

Nitro Express

Official Newsletter of Watauga Gun Club

April 9, 2008

By Wayne Green

At last month's meeting, we discussed three options of handling the dues. The first option is to leave the dues at \$100.00 per year with a work card to be filled out and a fifty dollar charge to be paid at the end of the year by any member that does not complete his five hours of work. This is the current way dues are charged. The second option is to make the dues \$150.00 and rebate \$50.00 to any member that turns in his five hour work card. The third option is to raise the dues to \$150.00 and forget about the work cards. I think we are supposed to vote on this at the April meeting.

We have had some damage in the Quonset Hut. Some one has been putting cans and clay birds on top of the bullet traps. The bullets are going on to hit the cinder block walls. **Do not do this.** It is dangerous and will get you thrown out of the club.

There has been a problem with shots being fired diagonally across the rifle range.. We put up a berm to make people raise their targets to the point at which they will impact into the hill instead of the flat ground (causing ricochets). Targets have to be placed no closer to the benches than 100 yards. As the berm is at 80 yards, it does not take a mathematician with the capacity of Einstein to figure out you have to place the target stands behind the berm, not on top of it. Ricochets and shooting cross range have been a problem for years. The only way I know to stop it is to put in some permanent target stand bases in front of designated benches at 100, 200, and 300 yards. You would then be required to shoot from the designated bench at the target stands directly in front of that bench. We may need to prohibit the use of the first four or five benches closest to the clubhouse except when a benchrest match is being run. We may also need to move the building that houses the highpower targets and equipment to behind the berm at the shoot house. Several bullets have damaged this storage building. Please remember that one of the basic rules of gun safety is to know what is behind your targets. I do not understand why it is such a problem for some people to check this out. I was given a .22 when I was 4 years old and my Dad and uncle would never have let me live to be 5 if I could not do better than this. Please be prepared to vote on these issues, because if I live to make the meeting and if I can get a second, then I can guarantee you that they will be brought up. Sorry for the preaching, but the Fat Kid is somewhat irate.

NEWS ITEMS

Oklahoma is considering a bill that would lower the age for a concealed carry permit to 18. The logic is that if you can vote and serve in the military, you should be able to carry a gun. One sponsor said that in his district a person has had 16 years of gun handling experience by the time he was 18.

A web link to all North Carolina gun shows is http://www.gunshows-usa.com/north_carolina_gun_shows.htm

More Proof That Americans Support The Right To Keep And Bear Arms Friday, March 28, 2008
Need more confirmation that a majority of Americans support the Right to Keep and Bear Arms? Look no further than the results of a Gallup poll, which were reported in a March 27, /Gallup.com/ article. The poll found that an overwhelming majority of the United States public-- 73% -- believes that the Second Amendment guarantees the right of Americans to own firearms. For regular readers of the Grassroots Alert, the findings come as no surprise. In fact, the Gallup poll reflects comparable results from a CNN/Opinion Research Corporation telephone poll carried out December 6-9, 2007, which found that 65%

of Americans believe the Constitution guarantees the Right to Keep and Bear Arms. Other recent polls have shown that Americans support gun rights. A Zogby International poll for Associated Television News, conducted December 13-17, 2007 found 27% of voters would be more likely to support a candidate endorsed by NRA (through its PAC, NRA Political Victory Fund). That survey showed that NRA ranks above Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, the AFL-CIO, Oprah Winfrey, and Barbara Streisand in influencing voters! And another Zogby International poll conducted earlier in 2007 found that 66% of the American voting public rejects the idea that new gun control laws are needed. The results of this latest poll make clear where the majority of Americans stand, and confirm what other polls have consistently shown: Americans overwhelmingly support firearm rights and ownership.

Monthly club match results:

Our next match is .50 yard 22 rimfire rifle. We will shoot ten shoots in ten minutes standing with no slings and ten shots in ten minutes prone or sitting. Any sights, any rifle. No slings are permitted in standing. A17 ten bull target. One shot per bull per string. to score.

