



A Family Friendly Range

Winter 2023 Newsletter

Looking for a unique Christmas gift for someone? We have gift certificates for annual memberships or for daily shooters. You can also find shooting related items at our swap meet at the clubhouse on Dec 9th. See the Swap Meet info in the newsletter below.

President's Corner -

I hope you all had a very Happy Thanksgiving. As you know, 2023 has been a year of many changes and lots of progress at the Dade City Gun Club. The community around us is growing so quickly it will make your head spin, and we have to adapt in order to remain a viable asset. All the things you see happening around you here at the club are the direct result of all the hard work your Board of Directors (BOD) has put into making this a better place to shoot. On that note, I would like to thank Keena Meyer for all she has done and welcome her to the BOD as our newest Director.

I am very pleased to tell you that besides all the improvements you can see happening at the club, a little less visible, we are pushing to be able to take credit card payments for daily shooters and membership renewals some time shortly after the first of the year. Often people come to the range and they don't have enough cash for themselves or someone in their group, at which point they either leave completely or have to make the trip to the nearest ATM and come back. We want to make it as convenient as possible for people to pay for daily shooting and for membership renewals. That is the goal at this time!

We also had a great turnout for our Veteran's Day appreciation lunch. As a show of our thanks, we fired up the grill for lunch and allowed all veterans to shoot for free. We also had a member recite a poem she wrote for Veteran's Day. You'll find a copy of the poem in the newsletter below. We plan to have more events like this in the future.

I want to thank everyone for all they have done for the club. Also, we can always use additional help on our maintenance crew on Thursdays. There is always something you can do to help. I feel very privileged to be your President at this time of so much progress. Please be safe and enjoy this holiday season!

Dennis

Veteran's Day Cookout:

Dade City Gun Club showed its appreciation to veterans by holding a cookout and allowing all veterans to shoot for free on Veteran's Day. The turnout was very good and everyone enjoyed the food, comraderie and the opportunity to honor our veterans. One of the club's members shared her poem during the event.



Veterans enjoy the club's cookout event.



Desserts were generously provided by the club's RSOs.

Remember The Soldier

By Sharon Thomas

While you are eating your burger or steak,
remember the soldier with the MRE he is trying to make.
You are in the pool beating the heat,
remember the soldier standing in 120 degrees on his feet.
Safe in your bed with every breath you take,
remember the soldier who is wide awake.
We hang our flags up on the pole each day,
remember the soldier and the ultimate price they sometimes pay.
Soldiers who made it home we thank God for,
those who didn't are at heaven's door.
These men and women in battle gear
deserve our praise more than a few days a year.
When you lay your head to sleep tonight,
pray for them to be safe in their fight.
Some are fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers,
daughters and sons, even husbands and wives,
when your path crosses theirs thank them for your life.

Message From Our Chief Range Safety Officer -

Range enhancements:

You no doubt have already seen the new steel baffles that DCGC has installed. This was a long time planned project to help ensure no rounds left the range and left the property. With new construction occurring a mile or less behind our range, this was a serious concern.

Sometime after the first of the year, DCGC will be closing the public range in order to resolve long standing drainage issues between the 75 and 100 yard line. As you know after heavy rains we end up with a swamp there that takes several days to drain. We will regrade the entire range to get the appropriate slope from the firing line to the berm and have a new drainage line installed through the berm to the pond on the other side.

While the public range is closed, shooters will use the 50 yardline range behind the clubhouse for daily operations. Some significant repairs to the wooden baffles will be made before we close the public range and open the 50 yard line range for daily use. Once the public range is repaired (possibly 4-8 weeks after closing) we will shift operations back to the public range.

A couple of things bear mentioning from range safety:

RSOs are being reminded to inspect the white "eyebrows" on the wooden baffles every cease fire. We still have the occasional shooter who fires a new rifle (particularly AR platforms) without first bore sighting the rifle. Frequently there is a tight group of 10-15 rounds in the eyebrow. The other issue is on the pistol side when a new pistol shooter brings a new pistol to the range and has not quite got the concept of sight alignment and sight picture and puts numerous stray rounds into the white eyebrows, into the grass in front of the firing line or an adjacent target. Again, if you happen to notice a shooter who has an issue keeping THEIR rounds on THEIR target, please let the RSO know. The damage to the infrastructure eventually will cost the club money to repair. As members, that is OUR money.

