

The MUZZLEBLAST

One of Florida's Largest Gun Clubs with well over 3,000 members

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December 2025

Annual Meeting Recap, November 1, 2025

By Gary Kight

It was a crisp morning for our annual Swap Meet, and every table at the Pavilion was filled with members buying, selling, and trading before the Annual Meeting kicked off in the Bill Craig Building.

Our special guest speaker, Alex Silverstein, shared fascinating insights from his time as an FBI Special Agent. He spoke about the FBI's response to 9/11, his early career in the Washington, D.C. bureau, and how he eventually transferred to Jacksonville, Florida, where he now serves as Community Security Director for the Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida.

President Bill King reported that membership remains steady and that most of this year's range work focused on regular maintenance and upkeep. He also presented Alan Rosner with the Steve Bernhardt Award in recognition of his outstanding service.

During the meeting, elections were held with the following results:

- President: Bill Edwards
- Vice President: Bill King
- Treasurer: Sue Carter
- Secretary: Randy Erickson
- Directors (renewed): Willy Todorsky, Alan Rosner, and Tim Hardy

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the morning a success — even with the chilly weather! It

was a great turnout and a perfect way to wrap up another successful year.

A Message From Bill Edwards, New GRPC President

Hello fellow GRPC shooters. My name is William (Bill) Edwards and I am honored to have been elected president for 2026. I want to thank those of you who voted for me. I've been a hunter, outdoorsman and firearms enthusiast all my life. I've been a GRPC member for about 15 years. I have served on the board for the past 6 years, the last 3 years as vice president. I look forward to working on maintaining and even improving everyone's family shooting experience here. See you all on the range and stay safe.

2025 Year End Update

By Bill King

This year was consistent with expectations and normal overall. We are on track to make a little money after all the expenses are in. Most of the activity the last few years has centered on maintenance. The expansion we made when the new Bullseye range and the back ranges were built gave us more ways for our members to enjoy shooting. The baffles and billboards that were part of our plan also cut down on the possibility of bullets escaping the range. This has been successful.

However, these improvements are ageing out, and for the foreseeable future, will require rebuilding and repair. This year, the backsplash and overhead had to be almost totally rebuilt. Many baffles and other structures

needed attention, replacement or repair. The roads were graded and built back up. Unfortunately, the material we use for this is in short supply. Speaking of short supply, costs of materials are also higher. We now buy when prices are more normal and we have stockpiled lumber and other materials. We have a spare plate rack to enable us to work more efficiently repairing them as well. Now we take the worst one and pull it to be overhauled while the spare takes its place.

We have gotten a new cart for the Range Officers to use as well as a new mower when the one we had for 12 years or so died. We still need to replace several more range carts.

In the Admin Building we finished remodeling the bathrooms. We also got rid of one of the trailers we were renting across the street. This land is returning to nature.

As we look to the future, we have problems to face and resolve. Over the last several years membership is down about 100 per year. The membership is also aging. Interest in competition is also falling. One bright spot regarding competition matches is the Cowboy .22 Benchrest competition which has grown over the years. The junior program is now almost non-existent. We made a considerable investment when interest was high, and need to reconfigure what we are offering to build up the youth program and to make use of these materials.

All in all, we have a stable, financially sound organization. We have been here since 1965 and have come a long way, offering a place to shoot at very competitive prices. The board is committed to having a range that will still be here so that the grandchildren of our youngest member will be able to teach their kids how to shoot. See you at the range!

2025 Florida State Precision Pistol Championship & NRA Day with National Rifle Association (NRA) Distinguished Revolver Match And Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) Service Pistol & .22 Rimfire E.I.C. Match

By Ted Carter

The Florida State Precision Pistol Championships were held in conjunction with NRA Day at Gateway Rifle and Pistol Club (GRPC) on October 18 & 19. Both Saturday and Sunday were beautiful days as 25 shooters from 9 states competed in a great two-day event. Seth Innes (Hollywood, FL) was the match winner, High Civilian, High Senior, and High Veteran category winner, firing a 2562-70X and was awarded the Florida Sport Shooting Association trophy as State Precision Pistol Champion. Nestor Pena (Winter Haven, FL) finished second firing a 2557-81X, with third overall and High Police going to Chris Liming (Tampa, FL) who fired a 2545-71X. Joe Chang (Springfield, VA) won the High Master Class. Chase Turner (Atlanta, GA) was the Master Class winner followed by Kelvin Alleyne (Jacksonville, FL) who won the Expert Class. Sheri Tanner (Tampa, FL) was the High Sharpshooter Class and won High Woman Category. High Marksman went to Rob Crosson (Opelika, GA). Philip Jones (St. John's, FL) won High Service and Thomas May (Kennesaw, GA) won the High Metallic Division. Winning the Grand Senior category was Paul Bertrand (Tifton, GA). Rand Albrecht (Phenix City, AL) was the .22 Only Aggregate winner.

The CMP .22 Rimfire EIC match had 16 competitors. Seth Innes won the match with a 273-9X, Chris Liming finished second with a 273-6X and Mark Goodman was third, firing a 273-2X. In the Distinguished Revolver Match, with 12 competitors, Seth Innes was the winner with a 275-3X, edging out Chris Liming, who posted 270-

7X. Chris was also the high non-distinguished competitor, unofficially earning the bronze and six points toward his distinguished title. Gateway's Randy Erickson (Jacksonville, FL) finished third with a 262-4X. The CMP Service Pistol EIC, with 14 competitors, was won by Chris Liming with a 274-7X. Seth Innes was second with a 273-4X and Randy Erickson was third, firing a 268-6X.

The Florida State Pistol Championships was held in conjunction with NRA Day.

