

Nitro Express

Official Newsletter of Watauga Gun Club 2009

MAY

By Mike Suddreth

WGC members have probably noticed the newly completed retaining wall beside the Quonset hut, upon visiting the range facilities in the last few weeks. Please take a moment and thank Gary Hoyle and the Executive Committee for taking on this important task that few members seemed ready to handle. The wall serves as an extra preventive measure to keep things contained to our side of the property line with respect to our neighboring residence. Bay #1 will still remain closed to shooters until further improvements with drainage and bay design can be completed.

Shooters using Bay #2 will no longer be allowed to use steel targets or poppers in Bay #2. Shooters using Bay #2 will no longer be allowed to use the side burms as impact areas. All targets in Bay #2 must be situated so that bullets impact only at the rear of the shooting bay. A concerned group of club members/self appointed Range Safety Officers will

see to the enforcement of these guidelines along with the WGC Executive Committee.

All club members must continue to do their part and lead by setting a positive example so everyone can continue to enjoy the facilities we have worked so hard to obtain. Invited guests to WGC ranges must be accompanied by the host member at all times. Insurance policy restrictions do not allow non-member guests on the ranges without a current sponsor member. Failure to do so will be reported and result in immediate action by the Executive Committee.

Full-time Assistant Wayne Green has gotten approval to update the Club Range Manual and Club By-Laws. WGC members are encouraged to contact Wayne about any approved changes that need updating in the manual.

Gallup Poll April 2009

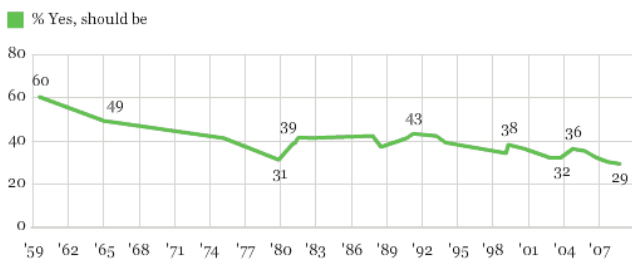
Before Recent Shootings, Gun-Control Support Was Fading

Americans evenly divided at 49% on need for stricter gun laws --by Lydia Saad

PRINCETON, NJ -- In Gallup polling conducted prior to last month's gun massacre at an immigrant center in Binghamton, N.Y., only 29% of Americans said the possession of handguns by private citizens should be banned in the United States. While similar to the 30% recorded in 2007, the latest reading is the smallest percentage favoring a handgun ban since Gallup first polled on this nearly 50 years ago.

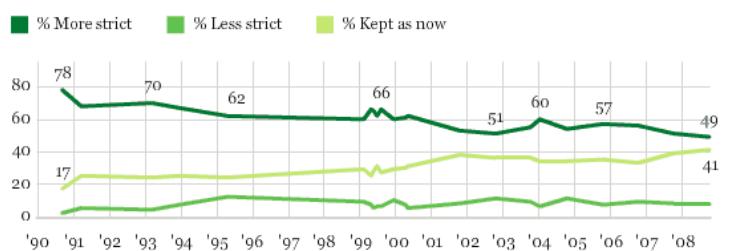
Public support for restricting the sale and possession of handguns to "police and other authorized persons" was relatively high in the early 1990s, with 41% to 43% in favor, but has since edged lower. At the same time, opposition to a ban has increased from 53% in 1991 to 69% in the most recent survey.

Do you think there should or should not be a law that would ban the possession of handguns, except by the police and other authorized persons?



GALLUP POLL

In general, do you feel that the laws covering the sale of firearms should be made more strict, less strict, or kept as they are now?



GALLUP POLL

The latest figures come from the most recent installment of Gallup's annual Crime survey, conducted Oct. 3-5, 2008. It is unclear what impact, if any, the recent Binghamton incident may have on Americans' views of gun control.

