



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

MCR&GC NEWS



SUMMER 2026

Club Insight

It's been a long-standing practice for club meetings to include a guest speaker. Members have expressed their appreciation for having those speakers, and they have represented a myriad of backgrounds and specialties which have made for interesting, and at times, compelling discussions and presentations.

This corner of the mountains contains many people with a wealth of experience they can share with the rest of us, or whose lives and careers make for compelling stories. Unlike fictional characters, the lives of real people are far more interesting because they recall tales of events which actually happened. That makes truth far more stimulating, and the insight presented often impacts our own perspective and how we tend to see things. It's the opportunity to reconsider our own perceptions and weigh them against

the experiences of others.

Identifying those with such careers or life experience can often prove a challenge. Most don't advertise themselves as someone with valuable information to impart. Over the years, club member Joe Liguori has faithfully coordinated speaker appearances, seeking those who've lived consequential lives, possess an acumen that offers much from which we can learn, and which allow us to enjoy listening to their exploits.

Do you know someone who would be a good candidate to share their thoughts and expertise? Anything related to hunting, fishing and the shooting sports is always good, but past speakers have included experts in conservation, as well as law enforcement and the military.

To suggest a speaker, email Jeff via president@mtncrgc.com.

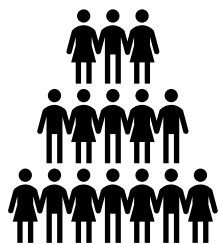


MCR&GC Members Abroad

Club members Michael and Michelle Howe recently returned from two weeks exploring the sites of London, and Kent in the south of England.

Murphy may be nestled in a remote corner of North Carolina, but with a major airline hub a little over two hours south, and access to major highways leading to all compass points within North America, opportunities await the intrepid.

Plan on venturing out? Share a photo and tell us about it. Email us at: webmaster@mtncrgc.com.



Club Meeting Notes

During the April meeting, President Jeff Gustason reminded the members of the club's plan to support the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office with a donation of ammo for training purposes. Member Joe Doty presented a report of his research into various outlets who might offer a discount. Ideas were shared with Sheriff Wood.



Cherokee County Sheriff Chris Wood

The evening's guest speaker was recently elected Sheriff Chris Wood. He discussed his plans for providing transparency in agency operations, implementing a proactive rather than reactive approach to law enforcement, getting the CCSO into the [Flock camera system](#), updated members about the new sheriff's auxiliary, and discussed the

concealed carry aspects of the recent shooting at Hotspot.

During the May meeting, due to technical difficulties, member Bob Lambert was unable to make a presentation to those in attendance. Also, President Jeff announced Ron Gensheimer had donated several gun-related items which were distributed by drawing as door prizes.

During the June meeting, club member, Bob Lambert made a video presentation and review of the Springfield Model 2020 Heatseeker rifle, and he shared fishing experiences with those in attendance. Bob is an NRA Senior Firearms Instructor and Chief Safety Officer.



Bob Lambert



ATF Proposes Changes to Form 4473

Every gunowner likely knows ATF

Form 4473 is the paper you're required to fill out when purchasing a firearm from a Federal Firearm License (FFL) holder. Presently, the FFL holder maintains them in what's referred to as a "bound book," and ATF agents can review them during inspection visits to ensure compliance with thorough record keeping requirements.

The ATF proposes to reduce the form from seven pages to four, and has modified or eliminated some of the questions.

The new form would require the buyer to declare themselves male or female. Currently, they can choose to identify as "non-binary." Buyers would be required to choose the sex they were born as.

Another change is asking about the use of recreational drugs. The new form ignores the use of [medical marijuana](#), and it APPEARS it may no longer constitute a prohibition against firearms ownership.

The new form also addresses matters regarding the online purchase of firearms within the same state in what is referred to as "non-over-the-counter transactions."

Those interested should [read more about the proposed changes](#).



Need More Club Cards?

In 2025 we introduced our new website at www.mtncrgc.com, and

soon after we distributed cards advertising the new site.

It's a beautiful website, and there is a wealth of information available on it. A number of people have used it to join through the membership portal, or to renew their memberships.

The best website on the planet is worthless if few people see it. That's why we made the club cards, to advertise the site and invite people to explore it.

It's important to remember, the club's website is designed to do the work of recruiting. If a perspective member or interested party spends 15 minutes reviewing it, they'll learn much about the MCR&GC, get most if not all of their questions answered, have the means of contacting us and learn how to join online.

