

# North Georgia News

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## Gun Club annual meeting to feature rifle raffle

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The Union County Gun Club Annual Meeting is set for Thursday, March 2, and people will want to get to the Union County Schools Fine Arts Center early for a chance to win a rifle raffle.

Courtesy of Alexander's Store, the Gun Club is raffling a Henry Lever-Action .22S/L/LR Caliber Rifle with a 24-inch Octagon Barrel. The winner will have to complete a Federal Firearms License form and pick up the rifle at Alexander's.

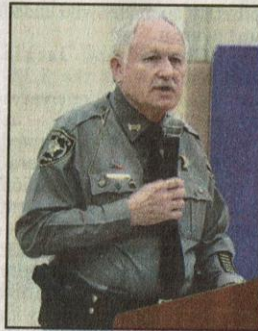
Priced at \$5 apiece or 5 for \$20, people may purchase raffle tickets between 4 p.m. and the start of the meeting at 6 p.m. that Thursday. Ticket sales will resume after the meeting,

which is expected to last about 45 minutes, and the drawing will take place at 7:30 p.m.

Can't stick around for the entire event? No worries – ticketholders do not need to be present to win. All attendees, however, should keep in mind that no personal firearms are allowed inside the Fine Arts Center, as it is school property.

Raffle proceeds will go toward the maintenance of the roughly 400-member club, which got its start on July 10, 2017, and has been active and growing ever since.

It was a humble start to an ambitious endeavor, with local Second Amendment enthusiasts coming together more than five and a half years ago with aspirations of raising enough money to build a Union



Sheriff Mack Mason  
Gun Club Liaison

County Target Range.

And the effort has snowballed since then, going from a search for usable property in 2017 to the end goal being in sight today, as the 90% federally funded Target Range

readies to enter its construction phase off Georgia 180.

"We're proud that, at this stage, the work has begun," said Union County Sheriff Mack Mason, who from the beginning has served as the liaison between the Gun Club and state/federal officials to make the range a reality.

When it opens, everyone meeting the requirements of the "Standard Operating Procedures," such as age stipulations, "can go and have recreation in the shooting sports and practice their Second Amendment rights," Sheriff Mason said.

Importantly, the range will better assist the Union County Sheriff's Office, Blairsville Police Department and state law enforcement to conduct regular trainings,



This Henry .22S/L/LR Rifle could be yours if you attend the March 2 Gun Club annual meeting and enter the raffle.

which to date has required local agencies to rely on people willing to offer the use of private property for such purposes.

"We will be glad to get this facility up and running because Union County Government has no shooting range within the county," Sheriff Mason said. "This will

enable us as law enforcement officers to get our mandatory qualification with our duty weapons more easily during the course of the year."

Upon opening – stakeholders are hoping sometime this fall – the Gun Club will oversee operations of the facility on about 14 acres of

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U.S. Forest Service land, with a dedicated Range Safety Officer to be on duty at all times the range is open.

People will be able to enjoy a 12-lane pistol range at 25 yards and a 14-lane rifle range at 150 yards that will operate independently, meaning one range can be "hot" while the other is "cold," and the facilities will be open to

the public on certain days and times of the week.

The range will also feature a Club House Office Building with a classroom to host meetings, plus storage/office space for Gun Club use and bathrooms with plumbing.

A full update on the progress of the range will be made in the March 2 annual

meeting, where Gun Club members will also be able to pay their annual dues, currently \$35 for charter members and \$70 for non-charter members – cash or check only.

For people looking to join the Gun Club, becoming a member grants exclusive access to the range during non-public hours, and members don't have to pay daily range

fees to shoot. Money from dues will help cover equipment, range officers, etc., once operational.

To find more information, including a look at the bylaws, the "Standard Operating Procedures" and range presentation drawings, and to print off a membership application, visit <http://unioncountygunclub.com/>.