

# WGC Newsletter

August 2023



## Watauga Gun Club

*Physical:*  
232 Appaloosa Trail  
Boone, NC 28607

*Mailing:*  
PO Box 2316  
Boone, NC 28607

828.264-6539

### Club Hours

8 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Monday, Tuesday,  
Thursday, Friday &  
Saturday.

8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Wednesday

1 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
Sunday

***We are on the web!***

[www.WataugaGunClub.com](http://www.WataugaGunClub.com)

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## August Monthly Member Meeting

The August monthly member meeting will be on August 10 at 7PM. Three new membership applicants introduced themselves at the July Member Meeting:

Stephen Smith;  
Lynn "Sonny" Ewanchew; and  
Lenny Lefiles.

If the applicants have submitted all required information, paid all dues and fees and attended the range orientation briefing and there are no objections, they may be voted on for membership at the August Member Meeting.

VOTE ON BYLAWS CHANGE - All due diligence has been conducted to confirm the use of a member waiver as confirmation each member is lawfully able to own or shoot firearms and are otherwise law-abiding citizens. The waiver will replace background checks. The amended Bylaws language will be presented for approval at the August membership meeting.

## August Member Match

Over the past three years and coincidental with interruptions associated with the pandemic, the WGC monthly member matches were discontinued and never revived. Lack of interest in these matches was also a contributing factor. In an attempt to revive these matches, the Executive Committee some time ago strove to introduce at least quarterly member matches – held before member meetings – representing the four active monthly/seasonal discipline matches conducted at WGC.

The first member match under the EC suggested format will be held beginning at 5:30PM on August 10th at the rifle range - where a shortened format, 100 yard rimfire benchrest match will be conducted. At least two or three bench positions will be set up with bench rests, sighter scopes and match grade rifles for new members and new shooters interested in the sport to experience match conditions and requirements. Shooters can bring their own rifles as well. Each shooter will warm up on a sighter target within a limited time frame and then shoot for score with ten shots on one additional target within a limited timeframe as well. Discipline directors will explain the course of fire and describe how the brief match version corresponds to the monthly rimfire benchrest matches held on Sunday of the second full weekend every month. It is anticipated that this shortened match will allow each new shooter to experience the sport without the pressure associated with regular matches. So, come on out at 5:30 PM before the member meeting on August 10th and experience the WGC discipline of Rimfire Benchrest.

## Range Improvements

Members may have noticed the new gravel along the entire entrance drive and beyond

into the central parking area and on toward the rifle range benches. In preparation of these improvements, several members cut back branches and foliage on their own time in contribution to their club – three being EC members. On a next visit to the range, check out the size of the burn pile to the right of Bay 4 to see how much debris was cut and moved! Special thanks go out to Daniel “Lil D” Tollison, Jr., Hunter “Scooter” Scott, Morgan Shaw, Daniel Tollison and Marc Scott.



Marc Scott & Dan Tollison, (Big D)

Deck repairs have been delayed due to injury. Repairs to Bay 3 should be completed soon.

The EC discussed the need for increasing the height of the berms that separate Bays 2&3, 3&4 and Bay 5. Bids have been requested in this regard and for shoring up the backstop of each bay to prevent further erosion. It is anticipated that these improvements will need to be

incrementally implemented due to cost.

The Emergency Call box outside the clubhouse has again been repaired. We are seeking an estimate to extend another call box to a position inside the clubhouse – next to the defibrillator.

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## Rimfire Benchrest

The July match was of medium attendance, but the shooters attending posted good scores and much fun and banter was had.

Come on out for the next match on August 13th. As with all of the disciplines at WGC, new shooters are graciously welcomed and assisted in whatever ways are most helpful. The entry fee is \$5 per rifle. Bring your friends. All welcome!

