

Nitro Express



Official Newsletter of Watauga Gun Club 2009

SEPTEMBER

By Mike Suddreth

We finally made it through the days of summer and into the early days of autumn. Change is here. First let's start off with mentioning the new Coca-Cola vending machine located just outside the clubhouse. Club members decided on this overwhelmingly since our honor system for beverages was left tarnished. Soft drinks are 75 cents each and the vending machine is equipped with a dollar bill changer. Choices will include Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Mr. Pibb, and Caffeine-Free Coke.

Some of you may have noticed the club sign at the entrance is missing. A few local boys from the Castle Ford area have chosen to start early in their careers as "Gangstas" and decided starting with WGC property was a fitting move. After some good old-fashioned police work Club President Joe Moody has identified the troubled youths and got them properly started with all the necessary documentation that will help establish their criminal careers. Thanks Joe!

WGC members need to organize an election committee for the next club meeting. Nominees for upcoming Executive Committee positions will be critical. Last year we dragged our feet a little and didn't get all the club officers nominated, placed on ballots, and elected until February. If anyone has a nominee for any of the club officer positions please make it a point to get their name on the ballot at the next club meeting. Let's follow our own guidelines and have a timely election so we can recognize our officers in December at the annual meeting.

Tom Bennett needs input, recommendations, suggestions, and anything else you can offer with regard to the WGC Annual Meeting/Banquet scheduled for December 10th. Facility reservations and/or catering arrangements need to be made as early as possible. Contact Tom Bennett: 828-773-2799 or 828-297-1916. Please leave a message if Tom is unavailable.

Some members may have noticed that law enforcement agencies have been using the range during the week for their department qualifications. The range will always remain OPEN to members during police qualifications. The officers will mainly use the Bay #2 and leave the rest of the range

open to members. Occasionally, officers may need to qualify with rifles or shotguns that require the use of another bay/berm. Please work with the departments if they request another bay, they are paying the club for range time. Officers have indicated they will be respectful toward club members while at the range. Please be aware and exercise safety while using the range during qualifications.

Concerned members at the club are noticing tire tracks and wheel ruts that have been left in the newly graveled sections on some of the shooting bays. Underneath the fresh gravel are drainage pipes that are being crushed and ruined each time a member decides to drive their vehicle all over the bay they are using. If anyone sees another member or guest driving on the graveled sections that are covering drainage pipes, please let them know they are destroying club property and report the incident.

Serious building and structure repairs have been identified and prioritized by many active members and the Executive Committee. Now is the time to take action and be heard. The trap shooters storage unit (tractor shed) has a serious leak and bids to repair the roof are now available. WGC members will need to vote on which bid to accept to start repairs to the tractor shed roof. The 300yd rifle shed repairs have been put on hold and redirected for at least 5 or 6 years. A motion was made at the last club meeting to get approval for a bank loan and make all the necessary repairs this winter. This will help the Club to commit and ensure no more excuses to wait and make repairs later to the rifle shed. Hopefully we can have the rifle shed ready to show-off when the 2010 High Power & Benchrest seasons begin. We have put this off too long! Make sure all interested shooters and members are at the next club meeting on October 8th, so we can approve on this important motion.

At the August 2009 club meeting, discipline directors from ATA (Trap) and NRA High Power have expressed interest in reserving new dates for the 2010 schedule. ATA would like to reserve the fourth weekend of each month to schedule trap events and NRA High Power was satisfied with reserving the second Saturday of each month for

rifle events. Everyone seems happy with the arrangement. The problem that remains is just a small one. To make everything work smoothly, club members must vote to move the Open Weekend (Amendment IV) to the first weekend of each month. This allows the NRA High Power schedule to assume the second weekend normally reserved for club members. Most members are in support of

this move. If anyone is not in favor of this, please attend the October meeting to state the reason.

Wayne Green has compiled past, present, and a few suggested bylaws of WGC to amend to **Article II – Object** which discusses Training at the Club. This will require a club vote in October. The bylaws for approval have been included in this newsletter and are available for review at the Club House. Please read the following:

Training at the Club Article II – Objectives

The object of this organization shall be the encouragement of organized shooting events among the citizens of the United States in our community, with a view toward better knowledge on the part of such citizens of safe handling and proper care of firearms, as well as improved marksmanship. It shall be further object and purpose to forward the development of those characteristics of honesty, good fellowship, self-discipline, team play and self-reliance, which are the essentials of good sportsmanship and the foundation of true patriotism.

