

The MUZZLEBLAST

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

2018

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

#1 – February

2018 New Year's Resolutions

Happy new year. Do you have any resolutions left after one month? Heard of a health club called resolutions. The first two months, it's a gym, after that, a sports bar. Well, last year we kept to most of our resolutions.

At the annual meeting we gave a state of the club presentation. Harry Shorestein gave an interesting speech. The election for next year's board re-elected the current officers and board members whose 3 year terms were up. As there weren't any challengers, the board was re-elected by acclamation. There was a good swap meet and bbq lunch finished it off.

The work done on the range last year was mostly refining the ranges. A sprinkler system and sod installation made things look neater. The range status lights were installed on the rifle ranges and have been welcomed. Safety is very important and this shows anyone whether the line is hot or cold. Additions to the bullet traps and billboards which control errant shots were refined. This year range 2 will be brought up to the standard.

We went through hurricane Irma pretty well. One shelter on the general purpose line was blown away and had to be replaced. We lost power and phone service for some days. The road leading to the range was blocked by fallen trees for some time. Except for the shelter, damage to the range was confined to broken limbs and the same debris we all had in our yards. After surviving Irma, the old oak tree on the 200 yard line fell apart during a thunderstorm. A lot of effort over the years protected that tree but it was hollowed out inside and will be someones firewood next year.

Tryouts for the Junior Olympics were held in December. 57 shooters competed.

Membership ended over 4300. Over 800 of these are new members. 4300! End of year accounting showed we were able to run the club, keep up repairs and do improvements and add to our reserve fund.

I hope 2018 works as well as 2017.

Thanks for reading

Bill King

Gateway Rifle & Pistol Club

9301 Zambito Ave. N., Jacksonville, FL 32210
904-771-2937

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Treasurer** Randy Erickson 729-4213
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- Arvil Budd 777-6932 buddarvil@aol.com
- Dana Baygents 403-9605 baygents@comcast.net
- Bill King 262-0438 Rusty10370@aol.com
- Alan Rosner 777-7777
- Russ Misner 1-904-284-5347 misnerr@Bellsouth.net
- Robert Kindl 398-0763
- Bill Craig 737-5252 or 629-4247
- Toby Nolan 284-8164
- Tim Allen 483-7396

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<http://www.GRPC-JAX.com>

Discipline Contacts:

IR 50/50 22 Benchrest
Bill Smith 904-276-1008,
work 904-790-6112.

Smallbore Rifle Silhouette
Hugh McCombs 904-309-1988

Club 1800 Bullseye
Ted Carter 904-880-1715
cdrcoach@reagan.com

High Power Rifle
Marion Estes marionEstes4952@att.net

3x20 Highpower Rifle Prone
Joe Zullo 904-495-4109

Black Powder Muzzle Loading
Stan Goldy 904-410-1723

NRA/1800 Bullseye
Ted Carter 904-880-1715
cdrcoach@reagan.com

NRA/2700 Bullseye
Ted Carter 904-880-1715
cdrcoach@reagan.com

Cowboy Action/SASS
Jake Mehrman 904-316-0644

Junior Shooters
MarionEstes4952@att.net



Ladies Day 2017

Saturday, Nov 18th, saw 70 women from all across our community come to learn about and practice shooting firearms. The event, hosted by Gateway Rifle & Pistol Club in Jacksonville, Florida, provided the ladies with a short orientation to handguns, and gave them training in personal protection, pistols, air rifles, and cowboy action shooting.

It was a full day of fun for the ladies. We started with a welcome from Gateway's president, Don Hardeman, and a safety brief given by Ted Carter, an NRA Certified Instructor. Retired JSO Officer Barbara Weber gave a seminar on personal protection and self-defense. She stressed the need to be alert and aware of our surroundings. She talked about what you could do if faced with a problem. The women had the opportunity to learn different techniques to block various attacks, and even got to try them on each other.

After the personal protection seminar, the women were split into four groups. They rotated through the different stations to sample different venues of shooting. A representative from OnTargetSports gave a brief firearms orientation to each group on the many different types of handguns available to purchase. He stressed that no one gun is THE firearm for every lady, and they need to try out different ones to see what fits and works for them.

