

# Fort Valley Gun Club

## **Rules and Regulations**

**2015 Edition**

# **Welcome to the Fort Valley Gun Club**

**The purpose of this booklet is to acquaint members with the history of the FVGC and to provide a handy reference of the rules and regulations of the club. All rules and regulations are based upon the Constitution and the Bylaws of the organization. When you were accepted for membership you made a pledge to abide by the club's rules. You are urged to read this booklet carefully to avoid unintentional breaking of the Club rules or regulations.**

**As a member of the FVGC you have been given certain rights and privileges. In turn you have accepted certain responsibilities. You are expected to attend club meetings, participate in work days, follow and help enforce Range rules, and display and be an example of good sportsmanship and citizenry.**

**The Range rules have been expanded to cover not only safety, caretaking of club property, and competitive events but also the conduct of each and every member who uses the range. You should read this section very carefully.**

**If you have any questions, contact one of the Club officers. The bylaws can be read by contacting the Club Secretary.**

# History

The Fort Valley Gun Club was organized in 1962 for the purpose of providing organized shooting sports for the citizens of Fort Valley and the surrounding community. At that time the nearest shooting facilities were located at Fort Benning, GA., a military facility with limited access, and in Atlanta GA., a civilian facility requiring membership prior to usage. Starting with 11 members, by the fall of 1963 the Club had grown to a total of 26.

In December of 1963, the Club made the decision to purchase land for a club operated range. In order to be able to do so a corporation was formed. The Club was chartered under the laws of the state of Georgia allowing it to be a legal entity and able to transact such business. The corporation was and is titled "Fort Valley Gun Club, Inc." It is a separate organization from the Fort Valley Gun Club, which under law is an association and not a legal entity. Membership in the FVGC does not convey membership in the FVGCC, INC.

The corporation purchased a 25 acre tract of woodland 2 miles west of Fort Valley adjacent to State Highway 96. At that time the property was accessible only by farm road. The road has since been paved or graveled and is appropriately named "Gun Club Road". The Corporation owns the land and leases it to the Club for sporting purposes.

Traditional Southern methods were used to raise the funds necessary to pay for the land, such as barbecues, raffles and participating in community carnivals and other festivities.

**The Club takes great pride in the fact that it is the only club in the state that operates its range without cost to and solely for the benefit of its members.**

**The Club has been affiliated with the National Rifle Association since inception, and has been a recognized Senior Club for over 30 years.**

## **Membership**

**Membership is open to adult members of the community upon submission of a properly executed application which must include a written and signed endorsement by two (2) members in good standing of the Club who have lengthy knowledge of the applicant, investigation and approval of the Executive Committee, and a majority vote by members present at a regularly scheduled meeting.**

**There is a cap of 150 members based upon studies of range usage, road traffic through the local community, and applicable noise levels. There are no plans to increase this limit.**

**There are three types of membership, Life Member, Annual Member, and Conditional Member. Life Members make up a maximum of 20% or 30 members, with Annual and Conditional members making up the remaining 120 members. For the first year after joining an applicant is a Conditional Member. After a year's membership, the Executive Committee will evaluate the applicant and either recommends a full membership or a non-renewal of membership to the Club as a whole for a vote at a regular scheduled meeting.**

**Fees:** One time initiation fee, annual dues, and special levies may vary from year to year. Contact the Club Secretary for the current schedules.

**Annual Dues:** Membership dues are payable in full by no later than the end of the regular monthly meeting in February. Letters postmarked with that date with correct fee enclosed will be accepted. Members not paying dues by the established date will be dropped from the Club membership.

**Membership Card and Club News:** All members in good standing will receive a membership card. Current Club news and announcements can be found on the website at [www.ftvalleygc.net](http://www.ftvalleygc.net). About the last week of February a letter will be sent to members with the new gate combination and announcing the annual meeting and election. Members are required to have the membership card in their possession when on the range. It is each individual member's responsibility to notify the Club Secretary of change in address.

## Meetings

**Monthly Meetings:** Unless otherwise notified, meetings will be held starting at 12:00pm at the Range the first Saturday of each month. If changes are made they will be posted on the website.

**Called or Special Meetings:** Held for special purposes only. If any are scheduled they will be posted on the website.

**Annual Meetings:** Held on the first Saturday in April of each year. The President and Secretary's reports are given and the election of Club officers for the forthcoming year takes place at this meeting.

## Club Officers

There are four (4) elected officers of the Fort Valley Gun Club:

**President:** Manages the overall and day-to-day operation of the Club. Presides at all regular and special meetings. Represents the Club in dealing with the public. Acts as spokesman for the Club. Is the Senior Member of all permanent committees.

**Vice President:** Assists the President in carrying out his duties. Presides or represents the President in his absence or at his request. Is Chairman of the New Member Committee.

**Executive/Range Officer:** Responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Range. Coordinates with the match directors and approves all competitive shooting schedules to preclude conflict.

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Keeps all files and records for the Club. Prepares all correspondence relating to Club affairs. Maintains financial and fiscal documentation. Prepares and disburses funds as required in joint action with the President.

