

Union County Gun Club nearing 400 members

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
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The Union County Gun Club is rocking right along, having picked up 390 members since its initial meeting in July 2017.

In just over a year since its inception, the club has also assisted the Union County Commissioner's Office in gathering the appropriate documentation to apply for a gun range on U.S. Forest Service land located right here in Union County.

The club is still awaiting

word on the initial gun range application made earlier this year by the commissioner's office, but already, club members are thinking ahead.

Later this fall, the club plans to commission a noise study to determine if the proposed site will be eligible for the range before moving forward with extensive design work.

More information is available on the club website at UnionCountyGunClub.org or .com.

Of course, the commissioner's office is still the main

point of contact for the Forest Service concerning the proposed range, but Union County Sheriff Mack Mason, who advises the club, is asking residents to direct all questions and comments to gun club itself.

"Commissioner Lamar Paris is very enthusiastic about this gun club and the possibility of having a shooting range in Union County," said Sheriff Mason. "He's an extremely busy man, and he has requested that people get their information as to how the club's doing and what the club has going on through the club website.



L-R: Joan Moody, Paul Clark, Gene Cooley, Susanne Johnson and Bill Parker of the Union County Gun Club Board, with Union County Sheriff Mack Mason. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

"We love to talk to people about what's going on with the gun club and where we're at, but we also have our county functions to attend to. And we would also appreciate it if people would refrain from contacting the local Forest Service people in regards to the progress.

"They are working on the project, and David McDonald from U.S. Congressman Doug Collins' office is coordinating with them about this project. Everybody's enthusiastic about it, it just takes time."

The proposed site is a 14-acre piece of land off Georgia 180 near Blairsville that seems perfect for a range, a key aspect of which would be its ability to accommodate rifle shooting at 200-plus yards, pistols and potentially shotguns.

Club members would

have regular access to the range, with limited hours for the public, and local peace officers would have a home to train for firearms requalification.

Furthermore, the club would consider opening the range to students on the Union County 4-H Shotgun and BB Gun Teams.

"We are still looking for alternative sites should this one not work," said Sheriff Mason. "Anyone who knows of a site that might be suitable on Forest Service land, or on private land that might be purchased or donated to us, please contact us."

In pursuit of the range, the club and Sheriff Mason have met with many officials from various agencies, including Forest Supervisor Betty Jewett, who oversees the Chattahoochee-Oconee

National Forests; Joyce White, Georgia Director for USDA Rural Development; Andrew Turnage of Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp's office; Col. Eddie Henderson of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources; and others.

The sheriff and club members have stated multiple times since the formation of the club that they are grateful for the community's assistance.

"We appreciate all the interest," said Sheriff Mason. We appreciate their good faith and want people to know that they're a part of this larger voice, which is better when we attempt something like this.

"We want to thank Commissioner Paris for everything that he's done in our endeavor to reach our goal to find a suitable site."

Veterans...from Page 1A

years.

However, due to the fact that Trident Missile Submarine operations were labeled "TOP SECRET," the deployments were kept confidential and never revealed to the public.

Petty Officer McTureous was discharged in April 2006.

Winston Chambers of Blairsville served during Vietnam as a member of the Air Force.

Prior to Vietnam, he was stationed in Arkansas from September 1965 to November 1966. His first deployment to Southeast Asia was Tuy Hoa, Vietnam, from December 1966 to December 1967.

He returned stateside to England Air Force Base in Louisiana before a deployment to South Korea during the Pueblo Crisis, and he remained on the Korean peninsula for nine months in 1968.

He married Peggy Nichols in January 1969.

Blairsville's Jon Langston served in the Army during the Vietnam War as a Medical Corpsman from January 1969 until January 1971.

He served as a Combat Medical Corpsman with the 198th Light Infantry Brigade and cared for his fellow soldiers during the battle of Que Son Valley in August 1969.

Upon completion of his military service, Langston remained in the medical field, graduating from the University of South Carolina in 1975, then working as a Primary Care Practitioner from 1975 to 2015.

Specialist Michael David LeMay of Blairsville served in the Army from 2010 through 2014.

After a stint at Fort Gordon for AIT Training as a Cable Systems installer/maintainer, LeMay traveled overseas to Schweinfurt, Germany, from 2011 to 2013.

In August 2013, he returned to the States, where he was stationed at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas. After overcoming a cervical injury and nerve damage, he was assigned to the NEC unit to work with civilian contractors and began using his military occupational specialty training for the remainder of 2013. Once completed, his last orders were as the Barracks Manager at Fort Bliss.

Michael married Shirley LeMay on June 1, 2013, and together they have two children.

Nelson Ray Landers of Blairsville served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War.

Landers' military career spanned four years from 1964 to 1968, serving in Idaho, Kansas, and North Carolina before shipping out for Vietnam in 1966.

Following his tour, he returned stateside in 1967, where he was stationed in California. While in the military, Landers did construction as



Kermit "Hugh" Lee of Blairsville receiving his Quilt of Valor on Aug. 11. Photo by Todd Forrest



Union County Sheriff's Deputy David McGregor receiving a Quilt of Valor on Aug. 11 for his service to his country. Photo by Todd Forrest

a member of the "Red Horse Squadron," which operated much like the Navy Seabees.

He and his wife Nina have been married for 25 years.

Blairsville's Janice Walters-Taylor served in the Army from 1974 to 1985, where her unit played a role in the evacuation of South Vietnam that preceded the fall of Saigon to the communist forces of North Vietnam.

Her Primary MOS was as a Helicopter Crew Chief, and her Secondary MOS was in Turbine Engine Repair.

While deployed with the 503rd Combat Aviation Battalion in Germany, she was the personal crew chief of Maj. Gen. Nutting, ensuring the mission readiness of the UH-1 helicopter under her care.

Her unit was instrumental in coordinating the transport and receipt of aircraft bodies and parts being removed from the southeast theater in the waning days of the Vietnam War.

Last but not least is a "military love story" involving

two Quilt of Valor recipients who met while overseas on active duty.

Thomas Carson Hall of Murphy, North Carolina, served in the Army from 1994 until 2015, spending time overseas in South Korea and Afghanistan.

Hall was also deployed to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, along with stateside assignments in Florida, North Carolina, and Fort Knox, Kentucky.

In 1998, Hall met his wife Christine in South Korea, and they were married in 2000 at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

Christine Angela Hall of Murphy, North Carolina, retired from the Army in 2011 following 20 years and 21 days of service.

Her deployments included South Korea, Qatar and Afghanistan. Stateside bases were in Virginia, Florida, and North Carolina. Tom and Christina have five children — two serving in the Army — and two grandchildren.

Union County Primary and Elementary School Open House Schedules

Kindergarten
1st Grade
2nd Grade
3rd Grade
4th Grade
5th Grade

August 14th @ 6:00
August 13th @ 6:00
August 13th @ 5:00
August 21st @ 5:30
August 16th @ 5:30
August 28th @ 5:30