Finally, as your CRSO please feel free to reach out to me if you have any safety concerns about the range. We are here to make your shooting experience as good and as safe as possible. Also, we are always looking for good people to become Range Safety Officers. If you've been a member for a year or more and would like to be considered for a position as a Range Safety Officer please contact me.

Dirk Ahle - CRSO crsodcgc4@gmail.com

Updates from Buildings & Grounds Team -

Our year is about to end and we can see the many positive changes to our club. Now is a good time to see what is coming soon.

First is the grading of the 100 yard area of the public range early in 2024. This will level the 100 yard range and slope it to a new drainage area with a 12 inch drain pipe. It also builds up the 100 yard berm with 80 truck loads of needed soil which includes needed soil behind the pistol bullet catcher.

Second is the complete replacement of the baffles on the 50 yard range, removal of the railroad ties, and a realignment of all shooting positions. All the work on all our ranges will result in a safer range and with shooting stand holders at ground level (no more sandbags).

Last, we are lucky to have Keena Meyer on our board. She will begin working at making our range more inviting by doing additional needed landscaping and plantings. She, like all of us, also wants to work at having more female shooters, members, and RSO's.

The next year again is exciting as we all work together making our club a safer and inviting place to exercise our Second Amendment Rights.

Rob Stansberry – Director

Kids Corner -

The Dade City Precision Rifle Team held an NRA First Steps Rifle class on Saturday, November 4th at the Dade City Gun Club. Nine individuals attended the class; 3 adults and 6 young people ages 13 through 19. Some attendees had never fired a firearm of any kind prior to the class. All attendees were able to successfully pass the class and a good time was had by all.

The Dade City Precision Rifle Team starts all team members on shooting progression through the NRA's Marksmanship Qualification Program (<https://mqp.nra.org/>)

The highest level in this program - a level at which we feel the shooter is ready for state level competition is the Distinguished Expert level. Since our inception we have had three participants reach bench rest DE level - **Emily Lanning, Hannah Lanning, and Jake Burns**. The Lanning sisters also cinched DE while shooting from a standing position prior to moving out of Florida.

We have 6 experts and 6 sharpshooters on the team as well. A complete list of names and achievement level is posted on the Team bulletin board at the clubhouse.

The Team practices from 4PM until 6PM on the third Thursday of every month on the 50 yard range. So if you have a youth between the ages of 8 and 18 and you (and they) would like them to learn more about firearm safety and precision marksmanship, please contact:

Larry Shrewsbury at LShrews1@aol.com or call 813-929-8800.

A note of thanks for one of our RSOs

I received a call from a gentleman named Kenneth Keith. Kenneth is not a club member, but he had come to the range with his 19 year old daughter Kalli Keith, to sight-in her rifle for her first hunting trip.



Ken Ates helped her on Friday, November 24th, and she shot this deer on Saturday, November 25th, in Americus Georgia. She bagged the attached buck on her first hunt, and he wanted to express his thanks for our RSO Ken Ates helping her sight-in her rifle. They were very pleased with the help Mr. Ates had given them.

Dennis Doll

DCGC Swap Meets-

Members, here's your opportunity to unload some of that "stuff" that's been cluttering up your house. Gun related merchandise such as: firearms, ammo, reloading equipment, holsters, scopes, etc. can be displayed for sale. We offer this "free" service to you quarterly on the second Saturday of the month. Setup begins around 7:00 and we stay open until around 10:30. We encourage you to stay and mingle with your fellow members and of course the general public who frequent our swap meet.

Questions? **Call Bernie at 813-715-7399 for more information.**

Upcoming Swap Meet Dates:

Dec 9th - Mar 9th

Club Board Meetings-

Meetings take place on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:00 am in the clubhouse. Members are welcome to attend. If you have a suggestion or topic you would like discussed, please contact Dennis Doll to have it added to the agenda. Upcoming meetings:

Dec 12th – Jan 9th – Feb 13th

National Rifle Association Membership Renewal: Save ten dollars off your membership renewal through our website. Once you are on the site just click the NRA icon at the bottom of the page.

Dade City Gun Club 2023-2024 Board Members:

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