



Nitro Express

The Official Newsletter of Watauga Gun Club

December 30, 2004

January 2005

Out with the old. In with the new.

Happy New Year! If 2005 is as good as 2004 we will have another good year. Every year gets better and I see no reason for 2005 to be any different. Membership participation in the activities of the club is on the increase. The three shooting disciplines have flourished in 2004.



IDPA has shown a steady increase in their events. The state championship was as good as it gets! We have more club members taking part than we've had in the past and it shows.

Trap shooters and ATA continues to improve with their regular monthly matches holding steady and throwing a record number of targets, holding practice shoots on Sundays and Tuesdays, and league shoots on Thursdays. New efficient target machines and increased club member participation all pull together for a great time.

NRA High Power has had a steady and solid increase in shooter attendance. They are looking to increase their number of shooting relays this year. High Power shooters are an intense group. The scores they produce are awesome. Come out and watch and get involved.

If you are a club member and don't know about these shooting disciplines you owe it to yourself to come out and see what's going on. There are several club members who used to be active in these events but are not anymore. You people need to come out and try them again! You will have fun!

And then we have ...

The club matches. Something different for 10 months in the year. From rim

fire pistols and rifles to big bore pistols and rifles plus varmint and trap shoots.

Marvin Gragg and Dave Richardson are holding a couple of benchrest shoots this year. They have fun and some good competition.

Along with their regular pistol events, the IDPA group is scheduling two or three Urban Sniper matches this summer. This is a very interesting match and lots of fun.

Schutzen Verein in the Quonset Hut on Wednesday evenings January and February. This involves .22 rim fire rifles and pistols and closely follows an NRA format. You can earn a patch or medal. There are several ways or programs to get involved in. Target rifle, sporter rifle, scope or iron sights; target or sporter pistol; three position rifle and so on.

Keeps your finger on the trigger during the winter when you are not able to shoot your regular sport as much as you would like. Michael Testerman and Wayne Green are overseeing the activities. Give Michael T. a call for more information (297-1897). There have been some improvements made in the Quonset Hut with more to do and planned.

Remember: the Quonset Hut backstops are designed for RIM FIRE ONLY.

As a club member, you owe it to yourself to see what all these shooting events are about. I hope you do and I hope you enjoy!

Christmas Banquet

Many of you missed the Christmas Banquet and a good time. Good



fellowship and good food! Range Master Wayne Green was busy giving out awards for all the club matches for the year. Morgan Shaw presented plaques for trap and the summer league teams.

One of the highlights of the dinner was the members vote for Member of the Year. This distinction went to Walter McCracken. Walter is the club treasurer and he has done a fine job this year. He's kept us up to date on the club finances and has been active in many areas of the club. Congrats Walter; well done and thank you!

Another highlight is that Tom Smith has agreed to accept a co-secretary position to help Ed Roberts out. Ed's commitments in Florida will keep him out of Boone until June. Keeping track of the goings on of the club meetings is a very important job and we know these gentlemen can handle it!

As there were no challenges for the club offices, the remaining members will continue in their present positions.

Looking Back...

2004 brought considerable damage from three hurricanes as well as an electrical overhaul to the campsites and removal of one electric meter. Some grading improvements have been made and there is more to do. A new shooting shed is on berm two; lots of painting got done; flood debris picked up; and several profitable shooting events were held. Information and safety signs have been installed and plans laid out for next year. All the bills were paid with money left over!

And someone shot trap house one again. Will we ever get by this inconsiderate act? What's up with this people? But I digress.

Speaking to all involved in all the progress this year, thank you for a good year. We've got a lot accomplished and we've had a good time. Let's keep it going.

The Order of Things...

The way I understand the order of things, rifle and benchrest shooting goes back to the beginning of WGC. Before pistol and trap; before a club house and storage shed; before the clubs present location. With an average of 130 members, it is a credit

to the club that we get as much done and have as many disciplines as we do. There is a different increase in the rifle sports at our club. We have a very nice benchrest area in place.

However, if we are to continue to grow and improve, we need to do some improvements in this area of the range. The pistol and shotgun disciplines are established and doing well at this time. Rifle, however, is on the edge. They need a boost and the club needs to catch up on some repairs on the rifle range. Most important, we need to do some flood control work at the bench rest shed, some drainage work on the range and berm work at the impact area. Moving dirt is expensive.

At the January meeting we will have raffle tickets to sell. For club members to sell. It's a joint effort. The benefit goes to the club and members. We have twelve hundred tickets to sell. The drawing for the \$300 cash prize will be at our April 14th club meeting. The rest of the money will go toward rifle range improvements. The goal is to sell 1,000 tickets at a dollar each. \$300 first prize plus \$125 for tickets nets \$575 towards range improvements. If all goes well, we'll go again for the next four months. Get your tickets and sell them!

January Meeting: 13th

Bring your membership dues and any ideas for the new year to the meeting!

Membership dues for the calendar year of 2005 are payable from January through February. The gate code will be changed by March 1st and anyone who is not current on their dues will not have the new code.

Executive Committee Meeting

Executive Committee and Discipline Directors meeting to be held at the Golden Corral at 6:00 pm on January 10th.

CLUB MAILING ADDRESS

For mailing in your 2005 dues:
Watauga Gun Club
Attn: Walter McCracken
PO Box 2316
Boone, NC 28607

WEB SITE

Check it out!
www.WataugaGunClub.com

DISCIPLINE DIRECTORS

SCHEDULES for each discipline will be posted at our website and on the bulletin board at the club house.

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