



PowderKeg

February/March 2025

Official Newsletter of the Falls Township Rifle & Pistol Association



Two Apprentice Instructors completed the rifle discipline from NRA in late December - capturing the attention of adult instructor candidates. Left: Junior Member Matthew Pajrowski; Right: Lower Providence Junior Member Caitlyn Skripek

The Future of Shooting

Keith Milligan, President

I'd like to express my appreciation to the newly appointed team of instructors who have stepped in to help get the club's Junior Rifle season off of the ground in 2025. It's great to see 17 kids learning about safe firearms handling and the basics of rifle shooting as beginners this year, with another 10 returning for another year to work their way up the NRA Marksmanship Qualification ladder.

In another first (as far as I know) for the program, we have Apprentice Instructors assisting. I'm excited to see our young people get interested in the shooting sports and in learning how to teach others so they can keep passing it on. Becoming an Apprentice Instructor gives teens more leadership experience that can help as they navigate school, sports, and other activities in life. For that,

I appreciate our Education Committee's dedication to finding Training Counselors who support young instructors and help them flourish.

I give sincere thanks to those who have lead the Junior Rifle program through the years. In fact, we just stumbled across the 1990 board records and newsletters that show when the Junior Rifle program's first iteration of the current program was proposed and approved.

This is also the time of year that anyone who is a 5+ year or life member of the NRA gets a say in the future of that organization. We ended our 64-year long affiliation and 100% requirement in 2022, but most of our members understand that no other pro-gun group has managed to step in to fill *all* of the gigantic shoes of the organization across

training, lobbying, legal work, election efforts, and the shooting sports. (Don't worry, the 100% requirement isn't coming back. That ship sailed.)

Some groups have managed some good work on the legal front, but without the lobbying and election networks to address laws before we have to go to court. Other groups have been very successful as sanctioning bodies for one single sport, but none have the breadth that NRA once had.

Ideally, the future includes a healthier NRA, alongside the robust ecosystem of other specialized gun rights groups and shooting sports organizations. Inside, you'll find a piece by one of the reform-focused candidates - and a list of some others he's running with - to help make that reality happen.

Board Briefs

A Summary of What Your FTRPA Board is Doing

December

- Dissolved the little used indoor & outdoor range committees, with the tasks of scheduling & match approval returning to the Board following the November bylaw results;
- Updated range rules, including calibers permitted on the indoor range and nighttime archery policies;
- Passed resolution authorizing corporate purchase of revolvers for use in basic pistol and range safety officer courses offered by the Education Committee;
- Declined request to expand 50 & 100/200 yard range closures for NRL22 throughout the year, but did agree to a one-time approval for a longer range use in December 2024;
- Followed up on a formal approval of previously agreed upon women's shoot date for January;
- Restructured youth shooting education programs to be a subcommittee under the larger Education Committee, accepted resignation of some junior rifle leaders and president announced new appointments to support those who chose to continue helping, then Board approved dates for January to March 2025;
- Approved September dates for a Rangemaster Combative Pistol course in final stages of confirmation;
- Reviewed & approved changes to phone & internet services that will result in faster internet, more remote access services, and save the club more than \$1,100 annually; and
- Approved budget to engage engineers for initial study and work on range wall work for the 200-yard range.

January

- Reviewed email vote approving purchase of two CMP-sold left-handed Savage single shot rifles for Junior Rifle;
- Voted to fill the trustee vacancy created when Dan Buckley elevated to Secretary with Kevin Neidel;
- Approved a date to host a club flea market in Summer 2025;
- Approved a September date for use of meeting room for a Two Pillars Training lecture; and
- Approved applying for a small games of chance license to allow the club and its programs to consider raffle and 50/50 drawings for fundraising.

50/50 Drawings

Board of Directors

We approved applying for a proper license for running raffles and have submitted it. If approved before the February member meeting, we'll begin running a new 50/50 raffle. If not approved in time, we will aim for a March start.

Proceeds from each drawing will benefit Junior Education.

Departed Members

Bill Dickinson

Member Number 2859
Dec. 25, 1948 – Sep. 12, 2024

William Etzl

Member Number 1519
Mar. 29, 1949 – Oct. 28, 2024

John Sabo

Member Number 1645
Nov. 29, 1940 – January 2025

Meeting Schedule

General Meetings

Wed Feb 12, 2024 @ 7PM

Wed Mar 12, 2024 @ 7PM

Held in the Clubhouse

Board Meetings

Wed Feb 12, 2024 @ ~7:45PM

Wed Mar 12, 2024 @ ~7:45PM

Held in Board Room after
General Meeting

NRA Election Recommendations

If you're a voting member of the NRA, only about 3-6% of members cast a vote for their board. That is how problem people took over and have created the legal messes.

