

Nitro Express

Official Newsletter of Watauga Gun Club

June 17, 2008

By Wayne Green

We have several items that need discussion.

It has been proposed that we limit the membership. The number that has been discussed is 160. The proposal is that if there are more than 160 members when (and if) this passes, that no new members be admitted to the club until the role falls to under 160. We would continue to accept applications and file them. Members from the year ending (current) would have until February to pay renewal dues to keep a membership active. If not paid by then, the next person on the waiting list would be contacted to see if he still wants to be a member. The dropped person would be added to the bottom of the list. The spouse of a member that dies (if the spouse is an associate member) could inherit a membership. The question of a child of a member that dies inheriting the membership has also been brought up. This is not as straightforward as the child might not be old enough for a full membership and his brothers and sisters would not be eligible for an associate membership. We need to discuss this further.

It has also been proposed that the maximum number of guests that a member is permitted to bring be limited to 2. These guests would have to remain under the immediate supervision of the member that brings them. For instance, the member could not be on the three hundred yard range and his guests be in the Quonset hut.

News and gossip

The Supreme Court is supposed to release a decision as to whether the Second Amendment is an individual right or a collective right this month. With the way it looks like the elections may go this year, we had better hope for a ruling favorable for our side.

There is good news and bad news about being able to carry a gun with which to protect yourself in National Parks. The good news is that the National Park Service has changed it's policy to allow concealed carry if it is allowed in state parks. The bad news is that you are not allowed to carry in state parks in North Carolina. Please contact our state representatives to have them sponsor legislation to allow people to protect themselves on public property. Our Representative in the House is Cullie Tarleton. His phone number is 295-3353 locally and 919-733-7727 in Raleigh. Our Senator is Steven Goss. His number in Raleigh is 919-733-5742. This would also be a chance to talk to them about changing the laws concerning being able to carry in a restaurant that serves alcohol and places that charge admission such as movie theatres. One might also talk to them about students that have concealed carry permits being able to carry on college campuses. I for one cannot understand why someone else drinking with his supper should keep me from having the means to defend my family and myself. If a college student can carry on Main Street, why should he not be able to carry on campus. If the question is brought up, please tell our representatives that there is no reason not to make these changes. People that hold concealed carry permits are among the most law abiding in existence, even surpassing law enforcement officers. If you do not get a satisfactory response to your call, maybe you need to remember that in November.

Mike Suddreth has sent me a lot of material. I will try to boil it down so that we do not bankrupt the club with the cost of stamps.

A ten year old boy in Wichendon, Massachusetts was suspended from school when he took the casings of two blanks that he had been given from the town's Memorial Day celebration to school. The young man's dad, uncle, and grandfathers were all veterans, so he was justifiably proud on his souvenirs. The cases were confiscated and not returned. When I hear of crap like this, it makes me wonder if the days when bureaucrats that would do something like this were given a party featuring tar and feathers may not have been so bad.

The Philadelphia Inquirer published an article stating that there is no evidence that guns cause crime. I wonder if they are going to publish a follow-up that states there is no evidence that flies cause garbage.

The American Legislative Exchange Council is a group that is made up of legislators and corporate / association government affairs representatives from all 50 states. This organization is calling for the repeal of state restrictions that prevent the possession of firearms by valid concealed carry licensees on college campuses.

Walter Williams who serves on the faculty of George Mason University says that criminals should be controlled, not guns. Dr. Williams says that if we were to pass third party liability laws we should hold members of parole boards who release criminals who turn around and commit violent crimes to task instead of the manufacturers of inanimate objects.

The Shreve Port Times ran an editorial that stated allowing concealed carry on college campuses would likely make things worse. A rebuttal was written by David Burnett that stated disarming citizens emboldens criminals. Mr Burnett made the point that many doomsayers had said that allowing people the means to protect themselves would result in accidents and rage shootings while the exact opposite has proven to be the fact. He also made the point that when people carry concealed, crime drops.

Thanks to Mike

Could we all revert back to children?

I remember in my childhood some of these things. I rode my bicycle without a helmet, gloves, knee or elbow pads. The government didn't mandate that I had to wear these when I was young. I knew how to look both ways when I was crossing the street, cars are big and hurt if they hit you. My mother sent me out of the house after breakfast with a bag lunch, a fishing pole, a friend and said "Be home by 5 for dinner". And she didn't have to worry about me. I knew to wash my hands when I got home at 5, before I sat down for dinner. We always had a dog in the house when I was growing up. It was my job to be sure that it was fed and had water and such. My parents didn't have to remind me about this every night. It was one of my chores to take out the trash each night. Again, no reminders needed. We had guns in the house. I didn't mess with them because first of all I was shown what kind of destructive power they have, second they weren't a mystery because I was allowed to shoot them with supervision and third I really didn't want my ass tanned by dad if he caught me messing with them.

