

Manzano Mountain Gun Club

General Meeting

16 July 2009

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by Club president Jim Greene. In addition to the members present, five neighbors of the proposed range location; several others in support of the neighbors; and Ashley Bergen, a reporter from the Mountain View Telegraph, attended the meeting

1. Presentation

President Jim Greene opened the floor to the neighbors to speak about their concerns regarding the proposed range location on the property of Lonnie Greene.

The first speaker was Pamela Armas, who lives in Mountainair but co-owns, with her husband Ken Schetter, property near the proposed range location. She emphasized that none of the neighbors object to the Manzano Mountain Gun Club, or to firearms possession and skill development, or to there being a range. She did object to the current proposed location, primarily on the basis of noise "pollution", proximity of the location to neighbors, and potential loss of property values for neighboring properties.

Ken Schetter spoke next, emphasizing the "danger and noise pollution". He expressed that the range would be dangerous to Punta d'Agua and other homes, and predicted that class action lawsuits would happen if the range was in this location. He said that the range was "not for the benefit of the whole community, just recreational opportunities for a few" and requested that the Club "find a more suitable location."

The third neighbor to speak was Carletta Moorhead, who owns land next to the proposed location. She stated that her daughters are planning to build on the land and that she wants the area to remain quiet, especially for her grandchildren.

Joan Bybee, whose property includes land immediately north of the proposed range location, opened by emphasizing that guns are okay, and a range is okay, but this particular location is very populated. She primarily focused on the noise issue and the safety issue for people and animals. There is a lot of activity on her land: riding, fixing fences, creek restoration; it is not empty land. She stated that she understands that ranges can be safe, but is still concerned that a member shooting at the range would not exercise self-control and therefore might shoot away from the berms, if, for example, a rabbit ran across the range. She said the neighbors have gathered 35 signatures on their petition objecting to the range being located on the Greene property. Her final remark was, "We would have to fight this, but we do not want to, we want to be friends and good neighbors."

Joan's husband, Ira Jaffe, was the final visitor to speak. He pointed out that peace and quiet are not luxuries, but are necessary to life. He was also concerned about ammunition in the soil endangering ground water supplies. His conclusion was to "urge the club to settle on another less populous location; we can all help."

Jim Greene invited anyone else visiting the meeting to speak. When no one else had comments, he recessed the meeting so that the visitors could take their leave.

2. Minutes

Jim Greene called the meeting back to order at 7:10 pm. Roll call was taken: 23 members were in attendance.

As the June 18 minutes had been circulated by email, Lou Rupnick moved to accept the minutes without oral reading; Liz Cicola seconded; the motion carried.

3. Treasurer's Report

Ken Jackson gave the treasurer's report. We have 5 new members: Mark Karlsberger, Rick

and Nancy Townson, Vernon Kohler, and Kevin Dunlap. That brings our club membership to 37. We joined the New Mexico Shooting Sports Association, which is the state NRA affiliate and costs the Club \$25 per year. With 4¢ more in interest, before tonight's meeting, our balance is \$554.80.

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

4. President's Report: Test Shoot

Jim reported that at the June 28th test shoot on the Lonnie Greene property, member Kurt Leinheiser had shot 20 rounds of .30-06; Mark Karlsberger shot a Henry .357 carbine and a .357 pistol; and Thomas Bromley shot .45 Long Colt. All told, 80-100 rounds were shot before we were rained out. The group at the test shoot then came to Ancient Cities for lunch.

During the test shoot, Ken Jackson and Alan Clute had gone around the hill and toward Joan Bybee's home, to listen to the noise impact. They both could hear the shooting, although it was not loud.

While Joan had not noticed the shooting that day, that could partly have been due to the rainy weather driving people indoors. The wind at the time of the shoot was out of the east, so that should have made it noisier at her home, and cloud cover would have kept noise down on the ground. However, the high humidity dampened the sound.

5. Old Business: Range Development

The club then discussed the objections raised by the neighbors of Lonnie Greene's property. It was ultimately decided that the Range Committee will look at other properties that have recently come to their attention.

6. New Business: Membership Drive

Robert Chung proposed a membership drive, to begin in earnest once we receive our club's NRA recruiter forms; Lou Rupnick seconded the motion; the motion carried. Once the NRA membership applications arrive, they will be at Jim Greene's "bus barn".

7. New Business: IRS Filing

Kathleen Clute stated that although we have 16 months still to get our papers in to the IRS to request 501(c)(4) status, it would be better done sooner. Elaine Zabor had previously volunteered to help with the filing. Kurt Leinheiser volunteered to work with Elaine on the 1024 form, and Kathleen promised to email all the IRS information to Elaine.

8. Announcements

Alan Clute reported on the Appleseed Shoot that he and Kathleen attended on Saturday, June 27. The quality of rifle instruction was very high and the day was quite inspiring. Alan highly recommended that everyone attend the two-day Appleseed Shoot that will happen at Founder's Ranch in Edgewood this fall; he and Kathleen plan to do so and will be happy to carpool.

Lou Rupnick announced that there will be a gun show at the New Mexico Fairgrounds on August 15 & 16. For information, call Kim at 806-253-1322.

9. Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 20, at 6:30 pm at Ancient Cities Cafe.

Denise Immerwahr moved to adjourn; Lou Rupnick seconded. All approved. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Clute, secretary