

Nitro Express

Happy New Year



Official Newsletter of Watauga Gun Club 2010

JANUARY

By Mike Suddreth

I hope everyone's New Year started with plenty of the Hope & Change you were promised!

Some early ideas were tossed around at the January 2010 club meeting about making a concentrated effort on doing some improvements to the Quonset Hut this year. Everyone agreed some interior upkeep was necessary and the rimfire bullet traps will need to be repaired when funds become available. No decisions were made final, but some problems areas with the Quonset Hut will need to be addressed at future meetings.

Member dues for the 2010 calendar year may be paid to Walter McCracken at the upcoming club meetings in February or March. Current members will have until the March 2010 meeting to get dues of \$150 submitted ... the gate combination will be changed after the March 2010 meeting.

The new WGC sign for the Castle Ford Road is not ready ... the sign is getting a few extra touches done until the ground becomes more manageable for setting the mounting posts.

WGC members should know that in 2010 the first weekend of each month is now designated as OPEN to just members and their guests. A member is allowed to bring up to 3 guests to the range and is responsible for remaining with their guests during the entire visit to the range.

NRA High Power matches may be scheduled on the 2nd weekend of the month if a new discipline

director volunteers to schedule any matches. If you are interested in becoming the next NRA High Power Director please contact Steve Lunsford 828-559-0455 or narvel@charter.net. If NRA High Power is unable to appoint a new discipline director, the 2nd weekend of each month at WGC will also be OPEN to members and their guests.

IDPA handgun matches will be on the 3rd weekend of each month, and ATA (trap) will have matches the 4th weekend of each month. Tom Pitts wanted to inform members that ATA will not schedule a September 2010 match. A September match would conflict with another ATA event in North Carolina this year. Also, regular ATA practices will begin this April.