As I sat last night taking notes during the club meeting this thought really hit me. COULD WE ALL REVERT BACK TO CHILDREN? I mean think of this, we have set in the last three or four meetings talking, discussing and sometimes arguing over what to do about some issues we are having at the range. The main issue is that of people not being able to setup a target so that their bullet will strike the back of the bay. **NOT** the floor of the bay, **NOT** the side of the bay, **NOT** the trees between our property and the creek, **NOT** the large gray shed on the left side of the 300 yard rifle bay, **NOT** the back of trap house one. Come on people how hard is it to put up a target, go back to where you are planning on shooting from and look **PAST** the target to see where your bullets are going to land?? That piece of paper and cardboard are not going to stop any bullet, it is going to go till it hits something solid. That solid object should be the back of the berm.

We keep discussing what we should do to correct these problems. Should we cap the membership, should we raise the dues so high that the common person can't afford to be a member, should we put up more signs, should we hire someone to be at the range when it is open so that they can babysit the shooters that come out?

All of this, well some of it, may be good suggestions. But I have a better one, one that has been brought up before at the meetings. **WHY DON'T WE JUST ENFORCE THE RULES WE ALREADY HAVE???** What good is making new rules, new signs, talking about the issues every month (frankly I'm getting a little tired of hearing them), saying we need this and that when we don't enforce what we already have in the range manual and the club by-laws? You as a member of this club have the right to a safe place to shoot. But this right takes some care and sometimes it takes an ass tanning (so to speak) to keep what you have. I guarantee that if a few of the offending members had their membership revoked that others would get the word and things would start to straighten out.

So here it is the point I have been working up to, I know you have been reading with much anticipation. We should enforce the rules that we have, every one of us. First of all we all should re-read the range use manual we were given so that we are up to speed on the rules. If you don't have yours you can find a copy on the web page in the "How to Apply for Membership in Watauga Gun Club" area. Secondly, if you witness someone at the range doing something unsafe, kindly and politely let them know that you don't appreciate what they are doing. Try to steer them in the proper direction and give them some advice. If they don't wish to comply then get their name or a vehicle tag number. Then you can report this person to the executive committee for review. If the offending person continues their actions the phone numbers of the people on the exec committee are posted on the bulletin board in the clubhouse, call someone right then. The exec committee has the power to revoke member's privileges for unsafe actions at the range. This will involve a hearing with the offending member and possible testimony from the witnesses. I for one would not want to see anyone lose their membership but it may come to that.

Let's see if we can all act like grownups at this club, or at least like the responsible kids we were when times were simpler.

Robert Niemi, Club Secretary

Monthly club match results:

Our next match is trap. 16 yards, any breech loading shotgun 90mm trap clay pigeon target, 2 strings of 25

The Schutzen Verin is now running on Tuesday evenings. Get in touch with Eric Testerman (297-1897) if you want to make up any matches.

Please note that the Varmint Rifle match normally shot in August and the NRA handgun Qualification match normally shot in October will change dates due to conflicts with the setup for the IDPA state shoot.

The Trap league is now underway on Thursday evenings. Contact Tommy Pitts (264-15780 or Morgan Shaw (297-6936). We can always use more shooters.

We plan to give out the trophies for last year that we kept forgetting about at the JULY PICNIC.

April Match Scores: .22 Target Rifle

	<u>Standing</u>	<u>Prone</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Todd Walker	78 x 1	92 x 2	170 x 3
2. Steve Byerly	79	81	160
3. Jeff Foster	71	80	151
4. Doug Merkel	60	88	148
5. Ben Bosworth	66 x 1	81 x 2	147 x 3
6. David Modlin	58	88 x 2	146 x 2
7. Lloyd Poole	64	82	146
8. Ted Greene	56	84 x 1	140 x 1
9. Will Lepley	50	79	129
10. Vince Gable	45	76 x 1	121 x 1
11. Steve Lion	39	79	118
12. Charles Harmon	50	65	115
13. Mike Testerman	39	71	110
14. Gary Lindabury	44	65	109
15. Wayne Green	47	59	106
16. Chad Pitts	35	71	106
17. Ron Stewart	47 x 1	49	96 x 1
18. Ricky Oakes	44	52	96
19. Robert Niemi	35	60	95
20. Bucky Greene	50	41	91
21. Ernie Vannoy	21	31	52

