

SHARP SHOOTER

FHRPC NEWSLETTER

www.fhrpc.org

WINTER/SPRING 2015

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Annual Meeting of the FHRPC was called to order by President, Cliff Bennett; he asked for a minute of silence for our departed brothers this past year they were, Richard J. Smith, John F. Kramph, Sr., Jacob S. Teter and John W. Parrill followed with the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was held at Allegany County for Technical Education (CCTE) in their auditorium on McMullen Highway in Cresaptown, MD. The topics of interest were (1) Proposed By-Law change concerning Life Membership. (2) Revisited project from 2014 for completion of a three foot concrete extension to run the length of the Silhouette Pavilion at WMR2, (3) Revisited project from 2014 for completion of a concrete pad at the picnic area at MSR1. (4) Excavation work at WMR2 (5) A gun raffle for 2015.

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGE – LIFE MEMBERSHIP

John Dowell spoke on the need to change or we were heading down a road similar to Social Security where we have a few paying for many. As of this newsletter we have 110 Life members this is 24.5% of the membership and this number continues to grow.

Liability Insurance cost on total membership and membership numbers keep going up and we are charged per member. With attrition, life expectancy of members in 1944 was 63 where as today members can reach into their 80's.

Members were asked to entertain a motion that we have a By-law change and ratification at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

The proposed By-Laws change would affect only those joining the club after 2016.

Current Article 3.2 Life Membership: A Life Member is any member in good standing with twenty-five or more years of continuous membership with the FHRPC. A Life Member is exempt from paying yearly dues.

Proposed change to one of the following options:

- (1) A Life Member is any member in good standing with twenty-five or more years of continuous membership in FHRPC and is at least sixty-five years of age. A Life Member is exempt from paying yearly dues.
- (2) A Life Member is any member in good standing with twenty-five or more years of continuous membership in FHRPC and is at least sixty-five years of age. A Life Member is entitled to a 50% reduction in annual dues.
- (3) Drop the category of Life Membership completely.

If adopted, the change would not affect membership status of any current member, only those joining the club after 2016. All current members will be treated in accordance to current Article 3.2 Life Membership.

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2015

- President, Cliff Bennett @ 304-790-0441 • Vice President/Membership, Chris Bennett @ 301-268-1642
- Treasurer/NRA Representative, John Dowell @ 301-724-5866 • Secretary/Membership, Marvin Smith @ 301-777-0358
- Executive Officer, MSR1, Steve Isner • Executive Officer, WMR2, Danny Jackson, Jr. @ 301-729-9343

Unfortunately, Steve Isner was unable to complete this current term as our Executive Officer, MSR1. We will miss Steve's leadership and thank him for his service. At the Officers meeting on March 4th that vacancy was filled pertaining to By-Law Article 7 Officers/7.6 Vacancy. The newly elected Executive Officer, MSR1 is Jim McCullough @ 240-580-4868.

The club officers welcome your feedback. If you have any questions, suggestions, comments or concerns please fill free to contact any of your club officers. Officers meetings are the first Monday of each month at the club house at Morningside Range #1 at 7:00 p.m. You are welcome to contact us there, the first thirty minutes of the meeting is available to club members.

ARTICLE 5. DUES

Discussion has been circulating about a possible dues schedule change to Article 5.1 Annual Dues By-Law to facilitate the paying of dues. **The current Article 5.1 Annual Dues By-Law reads;**

Annual dues must be paid by December 31 of each year with a grace period to the evening of the annual meeting. There will be no late dues accepted, no late payment fees assessed. After the evening of the Annual Meeting a regular member who failed to pay his dues is no longer in good standing and will be dropped from the membership roster.

The proposed By-Law Amendment to Article 5.1 would read;

Annual dues must be paid by December 31st of each year with a grace period to and including January 31st. Dues accepted after December 31st may be assessed a late fee. After January 31st a regular member who failed to pay his dues is no longer in good standing and will be dropped from the membership roster.

SILHOUETTE PAD EXTENSION

Included in the proposed 2015 Budget are improvements to the concrete deck at the Silhouette Pavilion at WMR.

The concrete deck at the Silhouette Pavilion is going to be extended (3.5' X 62') to accommodate for the increase of silhouette shooters. With funding set aside by the league and financial help from the club we will be able to increase the number of participants from 12 to 16 on the firing line. This will allow the league to finish the matches in a timely manner. In the past with three relays we were always in a rush to finish before dusk according to Ed Gaglio, chairman of the Silhouette League.

