

STATE SHOTS



Affiliated with the NRA and CMP

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2A Supporters March for Gun Rights in N.C.

by A1F Staff

Thursday, July 26, 2018

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<https://www.americas1stfreedom.org/articles/2018/7/26/2a-supporters-march-for-gun-rights-in-nc/>



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Dozens of gun rights supporters didn't let the threat of heavy rain drown their voices on behalf of the Second Amendment's right to keep and bear arms in Hillsborough, N.C.

A speaker and attendees hit the nail on the head in terms of why the right is held so dear by many Americans: "Only the misuse of a gun is wrong," one speaker told the undaunted crowd. A participant, when asked why the Second Amendment is important, said, "because the police can't be everywhere."

The demonstrators abided by state law, which says carry is not permitted at public rallies. Instead, they donned empty holsters.

Mark Robinson, a video of whom went viral when he addressed the Greensboro City Council about gun rights, was the featured speaker. He had earlier been invited to speak at the NRA's ILA Leadership Forum in Dallas this past May.

The assembly was conducted peaceably.

"We're not trying to incite people or rabble-rouse," Ashley Campbell, an event organizer, said in an interview before the march. "One of our goals is to provide an opportunity for local officials, who mostly promote gun control, to listen to their constituents' concerns. Most interactions between constituents and their representatives have it the other way around."



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Fred Edgecomb, President

Nick Hopman, Editor
newslettereditor@ncrpa.org

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NCRPA Board of Director Meetings

The NCRPA Board of Director Annual Meeting is scheduled for December 2. The location for all of the Board meetings is the Moore County Wildlife & Conservation Club located in Moore County. The membership is welcome at all the meetings. The annual meeting should have some guest speakers of interest. The details for the annual meeting will be announced in future State Shots.

Henry Golden Boy Raffle



ABOUT THE GUN

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- Thomas Jefferson, letter to to John Cartwright, 5 June 1824



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Thank you to 92 shooters, SOs, stage designers, everyone!, for making the 5th Annual running of North Carolina Rifle and Pistol Association's NC Shooting Sports Games IDPA match a success. Chief Hall (Coats PD) thanks for hanging out with us in the heat all day – and Anna thanks for letting him and driving him :) . We've got a lot of ground to cover this time. Stand by...

We'll start by giving an internet high-five to the North Carolina Rifle & Pistol Association (NCRPA). They are fighting the good fight for us in NC and they are directly promoting and building interest in firearms, hunting and shooting here in NC. Check them out and join: <http://www.ncrpa.org/>

Special Thanks to Tactical & Outdoor Wear for setting up, sponsoring and being with us at the match. On facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tacticalwears/> or their website: <https://tacticalwears.com/>



Manna Church Capital Area got us started with donuts and coffee, and our invocation. Thank You very much! On facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mannachurch-capitalarea/> or their website: <https://capitalarea.manna.church/>

Mister Bobby "solving the problem" (?) and earning the gold medal in CDP UN

Sean Sorrentino's match video at facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sean.sorrentino/videos/10211676812059081/?t=0> or at youTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9CKBXIoGhGE>

Super Brush donated \$500.00 worth of their Swab-its® products that were given away. We must say thank you and check out their products at: <https://www.swab-its.com/>

92 shooters, 95 degrees ("realfeelz" around 110 down in the bays) and we were done, cleaned up, scores posted, medals

given out, and off-range at 2:00PM. We must THANKS! to Carson Harrington, Eddie Simons, Jack Simons, Chris Welch, and of course Shari for getting the scores done during the match. [Sorry this is 'next day' – webguy had too many todos on Saturday, including...]

Happy 50th Birthday Chad and Brad Thompson. For the next year we're going to call him Chad Fih'Eee Cent Thompson. Action! We must interrupt these long posts with action shots. BB earning one of his TWO gold medals.



Action! We must interrupt these long posts with action shots. BB earning one of his TWO gold medals.

OK! a few announcements and we'll let you go.

Leanne: Gold in your DIV. Dean has your medal and we'll make sure you get it next match. And, yay again to you and Patrick.

We can't remember anything else right now. Here's the scores at practiscore: <https://practiscore.com/results/new/56557>

We're going to leave you with a photo this time.



The 1986 Plastic Gun Panic

How the gun control lobbies nearly tricked Congress into banning millions of ordinary guns.

David Kopel Aug. 7, 2018 6:39 pm

VOLOKH CONSPIRACY

Mostly law professors, blogging on whatever we please since 2002 · Hosted by The Washington Post, 2014-2017 · Hosted by Reason 2017 · Sometimes contrarian · Often libertarian · Always independent

Have you heard about the “undetectable plastic gun”? The gun control lobbies call it is “tailor-made for terrorism.” The Washington Post reports that a state sponsor of terrorism is already attempting to obtain these guns. A Post columnist warns that the police “vehemently oppose the introduction of plastic guns into our armed society.” Newsweek predicts the NRA will face a member revolt for opposing legislation to ban plastic guns: “This time the gun lobby may have shot itself in the foot.”

The above is not today's news. It's the news from 1985 to 1988, the years of the first plastic gun panic. The supposed “plastic gun” was the Glock pistol, which contains more than a pound of metal, and is easily identified by metal detectors.

Today, millions of Americans own Glock pistols, and they are widely recognized as among the most common and ordinary of handguns. But back in 1985, the Glock was brand new, and the gun control lobbies found a brand new opportunity to terrify the American public. Many politicians and much of the press were eager to embrace the panic. Congress came close to enacting a wide-ranging gun ban.

This article tells the story of the first plastic gun panic.

The origins of the first plastic gun

In 1963, Gaston Glock, an Austrian engineer, created the Glock company. The Glock factory was near Vienna, in Deutsch-Wagram. It manufactured plastic and steel products, including curtain rings. After developing expertise in products combining plastic with steel, Glock became an Austrian army supplier field knives, machine gun belts, practice hand grenades, plastic clips, and entrenching tools.

In the early 1980s, the Austrian army asked a wide variety of manufacturers to submit bids to manufacture a new duty pistol. Although Glock had never made firearms before, it was invited to bid. Glock won the contract for what became the Glock 17 pistol. The Glock was the first firearm to use plastic polymers.

