

GCF&G ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2015 ARE DUE ON 12/31/14. YOUR RENEWAL DUES FOR 2015 CAN BE PAID BEGINNING ON 10/01/14. A RENEWAL FORM WILL BE MAILED OUT FIRST CLASS TO EACH GCF&G MEMBER IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. PLEASE MAKE A NOTE....

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hang in there spring is really on the way. Before you know it our caretaker will be complaining about cutting grass instead of plowing snow.

All members either long time or new should be looking into the many activities available to them at the club this year.

If you don't come out for yourself, you really should bring out your kids, grandkids and their little friends to give them the opportunity to try our sports.

An opportunity that will hopefully put them on a lifetime path for enjoyment while perpetuating the sports for future generations.

Look at your calendar for the dates of events and make it a point to attend.

If you like the shooting sports you might try the fun out at Cowboy Town or burn some black powder with the good guys in funny clothes.

If you have a CHL or plan to get one, then try the "Steels" program for adults and kids that will be starting soon on Monday evenings or the Pistol League on Thursdays.

Maybe you like longer guns, then try the .22 Rifle League on Tuesdays or join the CMP bunch on Wednesday evenings.

For those with sensitive ears the archers are busy "flinging sticks" all day on Wednesdays or just get out to the lakes and dunk some worms.

If you can't find something fun to do out here with all our events maybe you should try collecting bugs.....

— Bob Brown
(937) 902-0090

ATTENTION CAMPERS!

The Campground mandatory meeting date is March 15th, 2014 at 3 PM in the clubhouse.

To take advantage of the discounted yearly camping fees they must be paid by 4/10/14.

The spring inspection will be sometime in March, so visit your camper and clean



Bring on Spring! - The campgrounds will open on April 1st, this year and members are invited to take advantage of the extended season. Get your campsite ready to go now so that you can enjoy the warm weather when it gets here. Lots of great activities are now scheduled for the campgrounds. (Greene County Fish & Game Photo by Tim Ankeney).

up around it. The campground is due to open on Tuesday, April 1st.

If you have any questions feel free to call me at (937) 238-3823. Thank You.

— Pat Zehr

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6th at the Marion's Pizza in Beavercreek at 6:30 PM.

March's Euchre Party will be held Saturday, March 15th. Doors will open at 6 PM, cards will begin at 7 PM.

Admission is \$6 per person and that includes dinner, door prizes and an evening of fun!

Join us for a great night. Please bring a covered dish to share. For more info contact Gail Walker at (937) 609-2215.

EASTER EGG HUNT

The Children's Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 5th at 10:30 AM

D.O.W. OPEN HOUSE

The Division of Wildlife Open House will be held in the clubhouse on Saturday, March 1st, 2014 at 3 PM.

Sportsmen don't miss this annual event. Your input is important. Preview changes to fishing & hunting regulations.

Give the Division your thoughts about any possible changes for 2014 - 2015.

A VERY IMPORTANT WINTER WEATHER NOTICE!

The arrival of winter weather brings with it the realistic possibility that events at the club could be affected by hazardous winter weather conditions. Since January 1st, 2000 we have used the following weather policy:

If Greene County has declared a level 1 or higher snow emergency and is listed as such in TV, radio, and news broadcasts at 3 pm the day of any board or membership meeting, that meeting will be postponed and re-scheduled to the same day and time the following week unless otherwise indicated.

Common sense should always be used when deciding whether or not to attend any club activity during inclement weather. To further determine the status of other scheduled events at the club contact the chairperson in charge of that activity or refer to our website at www.gcfng.com.

12 GUN GIVEAWAY MONTHLY WINNERS

The winning ticket number for the February drawing was # 0952.

That ticket has not been turned in yet.

You could become an instant winner when you purchase a ticket.