On the air gun range the women were instructed how to shoot air rifles at a distance of 10 meters. The range was indoor, so everyone stayed comfortable. Marion Estes and the coaches gave a brief lesson on how the air rifle worked, and basic sight alignment and trigger squeeze. The ladies were seated and could use a sand bag if they wanted. Although the targets were small, they did well.

At the pistol range, the ladies shot .22 caliber pistols at 15 yards, standing and using two hands. They were separated into two relays, with coaches having one or two students at a time. After an orientation on the firearm, safe gun handling, and loading and unloading, the women were given 20 minutes to shoot as much as they wanted. Shooting iron sights, the goal was to learn to group their shots anywhere on the target. While one relay was shooting, the other received training on the fundamentals of a good shot, position, grip, sight alignment, sight picture, breathing, trigger squeeze and follow through.

Cowboy action shooting was a big hit for the ladies. Sheriff Misfire Mordecai and his gang did a great job of introducing the women to the period dress and the firearms of the era. They had the chance to shoot revolvers, rifles and shotguns at different distances and at fun targets. Each one selected a pistol, rifle and shotgun to shoot two rounds out of each gun. The firearms included 1866 Yellow Boy's, Marlin 1894's, Winchester 1873's, 1897 Winchester Pump Shotguns, Double Barreled Coach guns, Colt Peacemakers, Ruger Vaqueros, Gambler 2 shot Derringers. 450 rounds were fired by the 70 ladies!

Lunch was catered by the always delicious Gator BBQ. We all enjoyed smoked chicken, pulled pork, slaw, beans, rolls and banana pudding! No one left hungry!

A huge thank you to those of you that came out to help. Our group leaders were Preall Loncarevic, Lori Hallauer, Jody Keach, and Kathy Klimek. Marion Estes, Bob Hathcox, Chris Wensell, Sara Wensell, Al Goodman, and Alan Seacrest in the air rifle range. Ted Carter, Larry Watkins, Terry Drinkwater, Andy Loncarevic, Jim Fleming, Mike Hicks, Jane Cebulskie, and Bill McMullen on the pistol range. Thank you to OnTargetSports for loaning Rob Youngblood to us, and to Randy Erickson who jumped in to take over when Rob had to leave. Thank you to the Cowford Regulators, Sheriff Misfire Mordecai led his posse of 11 Cowboys and Cowgirls, Alma Sacket, Red Bear, Misfire Mordecai, Hogtown Huckleberry, Huckleberry's Rib, Willy Whiskers, Flamingo Joe, Snake Oil Osage, Hoorah Hank, (cont. page 4)

(Lady's Day 2017...con't from page 3)

Pocket Rocket, RIAMBSC, and Rattlesnake Sams. And thank you to Barbara Weber, who has been a presenter at Ladies Day for several years. Without this wonderful group of volunteers, this event would have never happened!

Let us also recognize those businesses that supported us. Thank you to the Florida Sport Shooting Association for the goodie bags, Ruger for the swag and drink bottles, and GunGoddess for the lip balm. The Well Armed Woman Jacksonville West Chapter provided several volunteers, and of course those delicious goodies for a small cost. These organizations continually give their support for our Ladies programs at Gateway and are truly appreciated!

All in all, Ladies Day 2017 was a great success. The women had a fun time learning how to shoot and handle firearms safely. The instructors and coaches were happy to help, and everyone enjoyed lunch!

Keep your eye out for more events in 2018. We will be offering a Refuse To Be A Victim class in February, NRA's Women On Target in June, something yet to be determined in August, and of course, Ladies Day in November. The Jacksonville West TWAW Chapter meets the 3rd Saturday of the month, from 9-1130. Contact Sue Carter, twawjaxwest@gmail.com, if you are interested or want more information. See you next year at the range!

