

Cherokee Rod and Gun Club  
Bays Mountain Bugler  
Fall 2005

50 years of serving the community!

The sights, smells, and sounds of Fall are around the corner! This will be an exciting season here at Cherokee. We celebrated our 50th year of operation and held an all-day celebration festival on Labor Day (05 SEP 05). We invited the entire community to help us celebrate; we provided free food and drinks, had displays, demonstrations, exhibits, music, and tours. This was a wonderful opportunity for Members to bring out friends and family and celebrate what we have accomplished and what we offer the community. A lot of planning and work went into it, and it resulted in a great turnout with many non-members exposed to the benefits of CRGC membership. The newspaper and radio ads and articles provided great exposure for our Club. If you have any comments, concerns, or ideas that may help improve CRGC, feel free to contact me at (423) 335-6191 or [abagley@sullivanhealth.org](mailto:abagley@sullivanhealth.org).

This summer has hosted a flurry of activity. The Catfish Derby allowed over 70 eager children to participate in catching catfish, shooting rifles and shotguns, and learning about conservation and turkey hunting. They also learned about fire safety, ate great food, and every kid left with door prizes that ranged from food coupons, animal call, tackle boxes and bait, to complete fishing rigs. Many community children were able to participate in outdoor activities, an opportunity that many would not have had if not for the event. All Members should be proud of the programs we sponsor here at Cherokee that safely introduce children to the exciting world of outdoor activities; these programs may help mold a child and keep them from straying into lesser desirable activities. Thanks go out to the folks that help guide our youth in the pond activities, Youth Civilian Marksmanship Program, Arrow Ministries Archery Program, the Boy Scout programs, and all the others that allow youth the chance to learn and experience safe shooting sports activities. The NRA Women on Target programs were a roaring success this summer; an extremely large number of women were safely introduced to the shooting sports through this valuable, non-intimidating instructional program. Our commitment to family-oriented activities sets our Club apart from most other shooting and gun clubs; we will do our best to continue this tradition of service.

Service to the Club has hit a recent high. You may not notice all the changes, but let me tell you a few: steps and railings were added to the rifle ranges; the range benches have been stained and painted, vises have been

installed to allow you to safely secure your rifle and work on it at both ranges, the holes in the range roofs have been patched, new bench tops have been installed, first aid kits are at each range (hope you never need these), asphalt has been applied to the entrance road; an event board has been placed to allow Members immediate reference as to which ranges are open or being used; new signs have been installed; the Clubhouse has been re-stained and has been painted; electrical work has been upgraded; benches and picnic tables have been installed at the pond for your use; the pier has been cleaned and re-stained; the safari archery range has animal targets left out for Members to shoot at, the lower archery range has 3-D and bulls-eye targets placed for your use in case you do not want to walk the upper "hilly" range and need some practice on life-sized targets, ditches have been cleared, scrub trees have been removed, and the list goes on and on. The point is that the Members have been working hard to make this Club even better. The opportunity for all Members to participate and get in service hours exists; please come to the work party/socials each month on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday starting after lunch and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday starting around 2PM. We will get to know each other better, get some work done, and eat some good food afterwards.

A mention about the new range markers on the upper range - many people wanted a way to determine distances on the range; the answer was provided by some industrious members. On the right side of the upper range, just past the shooting lanes, you will notice two painted metal poles at 25, 50, 100, and 150 yards. When you want to set your target at that range, look to the right and align the two poles at the preferred distance; when they are aligned, you are at that distance and you will know where to place your target anywhere along that distance line. You can then look back to the painted numbers on the benches and know exactly where to place your target for a straight shot at the exact distance.

Remember to always have your Membership card displayed while using the facilities. Range Officers will be checking to ensure that the people using our property are doing so safely, following the rules, and are, in fact, Members of our Club. This program will keep the ranges in better shape and ensure that all Members are safer while using the facilities. If you need more information about Membership, the Club office is open each 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday from 1-3 PM except major holidays for the convenience of the Membership. Individuals may apply for or renew membership and purchase cards, lanyards and fraternal items. The new Member Walkthroughs are also conducted on those dates starting at 2PM sharp. If you have any Membership questions, you may call Beth at (423) 335-5128 or email [korndog@preferred.com](mailto:korndog@preferred.com).

