Greensboro to take a clinic from a 22 time All American who has shot over 30, 100 straights (a perfect round) from the 27 yard line. He was the first in ATA history to shoot a perfect all-around score (this is 200 singles targets, 100 handicap targets, 100 doubles targets) with out missing a one! That's 400 straight!

We are hoping this will help us to get a little higher in the overall state points this next year and put a few more wins under our belts. We'll keep you informed. All for now.

Get those reloaders cranked up! Only a month to go before the first league shoot! Morgan Shaw

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2004

President

Thomas Bennett
Zionville, NC
828-297-1916
bennettm@appstate.edu

Vice-President

Dave Richardson
Sparta, NC
336-372-5873
dw_richardson@hotmail.com

Treasurer

George Eller
West Jefferson, NC
336-877-8457
georgeeller@ipass.net

Secretary

Ed Roberts
Deep Gap, NC
828-262-3286
edroberts@appstate.net

Range Officer

Wayne Green
Vilas, NC
828-963-5086
wayne@wgc-idpa.org

Chief Instructor

Rick Oakes
Sugar Grove, NC
828-297-2238
oakesrl@appstate.edu

Publicity Officer

Gary Hoyle
Boone, NC
828-963-6307
gary@wgc-idpa.org

Mailing Address

Watauga Gun Club
PO Box 2316
Boone, NC 28607
828-264-6539



NITRO EXPRESS
PO Box 3284
Boone, NC 28607