

Nitro Express

Official Newsletter of Watauga Gun Club 2009

JULY

By Mike Suddreth

Thank you to everyone who attended the WGC annual picnic and thanks to everyone who furnished a dish or side item for the serving line. If you did not attend this year's event, I'll be one of the first to let you know you missed a great evening. Members and guests really seemed to enjoy themselves with food, conversation, a few fireworks, a little bit of target practice, and an eyeful of improvements that were hard not to notice.

Club VP Gary Hoyle and 2008 WGC Member of the Year Fred Stahl have really been hard at work seeing to many of the improvements being done at the range the last few months. Drainage improvements on Bay #1 along with grading & enhancements on the 300 yard range have been just a few of the projects they have overseen. A new woodshed has been constructed next to the clubhouse. A serious roof leak in the attic of the clubhouse was repaired and new storm doors have been installed on the clubhouse. Thank you to all the volunteers that have helped Gary and Fred the past few months.

Gary and Fred are also looking at making improvements to the tractor shed, sizing up some options of fencing off more of the property line with the Carson residence at the gate entrance, and checking into some repairs to the 300 yard rifle shed. Gary and Fred are always looking for volunteers to use in their next Task Force Project ... no one will be turned away.

Bryan Wood has really done great work this year with mowing and upkeep of the grounds. The fields and bays really have looked great. Bryan really appreciates the effort most club members make in keeping the bays clear of debris and target stands. There are a few members/guests who have not been so cooperative in leaving their shooting area

as neat as it could be ... so please keep Bryan in mind when you've finished with your bay/area.

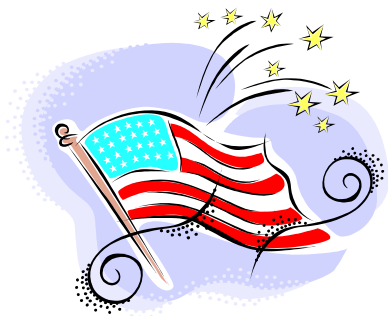
Bryan has also installed the new split-rail fence at the club's lot on Castle Ford Road & Appaloosa Trail. Another job, well done ... Thanks Bryan!

At the July 2009 club meeting WGC member Bill Drummond approached the Executive Committee and attending members with a proposal to reconfigure and reinforce shooting Bay #1 and Bay #2. Bill's proposal and diagram were very detailed and drawn to scale. The proposal was to move and re-angle the side berm separating Bay #1 & Bay #2. The re-alignment would change the impact area for Bay #1. Bill's proposal also included increasing the height of the side berms to 12ft. and worked out details with heavy equipment operators on costs and labor for performing the improvements.

The proposal must be put to a vote by club members at an upcoming meeting. The cost of the project is estimated at \$1300. If any club member wishes to have any input and vote on this upcoming proposal you must be present for the club meeting. Please contact Club President Joe Moody with any questions at 828-264-2486.

There is a downside to report ... the club has made soft drinks & bottled water available to visitors in the past that worked on an honor system. A collection container was used and maintained for members and guests to leave a small payment when getting their beverage of choice. The collection container has been stolen from the clubhouse and club members want some information. Do we install a vending machine or does another option exist? The "Honor System" did not work. Please contact Joe Moody 828-264-2486 with your comments or ideas.

I hope everyone had a Happy 4th of July!!



Watch Lists, Guns and Government

June 2009 by Bob Barr

The secret government “Terrorist Watch List,” reportedly already swelled to more than 1.1 million names, will have an addendum, if gun control advocates in Congress have their way. This new addendum — also to be cloaked in secrecy — would empower the U.S. Attorney General to deny a person the ability to exercise their Second Amendment rights to purchase a firearm.

While it is not surprising that some members of Congress are again using fear of terrorism to implement a gun-control agenda, the openly unconstitutional legislative language proponents are employing is troubling.

Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) is leading the effort in the Senate, while another well-known gun control advocate — Rep. Peter King (R-N.Y.) — is directing the House initiative. They have introduced identical bills — the “Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act of 2009.” This proposal would give the attorney general the power to unilaterally and in secret develop a watch list of persons believed to be unworthy of possessing a firearm or any explosive.