Most parts of the Glock 17 were still made of

metal: the upper receiver, the barrel, the trigger assembly, the magazines, and so on. But the frame was made of plastic polymers. The frame is the biggest part of the gun; it is the structure to which all the other parts are attached. The Glock's plastic frame weighed only 14% as much as a steel frame, yet was stronger.

The stronger frame helped the gun absorb recoil better, thus improving accuracy and comfort for the user. The much lighter frame also made the Glock more comfortable to carry or wear for extended periods.

Even without the plastic, the Glock would have been a major innovation. Nobody had ever made a modern full-sized pistol with so few parts. The Glock was easy to disassemble and reassemble for cleaning. Compared to other pistols of the time, it was less likely to jam or misfire because of lack of cleaning. The gun was also extremely sturdy, and resistant to cracking or other damage even after firing thousands of rounds of ammunition.

After being adopted by the military and law enforcement in Austria, the Glock 17 began to find a world-wide market. Norway was the first NATO country to adopt it. In 1985, Glock opened an office in Smyrna, Georgia, the first of what would be Glock offices around the world.

As explained in Paul M. Barrett's book *Glock: The Rise of America's Gun*, the company aimed its initial promotions at the law enforcement market. The light weight and other improvements made the gun naturally attractive to officers and deputies. And Glock offered very generous terms to adopting agencies, including buying the agencies' former service handguns.

As law enforcement agencies adopted the Glock, other citizens could see that the new-fangled “plastic” guns were reliable and effective for lawful defense of self and others. Lawful defense is the only reason that law enforcement officers carry firearms. American citizens have always looked to law enforcement officers for good examples of appropriate arms for keeping the peace. That was true for the 1873 Colt “peacemaker” revolver and over a century later for the Gllocks.

In 1986 the Washington Post sounds the alarm about plastic guns

“Qaddafi Buying Austrian Plastic Pistol.” That was the headline from columnists Jack Ander-

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October 20 & 21

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clark2245@gmail.com

son and Dale Van Atta in Washington Post on January 15, 1986. According to the article, "The Libyans are said to be trying covert methods to obtain these weapons."

Today, Glocks are ubiquitous, one of the most common pistols, with many models. But in January 1986, they were little known in America, where only a few thousand had been sold.

Swiftly, the gun control lobbies began warning Americans about the "plastic pistol." They dubbed them "terrorist specials" or the "Hijackers Special." Supposedly, this plastic gun was designed to sneak through metal detectors.

Government experts explain that the Glock—and all other handguns, are readily detectable

Phillip McGuire testified to Congress on behalf of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. McGuire was not exactly an opponent of gun control. He would later take a job with the leading gun control group of the day, Handgun Control, Inc. McGuire testified before Congress:

There is still no evidence that we hold that a firearm intrinsically capable of passing undetected through conventional x-ray and metal detector systems exists or is feasible under any current technology immediately available to us.

Testimony of Phillip C. McGuire, Associate Director, Office of Law Enforcement, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms before the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, July 28, 1987.

At that same hearing, Raymond A. Salazar, Director of Civil Aviation Security for the Federal Aviation Administration testified: "We are aware of no current 'non-metal' firearm which is not reasonably detectable by present technology and methods in use at our airports today."

FAA Director for Civil Aviation Security Billie Vincent told Congress: "despite a relatively common impression to the contrary, there is no current non-metal firearm which is not reasonably detectable by present technology and methods in use in our airports today, nor to my knowledge is anyone on the threshold of developing such a firearm."

Congress was shown photos of Glocks under a metal detector, reveal that the Glock's easily visible profile. Even when the Glocks were disassembled, the photos showed the parts to be easily detected.

Sen. Metzenbaum's gun ban gains momentum
In the late 1980s, the Senate's leading gun control advocate was Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio). In the November 1986 elections, Democrats won control of the U.S. Senate, and Joe Biden (D-Del.) would be the new Chair of the

Senate Judiciary Committee. The party change much improved the prospects for gun control bills getting a committee hearing and a floor vote.

In February 1987 Sen. Metzenbaum introduced legislation to outlaw all guns that contained less than 8.5 ounces of steel, because such guns could supposedly pass through metal detectors easily. (The original bill can be found in the Feb. 4, 1987, Congressional Record, at page S1792. The Library of Congress' Thomas website does not have full texts of bills from this period.) The original Metzenbaum bill would have allowed grandfathered owners to retain possession, but not to sell or transfer them. So upon the demise of a grandfathered owner, the heirs would immediately become illegal possessors of contraband.

The Metzenbaum bill did not ban the Glock, which contains 19 ounces of steel. The Glock was winning adoptions by law enforcement at a rapidly increasing rate. It was no longer plausible to claim that these law enforcement handguns were "terrorist specials."

Instead, the Metzenbaum bill banned many small handguns. Again, the BATF had testified that these too were readily detectable.

According to the NRA (American Rifleman, Jan. 1988), the Metzenbaum bill covered many derringers (up to .38 caliber) as well as .22 or .25 caliber handguns from companies including Beretta, Colt, North American Arms, Raven Arms, Rossi, Smith & Wesson, Stevens, and Walther.

The bill's use of "steel" rather than "metal" for the minimum weight made a big difference. Many guns use zinc or aluminum in alloys. The thirteen ounce .25 caliber Raven pistol was made with zinc alloy, and had only 3.2 ounces of pure steel. Similarly, the Beretta 950 weighed over nine ounces, but the frame was aluminum alloy, so the gun's steel weight was less than 8 1/2 ounces. Small

handguns had long been a target of the gun control lobbies. The lobbies had been unable to prohibit such guns nationally by calling them "Saturday Night Specials." Now, small handguns were again set for prohibition—supposedly because they had something to do with the fuss about "plastic guns."

Other handguns, including historic models, had frames made from iron, brass, bronze, rather than steel. They too were set for prohibition.

In early December 1987, Metzenbaum tried to attach his legislation to a bill to increase aid to veterans. He narrowly fell short, 44 to 47 (counting two Senators not present, but who said they would have voted for the bill).

