



Apple Valley Gun Club Newsletter

2th Quarter 2015

April - June

A WORD FROM YOUR PRESIDENT...

I'd like to thank the membership for trusting me again to be the president of AVGC, "the gun club that owns a range" and run by volunteers. I'm using quotes and giving the credit to Jay Graham since he is the first person I heard use the term. I'd like to congratulate Lyle Drenth, Wendy Smith, Keith Gajewski, Jon Marhoefer, and Tracey Graham the newly elected board members for running for office and ask that you thank them for serving when you see them on the range. Also, thank John Mahany and Randy Kelly for their service on the previous board. Randy has returned to the board as interim treasurer due to Keith needing to resign due to personal reasons. Other changes on the ranges include Wayne Mullin, long time member and former board member stepping down as the big bore rifle chair and Chuck Drew will be replacing him. Mike Davis is no longer the indoor range chair and the club is in need of a replacement indoor chair. Mike is still heading up the junior rifle program for us.

Jon's message in the last newsletter is a great recap of the progress the club has made over the last year and I'm positive the new board will keep the momentum going. The membership has continued to show its interest and concern for the club by attending board and membership meetings in record numbers, participation on committees, and helping out at club sponsored events. I attended Lyle's first safety committee meeting on Wednesday evening and over twenty members were in attendance. The budget and finance committee has been very active continually improving our fiscal practices and reporting on our finances keeping them transparent to the membership. Thanks to Jon's leadership and hard work offering a variety of training courses, and CCW classes the revenues produced from these activities have put us in the best fiscal situation I've seen in my five years at the club with no dues increase. Thanks to the efforts of Neil Ringlee's the club received a partial settlement check from Len Paris of \$2800. Some of the longtime members will remember Len and what he did to the club finances and hopefully will be pleased with the progress made recovering some of the money due to Neil's efforts.

I like to mention a few housekeeping issues and start with the gate. In my opinion the gate remains our greatest liability. Can't wait for the new gate we've all been talking about since I became a member and before. I like to look at the locks even though the gate is open and I can drive right in, just can't help myself. More than half of the times I look the combination is left on one or both locks. Remember to scramble the code on the lock as soon as you open it. The locks will lock with the combo scrambled. Also, a match director and I just discussed the condition of the gate during a match because people were closing the gate during his match. I reminded him if the gate is not locked back members should be locking it when they enter or leave. Locking the gate back is the sign not to close it, there is a reason to leave it open. Another issue I'd like to mention is good sportsmanship and code of conduct we all should be exhibiting on the range and in public

when representing the club. I simply ask you treat all members the way you would like to be treated with respect and courtesy.

A huge congratulations to our own Miki Marhoefer for being honored by Assemblyman Jay Obernolte as the 33rd Assembly District Woman of the Year for her efforts on women's shooting programs. Miki was honored at the State Capitol on March 9th, and Heather Obernolte presented Miki the award in front of the membership on March 11th at the membership meeting. Again, congratulations on this much deserved award and thank you for all the work you have done on behalf of the club, I greatly appreciate you and what you have accomplished.

Gary Menser, President

BOARD AND MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Join us on the 2nd Wednesday of each month

- April meeting will be at the Victorville Fairgrounds (Doris Davies Building.)
- May meeting will be at Maverick's Stadium in Adelanto
- June meeting will be back at the fairgrounds

The board meeting begins at 6:00pm and the membership meeting at 7:00pm.

6 HOUR WORK REQUIREMENT

Don't wait until the end of the year to try to complete your 6 hours. You can contact any range chairman or event coordinator to help at a match or other event. We need help at the monthly meetings with the sign in table and selling items. We have two more work parties scheduled this year, they are Sunday November 16, and Sunday December 21 from 8:00am to noon. Other work opportunities are occasionally posted on the website main page. You also have the \$100 buy-out option available to you, if you choose. If you are unable to help your club with your time and labor.

2015

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Gary Menser

gmenser@msn.com

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INDOOR RANGE:

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(Preferred contact via email
or text message)

TURNER'S OUTDOORSMAN www.turners.com

14311 Bear Valley Rd, Victorville, CA 92392

Mon-Fri 10am-8pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-5pm

NRA MEMBERSHIP

For AVGC to remain an NRA Gold Medal Club we need 100% compliance of our membership. All members no matter the classification need to have current NRA cards. If your NRA membership expires and you renew it, please drop a copy of the new card or magazine label in the black box, mail it, or email it to avgc.secretary@gmail.com We ask for a copy each year of your NRA status not to be a burden to you but to make things easier on our volunteers.