A motion at the 2014 Annual Meeting was made from the floor and seconded a vote was taken 45 in favor and none against and several sustained from voting. Silhouette pad extension project is a go.

The June 2014 thunderstorm undercut one corner of the concrete deck and cut ruts into the ground where the concrete deck extension was planned for installation, so this delayed the work on this project and pushed it back into the calendar year of 2015.

CONCRETE PICNIC AREA AT MSR1

Included in the proposed 2015 Budget are improvements to the picnic area with an addition of a concrete pad.

The picnic area by the clubhouse that was filled with gravel has become a pain to keep clean of cigarette butts and .22L.R. brass. The gravel getting up on the adjoining concrete pad and in the clubhouse is a nuisance and constantly has to be swept back.

Many members have stated that if this area were concrete it would be easier to work with and keep clean since this is a food prep and eating area. Membership agreed with this proposal at the annual meeting.

A motion at the 2014 Annual Meeting was made from the floor and seconded a vote was taken 45 in favor and none against and several sustained from voting. If finances are available this year, project shall be completed, if not done in 2014 next year.

RANGE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MET LAST YEAR AT WMR2

The Range Development Committee met at WMR2 on March 11, 2014 to discuss ways and means and feasibility of adjusting the 600 yard firing line. Present for the meeting were Cliff Bennett, Chris Bennett, John Dowell, Marvin Smith, Danny Jackson and Steve Isner of the Executive Committee. For the members at large Dave Thompson, Allen Shively, Butch Shreves and Jim and Christi McCullough were present.

Allen Shively gave a presentation about Center Fire Bench Rest (CFBR). That CFBR is a growing shooting sport in other areas and believes that there is interest here and would like to see a combination of concrete pad and shooting benches somewhere on the 600 yard firing line berm to entertain this shooting discipline.

After his presentation Allen made a motion to have the Range Development Committee meet with an excavator contractor present at WMR2, his motion was seconded by Walter Shreve. Majority of members present voted to have meeting.

Cliff Bennett stated that we need to look at straightening out the firing line berm before we can consider pouring any concrete.

FYI...Range Development Committee consists of the Executive Committee, chairman from each one of the leagues. If an Executive Committee Officer is also a league chair he must point a substitute to represent the league. Last but not least a "member at large."

EXCAVATION WORK AT WMR2

Included in the proposed 2015 Budget is the need to enlarge the Handicap parking/extra parking/unloading area at WMR2 and to widen the 600-yard berm for the eventual addition of benches has been brought to the attention of the Executive Committee by several members as stated by John Dowell at the annual meeting. The current parking area for the 300-yard covered firing point will be enlarged to create about 8 parking spots. The material excavated from the enlarged parking area will be used for the upgrades to the 600-yard firing line berm. The 600-yard firing line is approximately 590 yards from the pits. The firing line berm will be pushed back to 600 yards, squared up to the pits and leveled off. The excavation is projected to take approximately one week and will take place at the end of the Service Rifle League season.

A motion at last year's 2014 Annual Meeting was made from the floor and seconded, a vote was taken 45 in favor and none against and several sustained from voting. If finances are available this year, project shall be completed; if the work is not done in 2014 then work shall be completed in 2015.

RAFFLE AT THE RENDEZVOUS 2015

President, Cliff Bennett asked the body at the Annual Meeting to direct their thoughts toward a raffle this year and if any members are interested in forming a committee let the officers know. Before the meeting was over Christi & Jim McCullough stated that they would be Chair and Co-Chair respectively for the 2015 Gun Raffle Rendezvous.

Christi & Jim were instrumental in the success of the 2014 Gun Raffle at the Rendezvous, and will be using the same format of distributing two \$10 raffle tickets per member. This has all the makings of a successful fundraiser.

You are asked to return the completed ticket stub and donation back to us in a timely manner. If for some reason you cannot be involved in this fundraiser, please return the tickets back to us so they may be redistributed.