Those wanting to take a deeper dive will find all of our past newsletters, and even videos from recent Christmas parties. The Useful Links and FAQ pages offer important insight. There's even a link to purchase passes for the Panthertop Shooting Range.

The Upcoming Events page has grown as we have become aware of more opportunities for members. The information there is always changing; therefore, check it periodically to see if an event that interests you has been posted.

What's the value of all this is? You don't have to cajole perspective members because the website can do that for you. We just need to ask potential members to take a look at it. That's where the club cards come in. Identify someone you think might be interested in joining and ask them if they are familiar with the club. Then, offer them a card and ask them

to take a look at our website when they have a few minutes to spare. People keep joining via the site; therefore, it works.

Need a few club cards? Ask Michael for them at the next meeting. Can't make it to the meeting? Email webmaster@mtncrgc.com, provide a mailing address and we'll send them to you.

Clubs grow because people ask others to join. It's your club. Help it grow.



The Arguments Surrounding Delayed Harvest

If you're a trout fisherman, you likely know delayed harvest is a wildlife management tool intended to preserve trout populations while offering anglers an opportunity to catch larger fish. Sounds reasonable on the surface, but not all agree.

How does it work? In delayed harvest waters, anglers are required to immediately release their catch. The idea is, the trout population isn't reduced and the fish continue to grow in size.

Opponents of the policy argue it can lead to feeding and behavior changes in the fish which prove counterproductive in the long-term.

Interested in the topic? It's important to remain updated. Take a look at [this article](#).



The Siren Song of Gun Control

You may recall the Sirens from Greek mythology. They were beautiful women with captivating singing voices which no man could resist. Upon hearing them, sailors would foolishly steer their ships toward the Sirens and ultimately crash upon the rocks. Homer's epic story, *Odyssey*, contains such a mythical account.

What's this got to do with gun control? Unfortunately, gun control laws work the same way. They promise one thing but deliver something else entirely. Groups advocating gun control don't tell you this. They create attractive narratives designed to mislead those who know little to nothing about the topic. The narrative sounds convincing to the uninitiated, and without the benefit of hearing an explanation as to why gun control is not only foolhardy, and really has NOTHING to do with enhancement of public safety, they fall for the prevarication.

It's up to those who know better to enlighten those who don't, but to do that, we have to educate ourselves so we can effectively tell others.

Why might you want to do that? Because people who've been misled on something as important as gun

control often vote. This is significant if you are concerned about the survival of gun rights. We might add, freedom and the Second Amendment do not defend themselves. Informed people have to do that.

Here's a few lines from the gun control myth:

Myth #1: to ensure proper safety of guns in the home, especially in protecting children, guns should be locked up unloaded, and the ammo locked up separately. Only guns under the direct control of a competent adult can be loaded.

Truth #1: having a loaded firearm in your nightstand while you're about the house, or while you're sleeping, doesn't constitute direct control. Locked and unloaded guns are worthless as defensive weapons. So called, "safe storage" effectively disarms you. Violent criminals and home invaders support such laws.

NOTE: North Carolina requires gun owners to ensure no minor can access their firearm. If anyone under 18 has authorized access to your home, you MUST ensure they cannot get to it. Gun safes and quick access single-weapon safes are one means to help accomplish this.

Myth #2: the public has no need for "assault weapons," and they should be banned.

Truth #2: "assault weapon" is a made-up term to cast a negative light on rifles like the AR-15. Truth is, they are NOT "weapons of war" because they do not have select fire. In other words, they cannot switch between semi-auto and full-auto fire. In fact, they contain the same 100+ year old technology and rate of fire as any

semi-auto hunting rifle, and it is very rare for them to be used in a crime. They are popular because most contain picatinny rails which make it easy to attach optics, lasers sites and lights. Besides, if they are so dangerous, why do such bans always exempt government agents and law enforcement officers?

Myth #3: all firearms should be registered with the government.

Truth #3: The men who founded America opposed a standing army because as students of history, they understood those who controlled an army had the power to impose tyranny. The Second Amendment was intended to address such a potential threat. Since 1986, it has been illegal for a federal agency to create or possess a searchable registry of gunowners. Why? Because a digitized, searchable registry could quickly produce a list of every firearm with owner's names and addresses. Any administration choosing to ignore gun rights would find such a list invaluable.