The object of the Watauga Gun Club as stated in Article II of the bylaws above clearly indicates that firearms' training is the primary concern of the Club. Over the years there have been many different policies on how this goal is to be accomplished. I will list what research has revealed.

I am going to separate training and qualifications into four categories in order to facilitate a more logical discussion.

The first category is the training of club members. The Club has two members that conduct these training sessions. The first is the Chief Instructor. This position is currently held by Ricky Oakes. The responsibilities of this position are to train members in the use of various firearms. He has the authority to appoint assistants. The second position is held by Gary Hoyle. This position is to instruct new members in the use of the range and its facilities, the safety rules, times at which the range can be used, and to conduct a basic firearms safety course. Gary is a certified NRA firearms safety instructor.

The second category is in specific areas. The following people have been approved by the Club as instructors: Joe Moody – concealed carry and hunter safety instruction; Humphrey Hayes – concealed carry; Marvin Gragg – concealed carry and hunter safety; Wayne Green – hunter safety; George Sudderth – trap shooting; Gary and Sandy Hoyle – basic firearms safety, the refuse to be a victim NRA program, basic pistol, concealed carry; Tim Honeycutt – tactical shooting; Danny Watson – tactical shooting; and Michael Suddreth – tactical shooting. All people conducting these classes are supposed to collect a fee of \$10.00 per student per day for range use, unless the student is a member of the Club. No range use fee is required for a student that is a Club member. All classes taught by these people are to be posted on the calendar on the Club website at least

two weeks before the class is to be held. The Vice President is charged with posting the dates and portions of the Club being used to make sure there is no conflict with other Club use. The purpose of posting the dates is to allow Club members to schedule their trips to the range. No instructor can pencil in dates on the calendar in the Clubhouse as the date and time must be approved by the Vice President. The Vice President was given this job when the Club decided that the Range Officer (previously the person charged with these duties) had to many other duties to perform. Some members were concerned with the number of classes being taught and the qualifications of those conducting the classes. It was determined that all new instructors must be approved by the Club and that classes were to continue to be scheduled as stated above. A Club member who has been approved as a safety officer must hold all classes. If the entire range is to be closed, then a vote of approval by the Club is required.

The third category is use of the range by law enforcement groups for training/qualification purposes. This has been a contention for years. Originally law enforcement agencies were allowed to use the range free of charge. Due to the number of agencies that were using the range with the resulting scheduling problems and the financial condition of the Club, it was decided that the use of the range by law enforcement would be billed to each agency. The logic used at the time was that as each discipline (trap, IPSC {pistol discipline at the time}, and high power) turned money into the Club to compensate for tying up the range, it was only fair for law enforcement to do the same thing. It was reasoned that qualification was a professional requirement and not educational training. Range use is again required to be scheduled at least two weeks prior to being needed in order to post the time, date, and location on the range of the event on the calendar. The Vice President is charged with posting this information after determining the

availability of the portion of the range needed. Again, if the entire range is to be closed, approval of the Club by vote is needed. The fee schedule for use by law enforcement has changed greatly. Collection of these fees has always been a problem as no billing system has ever been utilized. Originally fees were to be paid before the range was to be used, but this has never been followed. The fee schedule has changed several times and a new billing policy probably needs to be approved and followed. This fee collection policy needs to address the fact that members of more than one agency may be qualifying on the same date with the same instructor. A solution to this problem that has been suggested several times is that every person qualifying should be required to fill out a liability waiver that list his department. It has also been suggested that a list of those in attendance and what departments they represent should also be required from the chief instructor over the qualification proceedings. This would be particularly needed if the fee schedule was to ever change back to the \$10.00 per day per man option. A Club member that has been approved as a Safety Officer needs to be in attendance at all qualifications.

