

# Nitro Express

Official Newsletter of Watauga Gun Club

March 4, 2008

By WAYNE GREEN

As it has been a while since the last newsletter, I will try to cover several topics. The first is dues. They should have been paid by March. The current fee is \$100.00 per year. You have to either work 5 hours with the time being signed off by a club officer or pay another \$50.00. There is a \$50.00 initiation fee for new members. There have been two suggestions to change this. One is to change the dues to \$150.00 per year and do away with the work requirement. The other is to charge \$150.00 per year and give back \$50.00 to everyone that turns in their work card. This gives us three options. One is to leave things the way they are, or use either of the new ideas. This needs to be brought before the club for discussion and a vote. As of now, the present fees are being charged.

The next item to be discussed is possibly limiting the number of the membership. There is more and more pressure on the range. There have been complaints about the first come – first served manner in which the range is now used. Since we stopped shooting in Bay 1 because of the house next door, there is a huge amount of pressure in Bay 2. We are using this bay for both pistol shooting and short range sighting in from the benches. Many people also plink from the bench shed. This causes people to move to the other short range bench at Trap Field 1. When this fills up or if Trap Field 1 is being used, people move to one of the bays in the side of the rifle range. If one person is shooting in one of these bays, it shuts down about 20 benches for rifle shooters. Conversely, if one rifle shooter is on a bench, it shuts down 5 pistol bays. Suggestions have been made that we either limit the membership or possibly assign certain days for pistol shooting, other days for shotgun shooting, and other days for rifle shooting. There has been talk of doing a study to see how the range is being used before making any decision. If you have an opinion, you need to come to a meeting and tell the other members know what it is.

Another item is changing the May or October club match and August club match for this year. The IDPA State Match is the weekend of the club match in August. This means the entire area we use for the varmint match will be full of stages, props, and Port-a-Johns for the State match. We could either switch with the May big bore pistol match or the October NRA pistol qualifier match. We could set up either of these club pistol matches in an area that would not effect the State Shoot or vice versa. If we decide to do this, we need to let people know now so they can prepare for the appropriate match.

Finally please watch where you put your target stands. They should be high enough in Bay 2 and the sight in bench at Trap house 1 to make sure the bullets hit into the hill, not the flat part of the range. Impacts into the flat part could cause ricochets. On the 100-300 yard rifle range the same thing must be done. All target stands should be placed BEHIND the berm at the 100 yard line. These targets need to be no closer to the benches than 100 yards and not be placed on top or in front of the berm. Doing either of these could cause ricochets that might leave our property or injure someone on the range. Be a responsible member! Position your targets appropriately.

Another concern is people that want to use the range for classes. The Club bylaws say we are supposed to promote the shooting sports and shooting in general. There is certainly nothing wrong with people teaching classes at the club. However, it is very important that these classes be scheduled so members will know when they are being held so they can plan around them. These class dates and the parts of the club that will be tied up need to be cleared by the Club President and the Range Officer. I would also like to address who is supposed to teach these classes. The people that I can remember that have been approved by the club and/or the executive committee to teach are Marvin Gragg, Wayne Green, Tim Honeycutt, Gary and Sandy Hoyle, Joe Moody, Robert Niemi, Rick Oakes, George Sudderth, Mike Suddreth, Mike Testerman, Todd Walker, and Danny Watson. I am sure I left someone out. I would like to propose we make a current list and require at least approval from the executive committee before someone uses the range to hold a formal class.

Even if you have to wait to do whatever kind of shooting you want to do, please be courteous. We are all members and have an equal right to use the range. In the coming political climate, we better be sure we stay

friends. You might want to follow Steve Byerly's policy of bringing a rifle, a shotgun, and a pistol to the range so you can jump in with whoever is there. Who knows, your stuck up butt might find you enjoy something different. We do not want to return to the bad old days when everyone only wanted the place to cater to his or her type of shooting. I have to be frank (instead of Wayne?), I have got so old and my BS tolerance has dropped so much, I do not have much sympathy for people that will not try to get along with the rest of us.

**Monthly club match results:**

Our next match is .22 rimfire rifle in the Hut. We will shoot ten shots in ten minutes standing with no slings and ten shots in ten minutes prone. Any sights, any rifle. No slings are permitted in standing. A17 ten bull target. One shot per bull per string.