Just by reading this newsletter, you as a member can see that funds received from this endeavor are going back into the club for all to enjoy. So do your part and buy or sell your two tickets. If you have an outlet where you can sell extra raffle tickets contact, Christi at 240-580-4867 or Jim at 240-580-4868 or email them at bearhillhunter@yahoo.com

DAY OF THE RENDEZVOUS

The Rendezvous is in its second consecutive year at Morningside Range and is scheduled for **Sunday, October 4th** starting at 900 hrs. Scheduled are two rifle matches with numerous relays;

The rifle matches will be a Deer Rifle BR match and a lever action plate match. Feel welcomed to come out and participate in the matches for a nominal fee or each raffle ticket stub is good for one match. There will be an informal sportsmen's swap meet. Bring your unneeded items to sell. There will be some fine eats available at no charge, a 50/50 drawing and the **Gun Raffle 2015 drawing**. So again, come out and shoot and enjoy the fellowship, guaranteed a good time will be had by all who attend. Mark your calendars.

Deer Rifle BR held at the 100 yard rifle range with cash prizes, the rules/regulations as of this newsletter are;
Muzzle Diameter - .70 and under, sporter barrels, no Hbar.

Any Scope, but must be set on 9X or less.

Minimum caliber is .24 no Wildcats.

Any two piece rifle rest you want to use.

Targets start with a 1" dot and get progressively smaller.

Lever Action held at the undesignated range with cash prizes will be a plate match similar to last year with improvements to be made to the plate carriers.

Any caliber, any sights.

More or less information concerning matches to follow and will be posted at MSR1.



GRAINS OF INFO

Dues Notices for the calendar year 2016 will not be mailed to members using USPS. The official Dues Notice/NRA application will be published in the Sharpshooter Sum/Fall 2015 and sent via USPS to members who don't have email. Members who have email will be directed to our webpage to download the Dues Notice/NRA application. Dues Notices/NRA applications will be available in the clubhouse at Morningside Range come the last quarter of the year. There is a lot of overlapping of Dues Notices being done and we the Membership Secretaries are looking at trimming expenses and time involved in notifying membership.

FHRPC 2015 NRA ACTION PISTOL SCHEDULE

Due to scheduling conflicts only four weekend matches can be held prior to the NRA/Midway USA Bianchi Cup National Championship. Additional weekend matches in August and September are pending.

Saturday, April 11, Sunday, April 19 and Saturday, April 25, Saturday, May 9.

Match Time: 10:00 am* Match Fee: \$5.00

Required Equipment: Eye and ear protection, any caliber any style handgun, holster or gun case and 192 rounds of ammo. Evening and weekday matches are planned and scheduling is flexible. If interested, please contact John Dowell at 301 724-5866 or at jksdowell@atlanticbb.net

SR-50 matches will resume this upcoming season starting Monday, April 13th and continuing every Monday but not including Memorial Day and Labor Day. Below is a recap of what, when and where;

What is SR-50? Standing off hand using Small Bore rifle in .22 L.R. at 50 yards shooting at letter size paper target with the X ring, 10 ring and 9 ring which totals three inches in size, making up the black circle. With 8, 7, 6 and 5 rings making up the rest of the scoring target.

When: Match will start when you get there between 5 and 7 p.m. (no shooters after 7p.m. as we want to be home at eight) on Monday evenings at Morningside Range. Total time takes one hour or less.

I will supply targets, three targets per match cost \$2.00 per match.....One sighter target up to 10 shots in a 10 minute period, first target 20 shots for score in a 25 minute period, second target 20 shots for score in a 25 minute period. Scoring of targets will be done by yours truly when completed.

You will supply the 50 rounds of .22 L.R. ammo to complete the course of fire.

You are not competing against any one, only yourself.

Terrific practice for any shooter that participates in small bore silhouette or any off hand course of fire.

Small-bore Prone Rifle for interest on Friday evening matches contact Cliff Bennett at 304-790-0441.

Muzzleloaders will meet every Monday starting April 6th thru October 26th starting at 4:00 p.m. We shoot informal matches or just casual shooting. We have lots of fun and make a lot of smoke. Over the season members travel to nearby matches in Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, including the Pennsylvania and West Virginia State Championships and National Muzzleloading Rifle Association Territorial Matches where you can compete on the national level.

You can shoot any muzzleloading black powder rifle, pistol and black powder cartridge rifle and pistol. Come out and join in the fun, always looking for new faces. For more information you can call Roger Rowe at 301-707-1840 or Mike Winter at 301-729-3540.