Senators Howard Metzenbaum found a powerful cosponsor for his gun ban: South Carolina Republican Strom Thurmond. Thurmond was the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He had first come to national attention in 1948 when he bolted the Democratic Party to run for President as a "Dixiecrat." Thurmond and his supporters objected to the civil rights plank in the party platform, which had been spearheaded by Minneapolis Mayor (and future Vice-President) Hubert Humphrey.

Thurmond had a long career as governor and

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senator from South Carolina. In 1964, he became a Republican. He was the opposite of a civil libertarian, and a frequent sponsor of legislation that opponents said would infringe much of the Bill of Rights. (See, e.g., Being from South Carolina, Thurmond sometimes voted "pro-gun." Yet later, in the first Bush administration (1989-92), Thurmond took the lead in supporting administration gun control proposals, even when most other Republican Senators refused to go along. For example, one Bush-Thurmond theme was legislation to simultaneously abolish the Exclusionary Rule and enact more gun control.

Over in the House of Representatives, leading gun control advocate Mario Biaggi (D-Bronx, later imprisoned for felony corruption) had an even more ambitious "plastic gun" proposal. He favored prohibiting any firearm "substantially constructed of plastic or other nonmetal material." This would cover all long guns, since their stocks are made of wood or plastic, not metal. The ATF's McGuire testified that the Biaggi "definition covers almost every existing rifle and shotgun in commerce and almost any handgun using rubber, wood or plastic oversized grips."

Although the Biaggi idea did not advance, Metzenbaum was making progress. Even the Reagan Department of Justice was poised to endorse a "plastic" gun ban. Only the intervention of Vice President Bush (who was running for President, and seeking gun-owner support) stopped the DOJ. The "plastic gun" panic from 1986 had been cultivated so well by gun control advocates that they could still use the momentum to ban something that could be called "undetectable."

Congress passes the Undetectable Firearms Act

Given the apparent imperative to "do something," pro-rights legislators had introduced alternative legislation. House Majority Leader Thomas Foley (D-Spokane) introduced H.R. 4014, the Firearms Detection Act of 1988. It garnered 95 cosponsors, most notably Rep. John Dingell (D-Arbor), who was a member of the NRA Board of Directors. In the Senate, similar legislation came from Sen. James McClure (R-Idaho), who had been the lead Senate sponsor for the Firearms Owners Protection Act of 1986, a major reform of federal gun control laws.

What resulted was a compromise, the Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988, H.R. 4445. Its sponsor was William Hughes (D-N.J.), chair of the House Subcommittee on Crime, and a leading gun control advocate. Hughes was willing to negotiate, and produced a bill that won unani-

mous support from the House Judiciary Committee and NRA endorsement. The minimum steel weight was reduced to 3.7 ounces, which must be in the general shape of a handgun. Language that arguably would have given the Secretary of the Treasury gun-banning discretion was removed. Industry research on prototypes was protected. As enacted, the bill banned no firearm that had ever been made, including the Glock. The Act is codified at 18 U.S. Code section 922(p).

Defense Distributed and the UFA

The Texas company Defense Distributed company has produced files for the production of a singles-shot plastic handgun, which it calls the "Liberator" pistol. It is named for a single-shot Liberator handgun distributed by the United States to anti-Nazi resistance forces in Europe during World War II. The gun can be manufactured in a home workshop with a 3D printer. Complaint with the UFA, the Liberator includes the legally-required amount of metal, with a handgun profile. In prior litigation with Defense Distributed, the U.S. State Department expressly acknowledged that the Liberator complies with the UFA.

All of the other Defense Distributed files are instructions for how to make conventional metal firearms at home with a milling machine. These are files cut blank pieces of metal to manufacture the Colt 1911 (pistol, named for the year of its introduction), the Ruger 10-22 (.22 caliber rifle, introduced 1964), the AR-15 (introduced 1965), AR-10 (1956), vz 58 (Czech rifle, 1958), and Beretta 92FS (pistol, 1976). Home manufacture of firearms has always been legal in the United States, and has been going on since the early 1600s.

If you believe the Defense Distributed files are for 3D printing of an AR-15 or any firearm other than a one-shot pistol, you can inspect the files for yourself at <https://www.codeisfreespeech.com/>. That website is run by a coalition of California Second Amendment groups. The temporary restraining order issued by the federal district court from the Western District of Washington simply prevents the U.S. State Department from issuing Defense Distributed a license to export said files. The U.S. government has never claimed that it has any legal authority to block distribution of the files within the U.S. to U.S. citizens. Even if the Defense Distributed website were to permanently close tomorrow, the files have been downloaded and shared hundreds of thousands of times since they were first posted in 2013.

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Fold

Fold

Consequences of the 1986-88 plastic gun debate and its aftermath

Massachusetts Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy, a strong anti-gun advocate, had remarked that the “plastic gun” issue was an opportunity “to get the debate on handgun control back on the right track.” Indeed, the gun control lobbies in 1988 got to tell their members, correctly, that the lobbies had actually pushed a bill into law. The Act was the first time that Congress had actually voted to ban a type of gun—albeit a type that did not exist and had never existed.

The 1988 Act helped set the stage for the 1994 Congressional ban on “assault weapons.” Conceptually, the 1988 and 1994 bills were very different. Yet the gun control lobbies were prescient that voting to ban things that don’t exist can be a gateway to banning things that do.

For example Nebraska Democratic Senator James Exon had a generally pro-Second Amendment voting record. Yet in November 1993, he explained on the Senate floor why he was supporting Senator Feinstein’s “assault weapons” ban:

Those who have been here long enough will probably remember that as the plastic gun problem. Plastic guns were becoming very common. They were guns that could be smuggled very easily through any surveillance system at an airport, for example, or any public facility where we have certain regulations and equipment in place to detect weapons.

I crossed the NRA on that particular proposition, and we were able to solve that finally by not outlawing plastic weapons but requiring, by law, that the weapons no longer be invisible to screening devices in public places because they had to have something that would show up on the screen that does the screening when we go through, for example, airport security.

Congressional Record, vol. 139, No. 156—part II, Nov. 9, 1993.

