



A PUBLICATION OF THE MOUNTAIN COUNTRY ROD & GUN CLUB, MURPHY, NC

# MCR&GC NEWS



SUMMER 2025

## Club Insight

We waited a bit, but the wait is over and seemingly well worth it. The club's [new website](#) is operational and ready for you to share with family, friends, co-workers, neighbors or anyone you meet who shares the love of fishing, hunting or the shooting sports. It's designed to serve as an informational and recruitment tool. If you haven't yet done so, please take some time to look through all its available pages.

Have any suggestions for the website? We'd love to hear about them. Email your input to [webmaster@mtncrgc.com](mailto:webmaster@mtncrgc.com).

As you may know, the Mountain Country Rod & Gun Club was formed in 1999 by a small group interested in shooting sporting clays. Of course, it grew into much more. What many people do not realize is, the Panther Top Shooting Range was built by the club following an agreement with the

U.S. Forestry Service. That agreement requires the MCR&GC to manage and maintain the upkeep of the range. Without the club's existence, the USFS would close it.

The Panther Top Shooting Range officially opened on August 20, 2005, which means the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that opening will occur this summer.

Every worthwhile endeavor happens because someone shoulders the burden of making it happen. Margaret Mead said: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

When any opportunity arises to introduce someone to the MCR&GC, take advantage of it. The [website](#) is your tool for sharing our message. People tend to enjoy being invited to be a part of something. Invite them.



### Survey Says...

In the Spring edition we asked readers to complete an online survey regarding their impressions of the *MCR&GC News*. First, thank you to those who took the time to respond to the short survey. Feedback is important to any publication, and we sincerely appreciate yours.

Here's what you told us:

1. 100% of poll respondents read the entirety of each newsletter.

2. 72% felt the publication contains mostly interesting and relevant information, while 28% indicated only some of the information was interesting and relevant.
3. 86% told us the newsletter maintains a good balance, but 14% indicated the shooting sports were overrepresented.
4. All respondents said they like the column, "A Place You May Not Know."
5. A hundred percent of respondents said they believe the newsletter adds value and reflects well on the MCR&GC.

**A note on content:** a diversity of material is easier to achieve when members submit information or ideas. Without that, the things we write about is limited to what we are able to find locally, through online sources, or word of mouth, on topics of interest which we believe might prove beneficial.

Please, if anyone has ideas or suggestions for future articles, or are aware of related events, we'd love to hear about them. Email them to us at [webmaster@mtncrgc.com](mailto:webmaster@mtncrgc.com).

Thank you again to everyone who shared your feedback with us.



## Got Your Club Cards?

To help promote the MCR&GC's new website, we've produced high-quality

business cards bearing the club's new logo, the web address, and on back is a QR code to allow quick access to the site with a mobile device.

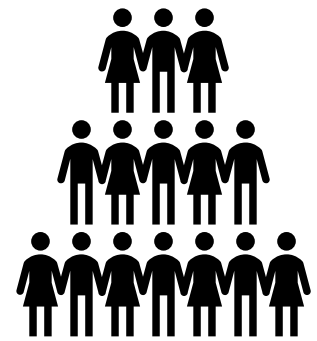
Our new website has been designed to not only introduce the club, but also to serve as a recruiting tool and information hub. There's lots of useful data for those willing to examine all it contains.

The best website on the planet is useless if few people see it. That's where the cards come in. We all encounter people we don't know at the grocery store, auto repair shop, gun stores, outfitters, bait and tackle, etc. If you strike up a conversation with anyone wearing a hunting, fishing or shooting-themed t-shirt, or perhaps they have a related car decal, you might ask, "Are you familiar with the Mountain Country Rod & Gun Club?" If they aren't, hand them a card and say, "Take a look at this website. We'd like to have you consider joining."

Encourage them to look through all the pages as there is lots of information that's intended to work in unison in presenting the club.

Feel free to expand upon your pitch if the moment is right, but the idea is for the website to do most of the work. Still, there's no better way to get someone to join than to ask them. If we can at least expand awareness of the club through the website, growing our membership is bound to follow.

If you are unable to pick up some cards at a meeting, email us at [webmaster@mtncrgc.com](mailto:webmaster@mtncrgc.com) and we'll tell you how to get them.