Orientation classes were held at Morningside Range 1 the FHRPC received 22 new members into their ranks, Saturday, March 14th with 11 new prospects present and Sunday, March 22nd with 11 new prospects present. So if you see some new faces at the ranges introduce yourself and welcome these new members to our ranks. I'm sure they will have questions that you probably can answer. This brings the number of dues paying FHRPC members to 350 plus 110 life members for a total membership of 460 as of this newsletter.

Maryland Hunter Safety Classes have been scheduled for 2015;

Cresaptown Sportsmen's Club on Saturday, April 25th at 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 26th at 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Phone 301-729-1430.

Ellerslie Outdoor Club on Saturday, May 2nd at 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 3rd at 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Phone 301-722-7132.

South End Rod and Gun Club on Saturday, June 6th at 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Sunday, June 7th at 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Phone 301-268-5378.

Students under 12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. All students are asked to **bring a yellow highlighter.**

Lunch will be provided on "Saturdays".

Sign in before shooting the sign-in book is in the club house and at the Bulls eye pavilion at the pistol range at MSR1. There are sign-in books at both pavilions at WMR2.

FORT HILL HIGH POWER RIFLE SCHEDULE FOR 2015



Sanctioned Service Rifle Matches

Mon, 5/25/15	Excellence-In-Competition Match	National Match Course
Sun, 6/14/15	Excellence-In-Competition Match	National Match Course
Sat, 7/4/15	Excellence-In-Competition Match	National Match Course
Sun, 8/30/15	Excellence-In-Competition Match	National Match Course
Sat, 9/26/15	Maryland State Service Rifle Championship	Service Rifle Full Course Match
Sun, 9/27/15	Excellence-In-Competition Match	National Match Course

CMP Rules – Rapid-fire start from standing; no sighters



Approved High Power League (Across the Course)

Sat, 4/18/15	80 Shot Regional Course Rifle Match	200, 300, 600 yards
Sun, 5/24/15	80 Shot Regional Course Rifle Match	200, 300, 600 yards
Sat, 6/13/15	80 Shot Regional Course Rifle Match	200, 300, 600 yards
Fri, 7/3/15	80 Shot Regional Course Rifle Match	200, 300, 600 yards
Sun, 8/16/15	80 Shot Regional Course Rifle Match	200, 300, 600 yards
Sun, 9/13/15	80 Shot Regional Course Rifle Match	200, 300, 600 yards

NRA Rules – Rapid-fire start from position; two sighters



Games Matches

Sun, 4/26/15	As-Issued Military Matches	Two matches, 200 yards
Sat, 5/30/15	M1 Carbine/Rimfire Sporter	Morningside 100 yd range
Sat, 6/6/15	Maryland State As-Issued Rifle Championship	Two matches, 200 yards
Sun, 6/7/15	Military Rifle Championship	Two matches, 200 yards
Sat, 6/27/15	As-Issued Military Matches	Two matches, 200 yards
Sat, 7/11/15	As-Issued Military Matches	Two matches, 200 yards
Sun, 9/6/15	M1 Carbine/Rimfire Sporter	Morningside 100 yd range
Sun, 10/25/15	M1A Match **Call to confirm**	M1A Course, 300 yards



Approved High Power League (Mid-Range)

Sun, 4/12/15	3 x 600 (Three 20-shot strings @ 600 yd)	Prone or F-class
Sat, 5/16/15	3 x 600 (Three 20-shot strings @ 600 yd)	Prone or F-class
Sat, 6/20/15	3 x 600 (Three 20-shot strings @ 600 yd)	Prone or F-class
Sun, 7/12/15	3 x 600 (Three 20-shot strings @ 600 yd)	Prone or F-class
Sat, 8/22/15	3 x 600 (Three 20-shot strings @ 600 yd)	Prone or F-class
Sun, 9/20/15	3 x 600 (Three 20-shot strings @ 600 yd)	Prone or F-class

ALL MATCHES START AT 9:00 AM; PLEASE ARRIVE A MINIMUM OF 30 MINUTES EARLY

Questions? For NRA Matches contact Matt Lechliter at MatthewLechliter@msn.com or 703-657-9421
 For CMP Service Rifle Matches contact Dave Thompson at david.a.thompson@orbitalatk.com or 304-788-1346
 For CMP Games Matches contact Tim Bloss at tbloss@live.com or 301-268-3513

