

Nitro Express

Official Newsletter of Watauga Gun Club

March 10, 2006

Wayne Green

This newsletter and the new gate code are being sent to all renewed members for 2006.

The treasurer asks that you attend an upcoming meeting and collect your new card. The next meeting is March 9, 2006.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our shooting season will be starting in earnest very soon, so I thought this would be an appropriate time to bring up several points.

SAFETY-SAFETY-SAFETY

While attending the Range Safety Officer course this past weekend, I was constantly reminded what a very important role safety plays in the future of our club. While the club has had a superlative safety record, this is no time to rest on our laurels and fail to put safety to the forefront in everything we do!

I'm not going to try to list all the dos and don'ts here—we already have that information available in the Watauga Gun Club Membership and Safety Manual on pages 4 and 5. (Also available from our website—www.Wataugagunclub.com). Please read and become familiar with this information, and apply it every time you visit the club. If there are any questions that you feel need to be addressed, please contact our Range Officer, Gary Hoyle. Also note that ANY VIOLATION of these rules can be grounds for expulsion from the club.

CLUB GROWTH

If the club is to grow and thrive we have to reach out to new members. To that end we are working to field a youth trap team and expect to begin an air rifle program this spring. We also have to be very receptive to every visitor! Introduce yourself and others, and do your best to make them feel welcome. Show them what we are all about and they will be more likely to return. Another thing that is important is the appearance of our clubhouse and grounds, as this tends to show our pride in the club. It's not an easy job keeping everything in order but we can do better. With more children, wives, girlfriends, etc. visiting our club, it is also very important that we be careful with our language. Foul language can be a big turn-off to anyone and it should not happen! I once heard some advice given in this regard; "Just act and speak as if you mother was beside you". It is a very good policy to follow.

I am very proud of our club and want it to thrive—lets get out there and have a good time, always mindful of safety and receptive and respectful to others.

Tom Smith

RANGE OFFICER'S REPORT: February 2006

Looks like Ted Greene has been doing his home work. Two matches under his belt as the leader for the year! It is early yet and plenty of opportunity for you all to get involved in the race for Shooter Of The Year!

The Results of the February 9, 2006 Club Rimfire Bull's-eye Match.

Congratulations to Ted Greene, First Place. Doug Merkel, Second. Lloyd Poole, Third Place.

Shooters Name	Slow fire target	Timed fire target	Rapid fire target	Total score
Ted Greene	80-2X	85	92-2X	257-4X Dot
Doug Merkel	94-2X	79-1X	77	250-3X Dot
Lloyd Poole	77	88-2X	84-1X	243-3X Dot
Gary Hoyle	80-3X	81	78	239-3X Iron
Michael Testerman	57	88-2X	85-2X	230-4X Iron
Sandy Hoyle	63	76-2X	77-1X	216-3X Iron
Allan Burchell	61	72	78	211 Iron
Joe Moody	57-1X	80	69	206-1X Dot
David Hollis	76-1X	61-1X	65	202-2X Iron

Vince Gable	70-2X	71-1X	59	200-3X	Iron
David Coffey	64	68	54	186	Rev- Iron
Robert Niemi	50-1X	69-1X	62	181-2X	Iron
Rick Oakes	41-1X	72	54	167-1X	Iron
Charles Harmon	55	51	61-1X	167-1X	Iron
Dan Smith	36	63	57	156	Iron
Tom Bennett	37	58	48	143	Iron
Wayne Green	46	45	45	136	Dot
Ernie Vannoy	12	60	38	110	Iron

The Match for this month (March) is .22 target rifle at 50 feet in the Hut. Ten shots standing and ten shots prone. The only change is that you can use a sling while standing as well as prone. Also if you are challenged to shoot prone you may use a sitting or kneeling position instead of prone. Thank you for coming out and good luck. While you have your rifles out keep on practicing for the April match as we will shoot the same course of fire only we will be outside and the range will be 50 yards.
Gary Hoyle

PRESS RELEASES

N.R.A. RANGE SAFETY OFFICER CLASS: FEBRUARY 11, 2006

On February 11, 2006 a class was held at the Watauga Gun Club for the purpose of becoming a National Rifle Association Certified Range Safety Officer. Nineteen people attended this class. All nineteen completed the requirements to become NRA Range Safety Officers. Representatives from the Amateur Trap Association, The National Bench Rest Rifle Association, The NRA High Power Rifle discipline, The International Defensive Pistol Association, the Watauga Gun Club, and other firearms ranges were in attendance.