Separately, the October Crime survey found just under half of Americans, 49%, wanting the laws covering the sale of firearms to be made stricter than they are now. This is the lowest percentage favoring stricter gun laws in Gallup trends since the question was first asked in 1990. While only 8% say gun laws should be made less strict, 41% say they should remain as they are now.

Thus, as of last fall, Americans were evenly divided at 49% each over whether the laws covering the sale of firearms should be made stricter, or not. This contrasts with public opinion in the early 1990s, when the balance of opinion was more than 2 to 1 in favor of making gun laws even stricter.

While Gallup finds broader support among Americans for stricter gun laws than for banning handguns, the demographic patterns in support for each policy are similar. Women are more in favor of each proposal than are men; Democrats are much more supportive than independents and Republicans; and gun non-owners are much more supportive than the 43% of Americans who have a gun in their household or on their property. There are only minor differences in views among residents of the four major regions of the country, as well as by age.

Support for Gun Control Measures Among Major Demographic Subgroups

	Want gun laws more strict	Favor ban on handguns
	%	%
Men	42	25
Women	56	34
18 to 34 years	52	29
35 to 54 years	48	30
55 and older	49	29
East	50	33
Midwest	50	31
South	47	27
West	51	27
Republicans	31	22
Independents	47	23
Democrats	66	41
Gun in household	32	16
No gun in household	62	41

Oct. 3-5, 2008

GALLUP POLL

Since last October, several shooting sprees around the country have made headline news, including a Christmas Eve incident in California where a man dressed as Santa Claus killed nine guests at a house party. In March, a gunman killed 10 innocents at an Alabama home, including several members of his family, a guest of the family, and her 18-month-old daughter. And on April 3, an immigrant from Vietnam living near Binghamton, N.Y., went on a shooting spree at a citizenship center there, taking the lives of 13 workers and fellow immigrants.

The impact of this string of horrific shootings could have altered Americans' views on gun laws since Gallup last measured them. Gallup polling in 1999 suggests that the Columbine High School shootings in April of that year resulted in a slight increase in support for stricter gun laws, lasting for at least two months. However, this past October's record-low support for gun control was obtained after several high-profile gun crimes were carried out in 2007 and 2008, including the Virginia Tech shootings in April 2007, billed as "the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history." That incident resulted in the deaths of 32 people aside from the shooter.

In fact, reduced support for gun-control measures in recent years corresponds with a decline in the national murder rate over the same period. According to FBI statistics, the murder rate dropped sharply in the late 1990s -- falling from 8.2 victims per 100,000 inhabitants in 1995 to 5.7 by 1999 -- and has since remained between 5.5 and 5.7.

The higher public support for banning guns and strengthening gun laws seen from about 1988 through 1993 -- the year the Brady Bill (which provided for a waiting period and a national criminal background check before a handgun purchase) was passed in Congress -- corresponds with the relatively high U.S. murder rate recorded during those years. According to the FBI, there were more than 8 murders per 100,000 inhabitants in the United States in each year from 1988 through 1994, peaking at 9.8 murders in 1991.

The FBI has yet to release its report on crime in 2008, but assuming the lower murder rates seen in recent years continue, Americans will be faced with the conflicting factors of a relatively low overall murder rate, but a spate of recent mass shooting incidents. How the public will interpret this in terms of the need for stricter gun laws remains to be seen.

Precision Rifle with Humphrey Hayes

WGC members are about to be introduced to a new type of competition rifle sport ...

TACTICAL PRECISION .22 RIMFIRE RIFLE

Minimum Equipment & Requirements: **1)** .22 LR rimfire only **2)** Scoped sights **3)** Bolt Action or Semi-Auto **4)** eye & ear protection **5)** chamber safety flag **6)** spare magazines **7)** front rest allowed (ruck sack, bi-pod, shooting sticks, sling) **8)** front rest NOT allowed (3-pt mechanical rest. No rest under rear of rifle other than body parts.) **9)** Spotting Scope – optional. **10)** Shooting Mat – optional.