2015 SMALL-BORE SILHOUETTE SCHEDULE WARRIOR MOUNTAIN RANGE

APRIL	2	WORK PARTY		6:00PM START
	9	WORK PARTY		6:00PM START
	16	MATCH #1	40RDS	6:00PM START
	23	MATCH #2	40RDS	6:00PM START
	30	MATCH #3	40RDS	6:00PM START / COOKOUT
MAY	7	WORK PARTY/SIGHT-IN		6:00PM START
	14	MATCH #4	40RDS	6:00PM START
	21	MATCH #5	40RDS	6:00PM START
	28	MATCH #6	40RDS	6:00PM START / COOKOUT
JUNE	4	WORK PARTY/SIGHT-IN		6:00PM START
	11	MATCH #7	40RDS	6:00PM START
	18	MATCH #8	40RDS	6:00PM START
	25	MATCH #9	40RDS	6:00PM START / COOKOUT
JULY	2	WORK PARTY/SIGHT-IN		6:00PM START
	9	MATCH #10	40RDS	6:00PM START
	16	MATCH #11	40RDS	6:00PM START
	23	MATCH #12	40RDS	6:00PM START
	30	MATCH #13	40RDS	6:00PM START / COOKOUT
AUGUST	6	WORK PARTY/MAKE-UP		6:00PM START
	13	MATCH #14	40RDS	6:00PM START
	20	MATCH #15	40RDS	6:00PM START
	27	MATCH #16	40RDS	6:00PM START / COOKOUT
SEPT.	3	MAKE-UP MATCHES		6:00PM START
	13 Sun.	MATCH #17	40RDS	1:00PM START / **PICNIC**

Picnic Questions? Call Jim Soulsby at 301-724-0724 or Ed Gaglio at 304-790-2613

MATCH INFORMATION

1. NRA rules & regulations will govern all matches. 2. Match Fees are \$5.00 for FHRPC members and \$7.00 for Nonmembers. 3. Shooters must shoot a minimum of 7 matches to qualify for any prizes at the Picnic. 4. All shooters must have a good time. 5. Students Under the age of 20 and still in school (including college) shoot for Free.



FORT HILL RIFLE & PISTOL LEAGUE

2015

PISTOL LEAGUE SCHEDULE



Match	Dates	Match Type	Extra match	Keep your scores
1	May. 5 .22	S C / S C 60 rounds		_____
2	12 .45	S C / S C 60 rounds		_____
*3	19 .22/.45	NMC/NMC 60 rounds	(see note)	_____
4	26 .22	"900" 90 rnds		_____
5	Jun. 2 CF	NMC \ Timed 50rnds		_____
6	9 .22/.45	NMC \ NMC 60 rnds	revolver	_____
7	16 .22	NMC \ Timed 50rnds	HB-match	_____
8	23 CF	"900" 90 rnds		_____
9	30 .45	NMC \ Timed 50 rnds	revolver	_____
10	Jul. 7 .22	NMC \ Slow 50 rnds	HB-match	_____
11	14 .22/CF	NMC \ NMC 60 rnds		_____
12	21 .45	"900" 90 rnds		_____
13	28 .22	NMC \ Rapid 50 rnds	Picnic Day	_____
14	Aug. 4 CF	NMC \ Slow 50 rnds	revolver	_____
15	11 .45	NMC \ Rapid 50 rnds		_____
16	18 .22/.45	NMC \ NMC 60 rnds		_____
17	25 CF	NMC \ Rapid 50 rnds	revolver	_____
18	Sept. 1 .45	NMC \ Slow 50 rnds		_____
19	8 .22/CF	NMC \ NMC 60 rnds		_____
open	15 any	Make up date		_____
20	19 22/CF	"1800" 180 rounds		_____

Match & Targets

NMC > National Match Course
S C > Short Course

	Slow	Slow	Timed	Rapid	Timed	Rapid	
Slow fire match	(2)B6C	X	X	X	X	X	2 targets
Timed fire match	X	X	(2)-B8C	X	X	X	2 targets
Rapid fire match	X	X	X	(2)-B8C	X	X	2 targets
National Match Course	B-6C	X	B-8C	B-8C	X	X	3 targets
Short Course Match	B-16	X	B-8C	B-8C	X	X	3 targets
900 Aggrigate	(2)B6C	B-6C	B-8C	B-8C	(2)-B8C	(2)-B8C	9 targets
Hard ball match	B-6C	X	B-8C	B-8C	X	X	3 targets

Hard Ball(HB) can only be 9mm or 45cal with military ammo or equivalent

Contacts: Frank Snyder @ 301-777-1298 or Jim Soulsby @ 301-724-0724

Rules & Regulations

1>N.R.A. Rules and regulations will govern all matches.

