

APPLE VALLEY GUN CLUB

INDOOR

RIFLE

PISTOL

TRAP

ARCHERY



FIRST QUARTER NEWSLETTER
PUBLISHED July, 2025

From the President:

Our Club is unique in so many ways, yet I often feel that many of our members don't realize or forget what great shooting opportunities we provide. I know of no other facility anywhere in the Country like ours. We can shoot from dawn to 10:00 PM on any of our outdoor ranges, and 24 hours a day on the Indoor Rimfire and Archery ranges. As members, the Club belongs to each of us, but it's those who routinely volunteer their time and energy who make it the best range/Club in the Nation, and I thank you all.

Some of y'all who are less involved with the Club activities may wonder where our funding comes from. Your initiation fees and dues certainly provide some of the Club's income, but far more income is generated by our volunteer Match Directors, Instructors, and Coaches. The Club hosts several classes every month which are led by teams of volunteer Instructors. All of the income from our classes goes straight to support other Club activities and improvements. Likewise, the money generated by the San Bernardino Sheriff's CCW program, which is staffed entirely by volunteers, goes directly back to the Club for new equipment and improvements. We recently purchased two new shipping containers to store the new 3-D archery equipment and our new moving target systems on the pistol range.

I'd like to take a moment to encourage each of you to do a couple of things. We all have family, friends or acquaintances who know very little about

firearms and the shooting sports. Some are rabid anti-gun, others are just ill informed. I challenge each of you to seek out at least one of those individuals and bring them to the range and show them a positive experience. Second, if you're not politically active, please get active. Personally, I am a single-issue voter because I firmly believe that without our 2nd Amendment, the rest of our Constitution is worthless. Any politician who says "I support the gun rights, but..." won't get my vote. I urge you to join others by joining and supporting California Rifle and Pistol Association, San Bernardino County Gun Owners, and any other pro 2nd Amendment organization that you can afford to; and get actively involved!

Today is a great day to be on the Range. I'll see you there!

Tracey Graham, President

From the Vice-President:

From the Vice President –

First, I want to thank all the member volunteers who helped with the NRA Women On Target program in June! This program has become well known in the community and most all the attendees are purchasing tickets for the first time after hearing about the program from others. The women absolutely love this program and it's YOU, the volunteers, on each of the ranges, that make it a fun day for each one of the participants. Programs cannot be successful without all of you. You are the ones that leave an awesome impression and make them so happy that they signed up for the program. So, I thank you all! Thank you for stepping up to be a part of what the club does in reaching out to the community!

The weather is heating up even more now, please stay hydrated while at the range! Remember to bring gloves with you so that you don't burn your hands when touching hot target stands. Watch out for snakes, they're out this time of year looking for shade and water.

More improvements are on the way, helping our ranges and members. Any suggestions? Please feel free to send a text, put a note in my

mailbox inside the kitchen at the Adobe building or simply leave me an email or voice message. We welcome all suggestions!

As your Vice President, I'm in charge of SAFETY! If you haven't already noticed, the Apple Valley Gun Club is one of the, if not THEE safest range to be on. We work hard on safety and it is one of the main reasons many of our members decided to join.

Please remember the protocol on each of the ranges and should you have any questions about rules and regulations do not hesitate to shoot me a call. I'm more than happy to answer your questions and/or concerns. There are Incident/Close Call reports on the ranges for you to fill out and place in one of the RED BOX'S either outside the Adobe or inside of the Trap Classroom. Give me a call and I'll swing by and pick it up. Please remember our safety rules about uncasing and casing up firearms, and touching firearms while others are down range from you. Please remember to place firearms on the benches UNLOADED (meaning, magazine out, slide locked open to the rear, lying on the bench with the port side up. *NO EXCEPTIONS. Simply treat all firearms as if they're loaded, no assumptions are to be made about that.

Please, for you own safety, write your emergency contact person and number on the back of your membership card and any important medical information you deem necessary.

Enjoy the summer, let me know how we can make things better. And drink lots of water!

Sometimes, when we've been a member for a long time but haven't been out to the range in a while, we aren't up to date on the (do's and don'ts) and protocol for specific ranges. Or, we've not read our new packet when we renew and we're not updating ourselves on updated **Bi-Laws, Safety Regulations and Policy and Procedures**. Please ask or read your governing documents and freshen up on things. A simple text or phone call is the quickest way to get an answer, I'm happy to help anytime!

As always, I look forward to seeing you on the range.

