



**FOURTH QUARTER NEWSLETTER
PUBLISHED OCTOBER 1, 2023**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fall is here already, and with that also cooler weather. Soon we will be complaining about the cold weather. Just because it is cooler, we still need to protect ourselves from the harsh elements. This includes drinking plenty of water when we are at the range.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for all the hard work they have done for the membership of Apple Valley Gun Club. Without these dedicated members we would not have all the things we enjoy at Apple valley Gun Club. Next time you shoot a match, take a class, shoot a round of trap, teach a class, or just put lead downrange, you can thank our incredible members.

I would like to highlight 3 of the executive board members:

Deb Harris, Vice President, is the Training Director, sets schedule of classes and enlists instructors. She orders class literature and makes sure classrooms are ready with the necessary materials. Deb oversees the training Coordinator-Supervises Eventbrite. She Chairs the Safety Committee by running the monthly meetings and conducts safety hearings, which included downloading video for safety issues. She also has taken on several construction projects this year. I think Deb is at the club more than she is at home.

Jonathan Weldy, Treasurer, collects check requests, prepares checks, gathers signatures, distributes payments for member reimbursements & vendors, prepares financial statements for meetings and tax preparation, is a member of the Finance Committee that does the monthly count, deposits, and maintains the bank accounts. He also supervises risk management, insurance requirements & lease management.

Dina McKinney, Secretary, creates the agendas and takes the minutes for every meeting, maintains membership records, processes our annual renewals, manages our website & social media, manages printed media, meets with vendors, manages camera and network systems, manages the annual banquet committee, communicates with NRA & CPRA, & various other agencies, manages booths at events throughout the year, and just about anything else no one wants to do.

In addition to the above tasks, they answer endless e-mails, and attend a large number of meetings. These are not the only people who put in a lot of time for the Club, but they put in a lot of hours. And I can say without a doubt that they all left AVGC a little better than they found it. Or a lot better!!!

It is that time of year we are taking nominations for board positions. Take this responsibility seriously as the Board makes a lot of decisions for the membership of Apple Valley Gun Club and its members.

Thank you,
Tim Neubauer, President
Apple Valley Gun Club

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT/President-Elect

Welcome to autumn! If only the desert knew that in autumn things are supposed to cool down.

If you attended the September Board or Membership meetings you know that the Board approved a number of fee increases throughout the club, including annual dues. Understandably quite a few members are upset about this. I've heard, more than once, why do we need increases when we have money in the bank. Aren't we a non-profit? Should we even have a bank balance?

The answers are yes, and yes. Below was taken off the internet following a simple Google search for "should non-profits have reserve funds?" Feel free to do your own research on this.

Not only are nonprofits allowed to have reserve funds, but for their long-term financial health, they should have reserve funds. Reserve funds are a key financial piece of the puzzle as a nonprofit seeks financial resiliency and builds capacity over time. A nonprofit organization is not considered financially healthy without some type of reserves. Just like you work to save for family emergencies in your personal finances, so should a nonprofit.

Apple Valley Gun Club has a large number of members that joined solely to practice shooting at one or another particular range. These members seldom, if ever, use any of the other ranges or classrooms that the club has. But the Board is charged with making decisions for the entire club – all its members and all its facilities.

The Board, and many other club members, are constantly working to maintain and improve club facilities for all its members. I know it appears as if we've been spending a lot of money this year. Part of that is because we've been reporting lots of large, but inexpensive improvements (kitchen and secretary bathroom remodels cost only a gallon of paint and a box of peel and stick tile. Almost everything else was donated), in the newsletter and also at club meetings. In this newsletter you'll read about AC being added to the Archery container.

Every project proposed and approved is carefully researched by the board. The best pricing is obtained and most often materials and labor are donated which further keeps costs as low as possible. As for the archery container – the excessive heat generated in that metal box can cause delamination of the club's (expensive) equipment. Routinely replacing bows, arrows, and other miscellaneous supplies can be far more expensive than a one-time expenditure to insulate and cool half of the container.

Besides necessary and practical improvements to keep Apple Valley Gun Club the premier shooting and archery facility that it is, fees were increased (minimally in the grand scheme of things) merely to keep up with inflation. Like most of your personal expenses, everything the club pays for (utilities, supplies, etc.) has increased dramatically in the last couple of years.

So, when you see those monthly and year-to-date expenditure reports know that every club member is entitled to review every bill paid, every nickel and dime reimbursed to hard-working (for free) members helping to

make these improvements. It is not exciting reading, I assure you. Board members are not gathering to discuss spending club money over meals at restaurants at your expense. We have many of those discussions at the board workshop, the first Wednesday of every month. Members are welcome to attend and listen. Again, not exciting.