Results for the January revolver match is as follows.:

1. Bryan Wood	86 xx
2. Doug Merkel	84 xx
3. Lloyd Poole	84
4. Wayne Phillips	83 x
5. Ted Greene	81 xx
6. Ben Bosworth	76
7. Vince Gable	76
8. Robert Niemi	75
9. Chad Pitts	72 x
10. David Williams	72
11. Joe Moody	69
12. Bucky Greene	67 x
13. Tom Bennett	65
14. Charles Harmon	61 x
15. Todd Walker	61
16. Gary Lindabury	46
17. Wayne Green	21
18. Branson Phillips	14
19. Cameron Pressley	8

The results for the .February .22 target pistol match is:

1. Todd Walker	253 – 5x
2. Lloyd Poole	247 – 1x
3. Steve Byerly	246 – 5x
4. Doug Merkel	242 – 2x
5. Ted Greene	237 – 3x
6. Mike Testerman	223 – 2x
7. Rick Oakes	220 – 3x
8. Wayne Phillips	220 – 2x
9. Vince Gable	196 – 2x
10. Gerald Sparks	179
11. Robert Niemi	177
12. Ben Bosworth	171 – 2x
13. Eric Testerman	145
14. Wayne Green	130
15. Will Lepley	128
16. Dean Melton	120 – 1x
17. Tom Bennett	113
18. Josh Dixon	73
19. Gary Lindabury	33
20. Ron Stewart	24

**Upcoming Events**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Committee Meeting March 10</li> <li>• Club Meeting and Match March 13</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRA Highpower March 22</li> <li>• IDPA Match March 15</li> </ul> |
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**Agenda for the next meeting**

Discussion of issues listed above.

**Where is Watauga Gun Club headed in 2008?**

By Sandy Hoyle, a.k.a. DenMother

Into the future! ... *in my opinion.*

There are a few things that have been bantered around in the last few club meetings and executive committee meetings that the general membership needs to know, think and do something about ... *in my opinion*. There are differing schools of thought that I'm hearing. That's what I do, by the way ... listen ... and occasionally offer an opinion when asked. No one asked for this bunch, but stuff happens.

The first issue is that of raising the dues to \$150. WHY?

- 1.) Everything is costing more. Notable shooting supplies, gasoline, firewood, electricity, postage and telephones. WGC cannot maintain or make improvements without money. That's the way the world works.
- 2.) WGC needs to make some major repairs to buildings and grounds to maintain what is here, as well as improve safety, eye appeal and functionality of the range.
- 3.) WGC needs to show activity and improvements to be a community attraction and advocate.
- 4.) Watauga Gun Club is one of the lowest priced clubs in NC as well as neighboring states. With the impending elections, there is going to be a big push against ALL gun owners and gun clubs if the liberals have their way. The club needs to show it is a valuable community asset.

One faction is saying raise dues and eliminate the work card. Biggest reason? Because of the paperwork that the treasurer doesn't have time to do and no other officer wants to take over. What paperwork? Keeping up with work cards and billing everyone who doesn't turn in a work card. The second is saying raise dues and anyone who works the 5 hours and turns in a work card gets \$50 back. The third is saying leave it at \$100 and anyone who doesn't turn in a work card gets billed when they renew. (In other words, leave it the way it is supposed to be now. )

Okay, then. Here's what I'm thinking. Join in if you like!

Would WGC lose members? Maybe. Most will see an increase as natural progression.

Option one: Will presently working members quit working? Maybe, but not likely. Those that work now are proud of their club or they wouldn't be working in the first place. The ones that don't? There are a multitude of excuses ... oh pardon me ... reasons. Some of them plausible. But the club could be looking at paying for more services which may defeat the purpose of the dues raise.

Option two: Paperwork again and having to hold money in savings or escrow to reimburse workers. Is a savings account a bad thing? Wouldn't this be easier then trying to collect after the fact or not at all. The number of persons who work, plus the number of persons who automatically pay the extra \$50 when they renew instead of working are about a third of the membership. Do the math.

Option three: Paperwork and the funds are not available until the end of the year or the beginning of the next, depending on how one looks at it. And what is the recourse if someone refuses to pay the extra \$50? The suggestion is made that unless someone presents a work card when they renew, they be charged \$150 and that everyone must attend a meeting to renew. We have members we never see after their initial meetings to become members and others who no longer live close but send in their dues like clockwork because they know the value of having a place to shoot when they are in the area. Maybe allowances or exceptions would be made for those folks.

I expect you can figure out which way I'm leaning, but you can jump to your own conclusions. Maybe I'm missing something that is blaringly obvious to you. Say so. This is your club. Its future depends on you.