Greene County Fish & Game ASSOCIATION



CLUB IS LOCATED AT: 1538 UNION RD., XENIA, OHIO
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX # 64, XENIA, OHIO 45385

MARCH 2014 NEWSLETTER

President: Bob Brown
(937) 902-0090

Visit our Website @ WWW.GCFNG.COM

Club House: (937) 372-8261

ABSOLUTELY NO GUESTS ARE PERMITTED TO HUNT OR FISH WITHOUT EXPRESSED WRITTEN CONSENT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. THESE PRIVILEGES ARE RESERVED FOR OUR MEMBERS, THEIR SPOUSE, MINOR CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN! THANK YOU.

NEW MEMBER MATTERS.....

Our New Member Day on January 19th was a complete success!!! We now have 146 New members! Welcome to the club everyone!

If you sponsored a new member please remember to help them get their hours and meetings in so they can complete their requirements and continue to be members of club.

Every month I post hours worked and meetings attended at the clubhouse. I also post them on-line at web address shown in the yellow box below this column.

Take a look at the sheet and make sure I have all your meetings and work hours accounted for. It's up to the members to ensure the data is correct.

Meetings are the second Tuesday of every month at 8 PM. I hope to see a lot of you at the March 11th meeting when you pickup your New Member Package.

The sign-in sheet will be back in the back of the room on the table. You need to sign in for (2) meetings to complete that part of your membership obligation.

It's never too soon to start getting your hours in. The Cowboy Action opener is March 2nd and you can take a stroll back to the 1860's.

The Spring Clean-up is planned for April 12th & 13th. The club is closed to all non-work related activities on both of those days until after 6 PM.

The ranges will be closed all weekend until sunrise on Monday, April 14th. Come on out and help clean up the grounds.

It's a good time and we feed you a free lunch! Keep your eye on the calendar as

you will find all the goings on at the club.

Each of them have an opportunity to get your hours in.

February Rules Review:

GENERAL:

2.) Members are limited to (5) guests per visit. Prior board approval is required for a larger group. Members are responsible for the actions of their guests.

3.) Guests are NOT PERMITTED to fish or hunt, but may use the other facilities under the supervision of the member. Youth Guests may fish (catch and release only) as a guest of a member, (see lakes section for details).

8.) The speed limit is 15 MPH on club grounds.

9.) ALL VEHICLES MUST STAY ON THE ROAD. ** Off-road operations are limited to work parties under the direction of Committee Chairpersons.

ARCHERY:

1.) Safety comes first! One person must stay near the target as a safety measure when lost arrows are being hunted.

2.) Broad-heads are not to be shot into any targets. Broad-heads are to be shot into sandpit or other targets designated for broad-head use.

3.) No cross shooting on the target bales! Shoot only at the target bale in front of you.

4.) An adult must supervise children under the age of 18 when using the range.

RANGES:

14.) Rapid fire is not permitted unless required in a sanctioned competition.

15.) Rapid fire is defined as anything more than a (3) round burst, in a one second interval. Such bursts shall be followed by a marked lull or pause before continuing to fire.

18.) Members observing violations of range safety rules are responsible for bringing such violations to the attention of the offending party.

19.) Members should point out the violation in a calm and constructive manner and ask that the offender alter their behavior.

— Brad Sabo
New Member Chairman

**FISH FRY TICKETS
ON SALE NOW!**

Tickets for the 2014 Fish Fry on Tuesday, May 13th are now on sale and are going fast.

Admission is \$8 per person and tickets are available now from all the usual club sources; Bob Brown, Ed Rauch and of course "Tater" in the kitchen. Doors open at 5 PM, serving will begin at 6 PM

This year's menu includes; French Fries, Onion Rings, Cole Slaw, Green Beans, Dinner Rolls, Beverage, dessert, and all the Fish You Can Eat!

Guest speakers will be on hand and lots of great raffles prizes will be given away.

Get your ticket today before they are all gone!