NRA Day provided all competitors the opportunity to come together at the state championships to learn, experience, share, and grow in appreciation of the shooting sports. Additionally, NRA provided T-shirts to the competitors and hats to the volunteers. More information on NRA Day can be found at: <https://nraday.nra.org>.

Many thanks to our sponsors: Hornady, Magpul, Swab Its, Clenzoil, Starline Brass, My Medic, Esca Tech, Mission BBQ, Midway USA, The National Rifle Association and The Florida Sport Shooting Association for their generous contribution of prizes and awards.

You can't run a match without volunteers! Special thanks to Larry Watkins as Chief Range Officer; David Poole, Dennis Faye, and Bob Hathcox as Range Officers; Sue Carter as Chief Statistical Officer, and Randy Erickson as Jury Chair. Ted Carter was the Match Director. The Florida Sport Shooting Association thanks Gateway Rifle and Pistol Club for an outstanding job hosting the State Pistol Championships. Gateway's range maintenance team did an exceptional job getting the pistol range ready for the match and Gateway's Range Officers were very helpful both days. Thanks to Webmaster Joe Zullo for posting all scores and producing a great slideshow. Special thanks to Business Manager Brenda Trickler for her help with all the final awards. A complete list of

scores along with the slideshow can be found at http://grpc-jax.com/disciplines/outdoor_pistol.html. For more information on NRA Precision Pistol shooting, contact Ted Carter, cdrcoach@reagan.com.



Sue Carter (FSSA Pistol Director) presents FSSA State Champion Trophy to Seth Innes



Chris Liming Seth Innes Nestor Pena
Third Overall Winner Second Overall



Ted Carter (FSSA President) congratulates Seth Innes on Winning the NRA Distinguished Revolver Match



NRA Distinguished Revolver Match
Randy Erickson Seth Innes Chris Liming
Third Winner Second



Competitor dinner at Mission BBQ



Expert Class Winner Kelvin Alleyne



A full line of shooters on a beautiful day

That's How I Remember It: Better Lucky Than Good

By Randy Erickson

President Bill King and I had been talking about content for the Muzzleblast newsletter that would trick, oops, I meant motivate, our members to read it on a regular basis and we hit on the idea of publishing some stories from years past about the Club, our members, shooting, or anything else I come up with that our members might find interesting. Since I can actually touch type, I got volunteered for this assignment. Also, all these stories are 100% true with no embellishment in any way on my part and I may or may not have changed the names to protect or minimize embarrassment to those involved. Anyway, here we go:

Years back the City of Jacksonville had a "Green it up/Clean it up" program where they provided trash bags, trash pokers, etc. and various organizations could sponsor a section of road or highway and pick up the trash from the ditch once a month. President Fred (at

the time) signed up Gateway to sponsor Zambito Road and somehow I got volunteered into picking up the trash.

Years back in the local/Club Bullseye pistol matches, we had the rather rare situation where three generations from the same family, Grandfather Ben, Dad Dan, and dad's young son Keith, all shot in our matches at the same time. This made for some interesting matches (in a good way) and I especially liked shooting next to young Keith. Number 1, he was super safe and handled his equipment as well as a seasoned adult. Number 2, he was always happy, upbeat, and super respectful, always a pleasure to be around and was never a pain in the bottom like some kids.

So, you are probably wondering what these two things have to do with each other. Well, it turns out after one of our matches, Grandpa Ben and Dad Dan needed someone to leave Keith with while they ran some errand. Can't remember what it was, but seems like it was something to do with Keith's upcoming birthday. When Dan heard I was doing the Clean it up/Green it up trash pickup after the match, he asked, "Don't you REALLY need a helper today Randy?". Wink, wink...

Being a team player and knowing I'd enjoy Keith's company I agreed. After getting Keith set up with his own trash bag and trash poker, we set off out the Gateway exit gate and down Zambito. As we started out on the first east bound leg of Zambito, Keith was prattling on and on about some super interesting subject and everything was going splendidly until we reached the southbound corner and... there it was. Now, I've seen lots of evidence of shady goings on after hours on Zambito like smoky glass pipes, needles, panties, adult magazines, etc., but I wasn't exactly prepared for this. Right in the middle of the road was a latex prophylactic device unfurled in all its glory. Now given my engineering training, I can usually be pretty creative and spin a good

cover story on a moment's notice but this time I had nothing. Try as I might, I just couldn't think of how I was going to explain this to a little kid. Right then little Keith looked up and saw it and exclaimed, "Look Randy! Someone cut off the finger of a surgical glove and threw it out on the road!" Then I remembered that his Dad was a veterinarian and he likely saw surgical gloves in his Dad's office. He continued, "I wonder why anyone would do that?" So I said, "Yeah, that sure is strange. I don't know why anyone would do that, so we're not taking any chances. We're not going to pick that thing up, we're going to use the trash poker to flick it off into the ditch and let nature take care of it". Crisis averted. Turns out the old adage of "It's better to be lucky than good" applied here.

And that's how I remember it.

Gateway's Board of Directors endorses Ted W. Carter for reelection to the NRA Board of Directors

If you are an NRA Life Member or 5-Year Annual Member, you will receive your Official NRA Ballot with the February 2026 NRA publications and are eligible to vote. Thank you for dedicating time to participate in this important process. Please review the candidates'



qualifications, examine their biographies thoughtfully, and return your completed ballot.

I am honored to have received endorsements from both the Gateway

Rifle and Pistol Club Board and the Florida Sport Shooting Association Board for reelection to the NRA Board of Directors. I respectfully ask for your consideration and would sincerely appreciate your support for my reelection.