The last category is training for educational purposes. In order to promote the objective stated in Article II, it was decided that the range would be made available to certain groups for educational purposes for no fee. These groups have to be approved by the Club. Groups that have been approved include the Boy Scouts/ Girl Scouts, the 4-H Club, the hunter safety team promoted by the Watauga County School system, hunter education classes, and the Appalachian State University R.O.T.C. classes. There has been discussion at least

twice concerning the R.O.T.C. program. It was determined that this was an educational use, not a professional use. The last time it came under discussion was shortly after one young man from ASU lost his leg in Iraq and another was killed. The decision was that range use for educational purposes was the least we could do to support those interested in a military career. As before, all use of the range must be coordinated with the Vice President so that the calendar can be updated.

All of the above information is from research I have done of how these issues have been handled in the past. All of these policies with the exception of the duty change between the Vice President and the Range Officer. This change should be made as part of the bylaws. Due to the huge amount of policies we have made over the years, I would suggest that we continue to work on these issues in sections. Many of the things we thought were in the bylaws are only policies. I would think we need to cover these policies before we address the bylaws in order to determine if any of them need to be in the bylaws.

This information is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. However it is almost certain that something was changed or discussed that I have no record of and that we need to get in writing. All of this should be reviewed by the executive committee and then brought to the attention of the Club. I would suggest we do this in sections, also so that the Secretary can record the official changes we make. I would suggest the information on the issues be put in the newsletter so that the Club members have a chance to review these issues before meetings.

– Wayne Green

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

August & September Club Match Results

NRA Handgun Qualifier – August 2009

	Division	Total	X's
	OPTICS		
1	Lloyd Poole	150	15
2	Doug Merkel	150	14
3	Ted Greene	150	14
4	Jeff Foster	150	12
5	Rick Mahoney	150	12
	IRON SIGHTS		
1	Todd Walker	150	15
2	Steve Byerly	150	14
3	Wayne Phillips	150	12
4	Mike Suddreth	150	10
5	Robert Niemi	150	8
6	Ricky Oakes	150	7
7	Wayne Green	148	11
8	Jacob Young	148	10
9	Fred Stahl	148	8
10	Vince Gable	146	5
11	Charlene Eloreanta	119	5
12	Tom Bennett	107	3

Hunter Rifle – September 2009

	Rifle Shooter	Total	X's
1	Jacob Young	49	1 x
2	Ted Greene	49	1 x
3	Mike Suddreth	47	
4	Vince Gable	46	1 x
5	Lloyd Poole	46	1 x
6	Wayne Green	44	
7	Steve Byerly	44	
8	Wayne Caudill	43	1 x
9	Doug Merkel	41	
10	Tom Bennett	36	
11	Ricky Oakes	31	1 x
12	Wayne Phillips	26	

Local and State News

RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH NEBRASKA

A NC Concealed Carry Permit is now recognized in Nebraska. On August 31, 2009 Attorney General Jon Bruning of Nebraska issued a memorandum to Colonel Bryan Tuma of the Nebraska State Patrol, informing him that they had completed their review of the fifty states and the District of Columbia. The review included a list of the states with which Nebraska had reached concealed handgun reciprocity agreements. North Carolina is currently

included on that list.

The benefits of the concealed handgun reciprocity law engineered by Grass Roots North Carolina (GRNC) which passed into law in 2003 continue to accrue even now. The work done by fine members of the General Assembly such as Rep. MARK HILTON who was the primary sponsor and those of you who didn't let their representatives of your support goes rewarded.



WGC member Bryan Wood has organized one of the more fun and exciting match formats for **Saturday, October 31st** ... a 3-Gun Match! Bryan's effort is to help fellow member and friend Todd Walker, who has fallen on tough times with some serious health issues and a tough employment situation. Proceeds raised by the Halloween 3-Gun match will go to Todd and his family. Anyone not familiar with the 3-Gun format should take a moment and learn what to expect at a match.

3-Gun action shooting requires the shooter to combine accuracy, speed, and tactics to complete different types of shooting problems or scenarios. 3-Gun match shooters solve these problems with different types of weapons. 3-Gun shooters may use military pattern rifles (such as the AR15), shotguns (usually 12ga.), and centerfire handguns (typically 9mm or larger).

Unlike high-power, trap, skeet, or pistol silhouette, 3-gun action shooting matches are different every time—requiring competitors to be diverse in their training and skill sets. For example, in a given stage a shooter may be required to engage targets at distances varying from 2 to 200 yards; in low light or no light conditions; paper targets and steel. Shotgun targets may be engaged with small shot loads and at other times with slugs. A long gun, shot dry, may require a transition to pistol to finish the stage. Often, *no-shoot* targets, which incur a penalty when hit, are placed near normal *shoot* targets. Realistic props are used to simulate a scenario that the shooter must complete.

