



Apple Valley Gun Club Newsletter

2ND QUARTER 2016

APRIL-JUNE

A WORD FROM YOUR PRESIDENT....

Your Club has new & "veteran" Officers on the Board this year and if you have been to the meetings you are familiar with us. For those that can't make the meetings, you have myself taking the reins as President from the capable hands of Gary Menser and I hope to be able to keep up with the example he has set. Bob Livrano is your new Vice President/President Elect & is the Safety Committee Chairman. Sheri Oros is doing the Treasurer & Secretary jobs, a herculean task! Give her your support by serving on one of her committees – helps her, the Club and you never have to worry about getting in your 6 hours for the year! Chris Katelhut, Jon Marhoefer, Tracey Graham, Wendy Smith, and Miki Marhoefer are our directors.

Thanks to Board Members Wendy Smith and Miki Marhoefer for recently securing NRA grants for the Women On Target Program & Women's Program Clinics (2nd Friday nights). Junior Trap and Claybusters also received grants totaling over \$10,000 in ammo and supplies.

I would like to highlight a Range with each Quarterly Newsletter and the Volunteers that make the venues on that range so successful for our Club members. This month's spotlight shines on the Indoor Range. This range is open and available to members and their guests on a 24 hour basis for Airguns, .22 Rimfire Pistol and Rifle only. The Bullseye Pistol Match on the 2nd Tuesday each week has been under the direction of Bob Pettis for the past 10 years with the assistance of John Sandoval and Bruce Bloomster. Under Bob's leadership many of our Club members and non-Club members, including myself, have been coached and mentored in the fine art of the classic NRA Bullseye (one handed) precision pistol shooting. There is a plaque in the Indoor Range, started by Bob, with the names of those very few individuals that achieved a perfect 100 score. Not many names are on there, but you will see Bob, Bruce and John have achieved this high honor on multiple occasions! Recently Bob has stepped down as Match Director. Thanks to Bob, John & Bruce for their service to the club over the years.

The Thursday night Junior Rifle program is another Indoor Range program & is one of the longest running programs at the Apple Valley Gun Club. Many of our members have fond memories of shooting in this program in the 60's & 70's when they were "kids"! Mike Davis was in charge of this program for many years and has handed over the reins to Rick Hearall. With a capable coaching staff of Tommy Davis, Rick & Ralph Hearall and Briana Ziegler they are introducing and training new generations of competent & safe rifle shooters. Tommy and Briana "grew up" shooting on the Indoor Range and as AVGC Jr. Rifle Team members were champions themselves, traveling around to compete against other teams, winning many accolades and matches for our Club.

On Mondays we play host in the Indoor Range to the Phelan 4H shooting group and Wednesdays the AAE-JROTC practices air rifles.

Check out the Apple Valley Gun Club Indoor Range page on the AVGC website & the Apple Valley Gun Club Jr. Rifle Facebook page for more information. For more information on the Indoor Range, contact Indoor Range Chair & Board member Miki Marhoefer. If members off probation would like a key to access the Indoor Range, they can attend an orientation with her on the Indoor Range procedures and ventilation operation.

If anyone is interested in running the Indoor Range Pistol Bullseye program or has ideas for other matches or events, contact the Indoor Range Chair. More details and contact information for her and other Range Chairs, Club officers & Match directors can be found on the Club website. Thanks to all those that volunteer time and effort to make our Club so successful!

See you on the Range,
Lyle Drenth

BOARD AND MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Join us on the 2nd Wednesday of each month

MAY MEETING WILL BE HELD AT:

Victor Valley Christian CHURCH (not school)
11223 11th Ave. (at EUCALYPTUS)
Hesperia, CA 92345

Meetings are at the Victorville Fairgrounds
Alaska USA Building

Board Meeting 6pm
Membership Meeting 7 pm

LOCK UP BEHIND YOU

When the gate is locked open for a match, event, or class that is on the club calendar please be more diligent about asking others for their club ID.

After the safety briefing for a match, we are now asking match directors to close the electronic gate.

The digital locks on the building exterior doors can be a bit tricky but it is imperative we double check them before leaving.

GATE CODES AND DIGITAL LOCKS

Remember to NEVER share the gate code or digital lock combinations to any lock on the property. If someone states that they forgot it or never got it, please ask them to contact the Secretary or another board member. These may not be members who want to use the range.

RANGE LIGHTS

We now have NEW LED range lights on ALL the pistol bays as well as both shotgun ranges! They are on timers on the pistol bays and are accompanied by an electrical outlet. At this time, the lights on the shotgun ranges are still manual.

MEMBER ONLY FORUM

Join at <http://avgc.freeforums.net/>

2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Lyle Drenth
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EVENT COORDINATOR

Chris Katelhut

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(760) 912-6431

*(Preferred contact via email
or text message)*

CONGRATULATIONS MIKI & JON

Our new **NRA Training Counselors** just returned from Fairfax, Virginia where they spent 3 days of intensive training so they can train us to be NRA instructors! They were required to demonstrate their knowledge and use of NRA training materials, standards and methodologies in order to train new NRA instructor candidates. Besides demonstrating their knowledge, skills and attitude, they had to supply references and be interviewed by NRA training staff to receive a recommendation to become training counselors. This is a lot of work and incurs a lot of expense. We thank you both for your willingness and desire to put in your personal time and money for the benefit of furthering the education in the sport and of our club!

While there, they had an opportunity to tour the National Firearms Museum and meet and talk directly with NRA training staff including John Howard and Bill Poole.