Wayne Green

(excerpt from press notice sent to papers)

IDPA REPORT

February 18, 2006 was the date for our annual IDPA Safety Officers Class. The chief instructor was our own Robert Niemi with assistance from Gary Hoyle. Both are certified IDPA SO Instructors. The class was well attended with several recapping and seven new students. The new recruits will have the whole season to develop and practice what they learned.

The Watauga-IDPA 2006 season starts in earnest on March 18th with a classifier match and shotgun side match. The classifier is a 3 stage course of fire designed by IDPA to put shooters with similar guns and like skills together in matches. Classifications are also a requirement for shooters who wish to participate in sanctioned matches such as our state match and others.

The local matches are a series of self-defense scenarios designed to test and hone the skills of the shooter. Shooters are encouraged to come out and try IDPA and see if they like it! IDPA requests that anyone who participates in more than two matches join the organization. This is a \$35 annual fee and we offer a "special" in that anyone who fills out the application and pays the annual fee at one of our local matches can shoot that days pistol match free. The local match fee is \$15 so the initial membership ends up only costing \$20. Not a bad deal. And barrels of fun!

The 3rd Saturday from March through September will be local matches as we prepare for the NC 2006 State IDPA Championship on October 7th. This date is the 1st Saturday in October and was selected in an attempt to avoid area local fall events and ASU football games so the hotel rates will hopefully be more reasonable for the 200+ shooters and families that we expect to attend this event.

Is the shooter ready? STANDBY!

TRAP REPORT

Ok, Wayne said I had to get something in the paper for trap. Even with the cold winds of winter still blowing just outside my window. But when you think of it there is only four more weeks of this and we are in April, spring flowers and birds. Clay birds that is.

April is the start for trap shooting. April 1 "April Fools Day" is our first ATA match for the year 2006. And this looks to be another great year for trap shooting. I just hope that Mother Nature finds it in her heart to be a little kinder on the first day. Last year was a blast, a cold blast, we had hard winds and a heavy snow. But we still had a few brave souls that

would leave the warmth of the stove to shoot a round of clays. Once it was all said and done, we had a lot of fun out of it the rest of the year. We have things set up for our points program again this year.

The club team shoots begin in April also this year. There will be some changes in the program this year. Instead of two leagues a spring and then a summer. We will be having only one, but it will be running for nine weeks instead of two six weeks events. I think we will begin the third week in April, or the week after the club meeting, and we will have two Thursday nights for practice and then jump into the team events. This will give you all two weeks to get the spider webs blown from the barrels and a couple a practice nights to sharpen up that bad eye. I will get the date into Sandy for the calendar so keep a eye on it. Also if you know someone that might be interested in shooting a little trap, well those first two nights would be a great time for some one to get his or her feet wet. No pressure.

What else, well the kids program seems to be taken off very well. We have had a lot of young people that have showed an interest in the ideal. We have some coming back from last year and James said that there were more wanting to come out and learn the art of trap shooting. So if you know a young person that would like to give it a try let us know. Any time we can spend with a young person at the range is time well spent.

Last I want to say thanks to Gary Hoyle for getting the NRA Safety class set up. I got to spend a day with several people interested in the sport of shooting. I found the class very interesting an learned a great deal on the line of gun and range safety. Anyone that get a chance too set in on one of these classes needs to take the time and go.

Well that's about it for now, just waiting for warm weather to break.

Tom Pitts

Upcoming Events

- .22 Target Rifle match in the Hut on the March Club Meeting on March 9th.
- New members range use and safety class at 6:00 P.M. on March 10th.
- IDPA Match on March 18th. Qualification Match plus another IDPA match of 4 or 5 stages
- TRAP Contact Tommy Pitts at watco_top@yahoo.com to be notified about shooting on Sundays if the weather is good.