3-Gun shooting competition is what you want to make of it. Some shooters emphasize the practical aspect by using their normal carry gun to develop their self-defense skills and test their equipment in realistic situations. For most folk, the match is part monthly practice, part social occasion. Shooters enjoy the challenge, fun, and social aspects of the sport—but don't take things too seriously.

At the other end of the spectrum are the athletes, the serious competitors. These shooters often emphasize the game element of the competition,

using equipment they acknowledge lacks practical use, but which improves their ability to generate high scores and low times.

In between are all sorts of shooters—including many who enjoy 3-gun action shooting and the opportunity these matches provide to use their politically incorrect weapons.

Shooters must decide how they want to approach the match. Most 3-gun and tactical action shooting groups emphasize self-improvement rather than competition and prizes. However, all types of shooters are welcome—as long as they are safe shooters first and foremost.

The match fee will be **\$60** and the full day match will include an event T-shirt, lunch, and a possible trip to the prize table. Shooters are encouraged to dress-up! 3-Gun veteran, Ian McFinn has already stated he will shoot the whole match wearing full chain-mail & an eye patch. Shooters should plan to pre-register with Bryan 828-773-6775 or Robert Niemi 828-446-8778. Upon registration shooters need to decide in which division to compete.

This 3-gun match will have three divisions; **1)** Unmagnified Optics (iron sights, red-dots, etc.), **2)** Magnified Optics (1.5-12x scopes), and **3)** Nostalgia Arms (WWII-Korean War Era firearms of the period). Division winners and top finishing shooters will be awarded certificates suitable for framing.

Shooters will need to make sure they arrive properly equipped and with enough ammunition to finish the match. Along with their 3 guns, shooters will need approximately 150 rounds of rifle ammo, 75 rounds of bird shot, 25 rounds of Slugs, and 150 rounds of pistol ammo. Other equipment to consider will be slings for your rifle & shotgun, a pistol holster, extra magazines, shell carriers, magazine carriers, eye protection and hearing protection.

Please remember that club members are organizing this match to help Todd Walker and his family.

Mayors Against Illegal Guns (MAIG)

Some local mayors have joined "Mayors Against Illegal Guns" (MAIG) which was founded and is funded by activist anti-gun billionaire and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Is your mayor one of them? Look at the list below to identify any politicians you may know.

Despite its very misleading name, this national group of anti-gun mayors has lobbied Congress against national reciprocity of state Right-to-Carry permits, against much-needed reform of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE), for regulating gun shows out of existence, and for repealing the Tiahrt Amendment that protects the privacy rights of law-abiding gun owners and limits disclosure of sensitive firearm trace data to protect law enforcement personnel and protect lawful gun manufacturers from bogus lawsuits.

Bloomberg created "Mayors Against Illegal Guns" as a front group to lobby Congress to oppose important pro-gun reforms and support new federal gun control restrictions. And some mayors have joined or been duped into joining this anti-gun Bloomberg crusade. If your mayor has joined MAIG, it is critical that he or she resign from this anti-gun group. You can do your part by contacting your mayors' office today and urging your mayor to withdraw his or her MAIG membership. A number of mayors have already **quit** the anti-gun Bloomberg coalition and yours should be the next one to do so.