This new “dangerous terrorist” watch list would include names based not on hard evidence of criminal activity, but on nothing more than the subjective conclusion by the attorney general that a person is “appropriately suspected” (whatever that means) of engaging in some manner of assisting or preparing for acts of domestic or international terrorism. The American people would never be privy to what criteria might be employed by the attorney general to determine whether someone is an “appropriate suspect,” and they would have no way of knowing why they might be denied the ability to purchase a firearm.

If a person were to be refused “permission” to purchase a firearm or explosive, and if they subsequently filed a lawsuit in federal court to find out why, the government still could keep such

information secret. In other words, the attorney general could deny a U.S. citizen the ability to own a firearm, and never have to give the reason.

For legislators like Lautenberg and King, who apparently have absolute faith in unelected government officials to make the right decisions for the right reasons at the right times (and never be required to explain those decisions), one has only to consider the checkered history of post-9/11 “terrorist” watch lists to see the folly of such perspective. Stories abound of persons denied the ability to board a commercial aircraft, or greatly delayed in being allowed on board, for no reason other than their name erroneously appeared on some “watch list.” Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), and Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), have been among this not-so-elite group.

A report earlier this year by the FBI’s inspector general chronicled extensive internal problems with the terrorist watch list maintained by that agency. The IG found numerous examples of inaccuracies, incomplete entries, out-of-date information and inclusion of information “unrelated to terrorism.” While the inconvenience of not being able to board an airliner for a business trip or a vacation can be a real headache, being refused the ability to purchase a firearm to protect one’s life clearly raises the stakes.

The government already has remedies already at its disposal to keep firearms out of the hands of known or suspected terrorists. Under existing federal law, there are numerous categories of persons prohibited from purchasing or possessing firearms; including persons in violation of immigration laws, convicted felons, illicit drug users and others. And if a person truly is a known or suspected terrorist, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives — as the federal law enforcement agency primarily responsible for enforcing the nation’s gun laws — certainly should be made aware of that information. We don’t need a secret, anti-Second Amendment watch list to implement effective law enforcement in America.

57% Say Gun Sales are Up Due To Fear of More Gun Control

---Rasmussen Reports June 2009

Fifty-seven percent (57%) of Americans say gun sales are up in the United States because of a fear of increased government restriction on gun ownership.

A new Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey shows that just 23% say gun sales have risen because of a fear of increased crime. Twenty-one percent (21%) are not sure.

Sixty-three percent (63%) of men say the threat of more gun control is behind increased sales, compared to 51% of women. Fifty-nine percent (59%) of whites agree, while African-Americans are more closely divided on the question.

Similarly, 65% of Republicans and 66% of those not affiliated with either major political party say gun sales are up due to a fear of increased government restriction. But a plurality of Democrats agrees by just 10 points.

Seventy-one percent (71%) of Americans believe it is at least somewhat likely that President Obama will seek tougher gun control laws, including 43% who say it is very likely.

In March, 43% of Americans said the United States needed more gun control laws, but 47% disagreed. This marked a slight drop in support for more gun control from last year.

That same month in a separate survey, nearly one-third of Americans (32%) said crime had increased in their communities in the past year, and 72% of those impacted said it was very likely that increase was related to the bad economy.

The Mexican government says guns purchased in the United States are responsible for much of the drug-related violence in Mexico and wants President Barack Hussein Obama to restrict gun sales in this country. Just 20% of U.S. voters think restricting U.S. gun sales will reduce drug-related violence in Mexico, and 70% disagree and oppose such restrictions.

Seventy-five percent (75%) of Americans believe the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right of an average citizen to own a gun.

Cities' Gun Restrictions Begin to Topple

After the big D.C. case in 2008, San Francisco and Philadelphia have seen setbacks for local gun controls ... More laws are expected to come under fire.

By [Patrik Jonsson](#) | Staff writer The Christian Science Monitor

ATLANTA - It's been a disappointing year for American cities seeking to curb violence via tough gun laws.