<http://www.gcfng.com/membebrship/newmemberhours.html>

MARCH 2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>THE CAMPGROUNDS WILL OPEN AGAIN ON 4/1/14. SO DRIVE SAFELY AND WATCH YOUR SPEED. THE SPEED LIMIT ON CLUB GROUNDS IS 15 MPH.</p>						<p>1 DOW DIST. 5 OPEN HOUSE 12 - 3 PM</p>
2 TRAPSHOOT P & C 12-4 PM	3 JUNIOR STEELS CHALLENGE	4	5 WOMEN'S AUX MEETING 6:30 PM	6 TRAPSHOOT P & C 5:30 - 10 PM	7	8
9 TRAPSHOOT P & C 12-4 PM BP LEAGUE #7	10	11 BOARD MTG. 6 PM MEMBERSHIP MEETING 8 PM	12	13 TRAPSHOOT P & C 5:30 - 10 PM	14	15 WOMEN'S AUX. EUCHRE PARTY 6 PM CAMPGROUND MEETING 3 PM
16 TRAPSHOOT P & C 12-4 PM BP LEAGUE #8	17 JUNIOR STEELS CHALLENGE	18	19	20 TRAPSHOOT P & C 5:30 - 10 PM	21	22 HUNTER ED. HOME STUDY 9 AM - 2 PM COWBOY ACT. .22 SHOOT
23 TRAPSHOOT P & C 12-4 PM BP LEAGUE #9	24	25	26	27 TRAPSHOOT P & C 5:30 - 10 PM	28	29
30 TRAPSHOOT P & C 12-4 PM	31					

OK, SINCE SOME OF YOU ASKED.....

Maybe it's just the result of cabin fever brought on by one of the coldest, snowiest winters in decades, but I have received e-mails from a handful of members inquiring as to the whereabouts of their 2014 membership packet.

Since they have now all been sent out, I thought I'd take a few minutes to explain to everyone how the renewal package process works.

It all begins in early August, before the annual picnic when the secretary orders GCF&G Parking Stickers for the upcoming year.

Envelopes, labels, tape and badge stickers, enough for 1,350 members this year, are also ordered at that time. Membership Cards are also updated and ordered.

Once the Annual Picnic dates for the following year have been determined, (Usually at the August Board Meeting), the picnic raffle tickets are updated and 15,000 tickets are ordered.

During the month of September, the secretary prints around 1,300 renewal notices, stuffs them one at a time into envelopes, affixes the proper postage and mails them all out before October 1st.

Dues for the upcoming year can be paid beginning on October 1st, but since the renewal forms now go out in September, a handful of members even pay their dues a few weeks earlier.

Dues are taken by the treasurer for almost 2 months until the club elections are held on the second Tuesday of November.

On Wednesday the next day, the secretary takes the updated, Officer, Directors, and Chairman's roster to the printer. Again 1,300 are printed.

Once the rosters have been printed a work party is held to stuff all the club related material: Rosters, Constitution & Ground Rules Notice, Bumper Sticker, Badge Sticker and Picnic Tickets into 1, 300 6" X 9" envelopes.

Everything that takes place with these packages once they are stuffed is a "One Man" operation. A great group of volunteers make this step possible in a matter of 2-3 hours.

So the mailing out process can not even begin until Mid November at the earliest.

That means those members who paid back in early September have already been waiting 8-10 weeks for their package to be mailed.

Those freshly stuffed envelopes are then transported to the secretary's home where the heart of the process really begins.

The treasurer forwards the completed renewal forms after the deposits have been made, in groups to the secretary to be processed.

Processing means updating each member's information which is a total of 16 different fields for each member in the database:

- 1.) First Name
- 2.) Last Name
- 3.) Current Resident
- 4.) Address
- 5.) City
- 6.) State
- 7.) Zip Code
- 8.) Phone #
- 9.) Gate Card #
- 10.) Member Type

- 11.) Member #
- 12.) Date Renewed
- 13.) Activity
- 14.) Occupation
- 15.) NRA Member
- 16.) E-mail

These 16 verifications and/or changes are made to each of the 1,327 (for 2014) different member profiles.