The club needs a favor. Over the years the club has accumulated paper file copies of past newsletters that were kept in the clubhouse. Someone has removed them. Please look through your personal files and see if you have a copy of previous letters that you would consider either giving or copying for inclusion in the club files. Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

~~~ The Executive Committee

**I hope everyone had a Happy New Year!**



**Thank You Joe & Tom !!!**

On behalf of all the members at WGC, a "Big Thank You" is in order for 2009 President Joe Moody and 2009 Range Officer Tom Bennett! **"THANK YOU GENTLEMEN!"** Thank you for a job well done this past year! Both men are dedicated people who have devoted their extra time and energy to fill their respected positions on the Executive Committee. Both Joe and Tom unselfishly put many of the club's needs ahead of their own on more than one occasion last year. Each has always been available both at club functions and behind the scenes, when no one else is watching. Good Luck to you both as you each begin a new chapter in 2010!



### Support BATFE Reform Bills S. 941 And H.R. 2296

The NRA has been reporting for months, Senator Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) and Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) have introduced **S. 941, the “Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Reform and Firearms Modernization Act of 2009”** in the U.S. Senate. Representatives Steve King (R-Iowa) and Zack Space (D-Ohio) have introduced a companion bill—H.R. 2296—in the U.S. House. The bills would roll back unnecessary restrictions, correct errors, and codify longstanding congressional policies in the firearms arena. These bipartisan bills are a vital step to modernize and improve BATFE operations.

S. 941 and H.R. 2296 have rewritten the system of administrative penalties for licensed dealers,

manufacturers and importers of firearms. Currently, for most violations, BATFE can only give a federal firearms license (FFL) holder a warning, or revoke his license.

S. 941 and H.R. 2296 would allow fines or license suspensions for less serious violations, while still allowing license revocation for the kind of serious violations that would block an investigation or put guns in the hands of criminals. This will help prevent the all-too-common situations where BATFE has revoked licenses for insignificant technical violations—such as improper use of abbreviations or filing records in the wrong order.

Among its other provisions, S. 941 and H.R. 2296 would:

- Clarify the standard for “willful” violations—allowing penalties for intentional, purposeful violations of the law, but not for simple paperwork mistakes.
- Improve the process for imposing penalties, notably by allowing FFLs to appeal BATFE penalties to a neutral administrative law judge, rather than to an employee of BATFE itself.
- Allow a licensee a period of time to liquidate inventory when he goes out of business. During this period, all firearms sold would be subject to a background check by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.
- Allow a grace period for people taking over an existing firearms business to correct problems in the business’s records—so if a person inherited a family gun store (for example), the new owner couldn’t be punished for the previous owner’s recordkeeping violations.
- Reform the procedures for consideration of federal firearms license applications. Under S. 941, denial of an application would require notification to the applicant, complete with reasons for the denial. Additionally, an applicant would be allowed to provide supplemental information and to have a hearing on the application.
- Require BATFE to establish clear investigative guidelines.
- Clarify the licensing requirement for gunsmiths, distinguishing between repair and other gunsmith work and manufacture of a firearm. This would stop BATFE from arguing that minor gunsmithing or refinishing activities require a manufacturers’ license.
- Eliminate a provision of the Youth Handgun Safety Act that requires those under 18 to have written permission to use a handgun for lawful purposes (such as competitive shooting or safety training)—even when the parent or guardian is present.
- Permanently ban creation of a centralized electronic index of out of business dealers’ records—a threat to gun owners’ privacy that Congress has barred through appropriations riders for more than a decade.
- Allow importation and transfer of new machineguns by firearm and ammunition manufacturers for use in developing or testing firearms and ammunition, and training customers. In particular, ammunition manufacturers fulfilling government contracts need to ensure that their ammunition works reliably. S. 941 and H.R. 2296 would also provide for the transfer and possession of new machineguns by professional film and theatrical organizations.
- Repeal the Brady Act’s “interim” waiting period provisions, which expired in 1998.
- Give BATFE sole responsibility for receiving reports of multiple handgun sales. (Currently, dealers also have to report multiple sales to state or local agencies, a requirement that has shown little or no law enforcement value.) State and local agencies could receive these reports upon request to BATFE, but would have to comply strictly with current requirements to destroy these records after 20 days, unless the person buying the guns turns out to be prohibited from receiving firearms.
- Restore a policy that allowed importation of barrels, frames and receivers for non-importable firearms, when they can be used as repair or replacement parts.