Jenaraye Graham, Vice President/President Elect

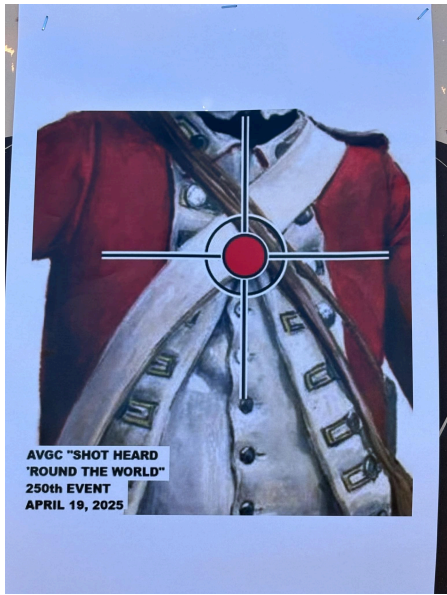
From the Secretary:

Apple Valley Gun Club is a member owned, non-profit, fully volunteer organization. Every member has a voice. All you have to do is attend the monthly membership meetings. If you think your voice or your vote doesn't count, you're wrong. When expenditures or policy changes are proposed the membership has the opportunity to question and argue the need. And the Board listens. We try to answer / explain reasons, necessities, and costs to the satisfaction of everyone before any voting is undertaken.

Please attend a meeting. Find out how your club is managed. Express your opinion on issues. The Board manages the everyday expenses and problems that arise, but - you have ownership in the club and its facilities. Don't sit back and complain. Come to a meeting and complain to the people who can do something about it!

Shot Heard Around the World:

On April 19th, about 40 members of the club gathered to participate in the CRPA's celebration of the 250th anniversary of the start of the Revolutionary War. The very beginning of American freedom. Alex Montenegro organized the club event. Things began with an historic reading of the events leading up to the animosity between countrymen, and ultimately the first volley of shots fired on April 19, 1775. Members were moved to the firing line and at 8:29:50 am Laura Montenegro began a countdown. At 8:30am 40 club members fired simultaneously at the "Redcoat" targets provided by board member Dave Smith. Firearms ranged from Black Powder, Military relics, pistols, and rifles of all sorts.







It'sssss SSSSSSnake SSSSSSeason

Remember, if you come across a snake on the range don't kill it. Contact the range chairman or a board member to have it relocated. The club has equipment and several trained individuals to move these reptiles to a new home.

Recently, Jason Myskow, our resident snake expert, conducted some training for board members and other volunteers in the proper steps to safely capture, trap, and move snakes.





Behind the Scenes:

When you visit a privately owned range such as Route 66 or Prado you pay range fees up to \$35 for 2 hours per person. So if you and a friend want to go shoot together it'll cost you up to \$70. That's almost half of one annual membership at the Apple Valley Gun Club. And here your friend comes free as your guest. Additionally, at other ranges you will have to buy targets or supply your own, and buy or rent target frames and stands.

How do we get away with providing all these items for you? Also free water, and really clean, well maintained facilities?

It's because we are managed by volunteers. Other ranges pay their RSO's and their instructors. All their staff members receive a paycheck. They are in business to make a profit.

Most of you are familiar with our Range Chairs, Match and Program Directors, Instructors, and Board members. All of whom put in easily a hundred hours or more every couple months just attending meetings and putting on events.

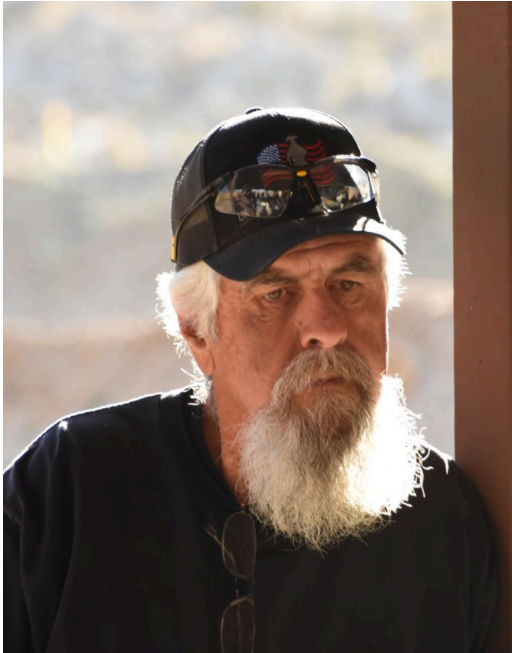
But there are other great volunteers who show up anytime their help is requested, or even when they just know something is going on and they can be helpful. **Behind the Scenes** is going to be a new column in the quarterly newsletter. I have July's covered (coming up), but let me know anyone you think should be recognized for their above and beyond contributions.

Someone who volunteers for a project even though it will take more than the required six hours of volunteer time. Someone who notices an issue and offers to fix it. Take pictures. Send photos and details to Debbie Harris, Secretary. avgc.dbharris@gmail.com

July's first hero: **Don McAfee**. He'll hate this, I know, because he is the epitome of a "behind the scenes" guy. Don is our Facilities Manager. Which means he is the guy who took on the responsibility of keeping everything running at the club. Toilet backs up - Don gets the call. Evaporative coolers at the Rifle Range go down - Don gets the call. Gate breaks down - Don gets the call. Don is on site nearly every single day. Usually early in the morning just to do a survey of the property and make sure all is working smoothly.

