

The MUZZLEBLAST



Florida's Largest Gun Club, over 3,500 and growing...

VOLUME 2009

Bi-Monthly publication of the Gateway Rifle and Pistol Club of Jacksonville, Florida

March-April

Update on Our Rifle Ranges

Bill Craig, Club Secretary

To improve safety and make sure that bullets stay on our Club property, a committee was formed this past October and added newly elected Board members in November of this last year. Some hard decisions had to be made which affected primarily our rifle ranges as step one. To eliminate the possibility of accidental rounds or ricochets passing over our earthen berms, several changes were made. Firing at 25 and 50 yard targets are now confined to being in front of bullet traps at those distances. Wooden partitions were added in front of the firing positions on the 100 yard rifle ranges to reduce the angle of firing. Those wooden partitions severely restrict the "window" through which rifles must be fired. We have had a number of complaints about the restrictions the partitions impose on shooters. Improvements are in process.

We presently have baffles constructed of pea gravel boxes at 25 yards on both of our 100 yard rifle ranges. The safety committee determined that additional baffles are required. The 100 yard ranges will have an additional baffle on each one and the 200 yard range will have no less than five baffles due to its longer target distance. A contract is now signed for a contractor to begin work on that project. Upon completion of the baffles, we will be able to remove part of the bottom rows of the wooden partitions which will greatly increase the "window" through which rifles must be fired. With the new baffles in place, safety will still be insured.

To make our rifle ranges safer has not been an easy task. The safety committee spent many hours in many meetings these past months going over ideas, proposals, specifications and concerns. The committee had input from Board members, Sam Grimes, Randy

Erickson, Ron Peart, Braley Carroll, Dana Baygents, Bill Craig, (former Club Vice President) Grit Preston, (Club Maintenance Supervisor) Charlie Calkins and (Club Chief Range Safety Officer) Bob Mathis. We all appreciate your patience during this time period.

Step two will be improving the safety of our other ranges. These plans are not yet finalized. There are now two very large signs listing the rules that apply on our general purpose ranges. One major rule is that NO high power rifles or center fire rifle cartridges can be fired on the general purpose ranges. The reason is simple. We cannot economically make these general purpose ranges safe for this type of rifle or ammunition. All Club members are responsible for helping to enforce this safety rule. Violators of this rule may face Club disciplinary action and/or legal action. Conventional Pistols, revolvers, 22 rimfire rifles, shotguns and Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) "cowboy" rifles, either pump or lever action firing pistol cartridges are acceptable. If you are unsure if your firearm is OK on the general purpose ranges, ask any Range Safety Officer.

We are fortunate to have such a fine facility as our Club here in Duval County. Under state law, we have protection from noise complaints and most EPA regulations. We are not protected from bullets leaving our property causing damage. We are not protected from stupid or unsafe actions. We all, every Club member, must make sure that what we do and what other shooters we see do, on Club property is safe and within Club rule restrictions. We cannot rely on our Range safety Officers to do it all. They cannot be in every place at all times. We all must share this duty and responsibility.

INSIDE the MUZZLEBLAST

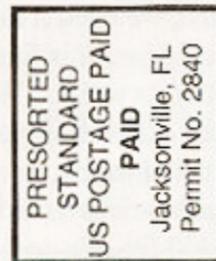
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Photo by Michael Maano



Gateway R&P Club
9301 Zambio RD.
Jacksonville, FL 32210

**Range Maintenance Schedule
as follows:**

Mondays 8 AM-11AM 100 yard Rifle Range
 Tuesdays 8 AM-11AM All Pistol Ranges
 Wednesdays 8 AM-11AM Silhouette Range
 Thursdays 8 AM-11AM 200 yard Rifle Range
 Fridays 8 AM-11AM All Multi Purpose Ranges
 New 100 yard Rifle Range

Tournament Schedule

Match	Range	Time
Club 1800 Pistol	1	1st Sunday 0900-1200
Smallbore Silhouette	4	1st Sunday 1000-1400
22 Rimfire Benchrest	4	1st Sat. 0800-1300
Hipower Rifle Silhouette	3	1st Sat. 0900
IDPA	5	1st Sat.
High Power XTC	3	2nd Sunday 0800-1100
Black Powder	4	2nd Sat.
High Power Rifle Prone	3	3rd Sat. 0800-1100
NRA 1800 Bullseye	1	3rd Sunday 0900-1200
Cowboy	5	4th Sat. 0900
BP Rifle Silhouette	3	4th Sat.