The leading promoter of the 1986 plastic gun panic was Handgun Control, Inc. In 2001, the group changed its name to the “Brady Campaign,” belatedly realizing that many Americans were skeptical about being controlled. So instead of saying “gun control,” the group now says “gun safety.” An officer of the anti-gun “Million Mom March,” which was later absorbed by the Brady group, explained: “Changing the name from Handgun Control to the Brady Campaign will have a positive effect, especially since this organization is a key player in the fight against the powerful gun lobby. The word ‘control’ suggested that gun safety advocates want-

ed control over gun rights activists by infringing on their Second Amendment right to bear arms. This couldn’t be farther from the truth.” Karie Stakem, Letter to the Editor, “Gun ‘Control’ Isn’t Our Aim—Just Gun Safety,” *Virginian-Pilot & Ledger Star*, June 29, 2001, at B10, available at 2001 WLNR 2096578.

The name may have changed, but the principles remain the same. In a 2016 amicus brief supporting the U.S. State Department’s prior restraint against the Defense Distributed company posting gun manufacturing files on the Internet, the Brady brief pointed out: “The UFA was passed in part in response to reports that then Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi was in the process of buying more than 100 plastic handguns that would be difficult for airport security to detect. Jack Anderson, Dale Van Atta, Qaddafi Buying Austrian Plastic Pistols, *The Washington Post*, Jan 15, 1986.” Brady Center amicus brief, *Defense Distributed v. United States Department of State*, 2016 WL 704978 (5th Cir. 2016).

The words in the Brady brief was literally true—although a more candid amicus might have informed the court that so-called “plastic handguns” of 1986 were actually not “difficult for airport security to detect.” A candid amicus might have also explained that the “plastic handguns” were Glock pistols, which are now recognized as common, constitutionally-protected handguns.

The 1988 law ended efforts to ban the use of plastic polymers in firearms. The only place where Glocks were prohibited was New York City. There, the police refused to issue handgun permits for Glock pistols. A police spokesman “said that the police banned the pistol because it was partly plastic and difficult to detect electronically.”

But former NYPD officer Stephen D’Andrilli was running a business that helped guide New Yorkers through the City’s arduous gun licensing process. When the Department rejected a client’s application to purchase a Glock, D’Andrilli fired a freedom of information request, and discovered that Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward was licensed to carry a Glock 17. The Department claimed that Commissioner Ward’s Glock carrying was “part of a controlled test.” (N.Y. Times, Sept. 28, 1988.)

The day after Ward’s Glock was revealed, the Department rescinded the ban on Glocks. The Department announced that it had concluded that the Glock can “in fact can be detected with today’s present technology in the security field.” According to the Department, the Glock ban would have been lifted in the next week;

the revelation about Ward’s Glock had only affected the timing of when the decision would have been made. (N.Y. Times, Sept. 29, 1988.)

D’Andrilli, now retired, runs a website that provides research and advocacy on firearms policy issues, and offers New Yorkers guidance on how to comply with the state’s confusing gun control laws.

Post-1988, the Glocks continued to catch on with police commissioners and everyone else. By 1999, Glock had sold two million American pistols, in a wide variety of calibers and sizes.

Today, any gun store will have modern handguns and long guns from many manufacturers that use plastic polymers. Plastics are a very ordinary thing for modern firearms. They make guns better for all lawful purposes, including self-defense. Guns in the right hands save lives. Better guns for lawful defense save more lives. Yet in the late 1980s, gun control groups started a technophobic panic over life-saving improvements in gun safety and then tried to ban many firearms by inaccurately claiming that they were undetectable.

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GIRLS AND GUNS

Text and photos by Cindy Harding, Program Founder

Reprinted from the Pennsylvania Shooters Association, May/June 2018 Newsletter

I grew up in a house with guns. My dad is a lifelong hunter, and my brother hunts and also shot in a 4-H marksmanship club when he was young, but despite all the other nontraditional things my dad taught me (how to tie a fisherman's knot, how to do a valve job on a small engine, among them), safe gun handling was —oddly— not something I learned.

Fast forward a couple of decades. I found myself living my adult life in a house with guns. I married a hunter and I had four boys who all took up hunting and gun ownership and who shot in the same 4-H club my brother had. It wasn't unusual for me to find half a dozen long guns lined up on the dining room table in the days before buck season, or to have to make room on the kitchen counter so someone could clean a gun after a day on the field. Though when my husband and the boys or my dad and brother talked guns, and ammo, it was like they were speaking a foreign language:

Two-seventy long mag. Double barrel four-ten. I didn't understand and I was, if not fearful, definitely uncomfortable around their guns. It wasn't that my men didn't want me to be knowledgeable; teaching me safe gun handling was just never a priority. In their defense, I never asked. I had no interest in hunting. And plinking, or target shooting, was just a guy thing at our house —guns were a guy thing at our house. I stayed, and was perfectly happy, in the kitchen, cooking whatever my great white hunters brought home.

What changed that? No one thing, really. I didn't have an epiphany. It was more a perfect storm of things: I found myself in an empty nest and wanted, needed, a challenge, to tackle something new, something that would push me outside of my comfort zone. I watched a movie where the heroine confidently picked up her husband's shotgun and defended herself against an intruder. I realized I had things on my "someday to do" list and that those

things were never going to happen unless I made them a priority; my somedays were not infinite. (That soul searching likely had something to do with the above referenced empty nest.) And then, gun violence was in the news all the time; guns and gun owners were being demonized. I had grown up in a house, in a place, where hunting and guns were practically a religion and I knew that guns, and all gun owners were not evil. But fear sells. It can also make us victims.

The contrarian in me rebelled at that. The independent thinker my dad raised me to be didn't like that the media was force - feeding the world such a rabid anti-gun message. I just decided it was time. Past time, really. I was tired of being ignorant and I didn't want to be afraid of guns. I wanted to speak, or at least understand, the language the men in my life all speak. And maybe, most importantly, I wanted my daughter, the youngest in the family, to learn about guns as well, to have the knowledge that would empower her when, if, she ever found herself in the presence of a gun or guns, and not just the ones in our house. I didn't want her to be afraid. In hindsight, it seems so obvious that basic, safe gun handling was something I should have learned years earlier, but late, I decided, was better than not at all.