*Shooter's rifle should be capable of hitting within 1" or less at 50 yards (to be competitive).

**Target ranges from 25 yards – 200 yards. Most targets are 50 yards.

***A normal match is 2 boxes of ammo (100 rounds).

****Most shooting is done from the prone position with some sitting, kneeling, or standing. There is NO "run-and-gun"!

Tentative Match Schedule

May 23, 2009 June 27, 2009 July 25, 2009 August 22, 2009

Matches will start at 11:00am. The entry fee is \$5.00 *An organized sight-in will be from 10:00am-10:45am for early relay shooters & another sight-in will be given for late relay shooters.

Every match will have the following targets/stages as standard: Cold Bore – 50 yards prone, Speed Drill – 50 yards prone, Know Your Limits – 50 yards prone, Best Group – 50 yards prone, Speed Drill – 75 yards prone, Speed Drill – 100 yards prone ... additional but different targets/stages will be added in every match.

For more information contact Humphrey Hayes at 828-297-7050 or email humphayes@skybest.com

More information on this concept can be found at: www.6mmbr.com/rimfiretactical.html

HR 45 Blair Holt Firearm Licensing & Record of Sales Act of 2009

Very important for everyone to be aware of a new bill HR 45 introduced into the House. This is the Blair Holt Firearm Licensing & Record of Sale Act of 2009. We just learned recently about this on the Peter Boyles radio program. Even gun shop owners didn't know about this because it is flying under the radar. To find out about this go to any government website and type in HR 45 or Google **HR 45 Blair Holt Firearm Licensing & Record of Sales Act of 2009**. You will get all the information.

Basically this would make it illegal to own a firearm
--any rifle with a clip or ANY pistol unless:

- 1) It is registered
- 2) You are fingerprinted
- 3) You supply a current Driver's License
- 4) You supply your Social Security #
- 5) You will submit to a physical & mental evaluation at any time of their choosing
- 6) Each update - change or ownership through private or public sale must be reported and costs \$25.00

--- Failure to do so you automatically lose the right to own a firearm and are subject up to a year in jail.

There is a child provision clause on page 16 section 305 stating a child-access provision. Gun must be locked and inaccessible to any child under age 18.

The Government would have the right to come

and inspect that you are storing your gun safely away from accessibility to children and fine is punishable for up to 5 years in prison.

If you think this is a joke - go to the website and take your pick of many options to read this ...
<http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-h45/text>
<http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-h45/text>

It is long and lengthy. But, more and more people are becoming aware of this. Pass the word along. FAILURE TO DO SO AT YOUR PERIL! Write & call your congressman and let them know how you feel.

Any hunters in your family - pass this along.

Peter Boyles is on this and having guests. Listen to him on A.M. talk radio in the mornings.

He suggests the best way to fight this is to tell all your friends about it and "spring into action." Also he suggests we all join a pro-gun group like the Grass Roots North Carolina, hunting associations, gun clubs and especially the NRA.

This is just a "termite" approach to complete confiscation of guns and disarming of our society to the point we have no defense - chip away a little here and there until the goal is accomplished before anyone realizes it.

Bits & Bytes from the Web

An economics professor at Texas Tech said he had never failed a single student before but had, once, failed an entire class. The class had insisted that socialism worked and that no one would be poor and no one would be rich, a great equalizer. The professor then said ok, we will have an experiment in this class on socialism.

All grades would be averaged and everyone would receive the same grade so no one would fail and no one would receive an A. After the first test the grades were averaged and everyone got a B. The students who studied hard were upset and the students who studied little were happy. But, as the second test rolled around, the students who studied little had studied even less and the ones who studied hard decided they wanted a free ride too; so they studied little... The second test average was a D! No one was happy. When the 3rd test rolled around the average was an F.

