

Nitro Express

Official Newsletter of Watauga Gun Club 2009

March

By Mike Suddreth

Most WGC members and guests use our facilities as they were intended. Many members go the extra mile to leave the range or ranges they have used in better condition than when they arrived. Used targets and backings are properly disposed while target stands and benches are usually left in a user friendly condition for the next member to enjoy. But recently, the use of common sense and common courtesy are in short supply. Property damage has been happening to many fixtures and buildings at the range. No one seems to know how it happens and witnesses are always unavailable. There is reason to believe that non-members are somehow gaining access to our range.

So a small group of concerned club members have decided to take some pro-active measures to ensure that property damage is kept to a minimum. In the coming months, do not be surprised if you are approached when using the range and asked to present some type of membership verification. You may even be asked to observe some policies you were not aware of violating. Wearing your WGC issued credentials will be encouraged to all current members. Persons identified as violators will be immediately reported through the proper channels and asked to leave the WGC range. Violators can

expect to be contacted by a WGC Executive or the authorities.

In the past, concerned club members have exercised patience and tolerance when interacting with others who were not aware of WGC policies & procedures. Some members feel that their patience and tolerance has been perceived as a weakness and are ready to take a more pro-active role as a Range Safety Officer. Already, Steve Byerly has brought to the attention of the Executive Committee a WGC member who was observed committing unsafe actions and damaging club property. The club member has been identified and awaits Executive Committee action.

Also, the construction of a new retaining wall or barricade is in the planning for the entrance side of the range. Recent happenings have forced the Executive Committee to become pro-active in containing any ricochets or stray rounds from exiting the range areas.

The recent change in the political climate has made many WGC members take a moment and reflect on the permanent damage we could do to ourselves if we continue to allow negligent actions to continue.

WGC Membership Renewals

--- NOTICE ---

Dues for 2009 are being accepted. Renewals are \$150 for the calendar year. Gate Code changes after the February meeting.

Renewed members for whom we have an email address on file will get a notice with the new gate code before the March meeting. Members with only a snail mail address on file will get the new gate code in the newsletter.

The new code will also be online in the minutes section of the newsletters when posted so if you have the 2008 code, you can access the new one.

March 2009 Club Match

****Posted results are not yet final for .22 Rifle Prone/Standing ... shot on March 12, 2009**

Top 8 Shooters

#1 – Doug Merkel

#2 – Chad Pitts

#3 – Jeff Foster

#4 – Ted Greene

#5 – Lloyd Poole

#6 – Vince Gable

#7 – Tim Honeycutt

#8 – Steve Byerly

***** Approx 16-18 shooters competed on the day of March 12th**

News and Events

Professor Joseph Olson of Hemline University School of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota, points out some interesting facts concerning the Presidential election:

- Number of States won by: Democrats: 19 Republicans: 29
- Square miles of land won by: Democrats: 580,000 Republicans: 2,427,000
- Population of counties won by: Democrats: 127 million Republicans: 143 million
- Murder rate per 100,000 residents in counties won by: Democrats: 13.2 Republicans: 2.1

Professor Olson adds: "In aggregate, the map of the territory Republicans won was mostly the land owned by the taxpaying citizens of the country. Democrat territory mostly encompassed those citizens living in government-owned tenements and living off various forms of government welfare..."

Olson believes the United States is now somewhere between the "complacency and apathy" phase of Professor Tyler's definition of democracy, with some forty percent of the nation's population already having reached the "governmental dependency" phase.

If Congress grants amnesty and citizenship to twenty million criminal invaders called illegals and they vote, then we can say goodbye to the USA in fewer than five years. If you are in favor of this, then by all means, delete this message.

If you are not, then pass this along to help everyone realize just how much is at stake, knowing that apathy is the greatest danger to our freedom.