My involvement in competitive shooting began as a Midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy, where I competed in International Pistol and Bullseye Pistol, served as Captain of the Pistol Team, and earned All American honors in Free Pistol. After completing my first

Navy assignment, I returned as Head Coach of the Academy's Pistol Team and was selected as NRA Collegiate Shooting Coach

of the Year. Throughout my

32-year Navy career I've had the opportunity to

instruct hundreds of Sailors in basic marksmanship fundamentals and was a member, coach, and Captain of numerous All Navy Pistol Teams. After retirement, I continued to compete and support the shooting sports and currently serve as a Match Director for pistol tournaments at Gateway, and as President of the Florida Sport Shooting Association. I also assist my wife, Sue, in organizing Gateway Ladies Day and serve as a certified instructor and Range Safety Officer for the Jacksonville West Chapter of The Armed Women of America. First elected to the NRA Board in 2011, I currently serve as Chairman of the Competition Rules & Programs, and Pistol Committees. I actively serve on NRA's Military & Veterans Affairs, Protest and Air Gun Committees. My efforts remain dedicated to advancing NRA's competitive shooting programs and supporting NRA's extensive membership. Upholding Second Amendment freedoms and representing NRA members is a responsibility I value greatly. If reelected, I look forward to continuing my service for another term.

NRA members understand the significance of their support and collective influence in safeguarding Second

Amendment rights. If you are not yet a voting member, consider upgrading your annual membership to participate in shaping the future leadership of the NRA.

Why Does Gateway Need To Be Financially Strong?

by Randy Erickson

From time to time at the Annual Meeting folks will question if Gateway has "excessive cash" in the bank, so let's cover this subject in more detail than time would permit the Annual Meeting. We often talk about our cash on hand as a "financial reserve". Let's start by looking at what happened to some gun clubs that did not have strong financial reserves:

Example #1: 30+ years ago one of the old Bullseye shooters here at Gateway who moved here from up north told me about his home gun club in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. They started the club in the boondocks outside the city and over the years, urban encroachment led to the club being encircled by developments. Well, when all the readily available land was gone, some developer started filing frivolous lawsuits against the club and even though the lawsuits were baseless and the club won the lawsuits, the club quickly ran out of money and went bankrupt. Guess who got the club land on the cheap?

Does this story apply to Gateway? You bet it does! Just look at the development that went in behind the church on the corner of No Road and Old Middleburg Road. It went from undeveloped woods to houses almost overnight. And closer to home, there was a strip of land just to the southeast of Gateway (on the east side of the city lot on the north leg of Zambito) where we received notice that it is being rezoned to residential. There was also about 30 acres of land that was cleared and is

ready for development just to the southwest of Gateway past the private gate at the west end of Zambito.

Example #2: When I lived in Rockford, Illinois before moving here, there was a little indoor pistol range, the Pine Tree Pistol Club, located downtown. Unfortunately for the club, right next door was a skating rink that catered to well-heeled folks who saw their daughters as the next Olympic gold medalists. These well-to-do folks decided they needed a bigger parking lot and since they had a lot of pull with the city council, guess what? The city seized the club land, bulldozed the building and paved it over.

How does this apply to Gateway? Many years back, a line item showed up on the city budget to develop Gateway into an "airpark" for Herlong Field. FYI, an air park is one of those fancy developments on the edge of an airport where every property comes with its own hanger so you don't even have to drive to the airport to go flying, you just hop into your plane and taxi over to the runway. The short version of this story is that a few folks downtown thought Gateway was some little po-dunk gun club and when they found out how many members we had, the line item got deleted.

Example #3: My Dad is an avid shot gunner and shoots at several different clubs. One of the clubs has been around forever and prided itself on low fees. He was paying \$2 per round of 25 birds back in the 1990's while I was paying about \$7-8 per round in town here. This club had saved about \$30,000 over many years and thought they had everything they needed. Then a bureaucrat from the state conservation commission came to them and told them about a new program where the state would match their funds with something like 4 or 5 to one for facility improvements. Eventually the club decided they couldn't pass up on the "free money", so they contributed \$25,000 to a new \$100,000 plus club

house. This left them with a whopping \$5,000 in reserve. Well guess what? Covid and the ammo shortage hit and shooting came to a standstill! Since the clubs main source of income was based on rounds of birds shot at the range, they suddenly had a major problem paying for fixed costs like property tax and utilities!

How does this apply to Gateway? As has been reported at the Annual Meeting and in the newsletters, Gateway also felt the pressure from Covid and the ammo shortage BUT, we had the financial reserves to weather this storm without cutting back services to our members, cutting employees and still making appropriate range improvements to benefit our members.

So, what can we do to be able to weather these kind of issues? Two things:

1) We need to stay financially strong so we can fight off anyone who would try to take our land. It would cost a developer a lot of money to take on Gateway in court and that makes us far less attractive for "hostile takeover". It also gave us the ability to purchase the two lots of land just to the south of us on Zambito, the heavily wooded lot on the corner and the one with two trailers. Even though we are grandfathered in by state law, this land provides noise abatement for our neighbors. Also, as much as we like our neighbors, we like them to be some distance from the club so there are less likely to be issues like kids trespassing on our property after hours.

2) We also need to have as many members as possible so we have political pull in the community. Most of our 3000+/- members are Jacksonville residents and that gives us a lot of pull with city council members.

One more thought on "excessive cash": Those of us over 50, and that is sadly most of us here at Gateway, suffer from not keeping up with the cumulative effects of

decades of inflation. For example, I paid my way through college doing filthy, backbreaking work on the farm and in construction working for \$2-3 per hour and I'm floored by folks making \$17.50 working at fast food joints. It's a bit like the Austin Powers movie where Dr. Evil has been in suspended animation since the 60's and after he has been resuscitated in current times, he hatches an evil plot and plans to ransom the government for a million dollars. His colleagues have to get him recalibrated to current times and tell him that a million dollars is really not that much money now days...