**OBI's Required on ALL
Ranges**

Discipline Contacts:

IR 50/50 22 Benchrest
 Bill Smith 904-276-1008,
 work 904-542-2157.

Smallbore Rifle Silhouette
 Chuck Deason 282-9366

IDPA
 Ed Sevetz 272-8484
 (office callback)

1800/2700 Bullseye
 Randy Erickson 448-3174

High Power Rifle
 Tom Inman 292-0063

3x20 Highpower Rifle Prone
 Joe Zullo 230-1894

Black Powder Muzzle Loading
 Stan Goldy 904-410-1723

**Black Powder Cartridge
Rifle Silhouette**
 Roger Bump 723-2677

Cowboy Action/SASS
 Jerry Stahler 904-284-4572

Gateway Rifle & Pistol Club
 9301 Zambito Road
 Jacksonville, FL 32210
 904-771-2937
Business Manager
 Club-mgr@grpc-jax.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President Lloyd Watkins 733-1513
Vice President Sam Grimes 207-3587
Secretary Bill Craig 737-5252
Treasurer Randy Erickson 448-3174
P R Officer Arvil Budd 777-6932
 buddarvil@aol.com

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 misnerr@bellsouth.net

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

Reason: The three words below in bolt italic letters were accidentally omitted during the retyping a few years ago. We need to reinsert these three words.

11. Amendments

Any proposed amendments to these by-laws may be introduced by any member of the corporation who is good standing and entitled to vote at any regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose. Notice of the time, place, and object of any special meeting *or regular meeting* for the entire membership shall be given to all officers and members in good standing in writing by the US mail not less than fifteen days prior to the date fixed for the holding of the meeting. A two-thirds vote of the membership present and entitled to vote will be necessary to pass or reject the proposed amendment(s).

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

The purpose of this Bylaw change is to clarify existing wording.

Board Policy

7. Board of Directors

(B) Directors will be elected for three year terms. The three year terms are staggered so that only one third of the Directors will be elected each year. If a Director cannot complete the three year term, their successor shall be elected by the Board to complete that year as stated in 7 (g). If there are additional years remaining, the position will be filled at the next election of Board members.

Candidates running for the Board of Directors when open and uncompleted terms are to be filled will be awarded terms as follows: Those receiving the most votes will receive a three year term. Those with the next highest votes will receive the uncompleted terms until all positions are filled.

**OUR WILDLIFE IS
PROTECTED**

Reminder

It is against the law and the club policy to shoot at wildlife on any of our ranges. Any person who shoots at wildlife is subjected to prosecution by the law, and faces penalties up to and including expulsion from the Club. If you see any animals (rabbits, deer, possums, turtles, tortoises, etc.) on the range, cease fire immediately and notify the Range Officer. He will take the necessary steps to notify the proper law enforcement agency. Gateway Rifle and Pistol Club is committed to the protection of all wildlife on its property.

REMINDER

from Bill Craig, Club Secretary

This spring, the "Muzzleblast" Club newspaper will become primarily an online newspaper which can be viewed through our website at grpc-jax.com on the internet. If you wish to continue getting the Club newspaper at home, you must notify our Club office in writing to include your mailing address. This may be done at our Club office or by mailing to our address: 9301 Zambito Road, Jacksonville, FL 32210.

The main advantage of going on line with the newspaper is money savings to the Club to the tune of several thousand dollars. There is also a suspicion that in our busy world of limited time, many members simply discard the printed newspaper without really reading it. Anyone can access our website for general information. However, for access to the Club newspaper, Club policies or Bylaws, you will see the following notice.

Note: Entry to the protected area requires registration and approval by the webmaster.

Clicking on the ENTER button above will re-direct you to a Proboards Forum where you must register using your real first and last name with no space between them (i.e. JohnDoe) and your personal password. Only then can your registration be approved.

ID Badges

**All Members
Annual or Life, Visitors,
Guests, and Day
Shooters
must wear ID Badges
at all times when on the
club property.**

**Visit the webpage:
www.grpc-jax.com**

FOR SALE

*Members may list their firearm related articles at no cost.
Send your ad to: Editor@grpc-jax.com*

Dillon RL550B reloading machine, almost new with strong mount, aluminum bullet tray, cartridge case bin and bracket, 6 powder dies, 6 tool heads, etc. This is a \$600.00 value in perfect condition for \$400.00. I have used it to load less than 1000 rounds.

