

Nitro Express

RANGE CLOSED August 10-16 IDPA State Match

Official Newsletter of Watauga Gun Club 2009

JUNE

By Mike Suddreth

The June and July Newsletters got a little backed up this summer due to my busy work schedule. So I took the liberty of releasing both editions at around the same time. Now I know that June occurs before July. So I hope no one is upset when you received the July 2009 edition before the June 2009 edition. I wanted to distribute July ahead of June due to the timeliness of some of the information contained in

the July edition. The June edition still contains a lot of important events and happenings like how well the Trap shooters did at the 2009 NC State Match. I really appreciate the help from WGC member Morgan Shaw with his on the spot coverage. Thanks Morgan!



NC State Trap Shoot 2009

By ATA Member Morgan Shaw

Watauga Gun Club was well represented at the North Carolina State Trap Shoot (June 3 – June 7) this year at the Old Hickory Rifle & Pistol Club in Bostic, NC. George Sudderth, Tom Pitts, Tom Shelley, Wade Miller, John Waters, Randy Jones, Worth Miller, and Tom Smith represented WGC with some really strong performances.

George Sudderth came out on top for the week besting over 230 trap shooters from around the country to become the NC Handicap Champion with almost a perfect score of **99** x 100 having missed a target in the 3rd (25). In the process he tied for High Overall for the week only to take Runner-Up by one target in the shoot off. George also took AA Class High All-Around, AA Doubles Champion, and Runner-Up Handicap on Friday.

Wade Miller attended his first NC State Trap Shoot and had to shoot penalty class in all events. This did not bother Wade as he proceeded to pound out a 95 on his first 100 singles targets and backed that up with his first perfect score of **100** x 100 on the second hundred for a **195** x 200.

Wade's top notch showing got him no trophies for being in the penalty class, but "**Way To Go Wade!**" Some shoot their whole lives never to get that perfect score and Wade made it look simple at the state match. Wade then went on to shoot a 89 in Doubles and a 91 in Handicap. Not bad at all for a first outing. I'm sure there are many wins in the

future ... just like his Hall-of-Fame uncle, Glenn Miller. (The same Glenn Miller on the WGC clubhouse dedication)

Then we come to The Tom & Tom Show and what a show it was. Tom Pitts had Tom Shelley on the ropes by 18 targets going into Sunday's Handicap, when the wheels did not fall off they went flat. Tom Pitts came in with a 59 x 100! Tom Shelley gained back his 18 and bested Pitts by 13 targets. Pitts would not stand for this string of events, so he came back in Doubles and shot a great score of 95 to quiet Shelley. That put Tom Pitts within one target of a class win. Needless to say they both shot and had fun, but no trophies.

Pitts = 188 Sgls 59 Caps 95 Dbls

Shelley = 180 Sgls 91 Caps 85 Dbls

Shelley is King for the moment! But the Zone is coming up!

George Sudderth – 2009 NC State Scores

Wednesday = 100 Sgls 91 Caps(low) 94 Dbls(low)

Thursday = 99 Sgls 95 Caps 98 Dbls

Friday = 99 Sgls 97 Caps(run-up)
98 Dbls(Champ)

Saturday = 98-97 Sgls (Champ)

Sunday = 95 Dbls 99 Caps (Champ)

NC AA High All-Around Champion

NC High Over All Champion (over 1300)

97 Over All Average (for 1300)

NC State Team Trophy

National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Thwarted Despite Bipartisan Majority Vote

On Wednesday, July 22, by a margin of 58-39, a bipartisan majority of the U.S. Senate voted in favor of an amendment offered by Senators John Thune (R-SD) and David Vitter (R-LA) to provide interstate recognition of Right-to-Carry permits. The amendment to S.1390 -- the National Defense Authorization Act -- would acknowledge that the right to self-defense extends across state lines. Under this provision, individuals with carry permits from their home state, or who are otherwise allowed to carry a firearm in their home state, could carry in any other state that issues permits.

Despite the bipartisan majority of votes, the Thune-Vitter amendment did not pass because it fell just two votes short of the required 60 votes for approval. This 60-vote approval threshold was decided upon by a procedural agreement between Senate leaders. The agreement was, in part, used to avoid a filibuster and any hostile amendments to the Thune-Vitter amendment.