**Contact our U.S. Senators and Representative & ask them to please cosponsor and support S. 941 and H.R. 2296!**

## Expulsion Overturned by California Education Board – *The Sacramento Bee*

**Kalifornia** - The case of a Willows teenager expelled for having hunting guns in his pickup truck parked next to campus didn't focus on gun rights. It became a question of whether the authority of school officials to enforce the state's Education Code extended to the school fence – or a sidewalk's width beyond it. This month members of the Glenn County Board of Education drew the line at the gates of Willows High School. They ruled that officials in the Willows Unified School District had exceeded their authority when they expelled Gary Tudesko – a 17-year-old with a history of disciplinary problems – for leaving two shotguns and ammunition in his truck parked a few feet from the school's tennis courts on a public street.



G. Tudesko is greeted by attorney C. Michel

"The district governing board acted in excess of its jurisdiction to expel the Pupil," the board wrote in its decision. The elected board members said they would not comment on their decision because disciplinary proceedings are normally confidential. The board's hearing Tuesday, at which members heard legal arguments, was open to the public at Tudesko's parents' request.

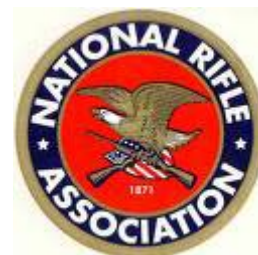
In overturning the teen's expulsion, county Board of Education members cited a state statute that requires a principal to recommend expulsion if a student possesses firearms "at school." The board found Tudesko had not possessed the shotguns "on school grounds." They also said Tudesko did not receive a fair expulsion hearing in November because he wasn't given adequate notice that two dozen prior disciplinary incidents would be presented as evidence against him, and he didn't have a chance to respond. According to a brief filed by the school district's lawyer, those charges included calling a teacher's assistant a "stupid Mexican," disrupting a showing of "To Kill a Mockingbird" by repeatedly saying the "N" word, which Tudesko denied, and writing on a final exam that his math teacher was a "b – – ."

After board President Judy Holzapfel read the unanimous decision aloud Friday, supporters cheered and applauded. Tudesko, his mother, Susan Parisio, and their lawyers smiled and hugged. At a news conference afterward, Parisio said, "Gary didn't do anything wrong" when he left the guns in his truck. The prior incidents were "blown out of proportion," she said.

Tudesko said he felt his prior disciplinary troubles had been raised to justify his expulsion. "I think that's really the only thing they had on me. They couldn't get me for the guns," he said. "I won," he added. The high school junior, who has been home schooled since he was expelled, said he is excited to return to school as soon as possible. He vowed to improve his failing grades in math, English and history and avoid further trouble. "I need to grow up and take advantage of school," he said.

Willows school officials exited the county education offices demoralized. Principal Mort Geivett said he believes he did the right thing by recommending expulsion. Having guns so close to campus in the wake of school shootings around the country raised grave safety concerns, he said. "I'm disappointed," he said. "I don't think it's a good call for kids in this community." Steve Olmos, superintendent of the Willows Unified School District, said he believes the board's decision was based on politics in the conservative, rural county. He said he will meet with the board of the Willows school district to discuss legal options. The cash-strapped district cannot easily afford to take the case to court, he said, and might seek help from teachers unions. It is vital, he said, to determine whether school officials can enforce student conduct in the area immediately surrounding campuses.

Chuck Michel, a prominent gun-rights lawyer who handled Tudesko's case, agreed that the phrase "at school" in the Education Code needs to be better defined. Sections of the code dealing with expulsion, firearms and other disciplinary matters are a confusing tangle of passages tacked on over the years, and the courts have offered little guidance, he said. He urged lawmakers to draft legislation to clean up the Education Code and to make it clear where and under what circumstances it applies. "I hope this case provides the basis to go to Sacramento and get the law clarified," Michel said, "so you don't have any more Gary Tudeskos."





## Guns Decrease Murder Rate – *The Washington Times*

More guns in law-abiding hands mean less crime. The District of Columbia proves the point.

Reading most press accounts, one would be forgiven for thinking Armageddon had arrived after the Supreme Court struck down the District's handgun ban in 2008. Predictions sprung forth from all directions that allowing more citizens to own guns and not forcing them to keep them locked up will threaten public safety. According to D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty, more guns in homes would cause more violent crime.

This has never been the case. Local politicians enthusiastically embraced the 1977 handgun ban predicting it would make Washington a safe place by dramatically reducing murder rates. But they were as wrong three decades ago as they are now.