YEARLY RENEWAL

The Membership Committee is sending a special THANK YOU to the members who got their renewal in on time. The Bylaws say a member whose dues are not paid by February 1st shall be considered delinquent. We do our best to remind everyone of renewal time but sometimes mail does not make it or is set aside. Please mark your calendar for January 2016 to renew your Apple Valley Gun Club membership before February 1.

KEYS AND COMBINATION

Last year we changed several key type door locks on the range to digital locks. You will find these locks on the Clubhouse and the Trap Classroom match the gate combination. These locks can be a bit tricky but it is imperative we double check these doors to be sure our property is secure.

Remember to NEVER share the combination. If someone states they forgot it or never got it, please ask them to contact the Secretary.

CONSERVATION GROUPS

Some of that major threats to wildlife is the reduction of natural wildlife habitat areas. The ecosystem has been dramatically changed by human activities such as agriculture, oil and gas exploration, commercial development or water diversion. Here in the high desert one of the biggest threats is the drought. Without help, wildlife may soon not be able to provide the food, water, cover, and places to raise young without assistance. The Apple Valley Gun Club is affiliated with a few conservation groups that are always seeking new members. These groups gather for meetings, fun shoots, fundraising events, and of course go out into the local deserts and mountain areas to provide water, other complete counts, and other necessities to support our local wildlife.

- High Desert Quail Forever Group meets on the 1st Sunday of each month for a trap shoot starting at 9 am. The membership meeting happens at noon in the Trap Classroom. Details about this conservation group can be found at the website: <http://www.highdesertquailforever.net>
- The AVGC Hunter's Group/Calif. Deer Association meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday evenings from 6 – 8 pm in the Clubhouse. The Southern Calif. Chapter of Cal Deer will be having their banquet on May 30th at the Elks Lodge in San Bernardino. Come out to the AVGC Hunter's Group meetings to learn more. <http://caldeer.org>
- The April 11th DFW Advanced Hunter Education Clinic at AVGC is sold out. Keep an eye out for the next one.
- For those interested in doing wildlife conservation work in Southern California you can come to the membership meeting of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep on the second Tuesday evening of each month at Bass Pro Shops in Rancho Cucamonga. The society meets at 6 pm in the conference room on the second floor behind the hunting department. Details can be found on the web site: <http://sheepsociety.com>

INDOOR RANGE

The Indoor Range Chairman position is currently vacant. The Board of Directors is seeking names of those members who might be interested in filling this position. Please send an email to avgc.secretary@gmail.com if interested.



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RANGE SAFETY REMINDER

For Range Officers, Safety is Paramount. Many of you have seen a recent video posted on YouTube about a major safety issue which occurred during a USPSA pistol match. A range officer ran a pistol shooter through a stage which the range officer failed to clear. The shooter got halfway through the stage when they discovered someone still taping targets who was downrange from the shooter. For those of you who haven't seen it, the video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUzTIKAbI3k>

Here is a statement from USPSA on the incident:

Response to recent safety infraction

USPSA

Recently, a video was released of a competitor who shot at least half of a stage while there was still someone downrange. I was made aware of this video almost immediately after its release and sent the information on to the President of USPSA as well as the director for the area where the match was held. I am actively investigating the incident at present, and will report to the President and board of directors as I receive more information.

While we are relieved and happy that no one was injured, this incident serves to reinforce the importance of training for range officers and reminds us all that safety on the range is everyone's responsibility. It's easy for competitors and RO's to become complacent when so many stages are shot all over the country without incident. It also serves as a reminder that this is a shooting sport, using real guns and live ammunition, and that it would only take a split second for a tragedy to occur.

The RMI cadre has already added this video to our Level One and Level Two seminars to improve our training capabilities and to further emphasize to all range officers that safety is their number one priority. The range must be clear of all personnel before starting a new competitor.

When solid walls or other opaque props are used, extra care must be taken to ensure the range is clear before issuing the Make Ready command. The Range Officer is the last line of defense in this, and must know that the range is clear of all people before proceeding with a new competitor. NROI strongly recommends that the RO is the last person to return to the starting position after each shooter has completed the course of fire, and that there are at least two RO's working each stage — the one with the timer and the one keeping score. Each has a responsibility to keep the range as safe as possible. We also recommend a thorough check of the downrange area every time before preparing the next competitor. A few extra seconds to check won't hurt; a few seconds of inattention could be disastrous.

It's clear that these precautions were not followed in this case, and the consequences could have been tragic. NROI will continue to investigate this incident to ascertain the causal factors and ensure that it does not happen again.

Troy McManus

Director, National Range Officers Institute

NRA FOUNDATION GRANTS

The Women on Target Program, Women's Program, and Junior Rifle Program all submitted grant applications in October of last year. It was a larger and tougher field this year as more and more clubs, schools, and other shooting groups are learning these grants are available. Congratulations to the Apple Valley Gun Club Women on Target program, Women's Program, and Junior Rifle Program for their awards in the form of valuable ammunition. Great job! We hope these programs continue to grow in their education and outreach efforts in 2015.

