

Land of Lakes, Mountains, Scenic Beauty and Friendly People

North Georgia News

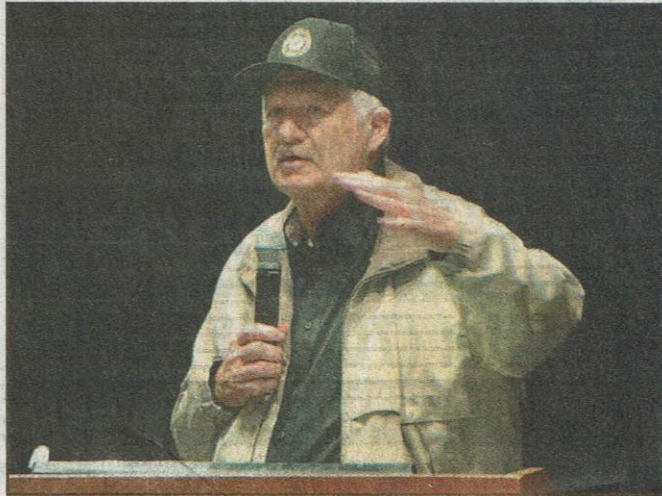
Gun Club offers range updates in Annual Meeting

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The Union County Gun Club welcomed close to 200 people to its 2023 Annual Membership Meeting, which featured multiple speakers and updates on the Target Range inside the Union County Schools Fine Arts Center on March 2.

Gun Club President Paul Clark started things off with a prayer before recognizing veterans and any active-duty service members in attendance, and he led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

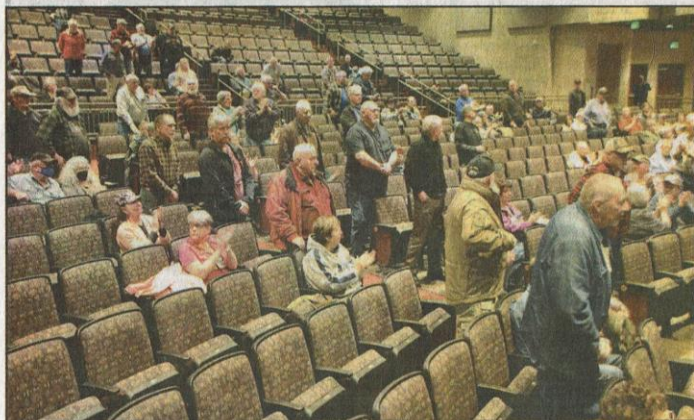
Alongside a picture
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Sheriff Mack Mason has been a vocal supporter of the Union County Gun Club since Day 1, pictured here speaking in the club's March 2 annual meeting. Photo by Shawn Jarrard



Gun Club Meeting...from Page 1A



Veterans were asked to stand for recognition during the Gun Club annual meeting at the Fine Arts Center earlier this month. Overall attendance was lower than expected, likely due to bad weather that moved in that evening.

Photo by Shawn Jarrard

slideshow and plans set out for guests, Clark related the latest range news, letting people know that phone and power lines had been installed at the site, the property had been cleared of trees, and that grading was set to begin the week of March 6.

"While it doesn't look like it, when you stand on the

property today with the trees gone, from the firing line to the target area there's a difference of 20 feet (in elevation)," Clark said. "So, they're going to take the high ground and move it to the low ground (for a dirt-neutral project)."

For the sake of safety, Clark asked that people refrain from visiting the site during

construction to prevent work interruptions. He said to stay tuned via www.unioncountyguncub.com for updates and progress photos.

In new business, Clark announced that the Gun Club will begin conducting Range Safety Classes and issuing member ID cards later this year.

Union County Sheriff Mack Mason was the first guest speaker that evening. Mason helped to spearhead the original effort to start the Gun Club, and he has worked from the beginning as the liaison between the Gun Club and state/federal officials to make the Target Range a reality.

He thanked Gun Club Board Members for their steadfastness in leading the club, shared his appreciation for charter members who stepped out in faith to support the club years ago, and he thanked Commissioner Lamar Paris for his unwavering commitment to seeing the range built.

"I envisioned a shed up there to shoot out from under," Mason said of his initial expectations. But Mason noted that when Paris got involved, "he not only allowed the county to accept this land in a lease transfer from the Forest Service," but the project's scope and quality expanded.

Upon completion, people will be able to enjoy a 12-lane pistol range at 25 yards and a 14-lane rifle range at 150 yards, with a Club House Office Building featuring a classroom to host meetings, storage/office space for Gun Club use, and bathrooms with plumbing.

Importantly, the range will assist the Union County Sheriff's Office, Blairsville Police, and state law enforcement officers with training and mandatory qualification, which to date has required local agencies to rely on people willing to offer the use of private property for such purposes.

Mason introduced Connor Land, a field representative for U.S. Rep. Andrew Clyde of Georgia's 9th Congressional District.

"I'm sorry that the congressman couldn't make it, but I appreciate the opportunity to come speak with y'all," Land said. "As you know, Congressman Clyde is a staunch defender of the Second Amendment."

"When he ran for the first time back in 2020, he promised his constituents that, if he made it to Washington, he would do

whatever it takes to protect our Second Amendment. And that's just what he's done over the past two and a half years."

Land discussed Rep. Clyde's ongoing efforts to block the U.S. Department of Justice's enforcement of a recent rule it put out regarding "Stabilizing Braces" for pistols, saying it was a clear example of Executive Branch overreach and hostility toward the Second Amendment.

Further, Land imparted that Clyde believes the rule is part of a broader effort by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to expand firearm registration, which, he said, "always comes before confiscation."

Up next, Paris expressed his gratitude for the men and women who keep Union Countians safe year-round. He was also thankful for the good working relationship between his office and the Sheriff's Office, which has certainly contributed to the success of the Target Range.

"When the project was brought up to me, I kind of thought, 'Hm, I don't know about this,'" Paris said. "The thing that encouraged me besides Sheriff Mason was those people out in the

community who came to me and really grieved continuously about their neighbors shooting in the yard right next door to them."

Added Paris, "One of the things that we hope comes out of all this is that people will mostly cease shooting on their own property and realize it's going to be safer and better for everybody if they come to join the club and shoot at the rifle and pistol range."

"We are excited for all of you who have stuck with this, and I think it's going to be exciting for the whole community," Paris said. "Thank you all for being patient. We're still going to have to be patient for a few more months."

"We're hoping in the fall this thing will get done, and hopefully it's not going to rain every day or every other day like it's been doing for the last while."

After the meeting adjourned, the Gun Club held a drawing for the fundraiser raffle prize of a Henry Lever-Action 22S/LR Caliber Rifle with a 24-inch Octagon Barrel provided by Alexander's Store.

For more information, including on how to sign up as a member, visit the Gun Club's website.



Field Representative Connor Land from U.S. Rep. Andrew Clyde's office spoke with Gun Club members at their annual meeting.

Photo by Shawn Jarrard





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