My husband said, "I can teach you whatever you want to know." After thirty - plus years of marriage I knew how that would go, and it wasn't what I had in mind. I wanted official, "real" instruction, not an afternoon in the pasture or in the woods at camp. I called, instead, Ernie Harpster, a family friend and the man who had coached my boys in that 4-H club, as well as my brother years earlier, and literally hundreds of other kids over the fifty or so years he was the Centre County 4-H shooting club leader. Ernie has coached kids who went on to shoot at the collegiate level and even one who was an Olympic shooter. Clearly, he was qualified to teach basic, safe gun handling. I explained what I wanted to learn, asked if he would instruct me and maybe a friend or two. "Sure," Ernie said. "We'll

meet at my hunting camp where I have a shooting range set up and three shooting benches. I'll get a couple of friends to help." "How many women should I bring?" "Ehh," Ernie thought out loud. "Nine would be a good number."

So I asked nine friends, all women who I knew were like me: they had guns in their house but were not hunters, or shooters, themselves. But it seemed everyone knew someone else who wanted to come and learn about guns, and I didn't want to turn anyone away. Thirteen women signed up. It was a bit of a surprise to me, and I think to Ernie and the guys, as well. The fact that guns and the shooting sports have been largely a male dominated pursuit adds intimidation to the fear factor for many women. It takes a certain amount of courage to overcome that intimidation. It was cool—inspiring—to know there were other women out there who wanted to stop being ignorant and afraid.

That first August, Ernie and his team put together a tremendous two evening course we sort of jokingly called Girls and Guns, one night of "classroom" instruction, and one evening on the shooting range, actually shooting all the guns we learned about the night before in the classroom: Girls and Guns was—is—very hands-on. The guys started by explaining the main parts of a gun, they had a few handouts, they had dozens of guns on hand. They explained, and using actual guns showed us, the differences between a shotgun and a rifle, between semi-autos and revolvers. They talked ammo—rimfire vs. center fire, they had cut open some shotgun shells so we could see what was inside, they brought a selection of bullets in various calibers. They covered the basics of licensing, concealed carry, scopes, muzzleloaders, gun safes, guns for hunting and guns for home/personal defense. We asked questions, hundreds of questions, and if I had to guess, I'd say half of them started with, "This is probably a dumb question . . . " Ernie and his guys, Scott Sipple and Gib Moyer, were patient, knowledgeable, and

clearly very happy to share their passion. They reassured us continually "there's no such thing as a dumb question." All three men are/were NRA certified instructors. Feedback that first year was enthusiastic.

But the next year, I heard from several friends or acquaintances who missed Girls and Guns and from two who wanted to take the course a second time, because there's just a lot of information to absorb. Another woman wanted to come again and bring her eight-year-old daughter. Other women I didn't know, who had heard about the course reached out. So I called Ernie and the guys and we held Girls and Guns, round two. This past summer (2017) was the fourth year. We've broadened our scope to include any/all women, even those who don't live in a house with guns, whose husbands don't hunt. We've had young mothers and grandmothers, pharmaceutical sales reps, bookkeepers, administrators, farmers, doctor's wives, paralegals, an architect, that eight-year-old, high school students, teachers. One of them suggested, "Every teacher in our school district should take this course," which is actually a really good idea.

Ernie and the guys have tweaked Girls and Guns each year, fine-tuning what works, what doesn't. Now, it's one evening (usually about three hours) in the "classroom," and a Saturday morning on the range, shooting the variety of guns talked about, demonstrated or handled during classroom night--guns the guys bring and ones participants bring from home--because Ernie feels strongly if we're going to be familiar and comfortable with a particular gun, it should be the one we have in our own house.

We learn about guns, but I think the biggest take-home, the biggest revelation, for most women is how empowering it is to push yourself outside of your comfort zone and conquer a fear. The most important consequence of Girls and Guns is the fact that we learn our own truths, and are no longer victims of misinformation, propaganda or someone else's agenda.

I spread the word, I promote, I advocate and facilitate. I guess I've become a disciple.

I've learned a lot of things attending G&G, undoubtedly the most unexpected is how much fun it is to shoot a shotgun. Thanks in large part to Scott Sipple, I've taken up shotgunning. I still have no interest in hunting any living thing, but I am totally, seriously, addicted to sporting clays. I bought my first gun, a Beretta 391 20ga., and my husband and I have spent literally hundreds of enjoyable hours together, in the outdoors, in the pursuit of breaking little clay birds. I've met a few other women who also like to shoot, and some who like to hunt. I've made a lot of new friends. I still advocate, I still promote. Now, more often than not, it's my gun on the dining room table, I'm the one cleaning my gun at the kitchen counter.

If you'd like to learn more about G&G or you'd like to host a G&G in your area, I can be reached at hardingshess-farm@aol.com

Postscript: Scott Sipple was an unofficial, and enthusiastic, ambassador of the shooting sports and all things gun until his tragic death in 2017. He had a passion for hunting and his dogs, extraordinary patience, and extensive knowledge of fire-

arms and ammunition as well as a great sense of humor which made him a perfect instructor for G&G. Scott was also one of Ernie's 4-H alums, and Scott's dad, Bill, had been a 4-H shooting club leader and NRA certified instructor, as well. Scott appreciated the importance of gun education and safe gun handling above all. He was a great big teddy bear of a guy who is missed every day by his family and friends. The Scott Sipple Foundation is a result of those who knew Scott wanting to honor his memory, and his love for shooting/hunting, conservation and stewardship.

Thanks to the Scott Sipple Foundation, the "curriculum" for Girls and Guns is now available to others who live too far from central Pennsylvania to attend here. The Foundation and its website are a work-in-progress but check for information: ScottSipple-Foundation.org.