So, in summary, there is no down side for Gateway being financially strong and we've never heard of a club having problems by being too well off.

The Confident Shot: Women Finding Power in Firearms

By Kathy Kelley

Women, Firearms, and the Power of Confidence

Walk into any gun range and you'll see a mix of people: seasoned marksmen, first-time shooters, hunters, and hobbyists. Yet too often, women hesitate to step forward, unsure if they belong in this space. The truth is, they absolutely do. Firearms are not about gender — they're about skill, responsibility, and empowerment.

Owning Your Confidence

For many women, the idea of handling a gun can feel intimidating. But intimidation fades quickly once you learn the basics. That first shot downrange isn't just about hitting a target — it's about realizing you are capable, strong, and in control.

Take Amara, founder of the Women Gun Owners Association of America. She began her journey feeling vulnerable and uncertain but soon discovered that "learning how to handle a firearm is one of the most

empowering things you can ever do". Her story reflects what countless women experience: the transformation from hesitation to confidence.

Safety Is the Foundation

Gun ownership comes with responsibility, and safety is the cornerstone. The four golden rules of firearm safety are simple but powerful:

- Treat every gun as if it's loaded.
- Keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready to shoot.
- Never point a firearm at anything you don't intend to destroy.
- Know your target and what's beyond it.

These rules aren't just technicalities — they're habits that create confidence. When you know how to handle a firearm safely, fear is replaced with respect, and hesitation is replaced with control.

Learning Together

The best way to start is through education. Gun clubs, ranges, and certified instructors offer classes designed for beginners. Many clubs even host women-only events, creating a supportive environment where questions are encouraged and progress is celebrated.

Robyn Sandoval, a leader with Women for Gun Rights, reminds us: "*Women don't need gun control activists telling them how to defend themselves.*" She points out that nearly half of first-time gun buyers since 2019 have been women, motivated by safety and self-reliance.

Beyond Self-Defense

While self-defense is often the first reason women consider firearms, shooting offers so much more.

- Sport shooting: Olympian Dania Vizzi, a competitive skeet shooter, has shown that women can excel at the highest levels.

- Community: Gun clubs are social spaces where friendships are formed and confidence grows.
- Personal empowerment: As firearms instructor Beth Alcazar explains, women are “taking control of their own narratives and shaping the future of gun ownership”.

A Call to Action

Ladies, don't let hesitation hold you back. Step onto the range. Sign up for that safety class. Ask questions. Try different firearms until you find the one that feels right in your hands. Every step you take is a step toward confidence, independence, and strength.

Gun ownership isn't about fear — it's about empowerment. It's about proving to yourself that you are capable, prepared, and confident. The firing line is waiting, and it's time to take your place.

IR 50/50 22 Benchrest Match Information

by Russ Ost

This is a reminder that our matches are held on first Saturday of each month. Please let me (Russ) know by Monday prior to each match the following information for each person who is planning to shoot these matches:

1. That you plan on participating,
2. Whether you are planning to shoot one or both of the matches,
3. Which rifle classification you will be shooting.

I will assign benches to the shooters that respond, and the others, who would like to shoot but did not respond, will have to show up on day of the match by 7:30 to see if any benches are available. To assist in making room for parking, please park as close to your assigned bench as possible.

Please plan to be at the range by 7:30 so that you can be set up on your bench and have your target and flags set up by 7:45. The range will then be called "Hot" at that time so that the participants can move their unloaded rifles to the bench (this will only be for moving the rifles to the benches and for cleaning if necessary - No Shooting). We will then begin at 8:00 with a 5-minute sighting period and will begin Match A immediately following the sighting period. We will begin Match B immediately after completing the scoring for Match A, approximately 10:00 -10:15.

I look forward to seeing you at the matches. Those who are last month's winners, please remember to bring the monthly trophies to this match.

2026 IR 50/50 22 Benchrest Match Schedule

IR 50/50 22 Benchrest	First Saturday of Each Month											
	3-Jan	7-Feb	7-Mar	4-Apr	2-May	6-Jun	4-Jul	1-Aug	5-Sep	3-Oct	7-Nov	5-Dec
22 Rimfire Benchrest Unlimited												
8:00 AM Club	X	X	X			X	X	X			X	X
Club Tournament				X	X							
FL State Match Yards									X			
Gulf Coast Regional Yards										X		
10:00 AM Club	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
FL State Match Meters following Yards									X			
Gulf Coast Regional Meters following Yards										X		
Smallbore Factory-class												
8:00 AM Club	X	X	X			X	X	X			X	X
Club Tournament				X	X							
FL State Match Yards									X			
Gulf Coast Regional Yards										X		
10:00 AM Club	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
FL State Match Meters following Yards									X			
Gulf Coast Regional Meters following Yards										X		

For questions or concerns, please contact Russ Ost at RussOst@bellsouth.net

IR 50/50 22 Benchrest Match Results for December 11, 2025

Congratulations to Gary Sullivan and Robson Conolly who are this December 2025 match winners for the combined matches!

For the Unlimited Class, the top three scores were:

Gary Sullivan	1,496-104X
Russ Ost	1,494-100X
Gary Sauer	1,486-79X

For the Factory Class, the top three scores were:

Robson Conolly	1,464-63X
Rich Cruz	1,440-53X
Robert Wallace	1,435-53X

The match conditions for December 11th were cool temperatures and moderate winds for both matches. The next match will be January 3rd. We look forward to seeing you there.

