

## GREETINGS TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF WATAUGA GUN CLUB

July, August and September have been busy times at Watauga Gun Club. Trap, pistol and high power have been having some real good turnouts. The trap shooters have been spending their spare time maintaining their equipment and hosting Tuesday and Thursday evening practice sessions. The new trap machines have been well worth the effort and money spent. The last ATA match went off without a hitch. Things ran so smoothly Morgan and Tom Pitts even had smiles on their faces.

The pistol shooters have been busy doing the ground work for their state championship. They will be setting up the week of September 13<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>. We're looking to having close to 200 shooters and staff for the two-day event. We have enjoyed a reputation for a well-run championship match for five years in a row. The facilities of the club make much of this possible.

We don't hear much from the High Power gang. Upon investigation we find that they are doing well. Range master Joe West has recruited some very good help. Steve Lunsford, Sr. helps with all manner of tasks during the matches. Match attendance has been steady with new shooters coming on-board regularly. Again, our club grounds play a big part in this. Next year they hope to make some much needed repairs and improvements to their impact area at the end of the 300 Yard range. If you want to see some REAL good shooting, come out on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month and watch. They usually start around 8:00 am.

### Highlights from the August club meeting:

The club shoot was very well attended. The "varmint" shoot is one of the club favorites and a real challenge with some top scores turned.

Our neighbor, Carson Fuller, asked to speak to the membership. He wanted to assure us that he is not against the club, that he supported the club and that he was not seeking a petition against the club. He contended that someone else was using his name and that he would get to the bottom of the issue. I asked him about the excessive speed bumps. His reply was that the Law Enforcement was partly to blame because their excessive speeds coming

and going gave him concern for his son and dog. He said if the speed bumps are too much for your vehicle, drive around them in the grass. My opinion of all that he said was that he is going to do whatever he wants and the club can't do anything about it. I believe we will need legal advice in the future. The members gave him permission to cut down the big dead maple tree by the old bridge for firewood. I am not so sure that we should have.

Our Treasurer is happy to report that the club is in the best shape we have been in years. We have money for these projects. A luxury we've not had for some time. Usually by this time of year we are in a sweat about making the land payment. The money is at hand for these payments and some left over!! How about that!! The membership is pulling together and it shows. The members are willing to get out and work.

Speaking of work... Saturday, the 11<sup>th</sup> is a club work day. Whatever you can do. Weed-eating is high on the list. Trash pick up, painting the trim and whatever you can think of or see that needs to be done. A good time to get those work cards filled out. Come out and support your club.

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Since the last club meeting, a local electrician came and surveyed for the repair and upgrade to the camping sites. (These were damaged by the flood last fall and were unsafe to use.) The survey revealed some changes that would be beneficial and cost effective to the club. They are: The four campsites wiring would be upgraded to two 30 amp hookups and two 50 amp hookups. (Before, we had four marginal 30 amp hookups.) In addition, while Tom Shelley was digging ditches, power will be restored to the bench rest shed and added to the shoot house at the 200 yard line. Power will also be run to the new shooting shed in Berm 2. The club approved \$2,000 for these repairs and improvements and we are on track with that estimate.

While the electrician was there, the Executive Committee asked him to give us a price on also running wire sufficient to replace the meter at the block house near trap house four and tie into the main meter of the club house. His estimate came to \$600 or \$700 for materials and labor. The Executive Committee knows that this exceeds the \$300 limit set by the club for items not voted on, but time is of the essence so they felt that this would be a prudent thing to do at this time. The

electrician can do all of the work in a day thus saving us the cost of two separate jobs. The cost of material is on the rise, as well. Replacing the meter makes sense at this time and the ditches are open saving that cost.

The club has been discussing replacing the meter for five years off and on. That meter costs the club an average of \$250 a year which amounts to a payback in two or three years. If we could have done the replacement two or three years ago, look how much further ahead we would be. Bring your thoughts and ideas on this mater to the next meeting, Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Deer season is around the corner. Those of you who will be sighting in your guns be sure your target is high enough so that the bullet will impact the backstop. When using the 300 yard range, no targets closer than 100 yards. For

sighting in closer that 100 yards, use berm 2 or the 100 yard range. Bring your own targets!

The club target stands have uprights that are 18" wide. Bring a staple gun and a piece of cardboard to attach between the uprights. Don't place targets so that the stands get shot up. And above all, the trap house is not the place to prop your target! Good luck and be safe!

Remember our families with loved ones in harms way.

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