Since last June, when the US Supreme Court struck down key parts of the District of Columbia's gun-control ordinance, cities have seen the 20,000 local gun regulations enacted over the years begin to slip from their grip, one by one.

Philadelphia's ban on assault weapons and limits on handgun purchases are the latest to succumb, struck down Thursday by a state court. An appeal to the state Supreme Court is expected. In April, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals struck down an ordinance in California's Alameda County that banned gun shows, saying the Second Amendment of the US Constitution applies in the states.

For years, strict gun laws in primarily Midwestern, Northeastern, and California cities have created an uneasy tension between the Second Amendment and crime-fighting realities on the ground. Then, the US Supreme Court, in a 5-to-4 decision, affirmed the constitutional right of individual Americans to own handguns, in a case known as District of Columbia v. Heller. In striking down parts of D.C.'s law, it opened the door to court challenges of other cities' ordinances restricting access to certain kinds of guns.

Gun-control laws in "New York City and Chicago are next," says Bill Vizzard, a criminologist at California State University at Sacramento. Though the Heller ruling doesn't give a carte blanche right to "have a gun anywhere, under any circumstance," he says, its effect "could still be extensive. We just don't know yet how courts are ultimately going to interpret it."

Post-Heller, US appeals courts have divided over whether the ruling means that other city and state gun-control laws should be invalidated. The US high court could resolve the matter, but legal scholars say it's hard to tell if the justices are interested in setting a broad precedent on the issue.

The two laws in Philadelphia stuck down Thursday were enacted in 2008. One banned assault-style weapons, which are semi-automatic rifles altered to combat specifications. The other restricted an individual's ability to buy handguns to one a month.

Mr. Vizzard characterizes the gun rights movement as a long-term, deliberate, and scholarly based march akin to that of the civil rights movement. But the pro-gun legal effort, he notes, is moving counter to trends that show Americans becoming increasingly distant from their pioneer roots, with gun-rights stalwarts primarily consisting of middle-age and older white men.

That paradox puts more focus on the makeup of courts, including the US Supreme Court.

In January, Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor, as part of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, was part of a majority that ruled against invoking the Second Amendment in a challenge to New York's ban on nunchaku sticks, a martial arts weapon. The ban stands.

The Pennsylvania high court ruled in 1996 that cities can't preempt the state's gun laws to create their own, but Philadelphia is now hoping that a court with a different makeup will rule differently, says Scott Shields, the lead National Rifle Association attorney.

Not all cities have lost in court. One challenge to Chicago's handgun ban was turned back earlier this month by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Polls show that most Americans believe in the Second Amendment, but most Americans also want stronger gun laws. The percentage of Americans who support an assault-weapons ban, however, has slid several percentage points in the past few years. In 2007, conservative gun groups spent nearly \$2 million to lobby Congress, while progressive pro-gun control groups spent \$60,000.

National Concealed Carry Reciprocity Vote Imminent

A vote to protect your right to travel out-of-state with a firearm could come to a vote in the coming weeks – or even earlier!

Senators John Thune and David Vitter are the sponsors of S. 845 – a bill that will establish concealed carry reciprocity amongst the several states.

Senators Thune and Vitter offered the bill as an amendment (#1618) to the Department of Defense authorization bill (H.R. 2647).

This provision will use the constitutional authority allowing Congress to enforce "full faith and credit" across the country, so that each state respects the "public acts, records, and judicial proceedings" of every other state (Article IV).

The benefit of the Thune/Vitter legislation is that -- unlike other, competing measures -- it would protect the right of any U.S. citizen to carry out of state (regardless of whether he possesses a permit), as long as he is authorized to carry in his home state. This is important because of states like Vermont and Alaska, where residents can carry concealed without prior approval or permission from the state... in other words, without a permit!

Johnny Depp wants to teach his kids to handle guns --- Yahoo News (London)

Actor Johnny Depp is keen on teaching his children to handle firearms.

The 'Pirates of the Caribbean' star, who learned shooting at the age of six years old in Kentucky where he grew up, wants to pass on his experience to his kids.

"We would just go out and line up a bunch of cans and shoot with rifles, handguns and at times, submachine guns," the Daily Star quoted him as saying.