## Club Meeting Notes

During the April meeting, Michael Howe introduced the long-awaited new club website. Using the excellent video capabilities at Choices, attendees were shown the entire website and its capabilities. You'll find it at [www.mtncrgc.com](http://www.mtncrgc.com).

Michael introduced the proposal of producing business cards containing the club's logo and web address so that members could hand them out asking potential members to take a look at the website. It was suggested adding a QR code to the card might enhance its use.

Pete Adamovich, who coordinates concealed carry applications processing for the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office, was the guest speaker.

Mr. Adamovich explained the CHP application process, and he stressed it is necessary to obtain an appointment as applying in person is a requirement. Calling the CCSO at 828-837-2589, Ext: 1440 will put you in contact with Pete.

CHP applications can be [accessed and printed online](#). Pete explained, many people misread Question #6 and answer incorrectly. The question asks if you are INELIGIBLE, not eligible.

Only cash or [continued on page 3]

**[Meeting Notes: continued from page 2]** checks are accepted for payment with CHP applications. Credit and debit cards are not.



**Pete Adamovich**

Pete confirmed that as of last year, Cherokee County still has the most CHPs per capita in North Carolina. Pete said he usually processes about 20 permits a week (includes new applications and renewals).

All first-time CHP applicants are required to successfully complete the NC certification course before applying. Classes completed in other states, or which are not NC certified, do not qualify. Being former law enforcement or a firearms instructor does not exempt any applicant from the required course.

Presently, [39 states](#) have reciprocal agreements with North Carolina recognizing each other's CHPs. Twenty-nine of those states have enacted Constitutional Carry (no permit required).

Mr. Adamovich said most CHP denials are due to domestic violence protection orders against them, or a recent DUI charge.

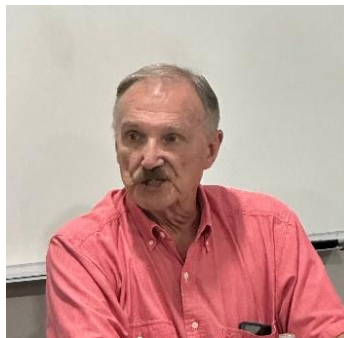
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During the May meeting, Michael Howe distributed the new club business cards to the members and encouraged them to look for

opportunities to introduce people to the club via the new website.

Michelle Howe reported meeting with representatives of the NRA's [Eddie Eagle program](#) while attending the recent NRAAM in Atlanta. She learned, as the MCR&GC is a non-profit, we can be provided program materials free of charge. A discussion ensued on how to make proper use of such training materials.

John Case, a gunsmith residing in Hiawassee, Georgia, was the evening's guest speaker. John has been in the business 35 years and credits his training to having worked with two highly skilled gunsmiths who mentored him in the craft.



**John Case**

John said some gunsmiths prefer to specialize in specific areas, such as restoration or accurizing specific types of firearms. He prefers a broad-spectrum approach in helping anyone to repair or improve their firearm.

John said fewer people are entering the field which is resulting in a shortage of available gunsmiths. He is presently looking for a young candidate to mentor in order to eventually replace him. He expressed concern for any reduction in availability of gunsmith services once he retires.

During the June meeting, Jeff Gustason advised planning remains ongoing for a club picnic.

Michael Howe updated the club on the status of [NC SB 50](#), and efforts in the Congress to include revisions to the National Firearms Act in the pending budget reconciliation bill.



**Efren Lopez**

Retired Miami-Dade Detective Efren Lopez was the guest speaker. In 2008, he led the mortgage fraud task force in Dade County during the real estate collapse of that period. He presented information on criminal fraud, much of it targeting seniors.

Efren is also retired from the U.S. Coast Guard (29 years) and served 17 years in the Army Reserve. He holds an accounting degree.

Efren said an American falls victim to fraud every 40 seconds, and 40% of the U.S. population reports having received suspicious emails, texts, phone calls, etc. In 2004, 1 in 3 Americans were victims of fraudulent acts. About 43% choose not to report being victimized because they are embarrassed, or don't want family to conclude they are incapable of managing their own finances.

States with the highest incidents of **[continued on page 4]**

[continued from page 3] reported fraud per 100,000 population: Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Nevada and Delaware, respectively.