A telling story is illustrated by the murder numbers since the handgun ban and gun-lock bans were struck down. Between 2008 and 2009, the FBI's preliminary numbers indicate that murders fell nationally by 10 percent and by about 8 percent in cities that have between 500,000 and 999,999 people. Washington's population is about 590,000. During that same period of time, murders in the District fell by an astounding 25 percent, dropping from 186 to 140. The city only started allowing its citizens to own handguns for defense again in late 2008.

Few who lived in Washington during the 1970s can forget the upswing in crime that started right after the ban was originally passed. In the five years before the 1977 ban, the murder rate fell from 37 to 27 murders per 100,000. In the five years after the gun ban went into effect, the murder rate rose back up to 35. One fact is particularly hard to ignore: D.C.'s murder rate fluctuated after 1976 but only once fell below what it was in 1976 before the ban. That aberration happened years later, in 1985.

This correlation between the D.C. gun ban and diminished safety was not a coincidence. Look at the Windy City. Immediately after Chicago banned handguns in 1982, the murder rate, which had been falling almost continually for a decade, started to rise. Chicago's murder rate rose relative to other large cities as well. The phenomenon of higher murder rates after gun bans are passed is not just limited to the United States. Every single time a country has passed a gun ban, its murder rate soared.

The choice Americans face isn't between freedom or safety. Washington's experience with gun bans shows once again that Americans will either be free and safe or not free and unsafe. Letting people protect themselves is the responsible approach. It's important the Supreme Court remember these facts in March when it hears the case over Chicago's handgun ban.



## Gun Rules in National Parks Starts on February 20th – by *MICHAEL JAMISON of the Missoulian*

A year of controversy ends with a bang on Feb. 20, 2010, when visitors will be allowed to pack guns into Glacier National Park as well as other national parks and wildlife refuges.

The rule change - loaded guns have not been allowed in parks for decades - first was floated as an administrative rule change in the last days of the George W. Bush presidency, but later was challenged in court. Congress then attached the gun language to credit card legislation, which was signed by President Barack Hussein Obama on May 22, 2009.

Under the new rules, "all firearms - loaded, concealed and otherwise - can be carried, by anyone," according to Glacier Park spokeswoman Amy Vanderbilt. National parks and wildlife refuges now will have the same gun rules as the states in which they are located.

The guns will not, however, be allowed in federal facilities - such as park headquarters, visitor centers and ranger stations - or in places where federal employees regularly work - such as the auditorium at Glacier's Lake McDonald Lodge.

In Glacier, management still recommends carrying bear spray as a "proven and effective deterrent for aggressive or charging bears," Vanderbilt said. "A gun should be considered only as a last resort. A person wounding a bear, even with a large-caliber gun, can put you and others in even greater danger."

Over the past year, NRA-ILA has reported several times on the abundance of rumors being circulated regarding firearm issues. Among other things, we've heard phony tales circulating about such things as guns being banned for the elderly, ammunition with expiration dates, a requirement that guns be listed on tax returns, and a prohibition on gun and ammunition imports. The latest scuttlebutt has to do with a recent Executive Order by President Barack Hussein Obama concerning the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

Some have argued that the order would make INTERPOL and its officials immune from civil suit or criminal prosecution, and that it would therefore allow INTERPOL personnel to seize firearms, kidnap Americans, and otherwise violate U.S. citizens' rights. Our legal staff has reviewed this order and does not believe it poses any of these threats.

President Barack Hussein Obama's order amends a 1983 order by President Ronald Reagan, in which the U.S. recognized INTERPOL as an international organization that is entitled to certain legal immunities under the International Organizations Immunities Act (IOIA).

One of those immunities is immunity from civil lawsuits. Under the doctrine of "sovereign immunity," foreign governments generally can't be sued, and the IOIA extended that protection to international organizations. This has been applied to block suits against the United Nations, Organization of American States, and other international bodies.

This means that articles on the recent order are incorrect in claiming that the order made INTERPOL immune from civil suits; INTERPOL was already immune.

Some have also suggested that under the order, INTERPOL agents would receive diplomatic immunity,

so they could violate Americans' rights without fear of criminal prosecution. There are several misconceptions here.

First, diplomatic immunity only protects diplomats, and the IOIA specifically says it does not confer diplomatic immunity on international organization employees.

Second, while the IOIA does provide a limited type of immunity for international organization employees, this is only immunity "relating to acts performed by them in their official capacity." U.S. courts have interpreted this narrowly. In one case, a court found that a U.N. employee was not immune to a local speeding ticket even though he was actually driving the Secretary General of the U.N. to an official conference. In other cases, courts have found that employees of international organizations can be prosecuted for espionage, because espionage is not among their official duties.