"When I was a kid it was a controlled atmosphere, we weren't shooting at humans - we were shooting at cans and bottles mostly. I will most certainly take my kids out for target practice," he added.

The Hollywood celebrity has two children with his long-term partner Vanessa Paradis - Lily-Rose (10 yrs) and Jack (7 yrs).

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.
- **For Sale:** Rock Chucker Kit with extras. \$300. Also a .50cal Thompson Muzzle Loader, 209 primer break action. \$300. Doug Smith 910-391-8691.
- **For Sale:** Contender Barrels various types: .45 ACP stainless 20"length .75"muzzle with no sights \$274.38; .45 Auto-rim 16.5"length .75"muzzle with Tasco Silver Antler scope \$255.63; .22 Hornett 21"length factory muzzle with Bushnell scope \$99.38; .45 Colt 22"length .75"muzzle with Weaver K-4 hooded silhouette front scope \$280.63; **all .45 barrels made by Bullberry in Utah. Grant Holder 828-406-8466 or contact by email: holdergn@gmail.com

State & Local Events

Right-to-Carry Reform Legislation Signed in North Carolina

On Friday, July 17, 2009 Governor Bev Perdue (D) signed the Right-to-Carry permit renewal improvement bill into law ... also known as House Bill 1132.

HB1132 will now ensure that if a Right-to-Carry permit holder applies to his or her sheriff for renewal of a permit within 90 days of the permit's expiration, and the renewal application is not approved or denied by the expiration date, the permit will remain valid until the renewal decision is final. HB1132 will also require sheriffs to notify permittees when their permits are about to expire. Finally, should a permittee fail to apply to renew a permit before the expiration date, the permittee may apply within 60 days following the expiration of the permit, and ask the sheriff to waive the requirement of taking another firearm safety training course.

Please contact Governor Perdue and thank her for signing this necessary Right-to-Carry reform bill. The Governor can be reached by phone at (919) 733-4240.

North Carolina Hunters: Anti-Hunting Extremists Pushing Dangerous Legislation Forward

Anti-hunting extremists at the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) are making progress with their radical agenda. They have convinced several senators who are normally very pro-hunting to support a very anti-hunting bill — Senate Bill 460.

This bill is designed by HSUS as a means to help eliminate **ALL** commercial dog breeders. Once those breeders are gone, current hunters and future hunters will not be able to easily acquire the dogs they feel are best suited for their hunting needs. Those that they can find will be priced out of most people's reach, due to their scarcity. Don't let the anti-hunting radicals gain a foothold in North Carolina!

While HSUS claims this legislation is "only" meant to target what it calls "puppy mills," the fact is that HSUS opposes **ALL** commercial dog breeders, and labels all of them as "puppy mills." The bill was originally titled "Commercial Dog Breeders," and promoted as a bill to regulate breeders. But the bill is now called the "Puppy Mill Bill," which implies that all commercial dog breeders regulated under it are "puppy mills." If HSUS is opposed to all "puppy mills," it must be opposed to all breeders regulated under the "Puppy Mill Bill." In fact, HSUS clearly states its opposition to all commercial dog breeders when it states, "There's no reason for anyone to patronize a pet store or a breeder." The group also claims it has been working to expose "the cruel realities of the commercial dog breeding business." The focus is not only on so-called "puppy mills," but everyone who is involved in the "commercial dog breeding business."

HSUS intends to use S 460 as a template for driving all commercial dog breeders out of business. While the standard for being regulated under this bill is currently set at a breeder with 15 females and 30 puppies, HSUS has tried to set the standard much lower in other states. This year, HSUS supported a commercial breeder standard in Minnesota that was just six females, and in Illinois the standard supported was merely three females.

HSUS, just like anti-gun extremists, intends to work to get its foot in the door with legislation that looks like it would not impact NRA members, then come back time and time again to add more and more restrictions. As HSUS President Wayne Pacelle has said, "We are going to use the ballot box and the democratic process to stop all hunting in the United States.... We will take it species by species until all hunting is stopped...." Just replace "species" with "method" and it's easy to see why all hunters should be concerned with any HSUS-supported legislation that even remotely affects hunters.