Staying Safe During A Police Encounter

By Glen Outlaw as shared by Gary Kight

I am a retired JSO SGT and retired Air Force veteran. I've encountered many other situations where a firearm was involved, but one particular encounter comes to mind. This comes under the heading of weapons safety and a good dose of common sense!

This encounter involved a citizen who I stopped for a traffic infraction. I was on routine patrol one day shift and observed a motorist pass a STOP sign without coming to a full and complete STOP. This encounter was south bound on Southside Blvd. in Jacksonville just south of Beach Blvd.

I had learned very quickly as a young police officer to watch a motorist very closely as I approach the driver's side of the vehicle. As I approached, I did not observe any unusual or suspicious activity that would be a cause of concern for my safety. As I reached the driver's window, the citizen had his driver's license ready for me to inspect. I requested the vehicle registration and proof of insurance.

This is where the situation went "sideways" rapidly. Without saying anything to me, the citizen suddenly opened the glove compartment and started to reach inside. I quickly observed the butt handle of a weapon that was located inside and immediately drew my weapon and very forcefully commanded him to stop reaching inside. He immediately froze and looked back in my direction and observed I had my weapon aimed directly at him. In a very weak voice he stated, "I thought this was the legal way to carry a weapon in a vehicle." I informed him he was correct BUT if he had not stopped reaching to the inside of the glove compartment, he would have been shot by myself and probably would be dead quickly.

It was at this time the citizen realized his very bad judgment and sat up in his vehicle still "shaking like a leaf in a hurricane". I informed him the best course of action in the future would be to inform an officer of the weapon well before making any sudden moves and actions. He realized how close he had come to being shot at point blank range.

Always remember to inform a police officer well before taking any actions or making sudden movements. By doing this, you will go home to your family in one piece.

Gun Writer Myths #7, Firearm Metallurgy

By Randy Erickson

For those of you who have not been following these articles in previous issues of the Muzzleblast, this is a series commenting on the overall poor technical content of most gun magazine articles. Much of what you are reading is a glorified advertisement designed to get you to buy the product and is all too often flat out technically wrong.

In this article, I'm going to cover gun writer lack of knowledge on metallurgy, specifically for steels. While aluminum is not uncommon and even exotic materials like titanium and Inconel are occasionally used, usually in suppressors, steel is by far the most common metal used in firearms and steel metallurgy is all too commonly abused by gun writers. As such when I mention grades of steel, I'm going to use the AISI (American Iron and Steel Institute) grades as they are most commonly used. So, let's start with some examples of gun writer stupidity in print:

Case 1: One writer reviewing a new model of bolt action rifle stated, "the bolt is made out of stainless steel because stainless steel is the hardest steel". Well, this just isn't true. Stainless steels are specifically formulated to be, well, resistant to rusting, i.e. stainless. While some are capable of being heat treated to very high strength/hardness, there are metallurgical reasons that make it really smart NOT to do that and to restrict their use to only moderate levels of strength/hardness. Most of the really strong/hard steels used in firearms are chrome/molybdenum/vanadium alloys like 4140, 4340, etc. or some of the "tool" steels.

Case 2: While extolling the virtues of his new favorite suppressor, another writer described the 17-4PH stainless steel used for the tube as "one of the RARE stainless alloys that can actually be hardened through heat treatment". News flash, heat treat hardenable stainless steels are not at all rare and are far more commonly used in firearms than the kind of stainless steels that can't be hardened via heat treating. Not too many applications for dead soft stainless steel in firearms.

Case 3: One more on stainless steel, seems these guys equate stainless steel with high tech and are apparently using it to showcase their metallurgical prowess.

Anyway, I think this writer was genuinely trying to add technical content to his article as he starts out writing about the importance of materials selection and then he transitions into an extensive discussion on stainless used on the Modern Sporting Rifle (AR clone) he is reviewing. First, he starts out with a history of stainless steel going back to about 1800 (so much for it being a "more modern material") and writes about how the alloying prevents rusting and he even comments on notable applications for stainless steel including the DeLorean sports car used in the "Back to the Future" movie. Next, he talks about the barrel being made from 416R (pretty typical, nothing new here) and the custom muzzle brake being made from 303, a stainless steel NOT commonly used in firearms because... (insert drum roll here)... because it cannot be heat treat hardened! So far so good BUT then he really trips up when he starts talking about how stainless is so resistant to rusting that you can just stick a stainless steel gun in the dishwasher to clean it and not worry about rusting. Let me just say I strongly recommend not doing that. (Slight digression: this reminds me of one time in an engineering design review when I cited a "bad idea" suggested by one of my colleagues as evidence of why it is not good to hold in your farts. The medical theory is that as the pressure builds up, the gas eventually travels up the spinal column and enters the brain and that's where bad ideas come from. Still can't figure out why I wasn't known as "Mr. Inclusive", but I digress.) Finally, his article states "the bolt carrier group makes extensive use of high-end stainless steels" and he then proceeds to detail materials of the bolt carrier components: 8620 for the carrier, 9310 for the bolt, 4140 for the extractor, and 8640 for the firing pin. No surprises here, these are pretty much standard materials for AR carrier group parts, just one problem. NONE of these steels is actually stainless steel! And, here is where he really missed the boat on stainless. There is actually one part on all direct

impingement system AR's, M16's, M4's, et. al. that is always stainless steel and that's the gas tube. When Eugene Stoner designed it, he used off the shelf stainless steel hydraulic tube for the gas tube to save costs. Aside from stainless steel match barrels, the gas tube is the only stainless steel part commonly used on AR's.

