

The MUZZLEBLAST

Florida's Largest Gun Club, over 4,000 and growing...

2017

A publication of the Gateway Rifle and Pistol Club of Jacksonville, FL.

#3 – August

Dog Days of Summer

Been out to the range much? Me neither. This time of the year is the slowest for range usage. Anyone out in the afternoon is going to have the range to themselves. This is a perfect time for maintenance!

On the 200 yd line, the 50 yard target box on the right side has been removed. This was the one I used the most for sighting in, but I wasn't consulted. The reason was an excellent one. The matches that use the 200 yard line are turning away shooters. Since some of these folks travel to participate, we don't want to disappoint them.

Another change of plans involves the plate racks for the daily shooters. Bids to build the firing line were above the amount we planned to spend. The racks were installed on an underused part of the 15 yard line and has had a good reception. If you notice the rest of the non member area, the grass we planted has come in nicely and adds to the looks of the place.

Another plan which is not working out is the new rest rooms on the east part of the line. We haven't been able to get estimates for the work. This will be done, but will take longer than we had planned.

The lights tested on the 200 yard line have been well received and are spreading to the other ranges. After you see it in operation you wonder why we didn't do something like this sooner.

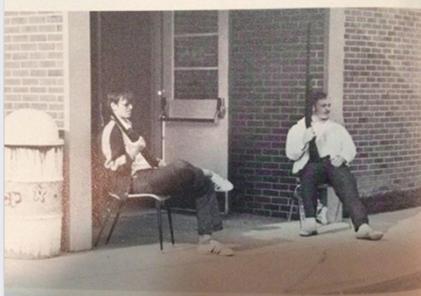
I saw a couple of interesting things on the internet from the "good old days". A computer ad with a great deal on the latest hot item, and a picture from a Delaware newspaper. Hope you find these interesting.

Well, that's it for the summer. Soon the hunters will show up to prepare for the season and the range will be crowded again. A lot of renewals happen this time of year as well as new memberships. The growth of the club has continued a steady increase in both daily and member shooting.

Thanks for reading, Bill King



1973, a student and teacher guarding a Delaware high school after someone called in a shooting threat during a morning class. Juniors, seniors, and teachers went to their cars and trucks to grab their guns, and guard the doors between classes. No shooter ever arrived.



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Competition at Gateway

There are 10 different ways to compete with other shooters at Gateway. One of the reasons for starting the club was to enable competitive shooting. Shooting out in the woods is fun but sooner or later shooting from established positions to real target frames at a known distance is needed.

Some are intimidated by formal shooting, among serious shooters. I am. Still, these games can be a lot of fun, and meeting serious shooters can teach the most experienced hunter a thing or two. Some of these games were designed to enable hunters to practice techniques used in the field in the off season. I know what some are thinking. I don't have the gear needed to participate. Probably right but you can try out without using gee whiz gunsmith custom built guns full of trick parts, hand finished for an astronomical price! For instance, the Bullseye shooters mostly use match grade 45s that have a lot of work done to them to get them just right. The 22s don't need as much work, but are expensive none the less.

You have a 22 pistol, right. Bring it to the match and shoot. You aren't going to win, but you will find out what goes on and maybe, you'll have fun. If you don't have fun, try another game, but somewhere there is a match that will interest you. You will also meet a lot of good shooters who mostly, will be willing to help you. The best way to learn is to hang around good shooters. The amount of thinking that goes into what they do will surprise. The reason the best are that way is practice and the thought that goes into the practice. You can pick this up at matches.

I'll give an example that is a little embarrassing for me. Most of my shooting up into my 40s was related to hunting. I wasn't a bad shoot. Like most, I thought I was a pretty good shot. Talking to someone at the old pistol line about my frustrations, I got a suggestion; look at the front sight. Seems silly but I didn't know this BASIC thing. I looked at the target, with the benefit of relatively young eyes, I could shoot tin cans and squirrels but was inconsistent with shooting at a bullseye. It changed everything. MY shooting improved, and I started thinking about what I was doing. There are some naturally great shots out there that just do it. I'm not one of those.

I'm going to give a basic look into two of the matches we offer.

1. Prone High Power

What you need: Centerfire rifle with a scope.

What they do: Shoot from a prone position at a bullseye 200 yards away.

Isn't that simple? If you want to try it see Joe, the match director before the match and he'll get you situated. If you show up with a 30-30 no problem.

All you have to do before is to sight in at 200 yards and bring ammo. Pay attention to the range commands. Do your shooting. Check your target. Add up the score.