Contact: Jerry Sizemore at 904-779-2348 or ssjms@bellsouth.net

Colt series 90 Defender Plus, 8 rounds, 45 ACP, condition 99%, No Box
Price- \$875.00

Beretta White Wing, Over/under, 20 gauge, 100% Excellent Condition
Price- \$925.00

Contact: Rusty Rankin at rarankin@comcast.net

Daisy Power Line 747 Match Air Pistol
Price- \$145

Contact: William Kolesar at 386-447-9687 or yaksailr@earthlink.net

High-Standard Victor .22RF Target Pistol. Excellent condition. Low rounds count. 1979 E. Hartford Model S/N SH256XX
2 magazines. No box or papers \$599.99

Contact: Joe Zullo at 904-230-1894 or Webmaster@grpc-jax.com
(pix on Request)

Marlin 30-30 model 336C with leather sling, seven shot, gun is new and has been in storage since purchased 15 years ago.
Price- \$450.

Hi Standard 2 shot 22RF Derringer with fitted case, new gun in storage.
Price- \$295.

357 Mag Colt Python Nickel plated 6" barrel
Price- \$1,500

Contact: Gerald Stokes at 904- 264-9781 or cell 904-703-8976

Gun Cabinet for 6 long guns, Oak or Maple wood, light, storage area underneath , lockable, nice
Price- \$100

Winchester 20 ga. semi-auto shotgun Model 1400, Vent rib and 3 Winchokes included. Like New.
Price- \$300

Winchester 20 ga. slide action shotgun Model 1300, Vent rib and 3 Winchokes included. Like New
Price- \$300

Contact: Donald Fiaretti at 904- 269-9231 or 904- 616-1061

Ruger New Model Single Six Revolver SN: 67-33382, circa 1980, .22LR and .22 WMR (Mag) cylinders, excellent condition, oiled walnut grips, no box,
Price- \$285.00.

Contact: Ed Parsch, parsche45@gmail.com

Sig Sauer P229 9mm, Siglite nite sights, 10 rd mag
Price- \$550.00

Beretta .380, 13 rd mag
Price- \$350.00

Contact: Al Mickler 725-0822.



all photos by Mike Maano

BLACKPOWDER MUZZLE LOADERS

at Gateway by Stan Goldy POC

Treaty Oak Long Rifles have been holding a monthly muzzleloading match at Gateway for more than 20 years. Treaty Oak is a chartered member of the National Muzzleloading Rifle Association (NMLRA) and shoots a 25-shot offhand rifle match at standard NMLRA paper targets at 25, 50, and 80 yards. We shoot the second Saturday of the month and the first relay begins at 8:00. We also have a 10-shot pistol match at 25 and 50 yards. Whether you're a seasoned competitor or are thinking about getting a muzzleloader for hunting season, you'll find first-rate camaraderie and advice on the Treaty Oak firing line.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY CLUB?

by Marion Estes

I got to Jacksonville in April 1986. I found GRPC, and signed up that day. I waited a week and a half for the very effective New Member Safety Orientation provided by Lloyd Watkins. These meetings were offered every other week, as I recall, and were mandatory before using the range.

What happened? At some point the club got into a "tourist economy" mentality of letting non-members pay a daily fee to shoot. The club also stopped requiring orientation for new members. Non-members get immediate access to the ranges, thus "not fair" for new members to wait. This is magic thinking, where the tail wags the dog.

GRPC now suffers approximately 10,000 non-members (dayshooters) per year. GRPC has accepted who-knows-how-many new members, knowing no more about them than dayshooters. Many of the dayshooters and new members are proficient shooters, but many are learning how to shoot by the discovery method. "Shooting" and "discovery method" do not belong in the same sentence.

What are you doing to my club? One shot can put an end to the operation, period. Why is it easier to get to shoot at GRPC than join Sam's Club? Why does the club permit such laxity? Irresponsible? Indifferent? Blinded by money brought in by dayshooters? Failure to require demonstration of skill incurs tremendous liability. Providing documented training/assessment reduces liability.

Physical range improvements have lagged. What are you doing to my club? I cringe when looking at the quality of the shooting. This is not an origami club, a tatting club, a sewing circle or a cooking class. These are real guns, firing real bullets, each of which is capable of inflicting property damage, wounding, maiming or death. THINK. How many sports are there where one event can prove fatal to the organization? Not even skydiving. GRPC relies on a "test" which a ten year old could pass without watching the 20 minute DVD. What are you doing to my club?