That means 21,232 pieces of information is checked and/or changed before the electronic side of the lengthy process is completed.

Did I mention that somewhere around 75-100 members also request anywhere from 1-4 additional bumper stickers which also complicates and slows the process.

Now every year there are a couple unfortunate members who's check doesn't clear, so a bit of a delay in processing the renewals is almost a must so that they can be weeded out before their package is errantly sent to them.

We only had one of those unfortunate individuals this year.

Every year we have between 250 - 300 members who wait until the last week of the year to pay their dues, which means they didn't pay until the week between Christmas and New Year's.

Ironically, it's usually these folks who are the first to call or e-mail me asking where their package is at.

Just so everyone knows, packages are sent out on a first in, first out basis. If you are one of the last to pay, you'll be one of the last to get your package.

During the electronic side of the process which takes several weeks, mailing labels are printed in batches and affixed to the stuffed packages.

The renewals are done in batches of usually between 50-75 applications per batch for a number of reasons.

During the hands on side of the process, the labels are affixed, the contents of each outbound envelope is verified and each GCF&G Membership Card (1,327) is hand typed on a Brother electric typewriter. Anybody still remember the typewriter?

Envelopes are then sealed, taped and the postage (usually multiple stamp combinations) is affixed.

Member kids who use the renewal process to join (8 this year) also slow the process a bit, Their packages must include a gate card and membership badge.

The postage fees are different and they are "hand sort" only so they can't be mailed with the others

It is at this point the packages are mailed out in groups. Postage rate increases have slowed this process by a few days each of the last two years.

There's not much to it really I suppose. Did I mention that during this "slow" time of year Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's and not one but two deer gun seasons take place?

In addition to processing the 1,300 plus renewals, the secretary is responsible for writing approximately 14 pages of Meeting Minutes every month.

He or she is also tasked with creating this very newsletter and handling a great deal of club correspondence.

Creating the club calendar for the upcoming year and having his hard copy, audio and data files audited in January by the board as required by the Constitution.

Of course there is always the New

Member Day process that he or she must attend and keep track of too.

The reward for this year's New Member Day came in the form of 146 New Members who's information needed to be added to the database.

I welcome every one of them and I am glad they are here. I hope they all have a great year!

Now let's put things into perspective. All these things are done as timely as possible by your current secretary.

One who works a 50 a week job and spends another 10-12 hours a week going to and from it.

I suppose if I blew off Christmas, ignored giving thanks, and didn't buy a hunting license I could get more done.

Now here's what I am playfully curious about. Your gate card still works, it's too cold to put your bumper sticker on and the picnic isn't until August, so you have plenty of time to turn in your raffle tickets.

Not to belittle anyone's concerns but, I wish as many people were as concerned about getting young people involved in our sports or when the next work party is as they are these seemingly minor things.

Don't take the tone of this column as bitter as it is anything but. I have actually enjoyed writing it and sharing the information with everyone.

I am merely trying to enlighten those who have asked this burning question and give them a little insight to what the process really involves and how huge of an undertaking it truly is.

There are a number of ways that we could potentially streamline the process, but members have in some ways become accustomed to certain standards.

In addition to these inherent circumstances, there have been other factors this year that I won't bore anyone with the details of that have probably slowed things.

I have served this club as it's president for 6 years, it's secretary for 8 years now, and as a chairman and officer for three years prior to that.

I wouldn't trade any of my experiences at the club for anything.

There is a positive in everything we do, it's often not clear until later.

Sometimes the right way to do things isn't the quickest way or the easiest.

I wish the next person who takes this position the best as I will likely not be seeking re-election in November.

— Tim Ankeney

2014 EVENT DATES TO REMEMBER!

COWBOY ACTION OPENER - 3/2.