There are different classes of shooters. You will compete in your class against the shooters in that class. We have shooters who travel to come to these matches and you will see a lot of interesting equipment. As you progress, you'll add to your kit. Almost all have a shooting mat and a spotting scope.

Most of the good shooters have either a service rifle or a bolt gun with a long barrel. Target scopes are the norm. Many of the service rifles just use iron sights. Many of these shooters go to matches all over the place where they shoot at up to 1000 yards. The most used calibers are .308 and .223, no surprise there, they are both accurate and have a lot of development behind them. (cont. on page 4)

(Competition at Gateway...cont from page 3)

If you have one of these and get interested, I'll bet you someone will give you load information which works for most shooters. He might not give you the super secret load he just worked up, but you'll have a starting place. In between stages, you can relax and figure what you want to do different. Listen. A lot of good ideas are floating around.

2. 22 Rifle Silhouette

What you need: Rimfire rifle with a scope

What they do: Shoot at silhouettes of chickens at 40 meters, pigs at 50 meters, turkeys at 77 meters and rams at 100 meters. All shooting is from an offhand position with no shooting aids such as slings.

There are different classes of rifles; 10 1/2 pounds and 8 pounds with scope. If you just want to try out and not compete, bring whatever you have. The scopes have target turrets so adjustment can be made for the different distances. For what it's worth, the turkeys are the hardest to hit. Standard velocity ammunition is used. Most shooters shoot a different rifle in each class, but if you want the lighter rifle may be used in both matches. The trick to this is the method of shooting. Few of us practice shooting offhand at 100 yards. Think of this as a modern equivalent of the shooting gallery at the fair. Almost all the rifles are bolt action. Savage seems to be the most popular. 10/22 are used too. Lots of custom work is done to triggers and stocks. There is a good description of the rules under disciplines on the club website for this and most of the other disciplines. Like other games, you shoot against the shooters in your class.

Many of the folks you meet travel to our club. I've met some from Brunswick and Central Florida. Friendly crowd. The most popular match is the "Cowboy" where a rifle must have a tubular magazine and iron sights. Almost all the rifles used in this part are Henrys. The targets used are larger than the ones used in scoped class.

For the hunters both of these matches are a good way to learn to shoot better in the field. Squirrel and rabbit hunting might not be done at 100 yards, but often is done offhand. My favorite way to rabbit hunt is to walk with a partner along an overgrown fence. This is easier in that the target isn't moving. For the 200 yard prone. I've been hearing from more hunters who hunt at long range out west or along power lines closer to home. This is good practice except you are shooting at a known range.

Come out to observe, or bring whatever you have and participate. Usually, a good time is had by all!

Thanks for reading.
Bill King



Smallbore Silhouette

By **Hugh McCombs**

The Fourth Saturday of each month is a great time of competitive shooting with excellent comradery on the Smallbore Silhouette Range.

The first match, Smallbore Standard Rifle begins at 9:30, followed by Smallbore Hunting Rifle, and finally, Smallbore Cowboy Rifle.

An average of 12 to 18 shooters from Florida and North Georgia join together on the firing line for the challenging and fun matches each month.

Overall Match Winners and First Place winners in their respective classes is listed below.

Quarterly Summary Smallbore Rifle Silhouette Competition Matches						
	Standard Rifle		Hunting Rifle		Cowboy Rifle	
	Match Winner	1st in Class	Match Winner	1st in Class	Match Winner	1st in Class
APRIL	Bruce Wilson (FL)	Hugh McCombs-FL Rachel Harper-GA Keith Rowley-FL	Brad Sturz (GA)	Dan Makley-FL Harper-GA Rowley-FL Pete Keith	Dan Makley (FL)	Bruce Wilson-FL Rachel Harper- GA
MAY	Hugh McCombs (FL)	Joe Loehle-GA Vic Bragalone-FL Keith Rowley-FL	Joe Loehle (GA)	Hugh McCombs-FL Wayne Merier-GA Lynette McCombs-FL Beaudrot-FL Lew	Joe Loehle (GA)	Lynette McCombs-FL Jorge Martinez- FL
JUNE	Lawrence Waller (FL)	Bruce Wilson-FL Rachel Harper-GA Johnie Johnson-FL Nathan Preston-FL	Joe Loehle (GA)	Bruce Wilson-FL Brad Sturz-GA Bragalone-FL Beaudrot-FL Nathan Preston-FL Vic Lew	Joe Loehle (GA)	Brad Sturz-GA Johnie Johnson-FL Pete Harper- GA



2nd annual Florida State Smallbore Cowboy Rifle Silhouette Championship Tournament.