## Fish Management Troubles

In an article<sup>1</sup> in the *Cherokee Scout*, the writer expressed dissatisfaction with the work of the [NC Marine Fisheries Commission](#) to adequately protect fish populations. The article suggests the reason may be due to overrepresentation on the commission by commercial fishing interests.

Some feel insufficient effort is being made to restock depleting fishing populations, and to impose and enforce sustainable harvesting limits.

A lawsuit against the state of North Carolina by the [Coastal Conservation Association of NC](#) is pending.

<sup>1</sup> "What happened to all the fish across the state?" *Cherokee Scout*. 30 April, 2025. Pg. 3B.



## Trout Tracking

The NC Wildlife Resources Commission has a [searchable database](#) the public can use to identify hatchery supported waters, areas where special regulations apply, or are designated catch and release. Just select a specific county, the category you wish to search, and then, "search." It's that easy.

Do you enjoy trout fishing in North Carolina? [Here is an article](#) on the top 30 trout streams in the Tar Heel State. The Nantahala River comes in at number five.



## Gun Rights Conference Returning to Knoxville

Gunowners of America (GOA) will host its second annual, [Gunowners Advocacy and Leadership Summit](#), August 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Knoxville Convention Center. The event features workshops, panels and speakers from the gun rights world.

Registration is now open for GOA members who wish to attend.

the courts rather than Congress and state legislatures.

For forty years, the SAF has sponsored free conferences where attendees hear presentations from the stars of the gun rights world. It is perhaps the most consolidated information and training event available to those seeking to learn more about the defense of individual gun rights, and the role they can play.

The 40<sup>th</sup> annual [Gun Rights Policy Conference](#) will be held in Salt Lake City, UT, September 26-28, 2025. The event moves about the country each year. Those interested in attending once the event returns east should monitor the GRPC webpage for updates.



## News from Raleigh

The NC General Assembly passed [SB 50](#), a bill that would remove the need for obtaining a permit in order to carry a concealed firearm in North Carolina. The bill does NOT change any other state firearms laws.

Anyone prohibited from presently carrying a firearm (criminal history, substance abuser, adjudicated incompetent, etc.) would remain prohibited from doing so.

Now that Governor Stein has vetoed the bill, if Republicans in the General **[continued on page 5]**



## 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Gun Rights Policy Conference Upcoming

The [Second Amendment Foundation](#) is a gun rights advocacy group with a unique mission. Rather than pursuing that mission via lobbying efforts, SAF initiates and finances litigation to challenge existing gun control laws. In essence, they fight for gun rights in

[News from Raleigh: continued from page 4] Assembly choose to override his veto, they will require the support of every Republican legislator, and at least one Democrat.

Republican representatives Brisson and Davis have previously voted against the bill. Grass Roots North Carolina is [urging supporters](#) to pressure the two Republicans to support any veto override.

Following passage of SB 50, the House passed [HB 811](#), a bill to fund firearms safety training using the NC community colleges. This is an effort to address the ability to carry concealed without any firearms training should SB 50 become law. HB 811 awaits consideration by the NC Senate.

In the event SB 50 does not become law, [HB 674](#) would allow the issuance of lifetime concealed carry permits. This bill was passed by the House and awaits consideration by the NC Senate.



### A Place You May Not Know

Summer has returned, and after a long, cold winter, everyone is ready to get out and explore. If you've traversed the mountains for years, perhaps you think there isn't much to do these days that you haven't already done. If so, stop thinking like a tourist and consider lesser-known spots to visit.

Near Athens, TN, and about 75 miles from the new Murphy traffic circle, lies the [Mayfield Dairy Farms Visitor's Center](#). You can tour their processing center and visit the gift and ice cream shops. Everyone likes ice cream, right?

Another spot is the [Sweetwater Valley Farm](#) known for their cheese production. It lies a little north of Athens and about 75 miles from the center of Murphy. In addition to cheese, Sweetwater boasts an onsite café.

Visiting the Sweetwater Farm costs \$16 per adult and \$10 for children (ages 3-11). Kids under 2 get in free. Sweetwater recommends you [book your tour online](#).

A relaxing day out can take many shapes. Simple can often prove the most stress-free.



### Did You Attend the NRAAM in Atlanta?

The 2025 National Rifle Association Annual Meetings are now history, and if you didn't attend, you missed a great opportunity given its close proximity to home. Next year's event will be in Texas.

If you've never had the experience, it's much more than a tradeshow.