I encourage you to attend our monthly meetings, each 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday evening at 7PM. Learn about the Club, have a voice, eat a good meal, meet new friends, and feel welcome. Also, starting this month, we will offer fraternal items that will allow you to show your pride in Club Membership. We currently have lower profile khaki and blue caps with a CRGC logo, camo caps with the logo, lapel pins, and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary patches, along with t-shirts printed on both front and back. The caps are \$5 each, patches and pins are \$3 each, and t-shirts are \$10 a piece or 3 for \$25 (family plan). These can be purchased during the walkthrough Sundays or at the General Meetings. These items were designed to allow you to display pride in what YOUR Club represents and the positive influence we have in the community. They have been extremely popular; get yours at one of the meetings or walkthroughs.

The annual Barbeque Dinner is planned for 05 NOV 05. Tickets are enclosed with this newsletter; selling all of them will fill the four service hours required of Members. It also will allow ticket holders to indulge (eat-in or carry-out) in some of the best BBQ in the area. The recipe is secret, but the taste is unforgettable! Be sure to come and enjoy with family and friends.

The Fall is a time when we will have a flurry of activity with hunters coming to the ranges to ensure their equipment and skills allow humane kills. Be sure to keep safe handling of firearms and bows paramount in your thoughts while honing shot gunning skills, sighting-in small game rifles, and ensuring that your large game bullet or broadhead still hits the mark. Hearing and eye protection are very important; and remember to be safe as you enjoy the hunting sports in the fields, woods, and marshes. Safety first, last, and always!

We continue to offer youth programs all year long on each 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 2PM. Children 8-18 years old are given a safe environment, expert instruction and a fun opportunity while CRGC supplies rifles and ammo and instructors to teach safe and responsible gun handling to young people. The NRA, CRGC, and Boy Scouts of America held a 6-day Merit Badge University this summer with Scouts earning certifications in rifle, shotgun, and muzzle loading. There will also be a Friends of Boy Scouting Annual Fundraiser involving shot gunning and a meal. Contact Bob Camponovo at (423)239-3843 or [camponov@tricon.net](mailto:camponov@tricon.net) for information. Cherokee also hosts NRA shooting development classes each month and offers handgun carry permit classes. Consult the website [www.cherokeerodandgunclub.com](http://www.cherokeerodandgunclub.com) or call (423)348-8004 for more information concerning any of our programs. We will continue to have Vintage Military shoots, skeet and trap league shoots, silhouette rifle and pistol programs, pistol shoots, CMP Service Rifle Clinics, turkey shoots,

archery programs, black powder and muzzle loading events, as well as many other special interest programs. Even though we offer many special interest activities for Members and their families and guests, rest-assured that we recognize that Members want a place where they can come out and shoot at their own leisure. Except for a very few special occasions during the year, there is at least one range ALWAYS available for Members to engage in casual shooting and use the benefits of Club Membership. The Event Board at the Club entrance will let you know if any range is devoted to a special event before you drive to it. Each Officer, Director, or Chairperson at Cherokee is a volunteer, and we are striving hard to make each and every Member proud of Cherokee and feel comfortable and welcome. Thanks to all those that are working toward this goal and thanks to all the Members who have renewed your affiliation; we hope you feel that our staunch support of your legal right to participate in shooting sports and our commitment to providing a safe, well-maintained, and supportive family environment makes you feel your money is well-spent.

Please continue your thoughts and prayers for those in government, military, and emergency services that serve our nation. Realize the sacrifice they and their families make for our benefit. MSGT Ken Lane (Board Member) should be returning from a year's service in Iraq this month. When he returns back to Cherokee, he will be welcomed back by a 30 foot-high flagpole proudly flying a 6x10 Stars and Stripes. The Board of Directors decided to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary by publicly displaying our American pride. The flag of this Country will be the first thing that Members and guests will see upon entering our facility. The public will also see Old Glory proudly waving as they drive along Reservoir Road. Each time you enter our Club, take a brief moment to think about the sacrifices, the responsibilities, and the freedoms which that piece of cloth represents; think about how fortunate we are as Americans, and how what the flag represents allows you to enjoy the benefits of our Club. Remember all those that have suffered loss. God bless you and be safe!