Recently, while waiting for a delivery of new storage containers, Don was spotted walking around the club picking up random trash. In 105 degree heat. Don keeps the recycle containers emptied out (yes, we do sort and recycle. It's a great volunteer project), Don keeps the trees watered, Don helps with all the match set-up and break down. Don keeps the target stands repaired and does other essential welding on club equipment and steel targets. And too much more to mention here. If you see Don wandering

around be sure and say hi and give him a thanks of appreciation. He deserves it.



And Don still finds time to make a decoration for the secretary's office!



July's second hero: **Dennis Ingram**. Ever wonder who repairs all those shot up target frames? Replace the cardboard that's too full of holes to even staple a new target on? Dennis is the guy. He is here with a couple helpers every week turning over target frames and backers. Dennis is also the guy who made all the great new signage everywhere. He's done the warning signs at the rifle range, he did all the color coded signs for all our ranges and buildings, he put Apple Valley Gun Club on our easy-ups, and Dennis is currently working on assembling new first-aid kits for all the ranges.

Dennis is always available to help as a coach for New Gun Owners and any other event we need help with. He's a superior dry-waller and has helped Debbie with three club construction projects so far. If you see Dennis, tell him thanks for all his hard work.





Member's Corner

I asked for photos and/or news about what our members are up to. Here's the submissions:

Recently **Chuck Mahoney** shot 25 out of 25 clays during Open Trap. Traditionally, when a shooter accomplishes that, their hat is removed, tossed up in the air, and fired on by all other competitors! Congratulations Chuck on the destruction of your hat. We have new ones for sale in the adobe!



Greg Sherrett sent in pictures of he and his wife participating in different matches presented by the club. Thank you Greg and Stephanie for joining in the fun!





Last, three friends, Debbie Harris, Terris Sweet, and Cathy Westmoreland have regularly been sharpening their skills every week on the pistol range.



R.I.P. Bruce Bloomster

On February 24th of this year 2025, we lost a long-time devoted member of the Apple Valley Gun Club. BRUCE E. BLOOMSTER. Many of you knew Bruce for many years and I had the honor of being his friend for the last 10 years of his life. I called him "SHERIFF B" and he called me "LITTLE LADY" and I am still missing his friendship today. Bruce led a very interesting life filled with his passion for many things. He served in the Air Force; he worked in the medical field installing medical equipment and so much more. Bruce was an accomplished archer and a very talented shooter of all kinds of firearms. He involved himself in western competitions, black powder shooting, semi-automatics, and his all time favorite, the ole fashion WHEEL GUNS! Bruce had a lifelong passion for revolvers and he never hesitated to send me a text with a picture of the revolver he was planning to shoot that day on the range with a message attached that typically read, "here's what we're shooting today, meet me there in 15!" I'm sure many of you have had that same opportunity. He loved to play with his wheel guns.

Bruce loved to volunteer as an RSO for many events and his passion for fashion and flare came with him. If you knew Bruce for a long time, you knew he was involved in the Renaissance culture. He had a collection of renaissance outfits and for our events at the range, he often decided to dress up as an old western Deputy, Marshal or Sheriff. His fancy suspenders, hats and specially made Sheriff badges brought a smile to all of us who got to witness his costume changes. It brought him joy just as it did us. He was so full of happiness when he dressed up like that. That's about the time I started calling him "Sheriff B."

As Bruce's health began to decline, he went from using a cane to a walker, and then from a walker to a wheelchair. His health never stopped him from coming out to the range to play with his revolvers, or to shoot in a match or to help me brush up on my shooting skills and obtain good advice. I will miss those precious opportunities to meet Bruce on the range; to shoot his priceless and rare wheel guns and I will miss his sense of humor late at night

when he found it difficult to sleep and therefore, sent me jokes and funny memes at all hours of the night.

I know many of you miss Bruce and have lots of stories and memories that you have collected over the years. A kind, gentle, man with a huge heart and a life full of passion. Hold onto these memories, remember him when you find yourself holding a revolver in your hands, an arrow in your bow, or a costume reminiscent of the renaissance era.

You are truly missed by so many of us. We could never forget you. Rest in Peace, Sheriff B!

Jenaraye Graham





Junior MQP

Many of our Junior shooters participate in the NRA's Marksmanship Qualification Program. Recently three of our Junior Trap shooters achieved Distinguished Expert. Congratulations Keith Johnson, Lydia Shaaf, and Virgil Gordon. Great job!



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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 to have in the Newsletter?
Email the club Secretary,
Debbie Harris at avgc.dbharris@gmail.com

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