Agenda for the next meeting

Discussion and vote on spending up to \$3,000 for fencing and signs around the club property.

Vote on the youth air rifle program.

For Sale:

4.75 boxes of Remington Golden Saber "Government Specification" ammunition for sale, 45ACP, 230 gr. \$50. Contact Benson Wills. 336-667-3274

Pair of 5.11 pants size 34/30. \$25. Contact Gary Hoyle. 963-6307

And The Last Word Goes To:

Wayne Green, Publicity Officer

The NRA Range Officer Class in February was very informative and the instructors made many good points. There was one thing with which I strongly disagree. The NRA says you should never call a gun a weapon. I think this is not only ridiculous, it is detrimental to promoting guns in a positive light.

Everyone knows a gun is a weapon. They should know that it can be a sports implement, but first and foremost it is a weapon. That is the purpose for which guns were originally designed. When people will not use a name for something because they are afraid some people give that name a negative context, it eventually makes every one share that negative context. I am sorry if my use of the word weapon offends someone, but his or her attitude offends me. I guess we will both have to get over it. They are entitled to their opinion. I am entitled to use my guns for harvesting game animals and self-defense.

Someday maybe the sheeple of this country will realize there are no dangerous weapons. There are only dangerous people. Is it so hard to understand that people are the dominant life form on this planet because we fight with our minds? The fist, rock, club, gun, or bomb is secondary to our will. According to the way I understand it, the third man in the world killed the second man with a rock (not a Glock). Cain then took off to the land of Nod to try to avoid having to take responsibility for his actions. Nothing much has changed. People can be killed using anything from a pencil to a rolled up newspaper. If they are killed unjustifiably, whoever does it will probably run to avoid prosecution and having to take the consequences. Avoiding the use of a word does nothing to change anything except to reinforce the concept that

the word (and what it stands for) is evil or wrong. Good people need weapons to defend themselves from bad people. Why should a 100-pound woman have to let a 200-pound rapist/murderer do anything he wants to her when less than a pound of handgun makes her his physical equal? This policy of politically correct appeasement makes me so mad that I am glad I am not a drinking man. I might slosh into the meeting.

Shortly after I wrote the above ranting and raving, the Mayor of Blowing Rock sent me the following joke. I believe he thinks I am a Southern Conservative. It is hard to hide your raising.

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Are you a Liberal, Conservative or Southern Conservative? Here is a little test that will help you decide. The answer can be found by posing the following question:

You're walking down a deserted street with your wife and two small children. Suddenly, an Islamic Terrorist with a huge knife comes around the corner, locks eyes with you, screams obscenities, praises Allah, raises the knife, and charges at you. You are carrying a Glock Cal. 40, and you are an expert shot. You have mere seconds before he reaches you and your family. What do you do?

Liberal's Answer:

Well, that's not enough information to answer the question! Does the man look poor! Or oppressed? Have I ever done anything to him that would inspire him to attack? Could we run away? What does my wife think? What about the kids? Could I possibly swing the gun like a club and knock the knife out of his hand? What does the law say about this situation? Does the Glock have an appropriate safety built into it? Why am I carrying a loaded gun anyway, and what kind of message does this send to society and to my children? Is it possible he'd be happy with just killing me? Does he definitely want to kill me, or would he be content just to wound me, If I were to grab his knees and hold on, could my family get away while he was stabbing me? Should I call 9-1-1? Why is this street so deserted? We need to raise taxes, have a paint and weed day and make this happier, healthier street that would discourage such behavior. This is all so confusing! I need to debate this with some friends for few days and try to come to a consensus.

Conservative's Answer: BANG!

Southern Conservative's Answer: BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!BANG! BANG! BANG!
click...(sounds of reloading). BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!..... BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! click

Daughter: "Nice grouping, Daddy! Were those the Winchester Silver Tips or Hollow Points?"

Son: Git-r-Dun Pop! Can I shoot the next one!

Wife: You ain't taking that to the Taxidermist!

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