Course of Fire Ladies Day 11/18/2017

Time	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
0800-0830	Check-In and Sign Waivers			
0830-0900	Welcome and Safety Brief			
0900-1000	All Groups attend Personal Protection			
1015-1115	Pistol	Air Rifle	Cowboy	Firearms Orientation
1130-1230	Air Rifle	Cowboy	Firearms Orientation	Pistol
1230-1330	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1345-1445	Cowboy	Firearms Orientation	Pistol	Air Rifle
1500-1600	Firearms Orientation	Pistol	Air Rifle	Cowboy



New Uses for Gateway Facilities

From time to time, members ask about activities not presently supported by the club. Matches become popular and are added to the schedule, that sort of thing. There has been some discussion of new uses for the Craig building. At present, we plan to remodel the interior to make the space more useful. There are meeting rooms. The juniors shoot there. There is air rifle shooting on Wed and Thurs evening.

If you have an idea, the board would like to hear it. Basically we want to know how many shooters. When. Who might be displaced to accommodate the new idea. Costs and benefits. Obviously something which interests more shooters gets the most attention. If you have such a plan, put together supporting facts, costs, revenue to the club. Equipment needed etc. Come to the board and ask for time to make your presentation. Have 20 sets of handouts outlining the plan and let's see what happens.

For instance, I was thinking the other day that we have several disciplines shooting plus the cowboy shooters. Would it be good to have a multi discipline competition leading to a all round club champion. The contestants would shoot bullseye, high power rifle, 22 silhouette etc. Add the scores up and award bragging rights and your name on the plaque showing the champions through the years. Just an idea.

One award I am prepared to bestow is for Muzzleblast articles. We have a wealth of expertise and a how to or a don't do this or whatever article will be appreciated. something about shooting or hunting, even recipes. It should be done in txt format which all computers have and e mailed to me...Bill King at rusty10370@aol.com. NO POLITICS!

Thanks for reading.



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-11am 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		

Range safety

We have had very few accidents at Gateway and we want to keep it that way. The ones we have had have been minor. This year we have over 4300 members of which over 800 are new members. The club membership is a diverse lot. Some have grown up around guns; hunting with family and taught how to shoot and how to be safe in the woods. Comfortable around guns. Some become interested later in life for a lot of different reasons; friends who are shooters prompt interest, insecurity in your neighborhood leads to interest for self defense, video games lead some to try out real life shooting. Whatever it is, these new members may have different expectations when coming to Gateway.

If you aren't comfortable around guns but want to learn, we have an excellent facility. Being uncomfortable isn't fun. We all, staff and members need to show courtesy to all and if someone is on the line and seems unsure, I hope we are helpful. A lot of non shooters I know are afraid they will be injured. This makes perfect sense, guns, used improperly, are dangerous.

We have rules to minimise danger. Keep guns pointed downrange. Be sure guns are unloaded with empty chamber flags when the range is cold. Don't touch guns when the range is cold. Know if the range is cold or hot. Several of us have had someone go forward from the firing line when the range is hot. Crazy but people do funny things. Be aware of what's going on around you. We have range officers, but they might not be present when needed.

All new shooters at Gateway view a video covering this and have to take a test showing they understand range rules before they can shoot. Even so, it takes a while for safety to become ingrained in a new or careless shooter.

We have 3 100 yd lines, a 200 yd line, A silhouette line. Two pistol lines: one for competition, one usually used by daily members. We have several bays with plate racks designed for pistol shooting and rifles using pistol cartridges. We have a clay pidgeon range. All of these ranges have rules limiting what can be used there. Handguns can't be used on the 200 yard line. Rifles shooting pistol cartridges can be used on the 200 yard line. We have a 100 yard line pistol shooters can use on the silhouette line. These limitations are posted on each line. There are signs on the range limiting what can not be used.

We try to keep rules to a minimum. The rules we have are for a reason...safety. We want to be safe and we want our neighbors to be safe. What neighbors? Well there are a few houses around and Herlong Field is to the north of the club.

Herlong is one of the best features of our location. When the range was built, Noroad was named for a reason. It wasn't paved and didn't go anywhere. Subdivisions have grown up over the years all around except to the north on Herlong property.

Over the years we have responded to complaints from Herlong about bullets landing on their property. Some came from here as splash from berms full of bullets. Some were zingers which hit target frames. Some didn't come from Gateway. All were investigated and plans were made to keep bullets inside the range. Berms are mined of spent bullets and replenished with new soil.