The October and November membership meetings are open for board position nominations – including Vice President. If you disagree with how club matters are handled, please run for a board seat. I can assure you again, VP does not have any more input than any other board member, just a lot more duties.

At the very least, attend membership meetings. That is your opportunity to vote “yay”, or “nay” on club matters, and to express your opinion of same. Members may not realize that there is a scheduled time for anyone to address the membership and say whatever they want about club matters. When you enter the meeting hall you can obtain a form to fill out that is then passed to the President. Near the end of each meeting there is a “members forum” where those that turned in a request for time are given the room (and microphone).

Bottom line here, the board members work long and hard to spend the member’s money responsibly and with member approval. Keeping a large facility such as ours in tip-top shape takes time, attention, hard work, and yes, dollars. If you don’t like our decisions, get involved!

Debbie Harris,
Vice President/President Elect

SECRETARY’S STATEMENT

I absolutely LOVE spooky season (minus spiders)! It is my favorite time of year. It also means that we are very quickly headed into my busiest time of year for the club. September brings the Hesperia Days Rodeo and the Sheriff’s rodeo, which requires nearly 15-hour days to cover over multiple days. In October, plans get rolling for the annual membership banquet. As you can imagine, throwing a large party for a couple hundred people takes a lot of prep work, and hours upon hours of planning, gathering guns and supplies, arranging vendors, etc.! Also beginning in October, I get the ball rolling for membership renewals! With the banquet planning and renewals happening at the same time, it is often difficult to juggle, and I find myself putting in over 100 volunteer hours a month during the months of October through March. Don’t forget, I also work a full-time job at a very busy law firm in town. My purpose in telling you this is to remind you that myself and my team work very hard for you, to make AVGC a better place for you, and to make sure our image with the community is a positive one. All I ask in return is kindness and respect. I know I am not perfect. I know I make mistakes, like misnumbering a survey (UGH), but I love this club and the people I have come to know and call friends. We are lucky to have a place like Apple Valley Gun Club and we would all do well to remember we are united in common interest, and if we all show each other love and kindness, imagine the positive outcomes we will see!

What I need from you now is to make sure you have updated your current address with me if you have moved since the time of our last renewal. Your renewal packet will be sent to the address I have on file for you. It will go out before Christmas. If you do not have it by the second week of January, please reach out to me.

Dina McKinney, Secretary

SUBMITTING YOUR RENEWAL ON TIME IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY
REGARDLESS OF IF YOU RECEIVED A PACKET IN THE MAIL.
On Time Renewals are received or postmarked by January 31, 2024.
Everything after that is late!

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

Over the past several months your Finance Committee and Board of Directors have been engaged in a comprehensive review of our club finances. The goals of our review included amending policies for clearer cash reporting, allowing better cash management, and a comprehensive review of our income and expenses.

Regarding cash reporting and cash management, we have amended our Financial Policies to identify more clearly:

- 1.) operating cash, to ensure we can meet our monthly obligations,
- 2.) reserved cash held for emergencies and
- 3.) capital improvement funds for major purchases and improvements.

It is important to note, over the last seven years we have experienced a shift in our revenue model. Once primarily reliant on Due & Fees, significant increases from education classes, special events, CCW qualifications and the Verizon Lease have decreased our dependence on Due & Fees and allowed us to be more conservative in considering any Dues & Fee increases.

Regarding income and expenses, following an extensive review of our operating expense records and income from all sources, on September 13, 2023, your Board of Directors adopted updated Dues & Fees effective January 1, 2024. While no one wants to pay more, we reached our recommendation only after testing our revenue experience against recorded expenses, evaluating inflation since our last update, comparing our membership value to other choices, and factoring our responsibility to provide reasonable resources for carefully considered maintenance and improvements.

Lastly, our ranges operate uniquely, and direct financial comparisons are impossible. We worked diligently to treat each range with fairness and equity.

Jonathan Weldy, Treasurer

2024 Dues, Fees & Assessments

<u>Activity</u>	<u>2024</u>
New Member Initiation Fee	\$225.00
Membership (under 65)	\$160.00
Sr. Membership (65 & over)	\$60.00
Work Buyout	\$125.00
Match, Member	\$7.00
Match, Guest	\$13.00
Trap, Member	\$5.00
Trap, Guest	\$8.00
Trap, Junior	\$3.00
Range/Rental Use/Person	\$20.00
CCW ReQuals.	\$ 30.00

IN-PERSON RENEWAL DAY

DATE: Saturday, January 20, 2024

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (lunch break from 12 pm to 1:00 p.m.)