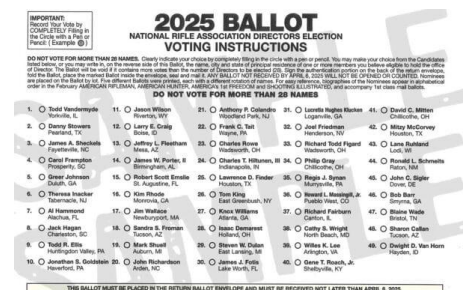
Numerous lectures and seminars are held each year, conducted by experts in their respective fields. Shooting and hunting celebrities make appearances, manufacturers show off their latest wares, and it's an opportunity to engage with the movers and shakers of the NRA.



Birdseye view of about 1/3 of the tradeshow floor in Atlanta.

There are of course other excellent gun rights organizations, but despite its troubles, the NRA remains the largest and most known, and anyone concerned about gun rights [should be a member](#).

Next year's NRAAM will be April 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> in Houston.



### Reformists Win NRA Board of Directors Election

Most longtime NRA members know of the struggles the organization has faced over the last several years following leadership failures. Although the largest gun rights [\[continued on page 6\]](#)

[**Reformists: continued from page 5**] advocacy group, the NRA's efforts of late left members wanting, and the NRA's membership numbers fell accordingly.

Calling themselves NRA 2.0, a slate of reform-minded candidates has won enough seats to take a majority on the Board of Directors. Determined to begin reform immediately, reformist [Bill Bachenberg then unseated NRA President Bob Barr](#) by a vote of 38 – 34.

Will this lead to a more aggressive and effective effort by the NRA to pursue gun rights across the nation? Supporters of reform are hopeful.



## Something You Might Have Missed

In April, the Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, declassified a Biden Administration document titled, "[Strategic Implementation Plan for Countering Domestic Terrorism.](#)" Although this is not the first time the public has seen portions of this document, it's the first time ALL of it has been publicly available.

Essentially, the plan was reported as one in which the federal government would monitor those deemed a potential domestic terrorist or similar threat. The administration called for the use of censorship, [debanking](#) and

gun control as tactics against such subversives.

On the surface, this approach might sound prudent; however, what the newly declassified version reveals is a call for federal law enforcement agencies to monitor, "incidents of concerning non-criminal behavior" (see: "Action. 2.1.1c" on page 6 of the plan).

If something isn't criminal, why might it merit the attention of law enforcement, especially in light of free expression and free speech?

The aforementioned report is written in bureaucratic language which means little to anyone not privy to the intentions of those who drafted and ultimately approved it. Anyone interested in the topic, especially those concerned about implications regarding personal freedom, should read the [analysis of the report](#) authored by researcher, Dr. John Lott.



## Editorial: The Politics of Clubs

When told Charles Lindberg had flown solo across the Atlantic, a famous politician of the time replied, "That's nothing. Let's see him do it with a committee."

In truth, what a club should be, and how it should allocate its resources often are topics not easily reconciled or agreed to. That's because clubs consist of people with diverse ideas

and values, and that makes it necessary to identify common ground in order to develop a direction for the club to take.

Not being active in local events does not necessarily indicate any organized group doesn't care. Their mission may be of a more subtle nature, and while it may prove invisible, it's not necessarily irrelevant. All contributions, whether fiscal or in-kind, add up.

No doubt we can agree, young people are our future and worth our investment, whether in time or resources. Doing so doesn't necessarily require direct involvement, but can be achieved via support for, or the implementation of programs which achieve a youth-driven outcome.

The [NRA's Eddie Eagle program](#) is one such opportunity. Contrary to misinformation, it does not teach firearms fundamentals. The program teaches kids two things: (1) if you find a firearm, don't touch it; (2) go tell an adult.

As a non-profit, the MCR&GC qualifies to receive the Eddie Eagle training materials free of charge. This allows us to consider how we might use them, or who we might partner with or provide such materials (schools, churches, civic groups, etc.).

Those who promote what matters tend to matter more themselves. Perhaps it's time to ponder how to make the MCR&GC matter more.

The next meeting of the  
**Mountain Country Rod & Gun Club**  
will be held  
July 15, 2025, 7:00 pm at  
Choices - Murphy Pregnancy Center  
1262 Andrews Road, Murphy, NC