Raleigh Mayor Blames Guns For His Rising Crime Stats

When all else fails and a do nothing approach to rising crime stats fails, what is a mayor to do. Well, blame gun owners and the existence of their guns of course. That is what Mayor Charles Meeker of Raleigh is doing in an interview with the Raleigh News and Observer that ran Sunday, Feb. 15. About the record number of killings last year in Raleigh Meeker said that there are too many guns on Raleigh's streets and blames federal and state laws for not being strict enough. He said, "We really don't have any authority there. We're left policing after terrible incident shave occurred." In short he seems to be saying that federal and state laws do not contain enough gun control. What do you think? Should the mayor of Raleigh be calling for more gun control rather than attempting to solve his own crime problems. We don't think so. Let him know what you think. charles.meeker@ci.raleigh.nc.us Phone: (919) 890-3050

Ambitious gun rights agenda introduced in North Carolina

Recently, no fewer than five pro-gun bills have been introduced in the North Carolina General Assembly thanks to pro-Second Amendment legislators like Representatives Mark Hilton, George Cleveland, Justin Burr, Jim Gulley, Tim Moore, Fred Steen, and Laura Wiley; and Senator Andrew Brock. More gun legislation can be expected to be introduced prior to the bill introduction deadlines of March 25 for the Senate and April 8 for the House.

H257: 'No Seizure of Lawful Firearms in Emergency'

Introduced by Reps. Cleveland, Hilton, Moore and Wiley, H 257 is intended to prevent gun confiscation such as occurred in New Orleans after hurricane Katrina. The bill modifies the power of the Governor during states of emergency to specifically prohibit seizure of lawfully held firearms, ammunition or components.

H 269: 'Concealed Handgun Permit Valid in Parks'

Introduced by Reps. Hilton, Burr, Cleveland, and Gulley, H 269 closes a loophole in the statewide uniformity clause of North Carolina's concealed handgun permit law under which "units of local government" can ban concealed carry in public parks.

H 270: 'Personal Protection in Restaurants'

Introduced by Reps. Hilton, Steen, Burr and Cleveland, H 270 closes a loophole in North Carolina's concealed handgun law under which permit-holders are prohibited from protecting themselves and their families in restaurants which serve alcohol. Although gun control advocates will probably try to assert otherwise, nothing in the bill changes the current prohibition on consuming alcohol while carrying firearms.

State & Local Events (continued)

S 234: 'Sport Shooting Range Protection'

Introduced by Sen. Brock, S 234 closes a loophole in the existing range protection law under which a range which is forced to relocate loses protection against noise and environmental complaints provided by the 1997 range protection law, and can be closed due to noise or other complaints. Under Brock's bill, a range forced to move due to condemnation, rezoning, annexation, road construction or development would still be protected.

S 235: 'Personal Protection in Restaurants'

Introduced by Sen. Brock, this bill is an identical companion bill to H 270 above.

Upcoming Events

- **ATA** Practice starts every Tuesday & Thursday 5:00pm-9:00pm on March 31, 2009. ATA Match #1 on Saturday, April 4, 2009. Contact Tom Pitts 828-264-1578 or Morgan Shaw 828-297-3039
- **IDPA** Pistol Match on Saturday, March 21st. Side Match is the Classifier. 10am start. Contact Todd Walker 336-620-7061
- **NRA High Power** Saturday, March 28th 9:00am
*Must be signed in and ready before 9:00am
Contact Info: Steven Lunsford 828-559-0455
- **300yd Bench Rest** Contact Info:
Marvin Gragg 828-295-9965
mgmountainman@goboone.net
- **WGC Schutzen Verein** Rimfire Match #1
Tuesday, April 7th 5:00pm until done
Contact Mike Testerman 828-297-1897
(*Scheduled on 1st Tuesday of each month)
- **Club Match** Thursday, April 9th, 2009
.22 Rifle Bench Rest 4:00pm-6:45pm
Contact Tom Bennett 828-773-2799
- **Tactical Firearms Course**
By Appointment; Handgun/Rifle/Shotgun
Contact: Tim Honeycutt 828-234-0749
or Mike Suddreth 828-850-9595
- **CCH Classes** Gary & Sandy Hoyle
March 27th 6-9pm/March 28th 9am-3pm
Contact: 828-963-6307 or 828-963-3995

RANGE HOURS

8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Wednesday is from 8:00 A.M. To 12:00 P.M. if mowing is being done. Check with the person mowing to see if you can use the portions of the range where mowing has been completed. No Outdoor shooting is allowed after 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday. Sunday is from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Be sure to check by the two churches up the road to be sure they have finished their services before you start at 1:00 pm.

Scheduled events such as ATA Matches, High Power Matches, I.D.P.A. Matches, etc. and the monthly Club matches may run after 8:00 P.M. on any days other than Wednesday or Sunday. The entire range is closed during scheduled discipline events unless the discipline director agrees to open parts of it to the general membership for practice. The entire range is closed on the Thursday evening when the club match is being conducted. No exceptions. Read your club manual.

RANGE SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

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