If HSUS is successful with its anti-dog breeder agenda, hunters who use dogs will suffer, as will all hunters. If hunters can't find or afford the dogs they wish to use for hunting, they will simply stop hunting. Fewer hunters means a weaker voice in Raleigh, and that is the ultimate goal of HSUS. Don't let the anti-hunting radicals gain a foothold in North Carolina! **NRA members and hunters must contact the following State Senators to urge them to oppose the anti-hunting agenda of HSUS by opposing Senate Bill 460:**

State Senator Tom Apodaca (R-48)
(919) 733-5745
Tom.Apodaca@ncleg.net

State Senator Peter Brunstetter (R-31)
(919) 733-7850
Peter.Brunstetter@ncleg.net

State Senator Debbie Clary (R-46)
(919) 715-3038
Debbie.Clary@ncleg.net

State Senator Fletcher Hartsell (R-36)
(919) 733-7223
Fletcher.Hartsell@ncleg.net

State Senator Bob Rucho (R-39)
(919) 733-5655
Bob.Rucho@ncleg.net

North Carolina: Pro-Gun Bills Awaiting Action

The North Carolina House of Representatives has not taken any action taken on **Senate Bill 928**, the “**Castle Doctrine**” bill. This bill was referred to three separate committees, the first being the House Judiciary I Committee. That committee is chaired by anti-gun State Representative Deborah Ross (D-38), and she appears to be unwilling to set a date for a hearing. Please continue to contact Representative Ross and urge her to allow this critical legislation—which received overwhelming, bi-partisan support in the Senate—to be heard. Representative Ross can be reached at 919-733-5773 or email Deborah.Ross@ncleg.net. Also, please contact your State Representative and ask them to urge House leadership to bring **SB 928** up for consideration.

House Bill 473, which would allow magistrates with a Right-to-Carry permit to carry concealed firearms into courthouses while on official business, was passed by the Senate on June 13 by a 35 to 11 vote. Please call your State Representatives and respectfully urge them to concur with the Senate language and **support HB 473**.

Upcoming Events at WGC

- **ATA Practice on Tuesdays & League Shoot** on Thursdays 5:00pm-7:00pm. \$3 to practice. ATA Match #4 The Glenn Miller Memorial on Saturday & Sunday, August 1st & 2nd
Contact Tom Pitts 828-264-1578
or Morgan Shaw 828-297-3039
- **IDPA NC Championship** Saturday, August 15th. Shooters will be squaded. 8-10am starts.
Contact Todd Walker 336-620-7061
- **NRA High Power** Saturday, Aug 22nd 9:00am
**Must be signed in and ready before 9:00am
Contact Info: Steven Lunsford 828-559-0455
- **300yd Bench Rest** September Match Info:
Marvin Gragg 828-295-9965
marvingragg@bellsouth.net
Dave Richardson 336-372-5873
dw_richardson@hotmail.com
- **Schutzen Verein** Rimfire Rifle Matches
Tuesdays in August 5:30pm until done
Contact Mike Testerman 828-297-1897
***Scheduled shoots will be ending soon ...
- **Club Match** Thursday, August 13th, 2009
NRA Handgun Qualifier 4:00pm-6:45pm
Contact Tom Bennett 828-773-2799
***Varmint Rifle Match will be in October.
- **Tactical Precision .22** Saturday, Aug 22nd
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** for Aug & Sept
Introduction to AR-15 (Basics & Maintenance)
Contact: Tim Honeycutt 828-234-0749
or Mike Suddreth 828-850-9595
- **CCH Classes** Joe Moody by appointment
Contact: 828-264-2486
Gary & Sandy Hoyle 6pm-9pm Aug 21st
Gary & Sandy Hoyle 9am-3pm Aug 22nd
Contact: 828-963-6307
- **Muzzle Loader Workshop & Match**
Saturday, September 12th, 2009 (all-day)
Will cover Safe Use, Loading, Sighting-In and
an afternoon match. Get a jump on the season!

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
PO Box 3284
Boone, NC 28607**