More info at:

<https://wataugagunclub.com/rimfire-benchrest-rifle/>

## WGC Southern Defensive Pistol

The July match was attended by the core monthly shooters, but we need more shooters to add to the fun and increase the benefit to the WGC membership. We encourage members and friends to come out, and give this defensive pistol format a try. The August match is scheduled for August 12th. Roughly, 120 rounds of ammunition will be required.

More info at: <https://wgcpistol.com/>

Sign in begins at 9AM and the match will begin at 10AM after the shooter briefing. Here is another opportunity to hone your defensive pistol skills while having an enjoyable day with friends.

## Trap Shooting – Blue Ridge Clay Breakers

The Tom Pitts Memorial ATA Trap Event was conducted on July 22 in Tom’s memory as a long time, dedicated officer and supporter of the WGC trap discipline. Excellent scores were posted by many attendees. Of special note was youth shooter Cobe Townsend who shot his first 100 straight and subsequently continued on to his first 200 straight clays. Congratulations to Cobe, fine shooting!

The ATA trap events are now scored on a new system that can be broadcast via digital screens both inside and outside the clubhouse in real time. The latest match was recorded on this system. See <https://app.sosclays.com/>. At the main screen, under “select a shoot” choose Tom Pitts Memorial and each event may be selected from there. As an example, Cobe’s 200 straight can be seen under “singles grand slam” –

<https://app.sosclays.com/shoot-management/event-high-gun-report;shootId=913;selectedEventId=3059;activeLocation=237>

The ongoing accomplishments of members of the Blue Ridge Clay Breakers can also be monitored at:

<https://m.facebook.com/BRCBWGC>

Normally, team practice sessions are held each Sunday beginning at 2PM. Members and other shooters may also attend these practices. Check the club calendar. There is a \$5.00 fee per round for club members, \$6.00 for guests/non-members.

The next ATA match will be August 26. Upcoming ATA events are normally posted on the club calendar on the club web page.

**REMEMBER - PICK UP YOUR HULLS!**

## WGC Steel Match

The July steel match was conducted in the memory of Gary Hoyle. Sandy Hoyle was present for the Remembrances and prayers offered by Steve Jones and Steve Byerly. Dry eyes were uncommon. The memorial match was well attended.

WGC Steel is a very popular discipline, mostly due to the fun and camaraderie. Steve and Sally Jones have put forth great effort over the past decade to make this discipline what it is. This year, however, is their last year as match co-directors. New match directors will need to step forward if the discipline is to continue. It would be wise for anyone interested to let Steve and Sally know so that they can show the prospective director(s) what is required to run the discipline on an annual basis. Be sure to speak to Steve or Sally if you have interest and can commit to conducting all of the matches in the season. New directors must be members of WGC and will need to meet with the WGC

Executive Committee for approval.

That being said, come on out for a fun Saturday in August on the 19<sup>th</sup>. New club members – don't be shy. Steel match shooting is tremendous fun and a highly addictive sport.

Limit of 2 guns per shooter. First gun is \$10 and second gun is \$5. Registration opens at 0900, match starts at 1000.

Four (4) stages with 5 targets in each – plus one fun/fast stage. Shoot each of the four stages 5 times, throw out slowest score and add the remaining 4 for the stage time.

Rimfire handguns and all rifles and carbines start from a low ready. Centerfire handguns start holstered.

Long guns come to the line flagged and bagged. Handguns must be bagged, cased or holstered.

You will need approximately 200 rounds per gun to complete the stages.

### Range Etiquette

Practice safety always. Pick up targets, trash and shotgun hulls when you are finished shooting. Make our club and membership an outstanding experience.

In Bays 2, 3, 4 & 5 – do not pick up red or yellow tape markers in the ground. These markers are used for matches.

Also, be sure to report any club rule infractions. This is an important measure to

ensure that our club remains a safe environment and the future of our club is protected from incidents that may involve public complaint.

## Untreated Hearing Loss

WGC member Lance Stell has kindly forwarded the results of a study that suggests that hearing aids help reduce cognitive decline. Please take the time to read the on line article, for your own well being.