Here are some candidates committed to cleaning NRA up:

Jonathan S. Goldstein

Haverford, Pennsylvania

Frank Tait

Wayne, Pennsylvania

Theresa Inacker

Tabernacle, New Jersey

James A. Sheckels

Fayetteville, North Carolina

John Richardson

Arden, North Carolina

Todd Vandermyde

Yorkville, Illinois

You can vote for up to 28 candidates on the ballot this year due to the number of resignations during the various trials.

Additional information about these candidates and several others are available at www.ElectANewNRA.com.

Ballots Out Now!

NRA Home Firearm Safety Student + Instructor - Feb. 9

NRA's Home Firearm Safety course is a great basic safety, non-live fire course. This short course will be available as a student/instructor combination for those who would like to pick up this instructor discipline. In order to take this class, you need to have taken NRA Basic Instructor Training (BIT) within the previous two years.

Pre-registration is required [at this link](#) or on the member-only site. The ~8 hour class (with lunch break) begins at 8:00am and costs \$150.

Big News for Training!

We've booked a popular national trainer for an extended weekend of training - 2 classes across 3 days. See page 8 for details.

Welcome New Members!

- ❖ Walter Andrew, Bordentown, NJ
- ❖ Dante Hawkins, Trenton
- ❖ Wesley Fontana, Langhorne
- ❖ Ernest Wilson, Hamilton, NJ
- ❖ Olivia Ellingsworth, Bensalem
- ❖ Christopher King, Ewing, NJ
- ❖ Dawn King, Ewing, NJ
- ❖ Ian Scherzer, Kendall Park, NJ
- ❖ Brent Bryson, Levittown
- ❖ Charles Hart, Clementon, NJ

Guest Policies

If you bring a guest to shoot a match and arrive early or stay late, you need to pay a guest fee if they are going to participate in shooting or fishing activities before or after the match.

Guest fees are only waived for the duration of matches (matches may charge non-member rates) and their participation in that specific event, not hours before or after.

A guest who sticks around with you while you take a few shots after a match just needs to be signed in as "not shooting or fishing" and badged. However, they cannot shoot or fish if you sign them in that way.

As a reminder, we offer more ways to pay guest fees than ever: cash, Zelle, check, or Venmo. It's much better to pay up front than get fined. The fine is \$30, plus the guest fees that weren't paid, for a first offense. After that, it goes up and risks a Board hearing.

NRA CCW - February 23

FTRPA is hosting NRA CCW led by members on February 23 from 8:30am to ~5:30pm. The course teaches the knowledge, skills, & attitude necessary to safely carry concealed for personal defense.

The cost for club members is \$125 and for non-members is \$175. Participants will need to bring their own handgun, ammunition, and equipment requested by the instructors for this course. [Register here.](#)

Proof of completion of NRA Basic Pistol will be required.

NRA Basic Pistol Student Class April 6

Want to refresh your pistol-handling skills or get a commonly required basic safety class required for additional training? The NRA Basics of Pistol Shooting has you covered.

Course topics include: gun safety rules, operation of revolvers and semi-automatic pistols, ammunition knowledge, pistol selection, shooting fundamentals, maintenance, marksmanship, and shooting range safety. Additionally, students complete live fire training and pass a nationally standardized shooting qualification.

Preregistration is required and can be [found at this link](#) or on the member-only website. The 8-hour class begins at 8:30am and costs just \$60 for members. (Non-members are \$100.) Know someone looking to join? This is a great class to take.

Endorsements Issued

Steel Target Placement

- » John Johnson
- » Kenneth Horowitz
- » David Kohnow
- » David Cohen
- » Mark Kempisty
- » Jonathan McCullough
- » Michael Weiszer
- » Jason McKee
- » Michael Smith
- » Joe Adam
- » Wayne Laning
- » Ron McHugh
- » Tasha Ellingsworth
- » Will Gray
- » Ryan Sackowitz
- » Ian Scherzer

Machine Gun

- » Ron McHugh

Instructor

- » Kenneth Horowitz
- » Jim McCole
- » Matthew Pajrowski
- » Trish Gill

Range Safety Officer

- » Kenneth Horowitz
- » Jim McCole
- » Joe McCaskey
- » Wayne Bowles
- » Brody Rodweller
- » Mike McGee
- » Cindy McCaskey

Large Caliber

- » John Grotz
- » David Kohnow
- » Brock Harven
- » Edward Krumm

Silhouette's Pig Hunters

Dan Buckley, Chair

Thursday night silhouette's holiday ham shoot turned out to be a blast for many. During November and most of December, 48 people shot in the matches qualifying them for our ham shoot and knocked down 1,120 pigs.