Carrie Lightfoot is the founder of TWAW Shooting Chapters Inc., 501(c)3, and Owner of The Well Armed Woman, LLC, the largest and most trusted women's concealed carry resource in the USA, committed to bringing innovative products, training and support to women gun owners everywhere. She is an NRA Certified Instructor, author and speaker.

www.thewellarmedwoman.com



Find a chapter near you at
www.twawshootingchapters.org
info@twawshootingchapters.org

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DEFENSE AND SECURITY

Rhonda Allen

NRA Appointed Training Counselor
NC Concealed Carry Handgun Instructor -

The Well Armed Woman, NC State Leader

2505 Edgemont Road Wendell, NC 27591

phone: 919-625-2988

email: rhonda@apdsnc.com

<http://www.apdsnc.com/>



Gun Clubs & Associations of North Carolina

ALAMANCE COUNTY

Alamance Wildlife Club
Roger Phillips PO Box 55
Burlington, NC 27216
(336) 584-7744
www.alamancewildlifeclub.org/
contact.html

Durham Pistol and Rifle Club
Post Office Box 965
Durham, NC 27702
(336) 567-0981
www.dprc.org

Handgunners Inc.
4325 S. NC 49
Burlington, NC 27215
(336) 570-1015

ALLEGHANY COUNTY

Alleghany Rifle Association, Inc.
PO Box 986
Sparta, NC
Contact: Lou Morrison (Sec/Treas)
336-657-0878
Email: lou@alleghanyrifleclub.com
Web: www.alleghanyrifleclub.com

ASHE COUNTY

Ashe County Wildlife Club
PO Box 1229
West Jefferson, NC 28694
www.acwlc.org
(336) 246-9705

BLADEN COUNTY

Kelly Sportsmen's Club
944 Old Jones Road
Kelly, NC 28448 (910) 669-3030
ksclub@intrstannet

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

Ant Hill Shooting Club
Richard E. Timberlake
Leland, NC 28451
Home: (910) 371-6391
Fax: (910) 371-6391
Email: barb9re@aol.com
www.anthillrange.com/

Ant Hill Shooting Range
Hwy 211 at Midway Road
Bolivia, NC 28422
(910) 371-6391

Buccaneer Gun Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 11339
Wilmington, NC 20404
www.buccaneergunclub.org Outback
Shooting Range
6019 Simmons Road
Ash, NC 28420
(910) 287-5525

Ye Olde Gun Club &
Shooting Range
Route 211
Southport, NC
(910) 278-3763

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Asheville Rifle & Pistol Club
100 Sandy Spring Drive
Arden, NC 28704
(828) 684-1013 (range)
ashevillefirleandpistolclub.org

On Target Indoor Range
George Blazier
Arden, NC 28704-1652
Home: (828) 779-0654
Work (828) 274-0028
Fax: (828) 654-8232
Email: oblazier1@charternet
www.ncsection.org/OnTarget/
ontarget.htm

CABARRUS COUNTY

Long Creek Rifle & Pistol Club
Concord, NC
(704) 827-9077

CASWELL COUNTY

Caswell Ranch Shooting Sports
Dean Brevit
Prospect Hill, NC 27314
Office: (336) 562-2628
Email:
caswellranch@embarqmail.com

CATAWBA COUNTY

Catawba Valley Rifle & Pistol Club
4457 Rifle Range Road
Conover, NC 28613
(828) 256-8755

Catawba Valley Wildlife Club
PO Box 544
Hickory, NC 28603
(704) 462-2582
www.cwvc.org

Springs Road Gun Club

Indoor Shooting Range
3462 Springs Road NE
Hickory, NC 28601
(828) 638-6671
www.springsroadgun.com

CHATHAM COUNTY

Hickory Mountain Rifle and Pistol Club
422 N. Holly Avenue
Siler City, NC 27344
(919) 742-3017

CHARLESTON COUNTY, SC

Palmetto Gun Club
PO Box 12127
Charleston, SC 29422-2127
www.palmettogunclub.org

COLUMBUS COUNTY

The Gun Exchange Shooting Range
2440 Red Hill Road
Whiteville, NC 28472
(910) 642-5840

CRAVEN COUNTY

B & R Guns Outdoor Range
Rick Weigel
Havelock, NC 28532
Home: (252) 447-5826
Work: (252) 447-5476
Fax: (252) 447-5476
Email: brguns@cconnect.net

Craven County Law Enforcement Of-
ficers Association
P.O. Box 823
New Bern, NC 28563
(252) 633-5091
www.ccleoa.tripod.com

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Crosse Creek Rifle & Pistol Club, Inc.
c/o 1798 Potomac Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304
(910) 977-6200
Email: membership@CrosseCreekRi-
fleandPistolClub.com
www.CrosseCreekRifleandPistolClub.
com

Wagram Sportsman Association, Inc.
9540 Giles Road
Linden, NC 28356-9329
(910) 436-6264
Email: wpngr@aol.com

DARE COUNTY

Outer Banks Gun Club
PO Box 118
Mann's Harbor, NC 27953
obxgc.org
(252) 255-5055

DAVIDSON COUNTY

Piedmont Handgunners Association
P.O. Box 913
Thomasville, NC 27361
(336) 869-1865 www.phashoots.com

DURHAM COUNTY

Durham County Wildlife Club
3616 Hopson Road
Morrisville, NC 27560
(919) 544-1306
www.dwcw.info

NC Police Combat Pistol League
7315 Cassam Road
Bahama, NC 27503
(919) 620-0114
www.ncpolicepistolleague.com
info@ncpolicepistolleague.com

Nor-Sou Hunting Club
421 Grist Mill Lane
Durham, NC 27712

FORSYTH COUNTY

Yadkin Valley Sportsman Club
PO Box 186
King, NC 27021

GRANVILLE COUNTY

North State Shooting Club
Butner, NC
www.northstateshootingclub.com

HARNETT COUNTY

Range One Public Shooting & Gun
Shop
1333 Loop Road
Bunnlevel, NC 28323
(910) 893-9887
http://range-1.com

IREDALE COUNTY

Competitive Shooters of Statesville
Paul V. Hendrix
Jamestown, NC 27282-0070
Home: (336) 819-8070
Email: pvhendrix@yahoo.com

JOHNSTON COUNTY

Eastern North Carolina Pistol Club
3666 Highway 70 West
Princeton, NC 27569
(919) 920-5933