Case 4: A writer is reviewing surprise, surprise yet another plastic (oh yeah, they usually say "polymer" to sound high tech) framed wonder 9mm. In an apparent attempt to differentiate this wonder 9mm from the others on the market, he goes into a very detailed explanation of how this one is more better (sarcasm alert) because it's slide is made of 4340 steel instead of 4140 which is more common. FYI, 4140 is used to make most 1911 slides. His rationale goes into details regarding the carbon and alloying content and their effect on hardness or strength of the steel but unfortunately he gets it backwards and ends up getting the two alloys mixed up in his explanation.

Ok, enough with examples. Let's talk about some of the things that really matter in firearms metallurgy and cover some examples of cases where things went wrong.

First of all, none of the writers mention heat treatment of the gun parts they are talking about. There is far more impact to a part due to heat treatment than there is from the selection of 4140 vs. 4130 vs. 4340 etc.

chrome/moly/vandadium alloy for the material. Most steels used in guns get the classic "quench and temper" heat treatment where they are heated to around 1500 degrees F or so and then quenched in oil to room temperature and they reach full hardness (or become as hard as they can possibly get). Then they are reheated to around 1100 degrees F or so and allowed to slowly cool to room temperature which actually tempers or softens the steel. Now you are probably asking why

would anyone soften the steel on purpose? Well, turns out there is a trade-off between hardness and ductility in steel (as well as most metals) and if the steel is not tempered, it is too brittle to actually use. Brittle materials do not have the ability to absorb energy and are subject to unpredictable fractures that are a really bad way for gun parts to fail.

So, here's an example of a gun company that couldn't get their heat treatments right. Anyone remember "NORINCO", the company that made clones of 1911's and M1A's? Well, they were famous or should I say infamous for inconsistent heat treatments. Their 1911's used to be popular as a basis for building Bullseye pistols because they were so cheap but I ultimately refused to work with them as you never knew if the slide was going to be as soft as butter or what we call "file hard", i.e. impossible to drill and tap for scope mounts. The M1A's were worse and some had a serious safety issue which I saw first hand on our 200 yd rifle line many years ago. One day a member came up to the line with his brand new NORINCO M1A. He was very happy with the great deal he got on it and proceeded to start shooting it with some US made factory 150 gr, FMJ's. Initially everything was fine, but after he shot about 10 rounds or so, he started getting broken cases/head separations on every shot. We all gathered around his gun and someone pointed out the locking lugs on his bolt were set back about .030 inch (as in they were starting to shear off). He was lucky he stopped shooting when he did or he could have been injured. Ultimately, he replaced the bolt with a US made GI bolt and then sold the gun.

Here's another case where a bad heat treat caused a major problem. Early in the production of the 1903 Springfield bolt action rifle for the US Army, heat treatments were not well understood or controlled by manufacturing. I won't go into the gory metallurgical

details but the problem was basically that temperature and the time at temperature the receivers and bolts were heated to prior to quenching was not well controlled. What they didn't realize was that excessive temps or time at temp can cause a coarse grain structure in the parts. Literally, the bigger grains in the metal absorb the smaller grains around them and they get bigger or coarser. This is why the judges are cringing on "Forged in Fire" when a contestant heats his blade either too long or to white hot. After the parts are quenched and tempered, they can be tested and will have the correct hardness so everyone thinks they are ok to use. The problem with coarse grain structures is that even when they are tempered to the right hardness they can still be very brittle which can lead to catastrophic failures. This caused a lot of confusion as rifles that had fired thousands of rounds with zero problems could suddenly blow up with no warning (i.e. brittle failure) while firing normal ammunition. Ultimately the problem was solved, but if you have an old 1903 Springfield, you really should go on to the Civilian Marksmanship Program, www.odcmp.org or www.thecmp.org, to check if you have a safe shooter or a nice wall hanger.

OK, here's a final example of metallurgy gone wrong in firearms. Years ago, a major US gun maker had a recall on their shotgun barrels. The barrels passed proof load testing prior to being sold and then were often fired thousands of rounds with no problem until out of the blue the barrel would burst firing a completely normal pressure factory round. The steel used for the barrels was a low alloy, free machining steel. The low alloy choice (i.e. no elements that make it heat treat hardenable like chrome, molybdenum, vanadium, tungsten, etc.) was fine as shotguns fire at really low pressures and the barrels don't need to be especially hard or strong. The problem was with the "free machining" grade they picked. Foundries add elements

like either lead or sulfur to these steels to make the machining chips break up easily, hence "free" machining and the steel is much easier (cheaper) to machine. The problem is these free machining alloys are more likely to have a metallurgical problem known as "stringers" than regular steel. This is an oversimplified explanation but if you've ever eaten a piece of "string" cheese where if you pull on the piece of cheese and it wants to split longitudinally that is basically what the "stringer" defect in the steel does. The steel can be tested and show it has the right hardness or strength, but there is a longitudinal defect in the steel where the steel really isn't bonded to itself, sort of like a microscopic crack. This results in a barrel that does not have any ductility or ability to absorb energy and they fail with a catastrophic rupture.

I'll end this with a quote as best I can remember it from Bill Ruger. During an interview he was asked what part of the firearm manufacturing process he thought was the most important and he answered "The heat treat. A bad heat treatment costs exactly the same as a good heat treatment and the heat treat makes all the difference between a great product and a big problem".

Where To Shoot What at Gateway

By Randy Erickson

DAY MEMBERS and ANNUAL / LIFE MEMBERS: RANGES 1 & 2

RANGE 1, PISTOLS and REVOLVERS: Located to far left as you exit the club store.

No rifles or shotguns allowed

NO FIRING OF HIGH POWER RIFLE ROUNDS (i.e. 223, 556, 7.62x39, 308, etc.) ALLOWED ON RANGE 1

RANGE 2, as follows: Located slightly left as you exit the club store.

