

Manzano Mountain Gun Club

General Meeting 18 February 2009 Minutes

Attending:

21 attendees.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm by Jim Greene, acting as temporary chair.

1. Presentation of Bylaws

Kathleen Clute reported that the Club is now a registered New Mexico non-profit corporation. There are still several steps required for both the state and the federal government, of which the next is the election of Officers and the adoption of Bylaws.

She then presented the proposed Bylaws. They were based on the bylaws of the New Mexico Bighorn Gun Club, and were modified to relate to our needs by a committee consisting of: Jim Greene, Dorothy Greene, Christine Franks, Alan Clute, and Kathleen Clute. Kudos to Christine Franks, who did the major portion of the work to prepare these proposed Bylaws for tonight's meeting.

After general discussion, it was decided to elect officers first and then consider and vote upon the proposed Bylaws. The general discussion also reflected a consensus that the director position called "grant administrator" in the proposed Bylaws did not need to be so restricted, and that a second "director at large" would be more suited to the needs of our club. The election of directors was therefore conducted along those lines: the four usual officers, plus a range project manager and two "directors at large".

2. Election of Officers

For terms running until March 31, 2010.

a. *President.*

Trinidad Griego nominated Jim Greene as president, George Immerwahr seconded the nomination. The Chair requested further nominations, and none were offered. The vote was unanimous for Jim Greene as president.

Jim Greene continued chairing the meeting, now as the president.

b. *Vice-President.*

Dorothy Greene nominated Alan Clute as vice-president; Lou Rupnick seconded the nomination. The Chair requested further nominations, and none were offered. The vote was unanimous for Alan Clute as vice-president.

c. *Secretary.*

Denise Immerwahr nominated Kathleen Clute as secretary; Aggie Kohler seconded the nomination. The Chair requested further nominations, and none were offered. The vote was unanimous for Kathleen Clute as secretary.

d. Treasurer.

Kathleen Clute nominated Ken Jackson as treasurer; Robbie Kayser (as well as several others) seconded the nomination. The Chair requested further nominations, and none were offered. The vote was unanimous for Ken Jackson as treasurer.

e. Range Project Manager.

Thomas Bromley nominated Robbie Kayser as range project manager; Aggie Kohler seconded the nomination. The Chair requested further nominations, and none were offered. The vote was unanimous for Robbie Kayser as range project manager.

f. Two additional directors.

Denise Immerwahr nominated Robert Chung as director; George Immerwahr seconded the nomination. Trinidad Griego nominated George Immerwahr as director; Barbara Chung seconded the nomination. However, George declined the nomination. The Chair requested further nominations. George Immerwahr nominated Lou Rupnick as director; Alan Clute seconded the nomination.

The Chair requested further nominations, and none were offered. The vote was unanimous for Robert Chung and Lou Rupnick for the two "director at large" positions on the Board.

To summarize, the Board of Directors consists of:

President	Jim Greene
Vice-President	Alan Clute
Secretary	Kathleen Clute
Treasurer	Ken Jackson
Range Project Manager	Robbie Kayser
Director at Large	Robert Chung
Director at Large	Lou Rupnick

3. Consideration of Bylaws

Kathleen Clute moved to correct the Bylaws in Article VI, section 1, and Article VII, sections 6 and 7, to reflect the previous general agreement that there be two directors at large, and no "grant administrator." Lou Rupnick seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Lou Rupnick moved to adopt the Bylaws as now written, and George Immerwahr seconded the motion. The motion carried. A copy of the Bylaws as adopted will be appended to these minutes.

4. Working Committees

a. Range Project Committee.

Volunteers were sought for the Range Project Committee, which will be headed by Robbie Kayser. The Range Project Committee will finalize finding land for our range, lay out the initial ranges to be built, and coordinate the work to "make it so."

In addition to Jim Greene, the following men volunteered to help with the committee: Thomas Bromley, Vernon Kohler, and Robert Chung.

b. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee would have set membership dues for our first year. There was general discussion of the membership fees at Zip Rifle & Pistol Club (\$125/yr.) and Bighorn Gun Club (\$90/yr.). Peter Ide, however, pointed out that both of those clubs have ranges, and recommended that right now we keep our dues quite low, and consider a special assessment once the range exists. After further general discussion of financial issues, Lou Rupnick moved that we set the initial membership dues at \$20 per person per year. The motion was seconded by Robert Chung. The motion carried, and Peter Ide paid his \$20 membership dues to the treasurer immediately, becoming the first paid member of the Manzano Mountain Gun Club.