LOCATION: Secretary's office at the Adobe Clubhouse

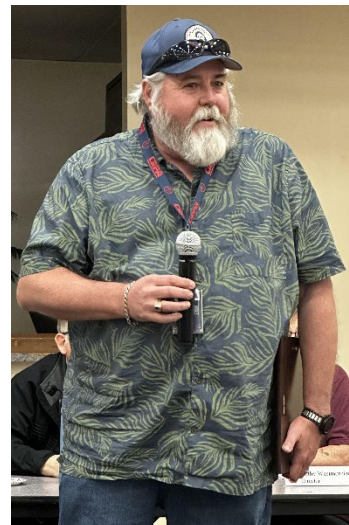
WHAT TO BRING:

- Renewal form.
- Signed waiver.
- Ballot (associate and probationary members do not vote)
- Fees (**be sure to notice the fee increase**) cash, card, check, money order all accepted.
- Work card or work buyout (**be sure to notice the fee increase**)
- Proof of current NRA membership (lifetime members do not need to resubmit)

AVGC GET SPECIAL RECOGNITION!

Hanging in the office of the Secretary is an Assembly Resolution from the California Legislature, recognizing the gun club for their 25th anniversary of serving the community. Secretary, Dina McKinney, decided it was high time to honor the club again, and there was no better time than the 75th anniversary year. In March, she began e-mailing Sacramento. Through months of conversations, and back-and-forth with his staffers, finally in August, the club welcomed Assemblyman, Tom Lackey, who presented the club with another California Legislature Assembly Resolution, signed by himself and Senator, Scott Wilk. What an honor it was for President, Tim Neubauer to accept this Resolution on behalf of the club.

On top of that special recognition, the club was also presented with the FIRST EVER "Club of Distinction" award, presented by Maria Saglietto and Jerry Clark with the CRPA. This award is only to being given to long standing clubs who meet the CRPA safety, education, and community outreach standards and who have exhibited a commitment to preservation of 2nd Amendment rights.



WE NEED A GRANT WRITER!

Many of the programs at Apple Valley Gun Club have been partially funded by grants from the NRA Foundation. I'm sure you all get those E-mails from Friends of the NRA about their fundraising events. Do you ever wonder where that money goes? It comes back to the community in the form of grants. The catch is you must apply within a certain time frame. We have been awarded in the past with THOUSANDS of dollars in ammunition, ear protection, cleaning supplies, and even firearms for our programs. COVID put a little hiccup in the process, and it seems the club has not really gotten back into the flow of closing out old grants and applying for new ones. Additionally, the CRPA has grants available to us and as a business affiliate of the CRPA we should be taking advantage of all these opportunities to supplement our programs. It is not a hard process. It is just a little time consuming, and we need a dedicated volunteer willing to do it! If this is something you are interested in, please reach out to the Vice President, Debbie Harris, Treasurer, Jonathan Weldy, or Secretary, Dina McKinney for more information.



AVGC IS A SILVER SPONSOR OF THE SHERIFF'S RODEO

The partnership with the Sheriff continued with a kickoff concert on Thursday, September 21st. Several club members sat together in the stands and enjoyed an evening of country music. Our President even boogied with our Secretary to "Footloose." It was a great time! Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, we were very busy at our booth, talking with everyone we could, and passing out buckets full of gun locks. Our President was very generous with his lock gifting, with our Vice President's encouragement! Thank you to the volunteers that helped run the booth. If you don't know, these booths are staffed for at least 10-hour days. Thank you to our Friday team, Tim Neubauer, Debbie Harris, and Dina McKinney; our Saturday team, Cathy Westmoreland, Michelle Nakata, Bonnie Lanyon, and Debbie Harris; our Sunday team, John Sweet, Terri Sweet, and Mike Wilson. You guys make us all look good!



Congratulations!

Jack Kulju

Floyd Moss

Jeremy Frazier

There is a tradition with our Trap shooters at Apple Valley Gun Club. The first time you successfully shoot all 25 of your clays, the members reward your success by shooting up your hat!

Torie Fidler

Torie hit 86 clay pigeons in a row, and a total of 98 out of 100! Wow!



Archery News!