The scores never increased as bickering, blame, name calling all resulted in hard feelings and no one would study for the benefit of anyone else. All failed, to their great surprise, and the professor told them that socialism would also ultimately fail because when the reward is great, the effort to succeed is great; but when government takes all the reward away; no one will try or want to succeed.

Could not be any simpler than that ...

Buy – Sell – Trade

- **Wanted:** 30-30 loading dies, 30-30 brass cases, & .38 SPC round nose bullets. Contact Gary Hoyle 828-963-6307.
 - **For Sale:** Model 1886 Take Down Winchester Lever Action, 33 WCF cal, nickel steel barrel for smokeless powder. \$5500. Ron Stewart 828-297-3311.
 - **For Sale or Trade:** 30 round AR-15 magazines & approx 200 ct - 20 gauge shotshell wads. Gary Hoyle 828-963-6307.
- **For Sale:** Colt Agent Revolver w/2inch barrel, 6-shot 17oz alloy frame, bobbed hammer, painted sights, 4 speed loaders, 2 speed strips, wooden colt medallion grips, Tyler t-grip adapter, wooden boot grips, wooden target grips, leather inside-the-waistband holster, leather double speed loader holder. \$650. Greg Beavers 828-773-6351.

Ammunition Hoarding

All the Ammo Manufacturers are running their loading presses 24 / 7 to try to catch up with the demand, but the ammo shelves in stores are being emptied as fast as they're restocked. It's the fear of what might happen politically, from high excise taxes, to the wacky proposals to engrave a serial number on every bullet. None of these ideas has been proposed in any serious way, but that's still got panicked gun owners buying whatever they can find and storing it. In that sense, it's an artificial shortage that's not going to let up until everybody has bought their limit, to stockpile for the future.

We hear the big sporting goods stores are limiting buyers to two boxes at a time--not enough ammo for a weekend club match. We can tell everybody to calm down and just buy what you need for the week, but it's probably not going to make a difference with the democrats continuing to talk about gun bans, even though none has yet mentioned ammo restrictions ... Good Luck on your next search!

Upcoming Events at WGC

- **ATA** Practice every Tuesday & Thursday
5:00pm-9:00pm. \$3 fee practice clays.
ATA Match #3 on Sat-Sun, July 4-5, 2009
Contact Tom Pitts 828-264-1578
or Morgan Shaw 828-297-3039
- **IDPA** Pistol Match on Saturday, May 16th.
Side Match is Back-Up Gun. 10am start.
Contact Todd Walker 336-620-7061
- **NRA High Power** Saturday, May 23rd 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
marvingragg@bellsouth.net
Dave Richardson 336-372-5873
dw_richardson@hotmail.com
- **Schutzen Verein** Rimfire Rifle Match #2
Tuesday, June 2nd 5:00pm until done
Contact Mike Testerman 828-297-1897
***Scheduled on 1st Tuesday of each month
- **Club Match** Thursday, June 11th, 2009
Trap Shotgun - 2strings/25clays 4:00pm-6:45pm
Contact Tom Bennett 828-773-2799
- **Tactical Precision .22** Saturday, May 23rd
11am Start. 50-100yd targets. \$5 fee.
Contact Humphrey Hayes 828-297-7050
email: humphayes@skybest.com
more info: www.6mmb.com/rimfiretactical.html
- **Tactical Firearms Course**
By Appointment; Handgun/Rifle/Shotgun
Contact: Tim Honeycutt 828-234-0749
or Mike Suddreth 828-850-9595
- **CCH Classes** Joe Moody 12-2pm May 9th
Contact: 828-264-2486
Gary & Sandy Hoyle 6-9pm May 22nd
Gary & Sandy Hoyle 9am-3pm May 23rd
Contact: 828-963-6307
Humphrey Hayes 1-3pm May 30th
Contact: 828-297-7050

WGC Range Hours 2009

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.

Nitro Express
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