On September 23rd, Gateway will host the 2nd annual Florida State Smallbore Cowboy Rifle Silhouette Championship Tournament. The tournament will begin promptly at 9:00am and will consist of two 40-shot matches, with lunch on site between matches. A Classification match will be held on Friday, Sept. 22nd at 2:00pm for any unclassified shooters who would like to classify prior to the tournament. Any .22 rifle that is tube-fed, non bolt-action may be used in Smallbore Cowboy Silhouette.

For more information on the upcoming tournament, or any questions about the Smallbore Rifle Silhouette discipline at Gateway, please call Hugh McCombs, Match Director, at 904-309-1988.



Ladies Day 2017

Gateway is excited to announce our 2017 Ladies Day on Saturday, November 18, 2017!! Save the date and look forward to a fun day of education, training and shooting! You'll have an opportunity learn gun safety and the fundamentals of shooting, as well as use a variety of firearms.

Check out the flyer in this Muzzleblast! Next page....Page 7

If you would like to help with the planning, please contact Sue Carter, 904-704-8814 or suzcarter@reagan.com.



Please note:

Please remove all used targets from frames and return cardboard backers to the receptacles when leaving the range.

It's your responsibility, not our RSO's!



Ladies' Day at Gateway

Saturday, November 18, 2017

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF LEARNING FIREARM SAFETY AND SHOOTING
 EVERYONE WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOOT A VARIETY OF FIREARMS.
 LADIES WILL BE DIVIDED INTO GROUPS WITH EXPERIENCED INSTRUCTORS.



FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION WILL BE PROVIDED.



REGISTRATION:	8:00 - 8:30 A.M.
WELCOME & SAFETY BRIEF:	8:30 - 9:00 A.M.
PERSONAL SAFETY DISCUSSION:	9:00-10:00 A.M.
SHOOTING TIMES:	10:00 - 12:30 A.M.
LUNCH:	12:30 - 1:30 P.M
SHOOTING TIMES:	1:30 - 4:00 P.M.



PRICE: \$30.00

INCLUDES REGISTRATION AND LUNCH

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED; LIMITED TO 100, FIRST COME FIRST SERVED

NO SANDALS OR FLIP-FLOPS

WE RECOMMEND HIGH NECK T-SHIRTS AND BASEBALL CAPS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT SUE CARTER AT [904-704-8814](tel:904-704-8814) or suzcarter@reagan.com

*******REGISTRATION INFORMATION*******

NAME - (LAST) _____ (FIRST) _____ MI _____
 STREET _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
 E-MAIL _____ PHONE _____
 AMOUNT PAID _____ CHECK # _____

DEADLINE TO REGISTER - NOV 13, 2017

*****Please return registration and payment to:*****
 Sue Carter, 4412 Hood Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257

Gateway Rifle and Pistol Club to host the Florida State Precision Pistol Championships October 14 & 15.

Gateway Rifle and Pistol Club, in coordination with the Florida Sport Shooting Association will host the Florida State Precision Pistol Championships at Gateway's 25 & 50 yard range facility on October 14 and 15.

The state championship combines a NRA State Precision Pistol Championship with a .22 Caliber Only Aggregate Match, NRA Distinguished Revolver Match, CMP Service Pistol EIC Match and CMP .22 RIMFIRE EIC Pistol Match. That's a lot of shooting over two days. In addition to attracting shooters from Florida for this event, shooters from several surrounding states will travel to Jacksonville to compete.



The FSSA Trophy
awarded to Florida's Precision Pistol Champion

Jacksonville's great weather is one reason shooters like competing at Gateway, but most importantly, shooters like the great range facilities and the professionally run match. Gateway's Board has been very supportive of the match and the FSSA Board appreciates Gateway's excellent hosting. The range maintenance crew does a fantastic job getting the range in top readiness condition to host the match. Additionally, the range officers and the office staff go out of their way to welcome the match competitors. The match staff, made up of volunteers, has consistently received outstanding comments from the competitors on running the match. Without dedicated volunteers, the state championships could not be held.

The monthly NRA Approved Precision Pistol match, held on the third Sunday of the month beginning at 9:00 am is an excellent way to get ready to shoot the Florida State Precision Pistol Match.