We are piloting the reopening of 3D Archery on Saturday, October 14, 2023, 12:30pm - 2:30pm. \$5 fee for each participant. We will meet in the Bowl Area between ranges at 12:15 for signups, rules, and orientation/safety briefing. We hope to resume this monthly, after Open Archery on the 2nd Saturday of each month, based on participation. Summer months would move to 8:00am-10:00am, before Open Archery, to accommodate the higher heat later in the afternoon. Contact Sandra Oberlies, Archery Chair, for more info by text at 760-282-4395 or email brekkeso@gmail.com.

AVGC SPOTLIGHT- ETHAN BLOCKER

“A Jr. Trap Beginnings”

Ever since I was 9 years old, I've shot at the Apple Valley Gun Club. I started off shooting rifle, but I was seeking more, so I started Junior Trap Shooting every Wednesday night. After not knowing a single thing, and with a shotgun 3x bigger than me, the instructors taught me everything from safety to discipline and overall, how fun the sport can be. As soon as I hit High School, I enrolled in Air Force JROTC with aspirations of enlisting with some rank. Once I graduated High School the real world hit, so I enlisted into the Navy as an Aviation Support Equipment Technician (AS). After 2 years going to 4 states and 5 countries and promoting to AS3 (E-4) I can definitely say that if it wasn't for Instructor Mike and TJ from the Apple Valley Range, I would be where I am today. It was their teachings in Safety, Discipline, Courage, and overall Preparation that will benefit me in life and my career. -Ethan Blocker



“Ethan blocker began shooting with the Apple Valley Gun Club when he was only 9 years old, at this time his gun was longer than he was tall. Ethan was an exceptional study and caught on quickly, paying close attention to the safety rules of the sport. Ethan enjoyed shooting with the other kids who were much older than him. Ethan continued shooting with the Jr. Trap program until he joined the Navy at the age of 18. As Ethan's coach it has been a pleasure to watching him grow from a child into the man he has become.” -Mike McCurly

More Improvements on the Range

Sandy Oberlies, the AVGC Archery Chair is giddy these days after finally getting some much-needed TLC on the archery range. For so long, the heat inside the connex was so bad that it damaged the archery equipment. Additionally, it was nearly impossible to work on any of the bows and arrows in the connex due to the excessive heat inside. The connex has now been insulated and air conditioning unit installed. Huge shout out to Don McAfee, Dennis Ingram, and Debbie Harris for accomplishing this task! Also, thank you to the membership, without your support, we could not make these improvements on the range.



Boy Scouts Troop 357 Update

As you know, AVGC is the Charter organization for Boy Scouts Troop 357. The Scouts had an exciting summer and we wanted to share that with you!

Six scouts and four adults completed the Philmont Trek between June 11th and 25th. The Philmont Trek is considered one of the crown jewels of the scouting experience by providing backcountry treks in the mountains of northern New Mexico. The Scouts completed 134 miles of backpacking, climbed the summit of the two highest peaks on the Philmont Ranch (Baldy Mountain 14,441 feet and Tooth of Time (over 9000 feet), experienced rifle and shotgun shooting, gold panning, horseback riding, branding, rock climbing and other great outdoor skills and completed a service project. They also were able to visit the National Boy Scout Museum. They were great travelers, great Scouts, and represented Scouting and the Club well.

Fourteen scouts and three adults travelled over 16 hours north to Camp Meriwether for a week of summer camp from July 8th through 16th. Camp Meriwether is located on the Oregon Coast 30 miles south of Tillamook. While there the boys engaged in many scout skills and fun including archery, rifle and black powder shooting, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, blacksmithing, mountain biking and more. Nine of the scouts also took an overnight trek out of camp that included a 3-mile hike along the beach and a 2-mile canoe trip. This unique trek was the highlight of the trip for the scouts. On the return trip, they made a stop in Sacramento to visit the state capitol. Many of the scouts had not been to the capitol. Again, they represented scouting, the troop and the club exceptionally well.



CRITTERS ON THE RANGE

It has been an exciting couple of months for the wildlife on our range! I think they have moved in! Every summer we get at least one or two snakes on the range. Just a reminder, call a board member to safely help you remove any snakes on the range. Bunny rabbits are a range staple. Don't shoot the bunnies! You are not Elmer Fudd hunting "wabbits."