The top prize went to Ryan Whitlock who shot scoped rifle for the contest to knock down 50 pigs. Second place was a tie between

sisters. Brynn Koval with her iron sights rifle and Jenna Koval with her scoped rifle not only tied at 47 pigs each, but they also set personal season high scores during the shoots. Jenna, a club Junior Member, earned her first ever perfect 40 during the contest.

The long run tie breaker was decided by one hit in favor of Brynn. It was so close, that which

pig they missed in a single match was the determining factor in their long run records.

In recognition of great shooting, Club President Keith Milligan presented Jenna with a new prize for the contest: El Presidente Asesino de Javelina Prize.

As it was said the night prizes were awarded, if feral hogs invade the club, we can call on Jenna's help.

Becoming an Instructor

Christie Caywood, Education Chair

Training for various intermediate and advanced credentials in the firearms world can require different standards, and I hope to continue breaking some of those down for members so you feel encouraged to take up the training opportunities that you might have been tempted to try.

In this issue, I'll discuss NRA instructor training. This is one of the most popular courses to take for earning instructor credentials since it comes with a nationwide network that promotes NRA training.

To be a full Certified Instructor, you'll need to be at least 21 and take a series of classes explained below. Mature young people aged 13 to 21 may take the courses and qualify as either Assistant or Apprentice Instructors so they can assist full instructors with classes and get hands on training that will help build leadership skills. At age 21, they can convert to full instructors.

Generally speaking, there are three classes ultimately needed to become an NRA instructor:

- » Basic Instructor Training (BIT);
- » Student version of the class you'd like to teach; and
- » Instructor discipline version of the class you'd like to teach.

The first two of those courses can be taken in any order. Only the third class topic requires both of the previous courses.

The student course of any topic can be from any time. If you took

a student-level class for the vast majority of NRA training subjects before April of 2017, then you likely received a paper certificate for your class. You may present that - a photo is fine - for proof. If you took a class after that date, your instructor likely opted for the PDF digital certificate which you can share as proof of the course when becoming an instructor.

BIT alone does not qualify someone as an NRA instructor. It is simply one half of

the instructor-level program.

However, it is valid for two years. That means you can take as many instructor discipline courses in that two years. You do *not* have to take

BIT every single time you pick up a new discipline course.

Currently, keeping current with BIT is a largely honor system situation. However, we are trying to track last BIT dates for those who take the classes at FTRPA until the NRA launches their tracking tool for that class. Based on the Education & Training Department's update to NRA members at their annual meeting, this feature of internal NRA tracking may launch in the next year or two.

Different Training Counselors have different policies when it comes to teaching BIT. Some may charge for every single time you need to refresh BIT. Others, including those we have been hosting at FTRPA to lead the class, offer low cost (or sometimes free) refresher BIT courses once you have taken one paid course with them.



NRA Basic Pistol Class Instructor - May 31

This one day course teaches the knowledge, skills and attitude essential to organizing, promoting and teaching NRA's popular Basics of Pistol Shooting course. In order to take this class, you need to have taken the NRA Basic Pistol student course at any point in advance *and* NRA Basic Instructor Training (BIT) within the previous two years.

Pre-registration is required and can be [found at this link](#) or on the member-only website. The ~8 hour class (with lunch break) begins at 8:00am and costs \$150.

April Work Parties - Last Chance!

If you're planning to get your hours in to reduce the dues required for renewal in June, remember that the final work party to help is April 19.

That means there are just 6 more work parties to lend a hand before the invoices are run and sent out. Get started soon!

Who Wins, Who Loses, & Why - September 12

Human performance under stress isn't a new topic. What makes this critically acclaimed presentation different is the recency of the research.

Topics covered in this course include: origins of human instincts and their implications, how the brain functions, emotional control in high stress environments, common misconceptions addressed, why recency matters, trigger realities and negligent discharges, and more.

This presentation uses the latest findings from a variety of fields to offer the best understanding of the topic. Attendees will receive a detailed copy of the notes for future reference. The price for FTRPA members is discounted to \$175 with the coupon code **FALLSMEMBER**. [Register online here.](#)

Combative Pistol September 13 & 14

This is an intense weekend course that covers all of the skills involved in fighting with a handgun.