2>Match times Tuesday 10A.M. & 6:30 PM

3>Match fees are \$2.00 and \$3.00 for "900"and \$1.00 practice match

4>All shooters must have a good time.

5>Shooters must complete 10 matches to qualify for NRA classification,picnic,dinners,etc.

Note As soon as the weather breaks and the temp. gets above 50 degrees, some of us will be shooting Tuesday morning for practice. All shooter are welcome.

NOTE:
Match #3 course of fire will be all on timed and rapid targets, even slow fire at 50 yards.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

(Contributed by Norm White)

It was early 1942. The United States was at war with Germany and Japan and only months had passed since the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. The Maryland National Guard had been mobilized into the United States Army and a State Guard had been created to replace them on the home front. In April, 1942, Maryland Governor Herbert O'Connor gave orders to organize the Reserve Militia of Maryland to be known as the Maryland Minute Men. Company 842, 8th Battalion was created. Joseph Ansel was appointed captain with John Woodyard as 1st lieutenant and Kirk Lathrum as 2nd lieutenant. Raymond Leighty was 1st sergeant. Others in the company were George Knotts, Jay Stimely, Robert Myers, Joseph McDonald and Fred Roberts. The Company-842 Minute Men trained Monday nights in the Penn Avenue School gymnasium. "Bib" Ranck, from the State Guard, was training instructor. The State Guardsmen were uniformed and were issued shotguns. The Minute Men eventually acquired uniforms and provided their own firearms, which were mostly deer rifles and 22-caliber guns. In event of emergency, the Minute Men were to perform guard duty at sensitive points in the city to prevent sabotage. The unit had field training exercises and marched in Memorial Day parades. I joined Company 842 in the fall of 1942. My firearm was a Stevens, single shot, 22-caliber rimfire rifle and, occasionally, a 45-70 trapdoor Springfield rifle.

We had 22-caliber firing practice at the National Guard Armory on Centre Street.

In June, 1944, Governor O'Connor deactivated the Minute Men and transferred all members to the inactive reserve. I was discharged with the rank of Private, First Class (PFC).

Following deactivation, some members of Company 842 wanted to continue their association and proposed forming a rifle club. For this purpose an organizing group was formed consisting of John Woodyard, chairman, Kirk Lathrum, vice chairman, Blair Ullery, treasurer, and Norman White, secretary.

The name Fort Hill Rifle Club was picked, not because it was named after the high school, but because it was a geographical location close to the homes of the members. Another group had already taken the Cumberland Rifle Club name.

Harry Morgan, of Frostburg, provided much help in organizing the club. A minimum of ten members was required to obtain a National Rifle Association charter and the charter was obtained in October, 1944. Early meetings were held at the home of Jay Stimely on South Street.

Other rifle clubs were being organized also. Leo Leasure was captain of Company 843, which became the Cumberland Rifle Club. David H. Durst was captain of Company 845, which became the LaVale Rifle Club. Henry R. Yates was captain of Company 848. He was also a member of the Frostburg Rifle Club, which was formed prior to the war.

Soon after organization of the clubs, a meeting was held at the Gunter Hotel, Frostburg, and the Western Maryland Rifle League was born. A pre-war group had been called the Allegany Rifle League but it was felt that a new name was needed. The Western Maryland League consisted of the Barton, Frostburg, Cold Spring-Westernport, LaVale, Cumberland and Fort Hill clubs. Later clubs were Avilton, Fort Ashby, Mountain Top-Oakland and Allegany Ballistics Lab. As years passed, these clubs lost their ranges or were deactivated and many of their shooters were taken into the Fort Hill Club, which alone persevered and prospered.

In Fort Hill's early years a search for a suitable indoor and outdoor range was conducted. One possibility for an indoor range was the abandoned south Cumberland glass plant, but too many problems existed there. A search for an outdoor range had the committee looking for a site along Williams Road at the Stegmaier orchards, but this also presented formidable problems.