GRPC no longer determines if it is not a safety threat. External agencies, such as JaxPort/Jacksonville Aviation Authority, the Federal Aviation Authority, National Transportation Safety Board, Homeland Security, City of Jacksonville, the Florida Wildlife Commission, neighborhood associations and maybe even the Mickey Mouse Club will be the arbitrators. Why? One known incident of property damage. How many went unreported?

What are you doing to my club? I resent the infestation by non-members. This is my club. It is incumbent on the club to assess members and provide training for them. If they just want to "Go Bang", then GRPC is not for them. Wake up. Walk all the ranges. Observe. Buy Kevlar. GRPC is "behind the power curve", which is a nice way of saying a crash is going to happen.

What are you doing to my club?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY CLUB?

(REBUTTAL) by Bill Craig

I was privy to seeing Marion's article before it was being printed intact in the Muzzleblast. Every one has an opinion. However, Marion's article contains some inaccuracies and distortions.

Below is a rebuttal.

1. Yes, some years ago, Lloyd Watkins gave a class for new members. The Club had at that time less than 1,000 members. At least 100 people every year, that joined the Club, never went to the orientation class at all but were able to shoot until removed from membership for not attending the class. We now have over 3,000 members. The required safety video we have now for all new members, daily or annual, contains standardized instructions which must be viewed and a written test passed before ever firing one shot on the range.

2. Marion joined the Club in 1986. The Club has allowed guests and day shooters since 1973 when I joined. At that time, we collected \$3.00 cash and turned in the cash whenever we saw Steve Bernhard or the Club Treasurer.

3. Marion Estes was among the group on the Board last year that tried to reorganize the Club with one major goal of eliminating day shooters and public access. Club members voiced plainly their opposition to the plan at Board meeting and had a recall petition for the Board members who voted for the plan. The plan was overturned. The six primary Board members who voted in the plan all either resigned or were voted out of office. Marion was one who resigned.

4. Marion believes that it is easier to shoot at our Club than to join Sam's Club? Really?? I don't think so.

5. In years past, Marion did a lot of work with our Junior Club and is still a major player in high power rifle competition. In my opinion, he was and still is a good contributing member of our Club. He is entitled to his opinions. His objections to Club actions are being published in this Muzzleblast. However, the facts are that the uprising last year by the Club's membership and the November Club elections prove that the rank and file of Club's membership do not agree with his published opinions.

6. Last but not least. He states "What are you doing to my Club?" It is our Club not just his. The membership decided what is happening to our Club. The membership spoke and Marion evidently does not like what the membership said and did.

Let's let the past be past and move forward.
Bill Craig, Club Secretary

ANNUAL CLUB AUDIT

Our Club Bylaws require an annual audit of the Club's finances each year. The Audit is called by the incoming or newly elected President. Participants will be a Committee chairman from the Board of Directors, the incoming Treasurer and club members who volunteer. If you wish to participate, please notify me, Lloyd Watkins, or leave your name and phone number with our Business Manager, Brenda Trickler. I would like several non Board members to help us with this audit. You do not have to be an accountant to participate. Common sense, an interest in the Club and curiosity are appropriate.

The audit will take place after our 2008 income tax return is finalized by our CPA accounting firm.

This will be sometime between March and May of 2009.

Lloyd Watkins - GRPC President 2009



EDITOR'S NOTE

The Muzzleblast is published bi-monthly by Joan Zullo under the direction of the Gateway Rifle & Pistol Club. All newsletter content will be approved by the GRPC before publishing. Technical and/or hand loading data are for informational purposes only. No responsibility is accepted for results obtained by persons using such data, and all liability for any consequential injuries or damages is disclaimed. References herein to any specific commercial product, process or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer or otherwise, does not constitute nor imply endorsement, recommendation nor favoring by The Gateway Rifle & Pistol Club, Inc., its Board of Directors, its membership, the editor, nor the publisher. Letters to the editor should be brief, to the point, of firearm related interest and contain the signature, address and telephone number of the sender. Letters to the editor do not always reflect the views of the editor, publisher or Gateway Rifle & Pistol Club. Send submissions to: the Muzzleblast editor at:

editor@grpc-jax.com