Topics covered in this course include: rapid presentation from concealed carry, effective gun handling techniques designed to work under stress, rapid reloading techniques, shooting effectively with one hand, fixing malfunctions rapidly, proper defensive mindset, personal tactics, & much more.

Expect to fire about 500-600 rounds of ammunition. This two day specialty class is rarely offered within a day's drive. Read the [Rangemaster site](#) closely to make sure you will have all required equipment. The price for FTRPA members is \$475 and the price for non-FTRPA members is \$535.

[Register online here](#) (also on the member site).

Let's Take Back the NRA!

Frank Tait, Candidate for the NRA Board

The NRA is at a crossroads, between Danger and Opportunity. We are choosing Opportunity.

Who are we? We are NRA 2.0 and we are forging a new path for the members of the NRA. We are a majority of Board Members ready to meet the challenges and secure the future of the NRA. We are concerned about the status quo of the organization and the internal issues that are impacting our mission. Membership has been demanding a change and we are ready, willing, and able to make that change.

We want to govern the NRA based on integrity and transparency. We are dedicated to the fight and challenges that lie ahead, and we are committed. We are here to serve our members, with the support of our donors and industry. To do that though, we need your help. You must **VOTE!**

If you are a voting member of the NRA, you will receive your 2025 ballot in mid-January in one of the NRA publications. On that ballot are 49 candidates running for a seat on the Board of Directors. Only 28 of the 49 are supporters of NRA 2.0. We need YOU to vote for all 28 of those candidates. Who are they? Next to the ballot is a list of those candidates and you can find out more about them now by visiting www.ElectaNewNRA.com.

Make your choice by **completely filling** in the circle next to the name with a pen or pencil.

Two are **Write-In** candidates: Charlie Brown of Dayton, OH, and Paul Babaz of Atlanta, GA. Please write in their names, city and state. They were denied the opportunity to have their names printed on the ballot. Please clearly write their names on the reverse of the ballot.

These 28 candidates support the **Mission** and **Core Values** of the NRA 2.0. They will fight for **YOU** and the NRA, but without your support and **VOTE**, they won't be able to wage that fight.

We want to restore the trust and faith of the NRA members because the NRA exists for the members. We will continue to fight for the 2nd Amendment and bring the NRA back to its mission of creating and supporting shooting programs, competitive shooting, and furthering firearm safety and education. Our goal is to bring the NRA back to the Mission and Core Values that made it the great organization it once was.

We are asking for your **VOTE** in this upcoming election. Mail it in before the deadline of April 6, 2025, and help us take back the NRA! Thank you!



Nicholas Johnson's New Role

Christie Caywood, Editor

In December, the University of Wyoming College of Law's Firearms Research Center announced that former a FTRPA member, Professor Nicholas J. Johnson at the Fordham University School of Law, has become a Fellow with their Research Center.

Prof. Johnson teaches in the areas of gun control, gun rights, contracts, and environmental law. He is a 1984 graduate of Harvard Law School. In addition to writing *Negroes and the Gun*, he is a co-author of *Firearms Law and the Second Amendment: Regulation, Rights and Policy*.

He contributes to the media, including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *National Review*, Library of Law and Liberty, BBC News, ABC News, & MSNBC. Johnson has testified before Congress on firearms law and his work on firearms law has been cited by the Supreme Court.

We wish Prof. Johnson well in his new research role!

Contact Club Leaders

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PowderKeg

Falls Township Rifle & Pistol Association

354 Newbold Road  Fairless Hills, PA 19030



Need to update your mailing address,
phone number, or email address?

Make changes directly through the new
member-only website!

A Peek Inside....

New Classes Scheduled

Classes covering a variety of topics, some from nationally recognized instructors, are now ready for sign up.

Guest Policy Reminders

For those who bring guests, we have some reminders about the club rules and policies about visits to the club. Don't forget to pay for them at the time of visit or face a fine.

NRA Election Reform Candidates

Our club has enough life and voting members of the NRA to sway elections. After the courts have found many issues within the organizations, volunteers from our region & engaged with our clubs are stepping up to run to fix things. Get their names & info on their plans inside.

News You May Have Missed

Questions we sometimes hear indicate some have missed club rule announcements...

We don't point guns at people or where people could reasonably be expected to be on the property.

Safe direction is defined in the rules. It's not a gun aimed at the parking lots, at the clubhouse, or to your sides where others could be standing.