A lucky break happened when Charles Simpson suggested that the O'Neal farm on Morningside Drive be investigated. The Cumberland Outdoor Club had been interested there but had given up after some work had been done. The range committee investigated and came to an agreement with the owner, Mrs. O'Neal. Construction commenced. Initially the range use was by permission, but a few years later the tract was purchased, and the rest is history. At the time of purchase, the club had few funds and money for the purchase was raised by members' donations covered by non-interest bearing notes. These notes were eventually paid off. At the time of purchase, Mrs. O'Neal had arranged for pulp wood to be cut by a contractor, and the club's arrangement with her was that specified tracts of trees adjacent to the range would be spared. Apparently the contractor ignored this arrangement and started cutting everything. The club threatened legal action and all cutting stopped.

The Fort Hill Club and Western Maryland League were incorporated with legal work done by attorney Thomas L. Richards at a very reasonable cost.

The Western Maryland League's first indoor range was constructed in the basement of a bowling alley located in LaVale at the intersection of the National Highway and Vocke Road. After a few seasons there another location was found in the basement of the Bowman's Addition Fire Hall. A range was constructed there and was used by both rifle and pistol leagues for many years. A final move was made to the National Guard Armory range on Brown Avenue.

The Fort Hill Club's outdoor rifle shooting was held on the Western Maryland League's Frostburg Club range off Hoffman Road. Practice shooting was done on the Morningside Drive range.

During the late 1940s or early 1950s the Western Maryland Pistol League was organized and competition outdoor matches were held at Frostburg and eventually at Morningside Drive. Indoor pistol matches were conducted at Bowman's Addition and later at the United States Navy Armory range.

Target firearms were scarce during the early days of the Fort Hill Club's rifle competition but a few Stevens model 416 rifles were obtained from the National Rifle Association. With these and a few Remington model 513T and Winchester model 75 rifles, matches were fired until Winchester model 52 rifles became obtainable in 1947 and 1948.

This completes my remarks on the origin and early days of the Fort Hill Club. I have had a lifetime enjoyment of the shooting sports and have endless satisfaction with my role as an officer in the club. I treasure the many friendships made over the years and it has been a pleasure to be associated with members of the shooting family. My best wishes for continued success of the Fort Hill Club – and stand firm for the Second Amendment.

Foot note;

This historical perspective from Charter Member, Mr. Norman O. White was requested by then Secretary, Martin D. Harsh, III and was received July 2, 2002. Both of these men were dedicated officers and members of this organization indicated by the archives and records that this secretary had the privilege to review and study. Both of these men are gone from our ranks now, but not forgotten, with Norm passing away on October 25, 2011 and Marty (Mad Dog) on December 12, 2013.

Thanks for all the interesting reading and your service,

Marvin Smith

FORT HILL RIFLE & PISTOL CLUB, INC.

2015 Wednesday Night Bench-Rest Schedule

May	6	Drawing for bench's start 5:30 PM & match time is 6 PM
	13	"
	20	Drawing for bench's start 5:30 PM & match time is 6 PM
	27	"
June	3	Drawing for bench's start 5:30 PM & match time is 6 PM
	10	"
	17	Drawing for bench's start 5:30 PM & match time is 6 PM
	24	"
July	1	Drawing for bench's start 5:30 PM & match time is 6 PM
	8	"
	15	Drawing for bench's start 5:30 PM & match time is 6 PM
	22	"
	29	Drawing for bench's start 5:30 PM & match time is 6 PM
Aug.	5	
	12	Drawing for bench's start 5:30 PM & match time is 6 PM
	19	"
	26	Drawing for bench's start 5:30 PM & match time is 6 PM
Sept.	2	"
	9	Drawing for bench's start 5:30 PM & match time is 6 PM
	16	"
	23	Drawing for bench's start 5:30 PM & match time is 6 PM
	30	"

Steak feed date and time will be determined later

Drawing for bench's and setup will be 5:30 PM & after

Each match cost \$4.00

Payout will be the first three places for each match under ten shooters and first four places for each match over ten shooters.

Info cal Danny James(chairman) 304-738-4983

Jim & Christy McCullough 240-580-4868

Frank Snyder 301-777-1298



FORT HILL RIFLE & PISTOL CLUB, INC.
304 PULASKI STREET
CUMBERLAND, MD 21502