If you are interested in competing or want to help out, check out the match program on the GRPC website: http://www.grpc-jax.com/disciplines/outdoor_pistol.html

Submitted by Ted Carter.

The Florida Sport Shooting Association



by Ted Carter

President, Florida Sport Shooting Association

The Florida Sport Shooting Association or FSSA is your state shooting association. The FSSA is pleased to have a number of Gateway Rifle and Pistol Club members as state association members and Gateway Rifle and Pistol Club as an affiliated club. For those of you who may not be members, I invite you to consider joining.

Formed in 1986 as a Not For Profit Corporation, the Florida Sport Shooting Association (FSSA) is Florida's National Rifle Association (NRA) state association. In addition to affiliation with the NRA, FSSA is also affiliated with the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) and USA Shooting (USAS). We also coordinate with the Florida Sports Foundation to make available select shooting venues for the Sunshine State Games. The FSSA does not do any political lobbying, which allows our tax exempt status.

The FSSA strives to create a public sentiment of support for the individual possession of firearms by law-abiding citizens. We strongly encourage education and training in the use of firearms. An essential purpose of the FSSA is to encourage the proper organization, operation, and administration of member clubs; to promote and coordinate statewide activities related to the ownership and lawful use of firearms, and to cooperate with other organizations in the conservation of wildlife resources within the State of Florida.

Additionally, the FSSA fully supports and/or encourages:

- ✓ The constitutional rights of the individual American citizen to acquire, transport, possess, carry, and transfer ownership of arms.
- ✓ The promotion of recreational and sports shooting.
- ✓ The promotion and approval of State Championship Tournaments and the promotion of all other shooting Sectional and Regional Championships and other competitions.
- ✓ The acceptance of marksmanship as a major competitive sport in the State's publicly and privately endowed school systems, both secondary and collegiate.
- ✓ The promotion and defense of hunter safety training, hunting as a shooting sport, and conservation, as viable and necessary methods of fostering the propagation, growth, conservation and wise use of renewable wildlife and natural resources.

The FSSA's website has a complete list of our Board members and discipline directors. These men and women give their time and expertise to support you and our other FSSA shooters. Their contact information can be found on the FSSA's website; <http://www.flssa.org/Contact>.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or any of our officers and directors with any questions or comments, or for any discipline specific information. We're here to serve our members and our member clubs.

I encourage you to check out the FSSA's website; <http://www.flssa.org>. Our Webmaster has been with FSSA only a couple of months, but has been busy updating our FSSA website, making it more informative and easier to browse.

Annual membership dues are just \$20.00. Our administrative costs are low, allowing a significant portion of our membership dues to actively support our junior shooting programs. FSSA has awarded grants to shooters attending the USA Shooting Junior Olympics in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and other types of shooting events. Additionally, FSSA helps fund select championship events in Florida.

With the NRA National Smallbore Rifle, High Power Rifle and Precision Pistol Championships just recently completed, as well as CMP Rifle and Pistol matches, Florida shooters were represented at these national matches, as well as FSSA supported teams. I look forward to hearing from our individual and team shooters and sharing their accomplishments with you on our FSSA website and via our Face Book. The FSSA Directors and I are excited about the Association's ability to continue to support and promote shooting events throughout Florida. We are also optimistic about expanding our grant programs to include more Juniors, helping them realize their shooting goals.

But we need your help.

Please consider joining or renewing your FSSA membership. FSSA accepts online payments for membership dues, or you can download an application or pick one up in the club store and send it in. Your dues make it possible for the Association to continue to provide grants for our individual shooters, support state championships, and fund our teams during national championship events.

Thanks and good shooting!

Tournament Schedule				Range Maintenance Schedule:	
<u>Match</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Time</u>			
Club 1800 Pistol	7	1st Sunday	0900-1200	Mondays	8 am-11 am 100 yd. Rifle Range
Smallbore Silhouette	4	4th Sat.	1000-1400	Tuesdays	8 am-11 am all Pistol Ranges
22 Rimfire Benchrest	4	1st Sat.	0800-1300	Wednesdays	8 am-11 am Silhouette Range
High Power XTC	3	2nd Sunday	0800-1100	Thursdays	8 am-11 am 200 yd. Rifle Range
Black Powder	4	2nd Sat.	0800	Fridays	8 am-11 am all multi purpose ranges New 100 yard rifle range
High Power Rifle Prone	3	1 st Sat.	0800-1100		
NRA 1800 Bullseye	7	3rd Sunday	0900-1200		
Cowboy	5	4th Saturday	0900		