BENCH SHOOTING ONLY

RIFLES, CARBINES, AR and AK style pistols with arm brace: All positions except 27 & 28: All calibers including rimfires, pistol calibers, high power/centerfire calibers, and black powder. AR and AK pistols must be fired supported from bench.

SHOTGUNS with shoulder stocks:

Positions 1-26: For shotguns with iron sights or optics, i.e. not a "bead" only front sight and must shoot slugs or turkey loads
Position 27: This position is for "patterning" birdshot loads. Ammunition must be #6 through #9 shot.

Position 28: This position is for function checking. Ammunition must be #6 through #9 shot.

SHOTGUNS without shoulder stocks:

Position 28 only: This position is for function checking. Ammunition must be #6 through #9 shot.

ANNUAL AND LIFE MEMBERS ONLY: RANGES 3-8

PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS:

RANGES 5 and 7 including the 25/50-yard Bullseye range: Pistol caliber ammunition only.

NO FIRING OF HIGH POWER RIFLE ROUNDS (i.e. 223, 556, 7.62x39, 308, etc.) ALLOWED ON RANGES 5 and 7.

RANGE 4B: Barrels must be 2 inch minimum length. Pistol caliber ammunition only.

NO FIRING OF HIGH POWER RIFLE ROUNDS (i.e. 223, 556, 7.62x39, 308, etc.) ALLOWED ON RANGE 4B.

RANGE 4A: Barrels must be 10 inch minimum length.
HIGH POWER RIFLE CALIBER ROUNDS ARE NOT ALLOWED.

RANGE 3: Must be capable of accurate fire at 200-yards.
High power rifle caliber rounds ARE allowed.

AR15 AND AK47 STYLE PISTOLS WITH ARM BRACE:

RANGES 2, 4A, and 8: Must be supported/aimed fire from bench. High power rifle caliber rounds ARE allowed on Ranges 2 and 8,
PISTOL CALIBER AND BLACK POWDER ONLY ON 4A.

HIGH POWER RIFLES:

RANGES 2 and 8: Firing allowed sitting at bench only.

RANGE 3: Firing allowed standing, sitting, prone and sitting at bench.

PISTOL CALIBER AND BLACK POWDER RIFLES AND CARBINES:

includes .17 and .22 Rimfire, .38, .44 and .45 but not .223, .556, 7.62x39, 30-30, 308, etc.

RANGES 2, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 8, and 7 including 25/50-yard Bullseye line.

SHOTGUNS:

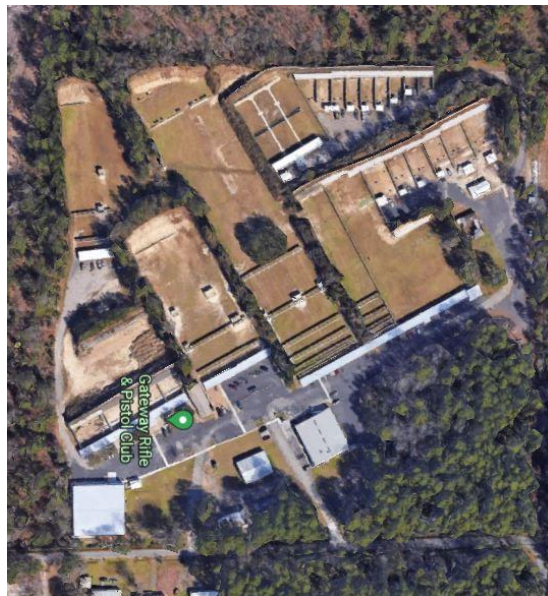
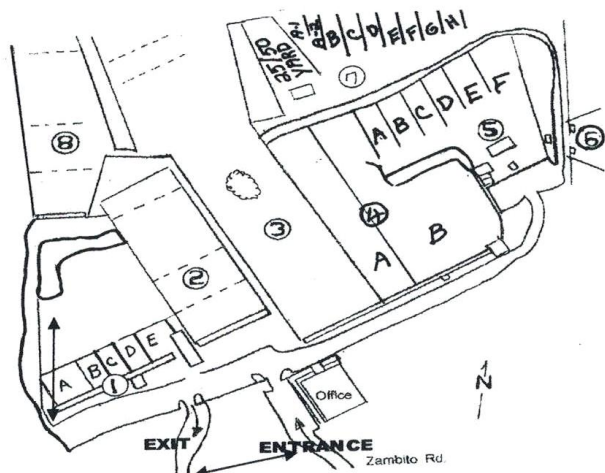
RANGE 6: Use clay pigeon targets and birdshot ammunition with #6 through #9 shot. Slugs, buckshot and #4 shot not allowed. **NO RIFLES OR HANDGUNS ALLOWED.**

RANGES 5 and 7: Use with paper targets, clay pigeon targets not allowed.