"Today's strong majority vote in the U.S. Senate was an important step forward in the National Rifle Association's decades long effort to make Right-to-Carry and national reciprocity the law of the land," said NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre.

In a news release, Senator Thune said, "Today, overheated rhetoric and fear mongering overcame common sense. My amendment would allow responsible firearms owners to protect themselves while obeying the firearms laws of the states they visit. The individual right to self-defense should not end at the state line. Despite today's defeat, this amendment had bipartisan support and I hope the Senate will reconsider this important issue in the future."

Expanding Right-to-Carry enhances public safety, as criminals are deterred from attempting crimes when they know or suspect that their prospective victims are armed. A U.S. Department of Justice study found that 40 percent of felons had not

committed crimes because they feared the prospective victims were armed. The Thune-Vitter amendment recognized that competent, responsible, law-abiding Americans still deserve our trust and confidence when they cross state lines.

Passing interstate Right-to-Carry legislation would not only reduce violent crime by deterring criminals, but -- most important of all -- would protect the right of honest Americans to protect themselves if deterrence fails.

"While we are disappointed that the 60 vote procedural hurdle was not met, the vote shows that a strong bipartisan majority agrees with the NRA," said NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris W. Cox. "We would like to thank Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.), Sen. David Vitter (R-La.) and Sen. Jim Webb (D-Va.), along with all senators who voted in favor of this amendment on both sides of the aisle. The efforts of these senators were not in vain, as the NRA will continue to work tirelessly to ensure this important legislation finds the right avenue to come before Congress once again."

NC Senator Burr (R) a bill co-sponsor and NC Sen. Hagan (D) were among the 58 who voted for the Thune-Vitter amendment, please be sure to contact them and thank them for their support.

Let's just say it didn't exactly catch anyone at NRA off-guard, when earlier this week Brady Campaign and Violence Policy Center (VPC) raised superficial, misleading arguments in an effort to derail the Thune-Vitter Right-to-Carry permit reciprocity amendment.

When Brady was called National Council to Control Handguns, it called for "a ban on the manufacture, sale, and importation of all handguns and handgun ammunition." VPC, an off-shoot of the so-called National Coalition to Ban Handguns, openly advocates banning the private possession of handguns. And, naturally, both groups have

always opposed people carrying concealed handguns for self-defense, Brady going so far as to say that self-defense is not a constitutionally-guaranteed right.

In attacking the amendment, both groups listed a small number of instances in which permit holders committed various crimes over the years, implying that such crimes would be the national norm if the amendment became law—basically the same old "the sky will fall" prediction heard every time a state adopts a Right-to-Carry law.

Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) complemented the allegation, by making the outrageous claim—and we are not making this up—that if the amendment became law, 16-year-old firearm traffickers would get permits in Vermont (an odd claim since Vermont has no licensing system), and then go to other states carrying large numbers of handguns in backpacks, to be illegally sold to criminals.

Brady and VPC hoped their panic-stricken predictions would frighten senators into overwhelmingly rejecting the amendment. But we were able to show that even if you take the group's lists at face value, they show that permit-holders are much more law-abiding than the rest of the public.

Based upon VPC's list, permit holders are 15 times less likely to commit murder, plain and

simple. Try as it might, VPC could come up with only a very small number of criminal homicides committed by permit holders, in situations in which a permit was required to possess a concealed handgun. Of course, VPC did not mention instances in which murders did not occur, because people were able to defend themselves.

Brady's claim is a little more difficult to sort out, only because their list included situations in which no crime was committed, including false reports of illegal carrying, and accidents (some not even resulting in an injury); crimes not involving the misuse of a firearm, such as having a gun in a vehicle operated under the influence, or illegally possessing a firearm or having a firearm in a vehicle in a school zone or other restricted area; crimes not involving a handgun; and crimes that took place in locations where a permit was not required to possess a concealed handgun. Sifting down to violent crimes, with concealed handguns, in locations where a permit was required, permit holders again came out far better than the rest of the public.

In the end, Brady's and VPC's efforts had virtually no effect on how the Senate voted. But, like the 10-round (or lower) magazine-capacity limit they support within "assault weapon ban" legislation, and their support for handgun ammunition microstamping and encoding, and "smart" gun requirements, they reminded us that Brady and VPC are handgun-ban groups at their core.

