

Fort Valley Gun Club Handbook

**Rules and Regulations
March 2023 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-Treasurer.

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 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 business. The Corporation 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 FVGC, 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 has been affiliated with the National Rifle Association since inception, and has been a recognized Senior Club for over 50 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,

passing a criminal background check, 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 two types of membership: Life Member and Annual Member. Life Members make up a maximum of 20% or 30 members, with Annual members making up the remaining 120 Members.

Fees:

- A one-time initiation fee of \$25 is due upon joining the club.
- Annual member dues are \$100 per year.
- Life member dues are a one-time payment of \$1000 (10 times the annual dues rate).
- Replacement club ID badge fee is \$5.
- Special purpose fees may be levied from time to time upon approval of the Executive Committee and a majority vote of the general membership at the Annual or a Special Called Meeting.

Annual Membership Renewals: Membership dues are payable in full by no later than the end of the regular monthly meeting in February. Letters postmarked with that date and the correct fee enclosed will be accepted. Members not paying dues by the established date will be immediately dropped from club membership. **NO GRACE PERIOD IS ALLOWED.**

Membership Card and Club News: All members in good standing receive a laminated membership ID badge. Members are required to wear their ID badge when on the club property.

Club news and announcements can be found on the website at www.fortvalleygc.net or on the club's Facebook page. About the third week of February each year, a newsletter will be sent to members by U.S. mail with an ID validation sticker (annual members only), the new gate combination, and notice of the annual meeting and club officer election.

It is each member's responsibility to notify the Club Secretary-Treasurer of changes to their postal and email addresses and telephone number.

Meetings

Monthly Meetings: Unless otherwise notified, meetings will be held as defined by the Executive Committee 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, the membership will be notified by U.S. mail and electronic means.

Annual Meetings: Held on the first Saturday in April of each year. The President's and Secretary-Treasurer'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.

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.

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.

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 club members and their guests only. In order to keep the Range in operation it is mandatory to consider the impact of range usage on 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 Guests to the range. However, if other members are present, a limit of 2 benches is the maximum that a member and family or guests can occupy. This is a matter of courtesy to our paying members. Members and guests 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 guests nor any family member may be given the combination to the gate lock under any circumstances. Third, the member must assure his guests 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 normally changed the first week of March each year. However, if unauthorized personnel have gained access to

the combination and are trespassing on club property, it will be necessary to change the combination at other times as well. If that occurs, the new combination will be sent to all club members by U.S mail. 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 pull up on the shackle. If the lock will not open, don't try to force it, you have probably used the wrong combination. Contact any Club Officer for assistance. To re-lock, make certain the wheels are set to the correct combination and press the shackle down into the lock. After you have inserted the shackle, make sure to spin the wheels off of the combination; otherwise, the lock will not re-lock.

After entering the club, lock the gate behind you. Be sure to 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 a range, look to the left of the entrance gate. Attached to a post are metal flags colored red on one side and green on the other. Green means no one is on that range and red indicates occupancy. If the flag is green upon entry, turn the red side out so anyone coming onto that 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

See attached map of the club property.

GENERAL GUN SAFETY

- 1. TREAT ALL GUNS AS IF THEY ARE LOADED.**
- 2. ALWAYS KEEP THE GUN POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION.**
- 3. ALWAYS KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER UNTIL READY TO SHOOT.**
- 4. KNOW YOUR TARGET AND WHAT IS BEYOND. MAKE SURE THE DOWN-RANGE AREA IS UNOCCUPIED.**

ADDITIONAL SAFETY GUIDANCE

- 1. BE THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH HOW THE GUN OPERATES AND THAT IT IS SAFE TO USE.**
- 2. USE ONLY CORRECT AMMUNITION FOR YOUR GUN.**
- 3. ALWAYS KEEP THE GUN UNLOADED UNTIL READY TO SHOOT.**

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 must wear their membership ID badge while on club property. Do not hesitate to challenge someone who you do not know and who does not display their badge. Don't argue if there is a problem, just take a vehicle tag number and report the incident to a Club Officer as soon as practical.**

- **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.**
- **Unattended Guns Should Not Be Accessible To Unauthorized Persons.**
- **The use of alcohol while shooting is strictly prohibited. The use of drugs is prohibited at all times. Non-observance of this rule will get you expelled from the Club.**
- **Weapons must be unloaded and the action open at all times except when actively engaged in shooting. The use of empty chamber indicators is strongly encouraged.**
- **All shooters and spectators are urged to wear eye and hearing protection. Your sight and hearing are too precious to put at risk. Match Directors may require eye and hearing protection as a condition of participating in the matches they conduct.**
- **During casual shooting when there is more than one person on a range, 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 the backstop berm so that all projectiles impact the berm. Targets will not be placed either on the ground (potentially causing ricochets) or on top of a berm. Ricochets and overshoots of the berm are serious safety infractions and the continued existence of the Club could be jeopardized if shots go off of club property and complaints are made by surrounding landowners to legal authorities.**
- **Trees or range furniture such as stools and tables, or range props (barricades, drums, etc.) are not be used to support targets or as targets.**
- **The use of rocks, glass, bricks, etc. as targets is strictly prohibited.**
- **To eliminate a fire hazard no Tannerite exploding targets, tracer or incendiary ammunition may be used on any of the club ranges.**
- **All trash, used targets, and spent cartridge cases must be removed by members when leaving the range. The Club has no trash pick-up so take everything you brought to the range home with you.**
- **Help maintain the club's target boards by removing all used targets, tape and staples when you have concluded your shooting session.**
- **Shotguns may not be fired at the club supplied target boards on any range. Members wishing to fire shotguns are required to bring their own target stand and backer and place it so that all projectiles are shot safely into the berm. This rule applies to all**

ranges at the club. Steel targets may also be shot so long as they are in front of a berm and positioned to insure that back-splatter does not endanger the shooter or bystanders.

- No aerial targets may be shot on the club property except in the last Tactical Pit (range H on attached map). Clay pigeons are the only thrown targets permitted and they must be shot using bird shot only. Throw targets in a safe direction, toward the back wall of the pit.**
- Located on the Upper Range, the .22 silhouette metal target frames will not be used with anything other than 22LR standard or high velocity ammunition. Absolutely no hyper-velocity rimfire or center fire ammunition may be fired at these target frames.**
- NFA Firearms – The owner must be present and have in his/her possession a copy of the approved ATF 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 the range then you need to 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 workdays will be published in the newsletter, web-site and electronic mail.

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.

ATTACHMENT 1: CLUB MAP