ARCHERY: RANGES 5 and 7

See the next page for a range map and details on the different ranges

RANGE MAP



Range Details:

Range 1: 7- and 15-yard pistol range, **Day members allowed**

Range 2: 100-yard line primarily for rifles, **Day members allowed**

Range 3: 200-yard line primarily for rifles

Range 4A: 100-yard line primarily for rifles, **pistol calibers and black powder only**

Range 4B: Silhouette range, **pistol calibers and black powder only**

Range 5: General purpose bays, **pistol calibers, black powder and shotgun only**

Range 6: Shotgun with birdshot only, **no pistols, black powder or rifles**

Range 7: General purpose bays, **pistol calibers, black powder and shot gun only**

NOTE: FIRING OF "HIGH POWER" RIFLE AMMO LIKE AR/AK .223, 5.56 OR 7.62x39, etc. ON THE 4B SILHOUETTE RANGE, OR RANGES 5, 6 AND 7 WILL LIKELY RESULT IN LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP

CLUB INFORMATION

Gateway Rifle & Pistol Club

9301 Zambito Ave. N
Jacksonville, FL 32210

904.771.2937

www.GRPC-JAX.com

Where to Shoot

Day Members or Annual and Life Members

Ranges 1 A-B-C-D: Pistols only with pistol calibers. Location: Far left (West) as you leave front office, 53 positions at 7/15 yards

Range 2: Rifles at 25-50 and 100 yards and shotguns on select positions

Annual and Life Members Only

Both of above two ranges, #1 and #2

Range 3: Rifle 50- and 200-yards and Pistols with 10 inch Barrels or longer chambered for rifle cartridges

Range 4A: Same as Range 3 except 100-yards only

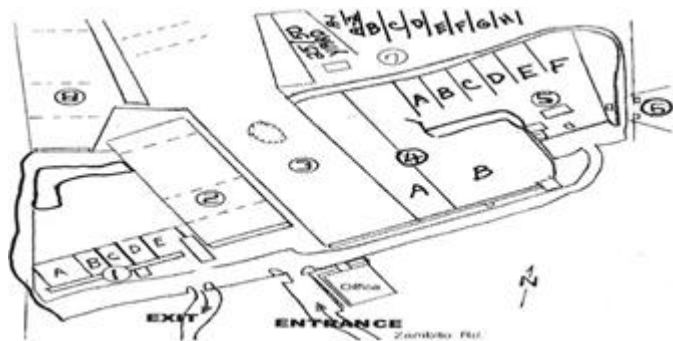
Range 4B: Rifles in rim fire .22 cal, .17 cal plus black powder rifles

Range 5 A-B-C-D-E-F: All-purpose ranges for Pistols and Rifles with Pistol Calibers

Range 6: Shotgun Skeet Range with only #6 to #9 Shot

Range 7 A-B-C-D-E-F-G-H: All Purpose ranges for Pistols and Rifles with Pistol Calibers, 25-/50-Yard Pistol Match Range, Pistols and Rifles with Pistol Calibers

Range 8: Rifle, 25-, 50- and 100-yard Rifle targets



ID BADGES

All Shooters:

Annual, Life, and Day Members must wear ID badges at all times when on the Club property.

2026 Slate of Officers

Officer	Name	Contact Info
President	Bill Edwards	pres@grpc-jax.com
Vice President	Bill King	
Secretary	Randy Erickson	
Treasurer	Susan Carter	

2026 Board Members

Tim Allen	Doug Havens
Carl Berg	Gary Kight
Walt Gallahan	Alan Rosner
Don Hardeman	William Todorsky
Tim Hardy	
Emeritus Directors:	
Bill Craig	
Sam Grimes	
Allen Way	

Range Maintenance Schedule

Day	Time	Range
Monday	0800-1100	100-yard Rifle Range
Tuesday	0800-1100	All Pistol Ranges
Wednesday	0800-1100	Silhouette Range
Thursday	0800-1100	200-yard Rifle Range
Friday	0800-1100	All Multi-Purpose Ranges and New 100-yard Rifle Range

Note: Subject to change based on maintenance need

Gateway Rifle & Pistol Club, Inc.

A private Club operated since 1965, providing a safe environment for the sport of shooting. We offer annual memberships allowing unlimited use of the shooting ranges and daily memberships for the occasional shooter limited to certain ranges. The Club is open 7 days a week from 8:00 am until near dusk except Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. There are numerous pistol ranges at various distances for shooting paper targets and steel plates. The rifle ranges provide 25, 50, 100, and 200 yard shooting positions. For those interested in competition there are monthly matches for small bore, black powder, .22 50/50 Benchrest, bullseye pistol, 3x20 prone, NMC and Cowboy, etc.

There is an active junior program and women's program. The facilities include the rifle and pistol shooting positions, a large club house, meeting rooms, and a store selling those items you may need at the range including targets, ammunition, and eye and ear protection. There is a Range Safety Officer on duty at all times.

Tournament Schedule:			
Match	Range	Day	Time
ARA Rimfire	4B	3 rd Friday	Call range
Smallbore F-class	4A	1 st Saturday	0800-1100
22 Rimfire Benchrest	4B	1 st Saturday	1000-1400
Club 1800 Pistol	7	1 st Sunday	0900-1200
High Power Rifle Prone	3	2 nd Saturday	0800-1100
Black Powder	4	2 nd Saturday	0800-1100
High Power Rifle XTC	3	2 nd Sunday	0800-1100
NRA 1800 Bullseye	7	3 rd Sunday	0900-1200
Concealed Pistol/Home Defense Shotgun Match	5	3 rd Sunday	0900-
Smallbore Silhouette	4	4 th Saturday	0800-1400
Cowboy	5	4 th Saturday	0900-

Note: The above schedule is periodically subject to change: please check the website

Disclaimer

The Muzzleblast is published periodically by Lori Hallauer under the direction of the Gateway Rifle & Pistol Club. All newsletter content to be approved by the GRPC prior to publication. Technical and/or handloading 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 necessarily constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation or 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 necessarily reflect the views of the editor, publisher or Gateway Rifle & Pistol Club. Send submissions to: Gateway Rifle & Pistol Club, 9301 Zambito Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32210 or to the Muzzleblast editor at: redhawks1980@hotmail.com.

Thank you for reading! If you would like to submit information, articles, or match scores, please send them to:

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Lori Hallauer at redhawks1980@hotmail.com

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