

Gun Club...from Page 1A

Mack Mason, who serves as an adviser to the group.

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris also spoke in the meeting, thanking Gun Club members for their passion and patience

throughout the project.

“I cannot believe how well the Forest Service has worked with us so far,” said Paris. “We know that they had some encouragement from Washington, but they’ve also

done a good job.

“They’ve worked with us great. We’re staying on schedule. Everything I’m hearing from them is positive – I haven’t heard one thing negative.”

Gun Club President Paul Clark gave a status update on the USFS project timeline, which is currently in the Environmental Analysis phase.

Clark detailed an October 2018 sound study that yielded good results for the range, as well as two live-fire tests that were conducted in November and December 2018 respectively.

Due to the government shutdown in December and January, an official analysis of the live-fire tests had been delayed and so was unavailable to members in the March 7 meeting.

Based on impressions from local participants in those live-fire tests, however, the results are expected to be positive for the potential target range, which would be situated about 1.1 miles away from the nearest home and 1.5 miles away from part of the Appalachian Trail.

Members also received welcome news from Congressman Collins’ field representative last Thursday.

“I spoke with (the U.S. Forest Service) last week, where there haven’t been any kind of hurdles or hang-ups or anything



Union County Gun Club members filled the Haralson Memorial Civic Center for the club’s March 7 Annual Meeting.
Photo by Shawn Jarrard

to really be seriously concerned about,” said McDonald. “I am under the impression, speaking with them, that archaeology should be coming to a close here soon.

“There was the proposition that they could find an arrowhead or something, and then this whole thing would be derailed. Well, they’ve not found anything of significance to my knowledge, at least within the last week or so, and they should be wrapping that up here pretty quickly.”

Jim Marchman is the Community Center Director for the county, and he is serving as the county’s liaison for everything associated with the target range.

Marchman met with Forest Service officials on Friday, March 8, to learn the latest information concerning the target range project timeline, though the particulars of that meeting were not available at press time.

Also in the 2019 Annual Meeting, members learned that the club had been able to raise nearly \$26,000 so far, which will help the club cover costs associated with the target range should the project be approved later in the year.

Members also approved a bylaw change to move the “drop dead” date for membership renewals from March 1 to March 31.

Carol Rosenqvist of the Georgia Sport Shooting Association, which serves as the state affiliate of the National Rifle Association, also spoke in the meeting, relating that she will once again serve as GSSA president.

“We’re hoping to get a youth camp started during the summer over in Augusta, possibly a weekend for the youth,” said Rosenqvist, looking ahead. “Also, we do continue to do the Women On Target Program, which is an NRA class now. So, any woman attending gets an actual certificate from the NRA.

“We have two dates set up so far, one on May 5 and one Aug. 4. Those dates are on Sundays, however, I’m starting the class at 12 p.m. So, anybody who goes to church in the morning, if they want to come on out, they’re more than welcome to.”

The club held its last annual meeting in November, when members voted to move annual meetings to March.

Of course, Gun Club

members are eager to get a range in place for residents to practice shooting.

Historically, gun owners have had to either shoot on their own property or travel to another community to shoot at a non-local range.

Even local law enforcement must rely on private property owners donating the use of their land for important shooting practice, as the state requires peace officers to requalify with duty weapons annually.

All that could change later this year, after the Forest Service completes its extensive environmental testing phase, subsequent administrative review period, and final decision-making process, potentially by the end of summer 2019.

The eventual range will be situated upon a 14-acre piece of land off Georgia 180, and it will feature a 200-yard rifle range, a shorter pistol range, and a clubhouse that the Gun Club Board feels confident will be able to accommodate 4-H BB and Air Rifle teams.

For regular updates on the club, including U.S. Forest Service progress, check out UnionCountyGunClub.org.

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conductors, conductor counts, and that kind of stuff.”

Other parts of the Feb. 9 competition required students to measure different components of electrical wiring properly and to identify tools based on their technical names.

The contest is narrowed down to the best teams in the state that then go against each other to see which team leaves with the state championship.

“There are six areas in Georgia, so they had 12 teams to compete with, but every team there was either First or Second in their area, so it’s a tough competition,” said Crump.

The four students who won the state competition were Landen Gray, Colby Elliott, Alexis Moody and Miriam King, and each student dedicated much time and effort toward practicing to make the team a success.

“It was pretty cool for us to win, and we were also the first state Ag Mechanics team in Georgia, so that’s pretty exciting,” said Moody.

The students said that having Crump there to push them and keep them on task helped them prepare and succeed in the state competition.

“I don’t think that if Mr. Crump did not push us as hard as he did, we wouldn’t have won,” said King.

Being under the FFA

banner, Crump believes that the success of the students in this competition will motivate others to take a look at competing, too.

“Success breeds success in FFA chapters,” said Crump. “Now that other people see that they won the state competition, they will see that they’re good at this in this county, so they will want to try it too.

“That’s the thing with these kids, is they never really know if they can win something, and they all think a state win is out of grasp, but when they see kids their age win, they start to think that they could win that too, so it really helps the mentality of the organization.”

Correction:

In the March 6, 2019, edition of the North Georgia News, the newspaper inadvertently misquoted Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley concerning public remarks he’d made about the North Enotah Drug Court.

The mistake implied that Langley had previously admitted drug dealers into the Drug Accountability Court Program, which is not the case.

Following publication, Langley reached out to the newspaper to clear the matter up.

“What I intended to explain was that I have had to veto a handful of dealers that have applied, because dealers need greater punishment than is provided by the drug court program that focuses on

treatment,” said Langley. “In addition, dealers are potentially harmful to the progress of the other participants.

“It is a firm policy that in cases where there is admissible evidence of sales, that person is not allowed in drug court and can be given treatment while in prison or after serving their time.”

Glenda Gooch House available

The Glenda Gooch House is now available for use by families, from the tri-state area, of patients in Union General Hospital as well as local nursing and assisted living homes. For more information please contact Leslie Daniel at 706-745-2050, or log on to glendagoochhouse.org.

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