May Match Scores: Big Bore Pistol

<u>Optic</u>	<u>25 yards</u>	<u>50 yards</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Steve Byerly	175 x 3	81 x 2	256 x 5
2. Lloyd Poole	176 x 2	79 x 2	255 x 4

3. Doug Merkel	153 x 1	72 x 1	225 x 2
4. Ted Greene	158 x 2	66 x 1	224 x 3
5. Rick Oakes	160	46	206
6. Steve Lion	147 x 1	38	185 x 1
7. Ben Bosworth	136 x 1	49	185 x 1
8. Wayne Green	104	25	129

Iron

1. Todd Walker	162 x 1	58	220 x 1
2. Joe Moody	156 x 2	61	217 x 2
3. Bryan Wood	115 x 1	65	180 x 1
4. Tim Honeycutt	100	65	165
5. Morgan Shaw	131 x 1	29	160 x 1
6. Robert Niemi	134 x 1	11	145 x 1
7. Gary Lindabury	48	16	64
8. Tom Bennett	45	0	45
9. Ron Stewart	28	5	33

Upcoming Events

- IDPA Pistol Match June 21, 2008
- NRA High Power Match June 28, 2008
- ATA Trap Match July 5, 2008
- Club picnic July 10, 2008

For sale, lost, found, want to buy

AR15 – Olympic Arms A@ .223 lower with a DPMS A3 .233 upper, 20 inch stainless heavy match 1:8 twist barrel, NM front sight, YHM free flat quad rail, chrome match bolt carrier, , Leatherwood 6.5x20 by 50 AO target scope with mill dot reticule, Leatherwood rings from Bushmaster, 1/8 MOA adjustments and target knobs, one Colt 20 round mag. \$700.00 call Todd Walker 828-260-5114

Springfield XD .45 pistol with 3 high cap mags, holster, mag pouch, box. \$425.00 Call Wayne Green 828-963-5086

And The Last Word Goes To:

By Wayne

It looks like we are going to have a hard row to hoe for a while. While Mr. McCain looks better than Mr. Obama, I do not think one can consider him a conservative. All I can say is follow your conscience. The more disturbing thing to me is the possible loss of seats in the House and Senate. I would like to address the race between Virginia Foxx and Roy Carter. I have an email from Mr. Carter that says he supports the Second Amendment but he does not think one needs a semi-automatic to hunt squirrels. This shows a shocking lack of knowledge about the Second Amendment, types of firearms, and squirrel hunting. First of all, as we all know, the Second Amendment is not about hunting. It is about your right to possess arms for the defense of you country, your family, your friends and neighbors, and yourself. Next, a semi-automatic is no more dangerous than a single shot. I would definitely not recommend letting Walt Lewis shoot at you with a muzzle loader. Granted, a semi gives you a faster second shot, but that just means you missed with the first one. Finally, I would venture to guess that the majority of .22's that are used for squirrel hunting are semi-automatics. The Ruger 10-22, and the Marline .22 auto comprise the majority of the .22's that are sold today. I have shot a truckload of .22 bullets out of a semi-automatic at squirrels and have killed enough to partially fill up a game bag in a child's hunting coat. Anyway, more squirrels are probably harvested with a semi-automatic .22 than all of the other types combined.

In any event, Mr. Carter appears to be playing politics by telling us what we want to hear about guns while at best knowing nothing about them and our rights or at worst trying to fool us about his real agenda. On the other hand, I know from personal experience that Ms. Foxx has been a staunch supporter of our Second Amendment and hunting rights, and has

even been a patron of our local Friends of the NRA dinner on many occasions. This means I am going to support Ms. Foxx. Mr. Carter may be a fine man. He may even be so virtuous that he can walk on water without it being frozen. Be that as it may, I, personally, cannot take a chance on him when it comes to my Second Amendment rights. If anyone has a different opinion, I will be glad to put it in the next newsletter.

Speaking of child's hunting coats, there is big news at the Green house. We have just been informed we are expecting our first grandchild. This brings up the question of where one buys very small eye and ear protection and small pink or blue .22 rifles. I got my first .22 when I was four. My grandchild is not going to have to suffer this extremely long wait.

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