Miki and Jon are excited to share what they learned with other club members. Instructor classes will be scheduled at our club in the near future. If you are interested in becoming an NRA certified instructor, you will find the disciplines and qualifications at <http://training.nra.org/>

NRA DINNER TICKET RAFFLE

The club purchased a table for 8 at the annual NRA dinner to be held on April 30 at the Hilton Garden Inn. The seats will be raffled for \$5 each at the April membership meeting.

Information about the dinner can be found at https://eventtracker.friendsofnra.org/EventDocs/52592_CAS-14HDDigitalFlyer.pdf

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS AND ADVERTISEMENT

If you have articles, submissions, photos, or want to place an advertisement in our next newsletter issue please send an email to avgc.secretary@gmail.com.

Funds from advertisements help to offset the printing and mailing cost associated with our quarterly newsletter. Over 1000 members get this newsletter and it's a great opportunity to publish your company information and maybe even a coupon.

A half page ad is \$200, quarter page vertical or horizontal \$100, and a business card sized ad is just \$50. Layout and/or logo work can be done if needed.

Stuff DOESN'T just happen....

Some of you may be aware of an incident that occurred on one of our pistol ranges on March 23rd. We've had a chance to speak with the persons involved in the incident and have a good handle on what occurred. While the incident is not fully resolved, it's important we share some of the lessons learned with the membership.

Sign In

We require all members to sign in and their guests to sign a guest waiver at the clubhouse, at an event or on the Trap Range **BEFORE** you start shooting. When you sign in you are acknowledging your presence at a given range or ranges and an assumption of a certain amount of risk involved in shooting firearms. When you have your guests sign the waiver, they're acknowledging their understanding of the risk and releasing YOUR CLUB from liability. As the member you're also assuming responsibility for your guests – to include safe gun handling, adherence to the club's rules and so on. This also allows us to determine who may be potential witnesses in the case of an incident.

What would I do if....?

Go to any match and you'll be required to attend a safety briefing before you're allowed to participate. Miss it and you'll be watching everyone else shoot from the spectator area.

Typical components of the range safety briefing must include:

- **Cardinal** gun safety rules
- **Range** specific rules (range limits, firing lines, etc.)
- **Ambulance/emergency** action plan (what to do if someone gets hurt)
- **Weapon** specific safety rules
- **Drill** or event specific rules
- **Environmental** hazards

The need for that type of planning doesn't disappear when you're shooting by yourself or with a couple of guests. All of you need to be on the same page when shooting to ensure all safety rules are being followed at all times. All of us understand that the possibility of a gunshot wound or other penetrating traumatic injury goes with firearms and that possibility increases when we violate the cardinal gun safety rules. Ask yourself what you would do if you saw someone unintentionally shoot themselves. Have you been trained in first aid and do you carry a blow out or IFAK kit with the appropriate items to control bleeding? Emergency trauma kits were placed in the AED boxes at the Clubhouse, Trap Range Classroom and Pistol Target Shack several months ago for just such a contingency. These are not first aid kits with Band-Aids for boo boos and ice packs for sprains, they're dedicated as gunshot wound kits and should not be opened unless there is an actual emergency.

An invitation to attend the training to properly use the trauma kits was sent out to all 1100 members and we had about 40 members attend the training. Many of them are now carrying personal trauma kits when they're on the range. As a friend of mine who is a former SF Medic states "You don't get to choose the time for an emergency, the time chooses you." We don't have a range master or range staff for you to run to in the event of an emergency, you need to be prepared to take immediate action to preserve life and prevent further injury until EMS arrives on scene. That can be a long, four minute response time on a good day, and you can bleed to death much quicker than that.

You are responsible

Using firearms is inherently an unforgiving activity. Regardless of how much training we have had, or how long we've been doing it, we are always personally responsible for what happens with our firearms. The condition of your firearms, your equipment and what you do with it are always up to you. When drawing from a holster or re-holstering you are solely responsible for the location of your trigger finger, where the gun points, keeping your holster clear of any potential obstructions and focusing on the task at hand. Just as we never allow our firearm to point at another person, we should never allow the firearm to point at ourselves either. The most likely cause of all firearms discharges is a manual depression of the trigger, whether intentional or unintentional.

In conclusion

Ockham's razor states that the simplest explanation is usually the most likely. If you've been paying attention to this point you'll note that the words "accident" or "accidental discharge" have not been used. While I will certainly agree the shooting in the incident in question was unintentional, in my opinion it was by no means an accident. The most likely causes point to an obstruction in the holster (shooter's responsibility to clear) or finger on the trigger while re-holstering (shooter's responsibility to maintain master grip). I hope from this unfortunate lesson we all take away two things:

1. We're always responsible for following the cardinal safety rules at all times.
2. Each of us need to be prepared to respond appropriately to a potentially life threatening emergency.

Remember the NRA's Gun Safety Rules:

ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.

ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.

ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

Be safe and I'll see you on the range.

Jon Marhoefer, NRA Training Counselor and CRSO



Apple Valley Gun Club
P.O. Box 786
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April 13, 2016	Club Meetings at the Fairgrounds, Alaska USA Building
April 17, 2016	Work Party from 8am - noon, Orientation at noon
April 20, 2016	Safety Committee Meeting at 6 pm
April 30, 2016	High Desert Friends of NRA Dinner
May 8, 2016	Mother's Day
May 11, 2016	Club Meetings at Victor Valley Christian Church 11223 11th Ave. Hesperia, CA 92345
May 15, 2016	Work Party from 8am - noon, Orientation at noon
May 18, 2016	Safety Committee Meeting at 6 pm
May 30, 2016	Memorial Day
June 8, 2016	Club Meetings at the Fairgrounds, Alaska USA Building
June 14, 2016	Flag Day
June 15, 2016	Safety Committee Meeting at 6 pm
June 19, 2016	Work Party from 8am - noon, Orientation at noon
June 19, 2016	Father's Day