**Match Directors:** Match Directors vary from year to year dependent upon type and number of competitive events sanctioned by the Club. These include but are not limited to Practical Pistol, Bench Rest, Offhand, Military Rifle, 22LR Silhouette, and Big Bore

**Silhouette matches. While these are not elected positions, Match Directors have full authority and control of the Range they are using during these events.**

## **The Range**

**The Range is for the use and enjoyment of the Club membership. In order to keep the Range open and in operation it is mandatory to consider the impact of range usage upon the nearby community, therefore it is necessary to strictly enforce certain rules and regulations. As a responsible member not only are you expected to follow these rules but to remind others when necessary.**

**Members may bring immediate family members with no limitations. Members may bring non-family members with a limitation of two. If other members are present a limit of 2 benches is the max that a member and family, or guest can occupy. This is a matter of courtesy to our paying members. Members and guest are welcome to use the Range facilities within certain limitations. First, the member is totally responsible for his guest's action while on the Range. Second, neither guest nor any family member may be given the combination to the gate lock under any circumstances. Third, the member must assure his guest follow all Range rules and regulations.**

**Competitors in scheduled events are classified as guests of the Match Director who is responsible for their conduct.**

**THE RANGE BEING USED FOR THE MATCH IS NOT OPEN FOR CASUAL USE OR SHOOTING AT THE TIMES WHEN A COMPETITIVE EVENT IS**

**SCHEDULED. THIS IS A SAFETY ITEM AND THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS. SCHEDULED EVENTS ARE PUBLISHED ON THE WEBSITE.**

## **Entering the Range**

**The entrance to the Range is controlled by a four (4) digit lock on the gate. The combination is changed periodically. When a change is to be made it will be published in a newsletter. It is a good idea to clip out the combination and carry in your wallet.**

**To open the lock, set the four wheels to the combination and press down on the shackle. To re-lock, turn the wheels away from the combination and press down. If the lock will not open, don't beat it, you have probably used the wrong combination. Contact any Club Officer for assistance.**

**After entering the Range, lock the gate behind you. Be sure and leave enough slack in the chain so the lock combination is accessible from both sides of the gate. The gate is kept locked at all times except during a scheduled match. Before proceeding to the Range, look properly at the Club sign. Attached to the metal post is a metal flag colored red on one side and green on the other. Green means no one is on the Range and red indicates occupancy. If the flag is green upon entry turn the red side out so anyone coming on the Range will be aware of occupancy. The red side stays showing while anyone is on the Range. It is the responsibility of the last man leaving the Range to turn the green side out.**

# **The Actual Ranges**

**There are actually three ranges on the property. The first one you get to is called the “Founders Range”. The second range is called the “Upper Range” and the third range is called the “Pistol Range”.**

## **Range Rules**

**THE FOLLOWING RULES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE SAFETY AND PROTECTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE CLUB. VIOLATION OF THE RULES CAN LEAD TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION IN THE ACCORDANCE WITH THE ARTICLE VIII OF THE CLUB BYLAWS. DON'T JEOPARDIZE YOUR MEMBERSHIP BY DISREGARDING THEM.**

**All members should have a membership card in their possession while on the Range. This will be produced when requested. If a membership card is not produced a drivers license must be shown. Do not hesitate to challenge someone you don't know. Don't argue if there is a problem, just take a vehicle tag number and immediately report the incident to a Club Officer.**

**All areas of the Range are available by road therefore driving across grass and drainage ditches is prohibited.**

**Vehicles will not be parked in roads except for loading and unloading.**

**Children must be under positive adult control and pets on a leash at all times and not allowed to roam.**

**The use of alcohol while shooting is strictly prohibited. The use of drugs is prohibited at all times. Nonobservance of this rule will get you expelled from the Club.**

**Weapons must be unloaded and the action open at all times except when on the firing line.**

**During casual shooting when there is more than one person, the first person on site is the Ad Hoc range officer. He will be responsible for fire control commands. He will assure all range and safety commands are followed. No one will go forward of the firing line or down range under any circumstances until authorized by him.**

**Targets must be placed directly in front of and adjacent to a backstop (BERM). Targets will not be placed either on the ground or on top of a BERM.**

**Trees or Range furniture such as stools, tables, etc. will not be used to support targets or as targets.**

**The use of rocks, glass, bricks, etc. as targets is strictly prohibited.**

**Trash and target materials must be placed in the trash containers or taken away when leaving the Range.**

**Clay targets (skeet, trap), may be shot only in the area so designated and specifically not in front of any of the covered shooting positions.**

**Located on the "Upper Range", the .22 silhouette metal target frames will not be used for anything other than 22LR targets. No center fire allowed.**

**NFA Firearms – Owner must be present and have in his/her possession a copy of the ATF transfer documents for each NFA firearm on Club property. Any shooter of a NFA firearm must be at least 18**

**years of age and must be able to lawfully possess a NFA firearm. The owner is fully responsible for the lawful use of any NFA firearm he/she brings on Club property and is responsible for any damage caused by its use.**

## **Work Days**

**The Club does not have paid maintenance personnel therefore all members are expected to pitch in and help perform the work necessary to keep the Range in good order. The bottom line is if you use it then you help maintain it in good order. If for some reason you cannot donate your time then a cash donation may be made in lieu of work. Details of work days will be published in the newsletter.**

## **General Information**

**For information not covered in this booklet, please contact any Club officer.**

**Policies, rules and bylaws are subject to changes or modifications as circumstances require.**