

Manzano Mountain Gun Club

General Meeting

18 June 2009

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm by club president Jim Greene. Roll call was taken; 18 club members were in attendance.

1. Minutes

Kathleen Clute offered printed copies of the minutes from the 21 May 2009 meeting. Lou Rupnick moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve them as submitted; Denise Immerwahr seconded. The motion carried.

2. Treasurer's Report

Ken Jackson gave the treasurer's report. We have 2 new members and 5¢ more in interest. We sent \$35 to the NRA to affiliate our club. The current balance is \$479.76, and that will increase to \$519.76 when Ken deposits membership money received this evening.

Lou Rupnick moved to accept the treasurer's report; George Immerwahr seconded. The motion carried.

3. Secretary's Report

Kathleen reported that the Manzano Mountain Gun Club is now officially affiliated with the National Rifle Association. Furthermore, as we have 100% NRA membership, we have already completed the first step toward becoming a Gold Medal Club. Kathleen will be working on the project of attaining Gold Medal status for our club.

Kathleen also reported that a draft of the land lease for the proposed range location is underway. Any lawyer recommendations would be welcome, so that we can have a professional look over the lease.

4. Vice President's Report

Alan announced that there will be an Appleseed Shoot at the Albuquerque Shooting Park on June 27 & 28. Appleseed Shoots are a grassroots movement to reestablish the tradition of the American rifleman. An Appleseed Shoot consists of riflery instruction and lessons about the place of rifle marksmanship in American history. One can attend both days or only Saturday; the fees are quite reasonable, and women, youth and active duty military may attend for free. Alan and Kathleen will be attending on Saturday, June 27; anyone who would like to carpool with them should contact Alan.

5. Old Business: Range Development

Jim reported that plans for developing the club shooting range on Lonnie Greene's ranch are proceeding. Although the neighbors were not enthusiastic about a gun range being placed nearby, New Mexico law does not require neighbor approval for private property gun range use. Today Jim took Peter Ide, club member and New Mexico NRA representative, on a tour of the proposed range location. Jim handed the description of the proposed range over to Peter.

Peter reported that the land under consideration has great possibilities. There are natural berms there, which will need augmentation. Peter recommends 3 ranges are possible initially:

1) Rifle range – 200-250 yard range, shoot to the north, natural berm which will require building up.

2) Pistol range – 100 yards, shooting east from about the same location; berm must be built here and rock removed.

3) Trap range – shooting location a bit south of the pistol range, and shooting roughly parallel with it.

None of these locations are 100% safe at the moment; they will require building berms and rock/gravel removal. We will need 10-15 foot berms for the pistol range, and higher for the rifle range, since the longer the range the higher the berm needs to be. The natural berm behind the proposed rifle range location is 40-50 feet; that is not adequate for our purposes.

Peter explained that the state requirement is that a shooting range be at least 150 yards away from neighboring dwellings. The neighbor's house is about 600 yards away. Two factors will mitigate the noise in that direction: the intervening land is timbered, and the prevailing winds come from the west.

Peter recommends that, just as we would test drive a car, we should "test shoot" on the proposed range. We will need to control the test shoot heavily since there are no real firing lines yet, and use paper targets. Furthermore, behind the 200 yard range, after another 150-200 yards north, the land belongs to the neighbor. Therefore we need to control the fire: **there will be no pointing in the air at the test shoot** (or indeed at any time on our range!)

Lou asked if it could be possible to get the NRA range expert to look over our location before committing to the lease. Peter replied that he would try to get one of New Mexico's 3 range experts to come here soon.

Peter recommended that for our test shoot we limit the number of people shooting; we use folding tables to create the firing bench; we institute strong range controls; and we shoot on the possible rifle range only, as the proposed pistol location is too rocky.

Jim set the date for the test shoot as Sunday, June 28, at 1 pm.

6. Old Business: Discussion of Estancia Valley FNRA banquet drawings

Lou brought up the discussion of the bucket raffle drawing procedures at the FNRA banquet. Peter said actually the tickets are well-mixed and drawn from all levels of the buckets. Peter also said that the bucket raffles slow down the banquets, and he is open to any suggestions that could get the bucket raffles to proceed more efficiently and interestingly.

Peter reported that the Estancia Valley FNRA banquet in April actually netted \$44,600, on gross proceeds of about \$72,000. That is significantly higher than reported in last month's minutes. Several MMGC members said they would volunteer to help with next year's Estancia Valley FNRA banquet.

7. New Business.

There was no new business.

8. Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be Thursday, July 16, at 6:30 pm at Ancient Cities Cafe.

Lou Rupnick moved to adjourn; Robbie Kayser seconded. All approved. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Clute, secretary