Myth #4: People should be able to accuse a person without their knowledge of being a threat, and the courts able to order the seizure of their firearms without the accused being able to first offer a defense.

Truth #4: Such laws already exist in certain states and are called, Red Flag Laws. A person makes an accusation to a magistrate in a hearing which the accused has no knowledge of. The magistrate directs law enforcement to seize the firearms of the accused, store them at the accused's expense and without being liable for any damage that occurs during storage, and in a subsequent hearing the accused must demonstrate they are not a threat to retrieve their firearms. How do you prove a negative?

Anyone's who's ever been through a nasty divorce can appreciate the power of such an ability to wrongly accuse another without consequence.

One might wonder, why would anyone support such policies which clearly constitute a substantial risk to freedom? The answer is actually quite easy. They ultimately want to disarm the public. You draw your own conclusions as to why.

We'll leave you with this quote from *Winter of the World* by Ken Follett:

"[He] was one of those inadequate people who were so scared of life that they preferred to live under harsh authority, to be told what to do and what to think by a government that allowed no dissent."

Learn more about the evils of gun control and refuse to be silent.



Don't Do This!

The image above is of a slide cover plate for a Glock pistol. It's the piece that covers the opening at the end of the slide facing the shooter. In some circles it's become popular to change out that cover plate with one that's been etched or adorned with some logo. The one in the photo is referred to as, "Punisher."

Imagine that you think that image or something similar looks cool, so you buy one and change it out yourself. It's relatively easy if you know what you're doing. Then, sometime after,

you get into a situation where you're forced to use that firearm in self-defense. What's next?

Rest assured, the police and the District Attorney's Office are going to put you under a microscope. They are going to look for anything, and we mean anything that can be used to discredit your actions. Seriously!

If your defensive firearm bears something like the aforementioned photo, it might be suggested you were hoping for a chance to use it. That despite the circumstances, in vigilante fashion, you were just waiting for an opportunity to shoot someone. Given the oratory skills of the prosecutor, there are potential jurors who could be persuaded.

Add to that any comments you may have made on social media. If something you've posted can be twisted to suggest your attitude toward others reflects something outside mainstream values, you can be certain, just like with the etched slide cover plate, it would be used to paint you in a negative light.

Even if a jury of your peers didn't buy such an argument, you're going to be spending significant amounts of money defending yourself from prosecution while the district attorney spends public money. Who wants to risk that?

The point is, don't hand anyone, especially anti-gun activist prosecutors ammunition to use against you. Defensive firearms are not a venue for political or social commentary. Don't use them as such.

2026 CLUB ELECTIONS
SEPTEMBER 15th, 7:00 PM



A Place You May Not Know

The old train depot in Mineral Bluff, GA, built in 1887 and located 13 miles south of the US 64/74 and NC 60 intersection, is the headquarters of the Tri-State Model Railroaders.

The old station now houses a model railroad of the L&N Railroad "old line" running from Atlanta to Etowah, TN as it was around 1950. The [TSMRI](#) hosts motor car ride events allowing visitors to travel through the Iron Bridge over the Toccoa River. Upcoming [Ride the Rail](#) events are scheduled for July 3-4, 2026 and October 24-25, 2026. The station hosts open house 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on the 4th Saturday of every month.

You can reach out to them at (423) 299-3914, or email tsmri@yahoo.com.

Take a visit into the past and explore a little railroad history.



Lake Level Monitoring

Concerned about the impact of draught conditions on area lake

levels? If you occasionally like to know the current level of North Carolina lakes, [check this site](#).



Tennessee Legislature Expands Self-Defense with a Firearm

Neighboring Tennessee has [expanded and clarified the conditions](#) for when the use of deadly force becomes lawful. Some insist these provisions already existed in state law; however, it's argued the new statute clarifies conditions and gives anyone using force under the law additional statutory language to support their actions.

It's important to remember, ANY NEW OR EXISTING LAW IS ALWAYS SUBJECT TO THE INTERPRETATION OF THE COURTS. What a reasonable and prudent person believes any law establishes is NOT NECESSARILY how a court will see it. Court decisions become what is referred to as, "case law," and then serve as legal precedents for determining the outcome of future cases.

All things considered, the best defense is to avoid the use of force, if possible, rather than to become a test case. Unfortunately, avoidance isn't always possible when a violent crime occurs, and having additional statutory language on the side of Tennesseans is a good thing.

The new Tennessee [legislation](#) becomes effective July 1, 2026.