Thus, there is no need for a Finance Committee at this time, as the immediate dues issue was resolved at the meeting.

5. Range requirements.

As it will help the Range Project Committee in evaluating possible locations for our range, a general discussion ensued regarding how much land is needed for what kinds of ranges, and what ranges we build first. It was decided, by hand count, that a 100 yard range for both rifle and pistol use is the first priority. If the width of the land found is sufficient, then berms can be placed at shorter distances, yielding 25- and 50-yard ranges as well.

The group agreed to make a trap range a second priority. Peter Ide, however, informed us that he can get a couple of traps loaned to us, so at least from time to time we can set up for trap shooting.

6. Classes available.

Alan Clute presented information about possible club events. There is an NRA-certified firearms instructor, Cliff Stillion, who lives in the area and is available to teach courses for very reasonable fees. Alan specifically mentioned the NRA First Steps courses, as an orientation to pistols/rifles and firearm safety, especially for newcomers to the shooting sports, of which our club has several. The First Steps rifle and pistol courses have both a classroom component and a shooting component. Cliff prefers to teach First Steps in very small groups, 2 to 3 people at a time.

Cliff also offers an introduction to gun handling, again in very small groups, where the attendees bring what they shoot and Cliff goes over safe handling and cleaning of that specific weapon.

Cliff also offers the Basic Pistol Shooting course.

Consensus in general discussion seemed to be that the First Steps course (or equivalent demonstrated proficiency) was necessary but not sufficient orientation for use of our range, once it exists. The development of our particular required range orientation will be under Robbie Kayser's direction, once our range is available.

Alan Clute requested that those members interested in the First Steps course sign a sheet so that he could follow up with Cliff. Twelve members did so.

7. New Business.

The president opened the floor to new business, and there was none.

8. Presentation.

Peter Ide, New Mexico Field Representative for the National Rifle Association, gave a report on the activities of the Friends of the NRA in our area. Friends of NRA raise funds for the NRA Foundation, which supports various programs “to promote firearms and hunting safety, to enhance marksmanship skills of those participating in the shooting sports, and to educate the general public about firearms in their historic, technological, and artistic context.” (Quote taken by secretary from <http://www.nrafoundation.org/about/>) As an example of a New Mexico project, Peter told us about grants to the Rotary in Moriarty for shotgunning and bird hunting classes for youth, which happen annually.

Currently there is a New Mexico Friends of NRA fundraising project, which is a raffle for a Bushmaster M4A1 rifle. Tickets are \$10 each, or 3 for \$20, and only 1000 tickets are available. They can be purchased from MMGC member Dorothy Greene or from Peter Ide. The drawing will be held May 15.

In addition, the Estancia Valley Friends of NRA banquet is set for April 25th in Moriarty. This is one of the most successful banquets in New Mexico, and Peter encouraged all MMGC members to attend. He also asked us to consider underwriting one or more of the prizes to be given away that night. Our support for the banquet will get our club name into the program, and also make it possible for Peter to announce our club during the auction (if we have underwritten something in the auction), which can of course raise awareness of our group and perhaps bring us more members. Members present were in general agreement with the idea but not clear on how to proceed. For now, we are accepting individual donations to comprise a club donation. If you want to participate, please send your donation to Jim Greene (PO Box 458, Mountainair, 87036; be sure to specify that you are donating to MMGC underwriting one or more auction items) and do it soon; Jim is going to let Peter know what we are doing for the auction within 3 weeks.

Finally, tables at the Estancia Valley Friends of NRA banquet are usually filled at least a week before the event. Also, if you want to sit with friends it might be necessary to purchase a table together, as the banquet is very well attended. Individual tickets are \$25; couples \$45; a table seats 10.

9. Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 19, at 6 pm. Location will most likely be the Turner Inn again; that will be confirmed in the meeting announcement email to be sent in March.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Clute, secretary