The second issue is that of opening the club to the public, selling ammo, targets, etc. Think about this a little and don't let the rhetoric confuse things. The club was founded as a private club for the use of its members only. As such it is sanctioned as a private NRA club. Lloyd Poole very eloquently stated this in the November club meeting. If WGC goes to a "public" format the by-laws have to be changed and the insurance goes up because the liability issues of a public range are enormous! Common sense needs to be followed here. The dues would have to go up again to support full-time staffing and damage control to the range. Who among us wants to be further hindered when we come out to shoot and have to deal with people who are NOT members but paying customers who want what they want when they want it? Want a public range? Open one somewhere, but not here ... *in my opinion*.

The third issue is that of the plight of the treasurer and the fate of the newsletter. The way I read the club manual (*and I could be mistaken ...*) is that the membership paid for a newsletter when they pay their dues. Yes, postage and printing costs have increased and most of us have full time jobs along with our club duties.

So? The club has always run on the labors of volunteer officers and staff. But maybe it is time for the club to think about a paid bookkeeper who reports to the treasurer. \$10 an hour for a part-time bookkeeper for 2 or 3 hours a month could be a bargain in the long run to keep the club finances in order. Checks would still be approved and signed by the president and the treasurer. This dollar amount keeps the club under the wage limit of reportable wage tax issues too.

Maybe it is time for the club to expand the officers to include a membership coordinator who collects work cards, keeps the mailing list, manages the calendar, and works the webpage. This would centralize the membership information and take a little bit of the present functions off the publicity officer, treasurer and range officer. The publicity officer would get a stack of labels to send the printed newsletters to anyone who does not have internet access. The range officer would still approve calendar requests but would be free to deal with the more pressing safety and range issues of that position. This new position would probably need to be part of the executive committee to keep up with what's happening. Just a thought.

So now I'll get off the soap box and ask that you get on one. The club cannot know how to fix what you think is wrong if you don't say something. The silent majority has no place here. Speak up for what you believe or this club will be history and then where will you exercise your Second Amendment rights?

Luv ya! Mean it!

DenMother

a.k.a. Sandy Hoyle; January 13, 2008

### And The Last Word Goes To:

Wayne Green

We have a lot of things to think about. The upcoming elections look kind of bleak for our side. We all know that Mr. Obama and Ms. Clinton are anti-gun. There is a lot of question as to Mr. McCain's position on gun rights. It is very important to try to get some good people to win in the congressional primaries.

Those of us that like to hunt have an interesting problem. The folks in Blowing Rock that are concerned with their "million dollar" views are trying to get the Pisgah Forest classified as a scenic area. The version of this act that was printed in the Blowing Rocket indicated a possibility of the Forest Service stopping hunting and fishing on up to 60,000 to 70,000 acres. This is very unlikely, but you never know. The interesting thing is what some of the proponents of this bill have alleged. One of these people called a profession wildlife manager a member of a minority political group called the Ruffed Grouse Society. Another proponent of this legislation is a town councilperson that pled guilty to taking some plastic flowers out of a neighbor's planter and throwing them away because she did not like how they looked. So much for the rights of others. Please keep watch for the comment period on this proposed legislation so we can support scientific wildlife management and a multi-use forest we can all enjoy. The purpose of public property is not solely to provide views.

**'Those who hammer their guns into plows will plow for those who do not.' ~ Thomas Jefferson**

**FIREARMS REFRESHER COURSE** 1. An armed man is a citizen. An unarmed man is a subject. 2. A gun in the hand is better than a cop on the phone. 3. Colt: The original point and click interface. 4. Gun control is not about guns; it's about control. 5. If guns are outlawed, can we use swords? 6. If guns cause crime, then pencils cause misspelled words. 7. Free men do not ask permission to bear arms. 8. If you don't know your rights, you don't have any. 9. Those who trade liberty for security have neither. 10. The United States Constitution (c)1791. All Rights Reserved. 11. What part of 'shall not be infringed' do you not understand? 12. The Second Amendment is in place in case the politicians ignore the others. 13. 64,999,987 firearms owners killed no one yesterday. 14. Guns only have two enemies; rust and politicians. 15. Know guns, know peace, know safety. No guns, no peace, no safety. 16. You don't shoot to kill; you shoot to stay alive. 17. 911: Government sponsored Dial-a-Prayer. 18. Assault is a behavior, not a device. 19. Criminals love gun control; it makes their jobs safer. 20. If guns cause crime, then matches cause arson. 21. Only a government that is afraid of its citizens tries to control them. 22. You have only the rights you are willing to fight for. 23. Enforce the gun control laws we ALREADY have; don't make more. 24. When you remove the people's right to bear arms, you create slaves. 25. The American Revolution would never have happened with gun control. Thanks to Dale Walker for the above.