March Rifle Results

		<u>Standing</u>	<u>Prone</u>	<u>Total</u>
1.	Doug Merkel	78x1	89x 6	168 x7
2.	Todd Walker	68x2	94x6	162 x 8
3.	Ted Greene	66	93 x 6	159 x 6
4.	Lloyd Poole	71 x 1	83 x 1	154 x 2
5.	Jeff Foster	64	81 x 2	145 x 2
6.	Robert Niemi	52	88 x 2	140 x 2
7.	Bryan Wood	54	77 x 1	131 x 1
8.	Steve Byerly	47	76	123
9.	Rick Oakes	54 x 1	68 x 2	122 x 3
10.	Tom Bennett	51 x 1	71 x 1	122 x 2
11.	Ron Stewart	46	74 x 1	120 x 1
12.	Charles Harmon	35	82 x 1	117 x 1
13.	Ben Bosworth	37 x 1	79	116 x 1
14.	Chad Pitts	46	64	110
15.	Vince Gable	43	67	110
16.	Will Lepley	41	65	106
17.	Gary Lindabury	32	61	93
18.	Wayne Greene	38	46	84
19.	Bucky Greene	53	21	74
20.	Wayne Phillips	24	37 x 1	61 x 1
21.	Steve Lion	30	11	41
22.	Dave Richardson	21 x 1	7	28 x 1

Upcoming Events

- The High Country Chapter of Hunters Helping Kids, Inc. is hosting the Ultimate Kids Hunt Sportsman Conservation Banquet on May 2, 2008 at the Alliance Bible Fellowship at 673

George Wilson Road. Tickets are Sponsor - \$245.00; single - \$20.00; Kids ten to fifteen - \$10.00; Kids under ten – Free. Contact Doug McGuire at 828-773-8832 or 828-297-5580.

Trap News

Trap

I just got my call from Wayne, that he needs something for the news letter. Right now everything is still in hibernation mode. I understand that there are a few brave souls going out and shooting a little on pretty days. That should start to pick up as the weather starts moving into the late spring and summer.

The club summer team shooting will begin on the third Thursday of April. I believe that is the 17th, and we will have a couple of nights practice and getting the teams together. Then I believe the first night of competition will be the 1st of May. The program will be the same as last year. We will have nine club matches that will run thru July depending on the weather. This really works well if we can get four teams together, they then all will go heads up against everyone three times.

ATA this year starts on the first weekend in May. The reason we moved it back was because for the last few years our first ATA match was falling on the opening day of trout season. Now I don't trout fish like I use too, but we all know what the weather is like on opening day of trout seasons. So this year we just moved our opening date too May. Also this year most of our ATA matches will be just one day on the weekend, currently we have only a two day on July 5/6 around the fourth of July and then in August the Glenn Miller shoot scheduled on August the 1/2/3rd. All other dates are one day on Saturday.

There are several reasons behind this, one reason is it open more weekend dates up to the club to go out and shoot on Sunday afternoon. The other is it should make it easier for the ATA shooter from off the mountain to drive up for one day shoots and then goes home. The cost of getting motel rooms and eating really drives the expense account up for a weekend of shooting. Then there the reason of hired help, its hard to go out and bust butt for two days putting on a shoot and then going into work the next day.

And speaking of hired help, we need some able body men to help out this year. For the most part George Sudderth has offered to help out and get thing up and going on the Thursday night club matches. We have a good group of people that shoot that ATA matches that we can draw help from. But Tuesday night is another matter, right now we still have Tuesday night down for practice and fun shooting. We need some volunteers to go out and open and set up if they want to shoot the Tuesday nights.

Last if your new members or you want to shoot the club trap team league this year come out on the set practice nights and give us your name. And we always need sponsors for the teams. If you sponsor a team it cost \$25.00 and this money goes towards the trophies given out at the Christmas Party.

So let us know.

Thanks Tom Pitts

Thank You

For flowers sent by the club in remembrance, this was received:

*During a time like this we realize how much our friends and relatives really mean to us
Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered. Thank you.*

Danny, Jessica, Matt & Heather Horney

And The Last Word Goes To:

By Wayne Green

There has been a bill introduced into the Legislature that would allow a person that holds a concealed carry permit to carry his gun in National Parks. Besides the two-legged predators that we all have to be concerned with, many patrons of the Parks in our western states are concerned about bears and mountain lions dining on something other than picnic baskets. This bill is being met with resistance from employees of the National Park Service. The mindset of these employees is typified by the actions taken by some Parkway employees in McDowell County. According to Full Cry magazine, park employees captured some hunting dogs that had chased game onto the Parkway. They locked the dogs up and would not return them, saying that hunting was cruel. They also removed the tracking collars from these dogs. The owners of the dogs were able to get a game warden to retrieve the dogs and collars because the actions of removing the collars and effectively stealing the dogs are against the law in North Carolina. It could also be argued that the action of locking up the dogs consisted of hunter harassment because neither the dogs nor the bear could read the Parkway signs. The bear might have left the Park and returned to a place where it was legal to hunt. In any case, for some reason no one was charged with any violation.

Nitro Express
PO Box 3284
Boone, NC 28607