Law enforcement officers working with INTERPOL are detailed from agencies in various countries, such as the FBI or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. They have no power of arrest outside their own countries. Therefore, a seizure of an American (or of an Americans' firearms) would likely not fall within the official duties for which INTERPOL officials would be immune from prosecution.

Now don't take any of this to mean that we underestimate our anti-gun opponents, or that we don't believe they would happily and readily seize the opportunity to adopt and enforce measures that would limit our freedom. We know full well that they would. Rather, our message is this: Rumors abound, so don't believe everything you read. If it's a legitimate concern, rest assured your NRA-ILA will promptly address it and will give you the straight story.





## Why Hunting Numbers are Up – by Ken Moran *The New York Post*

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If there is a bright side to the economic downturn over the past year, it is the fact that participation in hunting and fishing actually has increased.

According to several recent leading outdoor research firms, these increases actually may be the result of the economic downturn.

A new quarterly report issued by the American Sportfishing Association, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, and Southwick Associates found a 7.7-percent increase in the number of fishing licenses sold between Jan. 1 and Sept. 1, 2009 versus the same time last year.

According to Responsive Management, a leading research firm, hunting numbers also appear to be increasing.

This raises a question: Why are hunting and fishing numbers are increasing in a time when sportsmen's resources are stretched thin due to the economy?

A study conducted in 2008 by Responsive Management and funded by a grant from the National Shooting Sports Foundation looked at increases in hunting license sales in 1992, 1999 and 2004. These license-sale increases occurred despite hunting license sales trending down since 1982.

Responsive Management looked at a number of variables such as average monthly temperature, consumer prices, median income, new housing starts, housing, population densities and population by age groups.

Of those, two were considered to be statistically relevant at the national level. Both of these variables negatively impacted hunting numbers. The first was the percentage of the population between the ages of 65 and 69. As sportsmen age, they are less likely to get out into the field. The second is the increase of new housing starts. The results of a 2007 national survey by Responsive Management and the NSSF indicated that a majority of hunters tend to be employed in construction industry jobs.

Additionally, two other surveys in 1995 and 2008 indicated "work obligations" were a leading factor in hunters being unable to enter the field. Combined, these results support the idea that during times when new construction takes off, sportsmen most likely to go into the field simply do not have enough time to do so.

So it appears that the time available to sportsmen to engage in the outdoors may increase during economic downturns.



## Upcoming Events at WGC

- **ATA** Winter Practice on Sundays. \$3 fee.  
New Date for ATA -- 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month.  
April or May 2010 start for Trap matches.  
Contact Tom Pitts 828-264-1578  
or Morgan Shaw 828-297-3039.
- **NRA High Power** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 9am starts.  
Discipline Director needed for 2010 matches.  
Contact Steven Lunsford 828-559-0455.
- **IDPA** Pistol match - Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>  
\$15 fee. 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, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
.22 Target Handgun 4:00pm-6:45pm Quonset Hut  
50ft.--10 shots/slow, 10shots/timed, 10 shots/rapid  
Contact: Charles Harmon 828-264-5410



- **139th NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits at the Charlotte Convention Center**  
**501 South College Street – Charlotte, NC**  
**Friday thru Sunday May 14-16, 2010**  
Exhibit Hours: Fri-Sat 9:00am-6:00pm  
& Sun 10:00am-5:00pm  
More Event Info: 1-877-800-4672
- **New Member Safety Course** February 2010.  
Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> 1:30-2:30pm  
meet at the WGC clubhouse  
Contact: Gary Hoyle 828-963-6307
- **Concealed Carry Handgun 2010 (CCH)**  
Joe Moody by appointment Contact: 828-264-2486  
Gary & Sandy Hoyle 6pm-9pm February 12<sup>th</sup>  
Gary & Sandy Hoyle 9am-3pm February 13<sup>th</sup>  
Contact: 828-963-6307

## 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:** Professional Gunsmith Equipment and Firearms at [www.armedandfree.net](http://www.armedandfree.net) T. Boone Berlin needs your help before beginning U.S. Navy service. Contact: [berlinsale@me.com](mailto:berlinsale@me.com) for tools/equipment and for firearms info contact Andy Adams Gunsmithing at 828-632-2324 or mobile 828-244-0977.
- **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:** 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](mailto:holdergn@gmail.com)

**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, I.D.P.A. Matches, High Power 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.

**Check the Club Calendar and with the discipline director before you go out to the club on the date of a scheduled event so you don't waste a trip.**

**Nitro Express  
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