Bullet traps were designed to catch errant shots. As you can see, we have done a lot of work and spent a lot of money to be safe. The bullet traps and billboards on each range are designed to deal with the ammo allowed on that range. (Cont. on page 7)

(Range Safety...cont from page 6)

For instance if you have a pistol which shoots a rifle cartridge, there are places it can be used and places it can't. The reason may be damage to target frames and plate racks, or it may be that the range isn't designed to use that combination. The rules are posted on each range. For years Contenders were the issue. A contender in 44 mag is a handful. There are also barrels in .308 or 45-70. Those are hard to control. Lately we are seeing AR and AK platform "pistols". These can't be used on the regular pistol lines because those ranges aren't laid out so they will be safe. If you let a .45 go off through carelessness, something will catch or slow it down so no damage is done. If a .223 is fired the same way, it can hit a car on Normandy Blvd.

We have had several instances of use of improper cartridges on the back pistol ranges, ranges used by members who should know better. This damages range equipment and can be unsafe. If you notice someone doing anything unsafe, you should talk to the shooter so no harm occurs. If they won't listen, notify a Range officer. We have had to expel people from the range and, for members, suspension or expulsion may occur.

Please follow the rules. Please be considerate to fellow shooters. If unsure, ask a Range officer or someone in the office.

Several ranges in Florida have been closed as the city grew up around them and they weren't able to keep shots in the range. We don't want to be another of these ranges. Be safe.

Thanks for reading, Bill King

PHOTO FROM PAGE 9 - 2017 FLORIDA STATE PRECISION PISTOL CHAMPIONSHIP



Gateway Rifle and Pistol Club to host the 27th Annual Dixie Match April 13, 14 and 15, 2018.

The Dixie Match has long been a favorite "Bullseye" Pistol competition for many shooters. It quickly evolved to be the premier NRA individual and team Regional event in the southeast. The 2018 Dixie Match will be held at Gateway Rifle and Pistol Club's 25 & 50 yard range facility on April 13,14 and 15.

During the three day match, the 25 & 50 yard range will be closed for the match. The back pistol bays will remain open for members use, however parking will be crowded as Dixie Match competitors will be using most of the spaces along the berm and the overflow parking area.

The Dixie Match combines an NRA Regional 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 three days. In addition to attracting shooters from Florida, Georgia and Alabama, the Dixie Match has attracted shooters from Virginia, Maryland, Illinois and several other states. The Army Marksmanship Unit, South Carolina National Guard and most recently the Marine Corps Reserve teams have participated in this match.



Jacksonville's great weather is one reason shooters like competing at the Dixie's, but most importantly, shooters like the great range facilities and the professionally run match. Gateway's Board of Directors has always been very supportive of the match. The range maintenance crew does a fantastic job getting the range in top readiness condition to host the match. The range officers and the office staff go out of their way to welcome the Dixie Competitors. The match staff, made up of volunteers, has consistently received outstanding comments from the competitors on running the match. Without dedicated volunteers, the Dixie Match 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 Dixie Match.

If you are interested in competing or would like to volunteer to help out, check out the 2018 match program on the GRPC website: http://www.grpc-jax.com/disciplines/outdoor_pistol.html or contact Match director, Ted Carter at cdrcoach@reagan.com for information.

Submitted by Ted Carter.

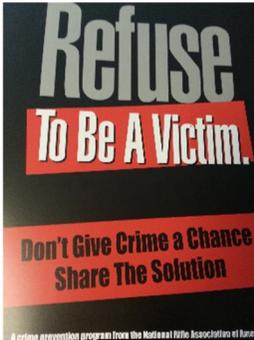
**2017 FLORIDA STATE PRECISION PISTOL
CHAMPIONSHIP**
With
**Civilian Marksmanship Program Service Pistol & .22 Rimfire
E.I.C. Match**
and
National Rifle Association Distinguished Revolver Match
Submitted by Ted Carter