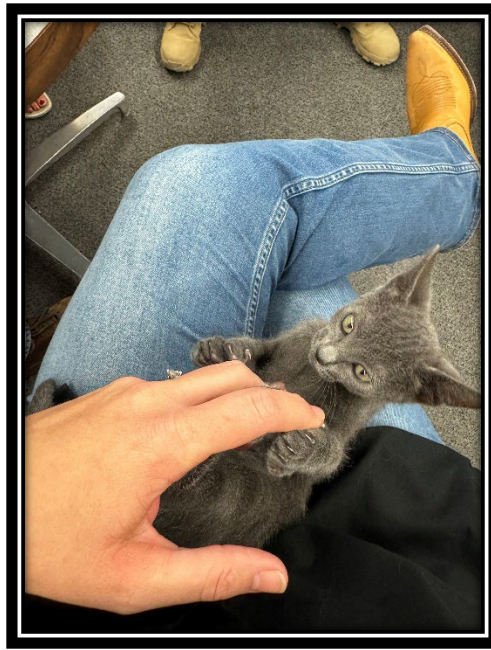


Our memorial garden pond is a welcome watering hole for wildlife. Mostly the squirrels enjoy it so far, but we plan to set up a trail cam and see what other critters visit our loved one's memorial.

This fall we have had a couple of interesting visitors. First, let me say, the author of this article took great pains to provide you with this photo. It took weeks to decide to put it in the newsletter. Her arachnophobia is crippling, to the point of barreling over friends and sacrificing them to the spider-gods. Larry Mason found this guy on the Trap range. So here you go, AVGC! Eeeeeeeeeeeekkkkkk



Oh, my goodness, after that, I need a dose of cuteness! This little girl was found by a member at our gate with probably only hours to live. Between being severely starved and malnourished, I am sure she wouldn't have made it through the night with the cars, coyotes, hawk, and other predators around. Probably the luckiest kitten in the world, "Remington" was taken home by our Vice President and given to her son, Aaron, to care for. Remi was exhausted after the first vet visit, finally got some nourishment, and stopped by the club after putting on a couple pounds to show us she is doing well! This is NOT an invitation to drop off your unwanted pets at the range. Isn't she the cutest little nugget!



TURNER'S OUTDOORSMAN

&



Partnership Event

On July 9th Turner's Victorville employees and some corporate management arrived at the club for a BBQ and shooting event. The purpose of the event was to strengthen the partnership with Turners, specifically directed towards the "New Handgun Owner Certificate program".

The event also allowed us to give The Turner's employees a quick in-person orientation of all that AVGC has to offer which included:

- Physical tour of each of the ranges and overall site attributes.
- NRA Course
- Programs, special events
- CCW training and also CCW renewal support
- Matches and Open Trap
- Practice facilities and support

Everyone gathered on P1 and set up the plate racks, allowing the Turner's staff to shoot against each other, giving them the opportunity to challenge each other.



AVGC CELEBRATES 4TH OF JULY IN STYLE!

Every year the Apple Valley Gun Club comes together in appreciation to celebrate the freedoms of our country. It's a bonus that we get to do that with our friends. This year, thanks to the kitchen remodel, we were able to actually use the kitchen for food prep and the event was held at the adobe clubhouse. This event could not be what it is without the yearly support of planning, shopping, cooking, and preparation of Alex and Laura Montenegro. They sure do know how to throw a patriotic event! THANK YOU! We also had an amazing decorating committee on hand with the ever enthusiastic, Michelle Nakata and Bonnie Lanyon. We would be remiss in mentioning the plethora of volunteers that came out to help this year. Thank you all.

The event concluded with the dedication of our memorial garden. The families that came out to speak at the dedication for their loved ones included the family of Sonny DeRose and the family of Tim Smith. We love and miss all our AVGC family that has passed. Be sure to stop by the memorial garden and take in a moment of peace and remembrance.



CLUB CONTACTS

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President, Debbie Harris	avgc.dbharris@gmail.com	760-954-5835
Treasurer, Jonathan Weldy	avgc.weldy@gmail.com	909-380-9919
Secretary, Dina McKinney	avgc.dina@gmail.com	657-229-3462
Director, Matt McCourt	avgc.matt@gmail.com	760-403-2952
Director, Allen Rutledge	avgc.allen@gmail.com	909-638-2265
Director, Bill Stephens	avgc.bill@gmail.com	951-675-2222
Director, Cathy Westmoreland	avgc.cathy@gmail.com	760-217-0755
Director, Larry Mason	avgc.larry@gmail.com	760-265-1100

MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS?

Contact our Membership Liaison

Cathy Westmoreland

avgc.cathy@gmail.com

Call or Text (760) 217-0755

Response within 24 hours



Do you have something you
would like in the Newsletter?
Email the club Secretary,
Dina McKinney at avgc.dina@gmail.com