North Carolina

Mayor Terry Bellamy – Asheville, NC

Ronnie K. Wall (*Resigned from MAIG*) – Burlington, NC

Mayor Kevin Foy – Chapel Hill, NC

Mayor John R. Bost – Clemmons, NC

Mayor Bill Bell – Durham, NC

Mayor Yvonne Johnson – Greensboro, NC

Mayor Patricia C. Dunn – Greenville, NC

Mayor Charles Meeker – Raleigh, NC

South Carolina

Mayor Joseph Riley – Charleston, SC

Mayor Robert D. Coble – Columbia, SC

Mayor Joseph T. McElveen Jr. – Sumter, SC

Tennessee

Mayor Tom Beehan – Oak Ridge, TN

Tennessee

Mayor A C Wharton – Shelby Co, TN

Virginia

Mayor William Euille – Alexandria, VA

Mayor Brenda Pelham – Hopewell, VA

Mayor Paul D. Fraim – Norfolk, VA

Mayor Annie M. Mickens – Petersburg, VA

Mayor James W. Holley III – Portsmouth, VA

Mayor Dwight C. Jones – Richmond, VA

Georgia

Mayor Heidi Davison – Athens-Clarke Co, GA

Mayor Shirley Franklin – Atlanta, GA

Mayor Jere Wood – Roswell, GA

Mayor Otis S. Johnson – Savannah, GA

Mayor John Fretti – Valdosta, GA

Mayor Donnie Henriques – Woodstock, GA

U.S. is a Pro-Gun Nation, from a conservative viewpoint, survey finds – *L.A. Times* by *Pete Thomas*

The October 2009 issue of Outdoor Life arrived in the mail today, and inside are recent poll results that might be of interest to hunters and fishermen. The polls, conducted by Rasmussen Reports, asked whether the Constitution guarantees the right to own a gun and what was behind the recent increase in gun sales. Among Americans polled, 75% said the Constitution guaranteed the right to own a gun. The percentage of "yes" answers was higher among Republicans (92%) and lower among Democrats (64%). Among others, 71% answered yes. As for the second question, 57% of those polled cited fear of increased government restrictions as the reason for a spike in gun sales; 23% said it was because of a fear of crime, while 20% were unsure. What Outdoor Life left out was that Americans appear to be evenly divided

regarding the much hotter issue of gun control: 44% of respondents said stricter laws are needed, while 44% said they're not. The other 12% were unsure. Republicans and Democrats were evenly divided as well: 63% of Republicans polled said they opposed stricter gun laws while 62% of Democrats said stricter laws are needed. A Rasmussen poll conducted last October in 2008 found that 63% of U.S. voters believed Sen. Barack Hussein Obama would be more inclined to restrict gun rights than Sen. John McCain, his rival in the presidential election (84% of Republicans answered yes to this question). To be sure, it was no coincidence that the run on guns and ammo began when it became clear who would win that election. Mark Twain said it best, "People get the government they deserve!"

Upcoming Events at WGC

- **ATA Practice on Tuesdays & League Shoot on Thursdays** 5:00pm-8:00pm. \$3 to practice. ATA Match #6 on Saturday, October 3rd
Contact Tom Pitts 828-264-1578
or Morgan Shaw 828-297-3039
 - **IDPA Handgun Match** Saturday, October 17th. Season finale. 10am start. Bring enough ammo.
Contact Bryan Wood 336-773-6775.
 - **300yd Bench Rest** Upcoming Match Info:
Dave Richardson 336-372-5873
dw_richardson@hotmail.com
 - **Club Match** Thursday, October 8th, 2009
Varmint Rifle Match 4:00pm-6:45pm
Prone 100-200-300yds. 15minutes. 10 rounds.
Contact Tom Bennett 828-773-2799
 - **WGC Annual Meeting/Awards December 10th**
Suggestions & Member's input are needed.
Contact Tom Bennett 828-773-2799
- ***Reservations/Catering must be arranged soon.

- **NRA Range Safety Officer Course**
Offered this winter to groups & individuals. A small fee for NRA materials will be required.
Contact: Shane Suddreth 305-522-6195
email: ss@terranova.net
- **Tactical Firearms Course** for Sept & Oct
Introduction to AR-15 (Basics & Maintenance)
Contact: Tim Honeycutt 828-234-0749
or Mike Suddreth 828-850-9595
- **Concealed Carry Handgun Classes (CCH)**
Joe Moody by appointment Contact: 828-264-2486
Gary & Sandy Hoyle 9am-5pm Oct. 24th
*** (1-day class) Contact: 828-963-6307
- **Todd Walker Benefit 3-Gun Match**
Saturday, October 31st 10:00am \$60 entry fee.
Shooters may compete in 1 of 3 different divisions
Unmagnified Optics-Magnified Optics-Nostalgia
Fee includes: T-shirt, lunch, & surprise.
Event Info: Bryan Wood 828-773-6775
or Robert Niemi 828-446-8778

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 on Sunday.

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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Boone, NC 28607**