HUNTER ED. HOME STUDY - 3/22.

CAMPGROUND OPENS - 4/1.

22 RIM-FIRE LEAGUE OPENER - 4/15.

ANNUAL CLEAN-UP - 4/12 & 4/13.

**COWBOY ACTION NEW SHOOTER
ORIENTATION - 4/26.**

**BLACK POWDER SPRING
RENDEZVOUS - 5/2, 5/3 & 5/4.**

CMP M-1 GARAND CLINIC - 5/3.

ANNUAL FISH FRY - 5/13.

Support the NRA..... Join or Renew Today!

We're making it even easier for you.

Just fill out the NRA Join / Renewal form at the bottom of this page. Simply mark the membership type you would like, pick out your magazine choice and complete the form. Once completed give a copy of the form to our club NRA Recruiter or click onto our new direct link to the NRA and join now!

RON CLARK - (937) 426-8889

**** It is important that you join or renew through the GCF&G, so contact Ron Today! Reduced membership rates are available to all Greene County Fish & Game Members.**

JUST A FEW GOOD REASONS TO JOIN THE NRA:

- The National Rifle Association does more to protect the rights of all sportsmen and gun owners than any other single organization in the world.
- To receive important legislative alerts that will keep you apprised of potential threats to your 2nd Amendment Rights.
- To become a working part of the most recognized and influential gun owners group in the world today and make your voice heard.
- To help promote Youth & Adult Firearms Education Programs.
- To receive additional Insurance coverage for you and your guns.
- To receive an official "Members Only" shooter's cap.
- To receive your choice of (3) monthly NRA Magazines.




Here are two easy ways for you to join the fight to protect your Second Amendment Rights!

You can click on this Direct Link to the NRA:

<http://membership.nrahq.org/default.asp?campaignid=XC020263>

Or You Can:

Fill out the Membership Application below and forward it to Club Representative Ron Clark:

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION				XC020263 NRA RECRUITER ID#	
DATE: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> NEW MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL # _____		RECRUITER SIGNATURE _____	
NAME: Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____ <small>FIRST LAST M.I.</small>		MEMBERSHIP TYPE			
ADDRESS: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 YEAR \$35 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 YEAR \$85 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 YEAR \$125 <input type="checkbox"/> JUNIOR (18 years & under) \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATE (no magazine) \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE MEMBERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> Reg. \$1000 <input type="checkbox"/> Jr. \$550 <input type="checkbox"/> Distinguished - age 65+ \$375 <input type="checkbox"/> EASY PAY* <input type="checkbox"/> PAID IN FULL		<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____	
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____		PHONE: (____) _____ E-MAIL: _____ BIRTHDATE: ____/____/____		<input type="checkbox"/> FOREIGN POSTAGE (per year: \$5 Canadian - \$10 other)	
CHOOSE ONE MAGAZINE (Junior Members under age 15 receive <i>Insights</i> magazine only, 15 and older choose magazine) AMERICAN RIFLEMAN <input type="checkbox"/> Print or <input type="checkbox"/> Digital* AMERICAN HUNTER <input type="checkbox"/> Print or <input type="checkbox"/> Digital* AMERICA'S 1 ST FREEDOM <input type="checkbox"/> Print or <input type="checkbox"/> Digital* <small>*Email address required for digital version.</small>		* EPL \$25 down payment then \$25 quarterly payments until the total dues are paid.			
PAYMENT INFORMATION		<input type="checkbox"/> CASH <input type="checkbox"/> CHECK # _____		TOTAL \$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> CHARGE TO: <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MC <input type="checkbox"/> DISCOVER		ACCOUNT # _____ EXP. DATE _____ <small>MO. YR.</small>		MEMBER SIGNATURE (credit card only) _____	
Contributions, gifts, or membership dues made or paid to the National Rifle Association of America are not refundable or transferable and are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal income tax purposes.					
NRA MEMBERSHIP DEPT. COPY					