Shooters Club, LLC

PO Box 618
3966 Hwy 70
West Princeton, NC 27569

JONES COUNTY

Twin City Rifle Club, Inc.
PO box 158
Pleasant Hill, NC 27866-0158

LEE COUNTY

San-Lee Gun Club, Inc.
PO Box 2544 Riddle Road
Sanford, NC 27330

Deep River Sporting Clays
284 Cletus Rd,
Sanford, NC 27330
Bill Kempffer
919-774-7080

MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Mecklenburg Wildlife Club
2301 Wildlife Road
Charlotte, NC 28214
(704) 399-3733
Mailing Add: PO Box 668404
Charlotte, NC 28266

Richmont Hunt Club
426 Chillingworth Lane
Charlotte, NC 28211

MOORE COUNTY

Fayetteville, RSA Inc.
Jon Merricks
Vass, NC 28394
Home: (910) 245-4769
Work: (336) 613-3035
Fax: (910) 944-7575
Email: jmuspsa@yahoo.com
www.ncsection.org/FPSAlfpsa.htm

Gun Clubs & Associations of North Carolina

L&S Pistol Region Club
P.O. Box 1344
Pinehurst, NC 28370
(910)-295-4834
Moore County Wildlife & Conservation Club, Inc. 1820 Camp Easter Road
Carthage, NC 28337
www.mcwcc.org

Range 14 Marksmanship Committee
Jon D. Smith
Whispering Pines, NC 28327
Home: (910) 949-2535
Work: (910) 308-0302
Email: range-14@hotmail.com

NEW HANOVER COUNTY
Shooter's Choice
6789 Gordon Road
Wilmington, NC 28411
(910) 350-0GUN (0486)
www.shooterschoiceplus.com

ONSLow COUNTY
Flatwoods Gun Shop, Inc.
357 Riggs Road
Hubert, NC 28539
Phone: 910-353-7593

PENDER COUNTY
Stone Bay Firing Range
Camp Lejeune, NC
Coastal Carolina Rifle Club
4th Street
Surf City, NC 28445

PERSON COUNTY
Hycos Shooting Club
(336) 364-9700
www.hycosshootingclub.com.

PITT COUNTY
Down East Garand Shooters
Greenville, NC
Clint Randles
(252) 931-5575 (day)
(252) 774-9338 (evenings)
downeastgs@embarqmail.com

Paradise Hunting Preserve
3993 Bill Adams Road
Grimesland, NC 27837
(252) 746-2748
www.paradiseshuntingpreserve.com

Pitt County Wildlife Club
P.O. Box 101
Greenville, NC 27835
(252) 321-4378
www.pittcountylifeclub.org

POLK COUNTY
Polk County Gun Club
1243 Little Mountain Road
Columbus, NC
www.polkcountygclub.org

RANDOLPH COUNTY

Riverside Gun Club
PO Box 2817
Asheboro, NC 27204
(336) 889-2772
http://riversidegunclub.org

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY
Rockingham County Gun Club
2111 Scott Road
Brown's Summit, NC 27214
(336) 621-2513 after 6:00 p.m.
www.rockinghamcountygunclub.com/

ROWAN COUNTY
Marcel William's Range
East Rowan High School
175 Saint Luke's Church Road
Salisbury, NC 28146
(704) 279-1408

Rowan County Wildlife Association
P.O. Box 612
650 Majolica Road
Salisbury, NC 28145
(704) 202-3487
www.rcwanc.com

RUTHERFORD COUNTY
Asheville Practical Shooting Assoc.
Tyrone Phillips
Lake Lure, NC 28746
Home: (828) 691-0801
Work: (828) 691-0694
Email: ladygunlover@yahoo.com
http://apsagunclub.tripod.com/

Piedmont Gun Club
P.O. Box 1354
Rutherfordton, NC 28160
(828) 287-4736
www.piedmontgunclub.org

Walnut Grove Gun Club
Carmel Lane
Bostic, NC 28018
(828) 248-1405
Email: ross01@rfic.net

SAMPSON COUNTY
Coharie Shooting League
201 West Arrowhead Drive
Clinton, NC 28328
(910) 592-5279

STANLY COUNTY
Bear Creek Gun Club
Albermarle, NC
Efird's Rifle Range
20766c Saint Martin
Road Albermarle, NC 28001
(704) 982-3196

Tuckertown BR Range
Richfield, NC
(704) 933-2885

UNION COUNTY
Charlotte Rifle & Pistol Club (CPRC)
12833 E. Independence Boulevard
Stallings, NC 28105
www.cr-pc.org

WAKE COUNTY
Personal Defense & Handgun Safety Center, Inc.
301 Tryon Road
Raleigh, NC 27603
(919) 779-6880 www.pdhsc.com

Sir Walter Gun Club
Contact Martin Little
Raleigh, NC 27613
Home: (919) 846-6740
Work: (919) 323-5060
Email: uspsa@sirwaltergunclub.com
Range is in Creedmoor, NC
www.sirwaltergunclub.com

Shooting Sports, Inc.
PO Box 58753
Raleigh, NC 27658

Wake County Firearms Training and Education Center
3921 Old Holly Spring-Apex Rd.
Apex, NC 27539-9147
www.wakegov.com/firingrange/default.htm

WATAUGA COUNTY
Watauga Gun Club
P.O. Box 2316
Boone, NC 28607
(828) 264-6539

WAYNE COUNTY
US Practical Shooters Association, North Carolina Section
Richard Moser
Goldsboro, NC 27534
Home: (919) 735-9117
Email: rmoser38@bellsouth.net
www.ncsection.org

WILKES COUNTY
Blue Ridge Rifle & Pistol Association
PO Box 269
Millers Creek, NC 28651
Wade Parsons
(336) 973-3744

YADKIN COUNTY
Carolina West Shooting Club
P.O. Box 398
Nebo, NC 28761
(828) 659-9741
a6navy@hughes.net
www.carolinawestshooting.org

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Fred Edgecomb
106 Bluefish Lane
Kure Beach NC 28449
910-385-7733
fredgecomb@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT 2018

Sam Summey
103 Gordon Drive
Flat Rock NC 28731
828-606-3080
spsummey@bellsouth.net