The Florida State Precision Pistol Championships were fired at Gateway Rifle and Pistol Club, Jacksonville, Florida on October 14-15. The weather was good, with only a couple of light rain showers, as 27 shooters from around the state, including several shooters from Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina and Maryland competed in the two day event. Jordan Kramp from Beaufort, SC won the match with a 2609-100X. Tim Barber, finished second with a 2607-94X and was awarded the Florida Sport Shooting Association trophy as the state champion. Finishing third overall was Nestor Pena (2561-78X). Winning the .22 Caliber Only Aggregate was Luis Garcia (2260-21X). The state match attracted several shooters who fired "iron sights" and Bob Vogel was awarded the High Metallic Division shooter. Other special category winners were Jordan Kramp (High Service), Jack Ragsdale (High Police and High Senior), Kim Radford (High Woman), Tom Davis (High Civilian), Karl Michaud (High Grand Senior) and Robert Fanucci (High Veteran). Class winners were Jim Radford (High Master), Alex Callage (Master), Tom Davis (Expert), and Carl Michaud (Sharpshooter & Marksman (combined)). The CMP .22 Rimfire EIC match had 14 competitors. Alex Callage won the match with a 276-9X, Jordan Kramp finished second with a 274-8X and Tom Davis was third, firing a 266-5X. In the Distinguished Revolver Match, Jordan Kramp was the winner with a 264-8X, followed closely by Tom Davis (263-2X) and Bob Hathcox (248-1X). The CMP Service Pistol EIC was won by Jonathan Welch with a 265-2X. Carl Michaud was second with a 263-3X and Robert Fanucci was third firing a 237-4X. The final event of the weekend's match was a "fun" event, The Second Amendment Freedom Match. Eleven competitors fired "out of the box" pistols in an event where 50% of the proceeds were donated to the FSSA junior programs. Many thanks to Brownells Inc., Hornady Manufacturing Inc., and Nosler Inc. for their generous contribution of prizes. You can't run a match without volunteers! Special thanks to John Michalski as Chief Range Officer; David Poole and Marion Estes as Range Safety Officers; Sue Carter as Chief Statistical Officer and Karen Davis who provided assistance in the stat office. Ted Carter was the Match Director. Gateway Rifle and Pistol Club was a great host for the State Pistol Championships. Gateway's range maintenance team did an awesome job getting the pistol range ready for the match. A complete list of scores and photographs can be found at http://www.grpc-jax.com/disciplines/outdoor_pistol.html.



Gateway Rifle & Pistol Club hosts an NRA Refuse To Be A Victim® Seminar

Early Saturday morning, Feb 10th, 18 women came together to learn about personal safety and how to make themselves a more difficult target for criminals. They attended a Refuse To Be A Victim® (RTBAV) Seminar, hosted by the Women’s Programs at Gateway Rifle & Pistol Club, and lead by Sue Carter, NRA Certified RTBAV Instructor. RTBAV was developed by the women of the NRA back in 1993, and was originally designed for women only. However, a few years later it was expanded to co-ed audiences. The 4-hour class had not been presented at Gateway for several years.



Topics covered included physical, home, automobile, travel, and technological security, as well as personal protection devices. We delved into the mindset of criminals and then examined our own mindset. The class looked at our everyday activities and talked about how vulnerable we may be at different times. It is important to be mentally prepared for different situations, and to do that means you think about them and how you want to react. It is better to have thought about a strategy ahead of time before a problem stares you in the face. Do you know how you would react? Also, given whatever action you choose, are you aware of the potential consequences that may follow?

Sue presented a wide array of options to make ourselves and our homes less appealing to criminals, and included strategies to minimize confrontations. While there is no “one size fits all” answer to security for all of us, the seminar offered many alternatives. Sue’s display included several low-cost items available at your local hardware stores, from a wide-view peep hole for your front door, to motion sensor lights, to a personal alarm, and much more.

The ladies were very engaged and the discussions lively. Thank you to all who participated, and thank you to Gateway for supporting this program. If you are interested in attending a RTBAV seminar, please contact Sue (suzcarter@reagan.com). If there is enough demand, she will offer another class at Gateway later this year.