AVGC AND CCW'S IN THE NEWS

AVGC and two of our members were featured prominently in the March 13th edition of the Daily Press on an article regarding CCWs. Members Craig Oehme and Gary Menser were both interviewed about concealed carry permits and why they chose to carry a firearm for their protection. You can read the article here: <http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20150313/NEWS/150319874/12979/NEWS> Craig and Gary were quoted extensively in the article and they both did an excellent job of making great comments that reflected positively on our club and the firearms community as a whole. Great job guys!

Some helpful hints when speaking to the news media:

- When being interviewed about potentially controversial topics like firearms, you are never speaking for yourself, but rather you're speaking for a particular viewpoint on that topic.
- Choose your words carefully – they may be taken out of context.
- Don't be afraid to give a reporter your contact information in case they have follow up questions or need clarification on something you said.
- If you are not comfortable speaking about a particular subject or are not knowledgeable about the subject, direct the reporter to someone who is.
- Avoid jargon or slang terms.
- Sell yourself, your organization and your point of view in the most positive fashion possible.

3rd Sunday Each Month

A work party is scheduled from 8am to noon. No need to make prior contact with anybody, just show up. Wear proper attire and be prepared for some light labor tasks. If you have a special skill set or idea for a work party please contact Tim Smith at tsmith157@hotmail.com

Club orientation begins promptly at noon. Although this is primarily conducted for new members, sponsors and RSO's are encouraged to attend. If you have been a member for a while, one of these orientations would help you get caught up on things that are happening on the ranges. There is heavy emphasis on Safety issues and on new club policies and procedures. For any associate member who wants to get a club card, that associate member must attend a club orientation.

Kick-Off Event

Trap Shoot

Saturday, April 25, 2015 from
8:00am - 3:00ish



Where: Apple Valley Gun Club, 16699 Stoddard Wells Road, Victorville, CA

- \$25 each; price includes a Desert Clay Busters t-shirt, Tacos for lunch, and 1 round of Trap. A round of trap is 25 shots at flying clay targets, 5 shots from 5 stations.
- You must provide your own ammunition. **Turner's Outdoorsman** will be on site with ammo for sale at the event.
- Pre-registration is preferred to lock in your squad assignments. Walk-on's are welcome but will have limited flexibility in scheduling and t-shirt size. Last day to pre-register is April 17, 2015.
- Additional rounds of Trap can be purchased for \$5.00 each.
- Door prizes and awards will be given out after lunch.
- Instructors will be on hand to assist new shooters.
- Loaner Shotguns are available in 20 and 12 gauge but require factory ammunition.

Regular Desert Clay Busters Open Trap events will be scheduled on the 3rd Saturday of each month beginning in May.

Contact: Miki Marhoefer at avgc.secretary@gmail.com for more info.

Payment - Make checks out to **Apple Valley Gun Club** and mail to:
P.O. Box 786, Victorville, CA 92393

----- Detach below and include with payment -----

Desert Clay Busters Kick-Off Event

Name: _____ Age _____

Address: _____

Contact number: _____

Email Address: _____

Experience: _____ T-Shirt size _____

Preferred squad time: 8:00am 9:00am 10:00am 11:00am

Check in for your squad will be 15 minutes before you are scheduled.

We will contact you prior to the event to confirm your reservations and squad assignment.

Internal use: Date _____ Check # _____ Amt _____ Notes: _____



Apple Valley Gun Club
P.O. Box 786
Victorville, CA 92393

HIGH DESERT FRIENDS OF NRA FUNDRAISER DINNER

The Friends of the NRA is the non-profit, fund raising arm of the NRA. The funds raised by your local FNRA group stay in Southern California and are distributed to local gun clubs, organizations, schools, and anybody else promoting the missions of the NRA. Last year's dinner held in Victorville raised over \$16,000 and the Apple Valley Gun Club was alone awarded more than that in grants to support the Women on Target program, Women's Program, and the Junior Rifle Program. Nearly 100% of every dollar raised comes right back to our club and so much more. If you can, plan to attend the dinner to be held on Friday, April 24, 2015 at 6:00pm at the Hilton Garden Inn in Victorville. Many prizes will be given away, including 15+ guns, Americana, and other items of interest to those who support the 2nd Amendment.

For more information see the FNRA website at <https://www.friendsofnra.org/EventDetails.aspx?eid=51274&sid=5> or call Mike Davis from the NRA at 714-368-0451 or you can email him at mdavis@nrahq.org