Senate Passes Amendment Protecting Knife Owners

Late Thursday, the Senate unanimously passed an amendment to the Federal Switchblade Act as part of the Homeland Security appropriations bill. This NRA-supported amendment, authored by Sens. John Cornyn (R-Tex.), Mark Pryor (D-Ark.) and Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), changes the federal law under which one agency had tried to redefine many common knives as switchblades.

The measure would exempt assisted-opening knives that can only be opened with "exertion applied to the blade by hand, wrist or arm" from a federal law that criminalizes commerce in switchblades. Assisted opening knives are highly desired by hunters, anglers, farmers, ranchers, firefighters, law enforcement and emergency personnel and others who may need to open a knife with only one hand.

"The Senate sent a strong message and made clear that the 35 million Americans who own pocketknives are free to continue using them without the threat of federal agency intrusion," Sen. Cornyn said in a statement today. "While U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) proposed changing that, my colleagues joined in a

unanimous, bipartisan effort to ensure assisted-opening pocketknives are protected by the law. What's more, the CBP reversal would have inflicted serious economic harm to sporting goods manufacturers and retailers."

In the same statement, Sen. Hatch said, "Without this amendment, there is a real danger that 80 percent of the pocketknives sold in the U.S. could be classified as illegal switchblades, which would hurt knife and tool manufacturers across the nation. The unintended consequences of the CBP's definition could be that state and federal criminal courts could construe Leatherman-type multi-tools equipped with one-hand opening features, as well as folding utility knives with studs on the blunt portions of the blade to assist with opening, to be illegal. That is absurd."

Thursday's Senate action puts us one step closer to passing this common-sense measure into law. The measure now heads to a House-Senate Conference Committee.

Regulatory Czar's Confirmation Held Up by Hunting Rights Proponent

WASHINGTON -- President Barack Hussein Obama's nominee for "regulatory czar" has hit a new snag in his Senate confirmation process -- a "hold" by Texas Sen. John Cornyn, who's says he's not convinced that Harvard professor Cass Sunstein won't push a radical animal rights agenda, including new restrictions on agriculture and even hunting.

Senators are permitted "holds" to prevent a vote on a nominee from coming to the floor. They are often secretive and for very specific reasons.

"Sen. Cornyn finds numerous aspects of Mr. Sunstein's record troubling, specifically the fact that he wants to establish legal 'rights' for wildlife, livestock and pets, which would enable animals to file lawsuits in American courts," said Kevin McLaughlin, to FOXNews.com.

Sen. Cornyn's hold on Sunstein comes just as Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., last week lifted his own hold on the nominee, whom Obama tapped in April to become the administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the Office of Budget and Management.

Sen Chambliss said he was dropping his hold because Sunstein had convinced him that he

"would not take any steps to promote litigation on behalf of animals," and that he believes the "Second Amendment creates an individual right to possess guns for purposes of both hunting and self defense."

Both statements were included in a letter Sunstein sent to Sen. Chambliss on July 14.

That's a large part of the reason Sunstein's positions on animal rights have become worrisome to his critics. Despite his assurances to the contrary, Sunstein has spoken stridently in favor of allowing people the right to bring suit on behalf of animals in animal cruelty cases and to restrict what he calls the more horrific practices associated with hunting, industrial breeding and processing of animals for food.

In a 2007 speech at Harvard, Sunstein also advocated restricting animal testing for cosmetics, banning hunting and encouraging the general public to eat less meat.

Martosko said there are plenty of ways to pursue a "stealth campaign" on any one of these fronts -- guns or animal rights -- by putting pressure on the regulatory heads of the different agencies.

Environmentalists also say Sunstein's nomination is a potential blow to their efforts to roll back what they call Bush-era deregulation. Frank O'Donnell, director of Clean Water Watch, wrote that "progressives would've screamed" if President Bush had nominated someone with similar views for the OIRA post." In fact, Bush did, O'Donnell noted, much to the chagrin of progressives.

Adding to animal rights and cost-benefit analysis is concern over Sunstein's positions on freedom of speech.