<https://www.sciencealert.com/landmark-trial-suggests-hearing-aids-help-reduce-cognitive-decline>

[Landmark Trial Suggests Hearing Aids Help Reduce Cognitive Decline : ScienceAlert](https://www.sciencealert.com/landmark-trial-suggests-hearing-aids-help-reduce-cognitive-decline)

## Friends of the NRA Fundraising Event of the High Country

Notices were published for this event in the June and July Newsletters. There may still be room for you to attend.

**DATE: Thursday August 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**PLACE: Army National Guard**  
**274 Hunting Hills Lane**  
**Boone, NC 28607**  
**TIME: 6pm**

Check with **Todd B. Hady**  
**Cell 704.905.5399**  
**todd@nuevo-ca.com.**

## Memoriam for Gary R Hoyle

For those who made it to the viewing and service, thank you. For those where unable to make it but offered thoughts and prayers, thank you. The comforting spiritual hug was felt and appreciated and got me through the hard bits.

Many thanks and appreciation for the eulogy and support of Doyle Ward and comforting presence of Joan Ward through the final days. Even though I didn't realize that they were the final days, I feel Gary knew.

Things that were unsaid at the service were numerous. Gary was an often unforgettable character; smaller in stature but larger in life. From high school through one year in college at Covenant College in Chattanooga, TN he had many roles.

- He had his own horses and worked area farms in western ND in high school.
- Rode line fence with a string of horses in a remote area of western SD.
- Flew crop duster planes and did feed and supply dump flights to snowed in sheep herders and cattle in NC & MT.
- Flew air ambulance & organ donor runs in NC SD, MN, WI, and NE.
- Drove winter shuttle trips up and down the mountain in Chattanooga for guests, faculty & students.
- Sold shoes and cars in Bismarck, ND.
- Was a VW mechanic.
- Did detective and undercover work in MN.
- Could out plumb a trained plumber and wasn't afraid to tackle electrical and wood working projects. All self-taught or from hanging around pros he said.

Gary always had a penlight flashlight in his pocket 24/7. Often we had to get a new one because the batteries didn't last. Truth be told, he hadn't turned it off properly.

He had a story for every occasion and everyone he met. I would ask you to write them down and send them to me. He was an avid reader as am I and I hear him talking when I read some of the things he read aloud. As I can also hear his clear baritone and bass on many of the old hymns.

I knew him in ways none of you could. His loves and obsessions beyond family and friends were shooting sports and concealed carry.

Gary loved Watauga Gun Club. Thank you for loving him as family.

Truly,

Sandy Hoyle  
a.k.a. DenMother

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## Proposed Bylaws Changes

\*Amendment\*\* I - Regular Membership \*(Amended \_\_\_\_\_)

3. Individuals applying for membership are required to present to the WGC Membership Coordinator a NC Handgun Purchase Permit that was issued within the last 60-days, or a sign a document affirming their eligibility to legally own and operate a firearm, and further affirm by signing that document that there are no pending charges against them that would render them ineligible to own and operate a firearm if they were convicted.

7. In order to be eligible for annual membership renewal, each member must: 1.) not be prohibited by Federal or State Law to possess firearms and ammunition, 2.) present to the WGC Membership Coordinator a NC Handgun Purchase Permit that was issued within the last 60-days, or a current NC / NC reciprocal Concealed and Carry Permit not have any charges pending against them that would render them ineligible to possess or operate firearms and ammunition if they were convicted, 3.) have attended at least one Watauga Gun Club Regular Monthly Business meeting and 4.) provided an annually updated Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement provided by the club acknowledge by way of payment of annual membership dues that they agree to renew their contract and commitment to abide by their original Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement as well as any changes that may have been made to the Liability Waiver in the time since the member's original signature of the Liability Waiver, and 5.) acknowledge by way of payment of annual membership dues that the member also affirms that they have thoroughly reviewed the then current Range Use Manual with particular regard for Range Safety/Operations of the Watauga Gun Club.

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