SECRETARY 2018

Charles "Chuck" Danzer
177 Sury Lane
Hendersonville NC 28791
Sfhabu10@gmail.com

TREASURER 2018

Eli Colotta
10417 Crestwood Drive
Charlotte NC 28277
704-847-8847
elicolotta@aol.com

DIRECTOR 2017

George Valsame
203 Tom Avenue
Castle Hayne, NC 28429
gtv@ipass.net

DIRECTOR 2017

Clark Hardesty
1914 Basset Trail
Greensboro NC 27410
(336) 253-7302
clark2245@gmail.com

DIRECTOR 2017

David Prest
PO Box 4116
Pinehurst NC 28374
910-295-2480
dprest@pinehurst.net

DIRECTOR 2018

John Ayala

DIRECTOR 2018

Dave Meador
2720 Big Daddy's Rd
Pikeville NC 27863
919-735-2316
lizmeador@earthlink.net

DIRECTOR 2018

Vance Parker
1035 Chester Rd.
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 768-0481
vance@parkerlaw.com

DIRECTOR 2019

Brian Silva
656 Broadmoor Court
Grimesland, NC 27837
silva_brian@hotmail.com

DIRECTOR 2019

H.J. "Walt" Walter
PO Box 39
Flat Rock NC 28731
828-693-9904
Hwalter2@earthlink.net

DIRECTOR 2019

Keith Miller
210 Sevenstone Dr
Cary NC 27513
atlshrug@pobox.com

PAST PRESIDENT

David McFarling
2204 Old Oxford Road
Chapel Hill NC 27514
mcfarlingdh@gmail.com

SMALLBORE RIFLE

Sam Ballard (v)
1297 Bumside Rd.
Manteo, NC 27954
(252) 473-1395
Sam_sailor@yahoo.com

CONVENTIONAL PISTOL

Clark Hardesty
(336) 253-7302
clark2245@gmail.com

GUN SHOW COORDINATOR

David E. Fitzmorris (v)
P.O. Box 10173
Goldsboro, NC 27532
(919) 736-2853
dfitznra@aol.com

HIGH POWER RIFLE

David McFarling
2204 Old Oxford Rd.,E.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
mcfarlingdh@gmail.com

HUNTER-SAFETY

Rick Swaim
212 Four Sons Farm Rd.
Dobson, NC 27017
(336) 374-4822
rkswatm@mynra.com

LAW ENFORCEMENT LIAISON

Brian Silva
656 Broadmoor Court
Grimesland, NC 27837
silva_brian@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

David Prest
P.O. Box 3155
Pinehurst, NC 28374
(910) 295-2480
dprest@pinehurst.net

NRA TRAINING COUNSELOR

Instructor Liaison
Eric Shuford
207 Travilah Oaks Lane
Cary, NC 27518-2245
(919) 363-0658
eshuford@earthlink.net

RANGE DEVELOPMENT

Dave Meador
2720 Big Daddy's Rd.
Pikeville, NC 27863
(919) 735-2316
lizmeador@earthlink.net

SILHOUETTE RIFLE / PISTOL

Vacant

TOURNAMENTS

David McFarling
2204 Old Oxford Road
Chapel Hill NC 27514
mcfarlingdh@gmail.com

YOUTH PROGRAMS

David Prest
P.O. Box 3155
Pinehurst, NC 28374
(910) 295-2480
dprest@pinehurst.net

NRA Contacts

NRA REP - EASTERN NC

Lloyd Edwards
P.O. Box 608
Norlina, NC 27563
(252) 456-2097
(252) 456-2154 fax
(252) 722-3168 cell
ledwards@nrahq.org

NRA REP - WESTERN NC

Robert "Doug" Merrill
P.O. Box 441
Fairview, NC 28730
(828) 628-0410

NRA—ILA LIAISON

Anthony Roulette
11230 Waples Mill Dr.
Fairfax, VA 22030
(703) 267-1215
aroulette@ghtrahq.org

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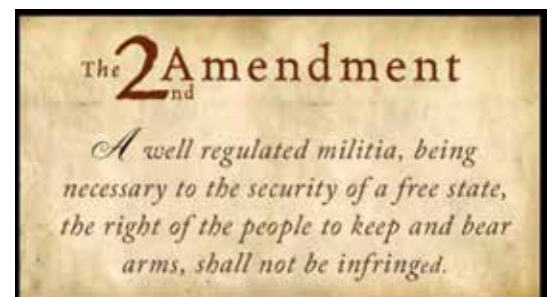
Edie Fleeman
5000 Mandel Road
Durham, NC 27712
(919) 389-9710
edie.nra@gmail.com

NRA BOARD MEMBER

H.J. "Walt" Walter (v)
P.O. Box 39
Flat Rock, NC 28731
(828) 693-9904
hwalter2@earthlink.net

NRA Board Member

Bob Sanders
109 Candlewyck Drive
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 659-2999
gunlaw@triad.r.com



NRA GUN SAFETY RULES

I'm sure everyone already knows and obeys the rules, but a bit of a refresher never hurts.

The fundamental NRA rules for safe gun handling are:

ALWAYS

Keep The Gun Pointed In A Safe Direction

This is the primary rule of gun safety. Common sense dictates the safest direction, depending on different circumstances.

ALWAYS

Keep Your Finger Off The Trigger Until Ready To Shoot

When holding a gun, rest your finger alongside the frame and outside the trigger guard. Until you are actually ready to fire, do not touch the trigger.

ALWAYS

Keep The Gun Unloaded Until Ready To Use

If you do not know how to open the action or inspect the chamber(s), leave the gun alone and get help from someone who does.

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NRA

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<https://membership.nrahq.org/forms/signup.asp?campaignid=XC005400>

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Junior Member fee (under 18) 1yr=\$10

Magazine Choices are American Rifleman, American Hunter, Americas First Freedom, Shooting Illustrated.

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Last Name or Club Name First Name MI

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birthday _____ / _____ / _____ Phone (_____) _____ NRA# _____

Email Address _____

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Club Affiliation Membership New Membership Renewal

State Rep District _____ State Senate District _____

U.S. Representative District _____ County _____

mail to: **David Prest, Membership Secretary**
P.O. Box 4116
Pinehurst, NC 28374