John Lott, conservative author of "The Bias Against Guns and Freedomomics: Why the Free Market Works," called Sunstein "open minded" and a "true academic," but also warned that in its opposition, the left might be looking a gift horse in the mouth.

Cornyn's spokesman said the senator will be happy when he gets direct assurances from Sunstein that he will not pursue an agenda akin to some of his past writings, particularly on the animal rights issue dealing with wildlife and domestic livestock.

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

SB 928, "The Castle Doctrine," is still being bottled up in the House Judiciary I Committee. Committee chair, Rep. Deborah K. Ross (GRNC0-Star, Wake) continues her refusal to schedule it for a hearing and it seems that she is totally ignoring your emails on the subject.

She claims that she is simply saving the hardest and most controversial bills for the last. Isn't that nice of her! Are you going to allow one anti-gun committee chair to block passage on the Castle Doctrine when it is finally so close? Let her know that her delay tactics won't work.

Even more important, show your displeasure to House Democratic leadership by calling House Majority

Leader Rep. Hugh Holliman and let him know that, as a party leader, he too will be held accountable for Democrats continuing efforts to stifle a Castle Doctrine bill overwhelmingly sought by gun owning voters.

*CALL Rep. Deborah Ross at (919-733-5773) and let her know that you want her to bring SB 928, The Castle Doctrine, up for a fair hearing and to send it to the House floor for passage.

*CALL Rep. Hugh Holloman at (919-715-0873) and let him know that Ross is saying Democrat party leaders must approve a committee hearing, so as a leader, you are holding him responsible.

Friends of the NRA Banquet in Boone

HIGH COUNTRY FRIENDS OF THE NRA
ANNUAL BANQUET & AUCTION --- 6:00PM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6th, 2009
at HIGH COUNTRY BUILDERS PLAZA
755 HWY 105 ByPass - BOONE, NC at 6:00PM



TICKETS: \$25

TICKET RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

JOE MOODY 828-264-2486

TOM BENNETT 828-773-2799

more info: www.friendsofnra.org

Friends of the NRA is an exciting grassroots fund-raising program that fosters community involvement, raises money and gives 100% of the net proceeds to qualified local, state and national programs. Thanks to dedicated individuals across America, **Friends of the NRA** is making a difference. Working with NRA's Field Staff, thousands of volunteers nationwide are participating in the program by organizing committees and planning events in their communities. In 2008 alone, Friends of the NRA held 1,050 events and raised more than \$15.8 million for the shooting sports. Since its inception, there have been 10,000 events held and 2,000,000 attendees.

The format is simple-food, fun, family and fund-raising. Whether you are a hunter, competitive shooter or just a proud gun owner, Friends of the NRA events have something of interest for the entire family. Events include dinner followed by exciting auctions and special drawings for unique and collectible merchandise. Attendees bid on items from the standard Friends of the NRA merchandise package, as well as special products and services donated to specific events by local businesses and community members. Friends of the NRA merchandise will include very desirable limited edition firearms, wildlife art from popular artists, jewelry, and shooting sports, hunting and outdoor equipment. Events offer every participant an opportunity to take home valuable merchandise and enjoyable memories.

Friends of the NRA Banquet in Boone continued

All net proceeds benefit **The NRA Foundation**, with half allocated to fund projects within the state where the money was raised. The NRA Foundation uses the other half to fund similar projects with a national scope. Friends of the NRA Committee Volunteers are appointed to a State Fund Committee and make recommendations for local grant funding. To date, The NRA Foundation has funded more than 15,000 state fund grants for a total of \$125 million, including but not limited to: youth firearms safety and education programs; hunter education; range development and improvement; support materials for training classes; women's safety classes; and wildlife conservation efforts. Recognizing that America's young people represent the future of the shooting sports, State Fund Committee grants frequently target youth programs, allocating more than 50% of grant monies to this important area.

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 moved to 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
a Match that afternoon. Start early for the season!

*** WGC Range will be CLOSED August 10th – August 16th ***

for 2009 NC State IDPA Set-Up & Match

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.

**WGC RANGE WILL BE CLOSED
AUGUST 10th – AUGUST 16th (Set-Up & Match)
for 2009 NC IDPA State Championship**

**Nitro Express
PO Box 3284
Boone, NC 28607**