



# Tallahassee Rifle & Pistol Club

Tallahassee Rifle & Pistol Club, P.O. Box 7638, Tallahassee, FL 32314-7638

Email: [secretary@trpc.net](mailto:secretary@trpc.net)

**Second Quarter April to June 2025**

For updates and TRPC calendar, please go to TRPC website: <http://www.trpc.net>



**NEXT WORKDAY IS SATURDAY, March 29, 2025  
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE  
SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025 - 12:00 NOON AT TRPC  
RANGE PAVILION**

## Board of Directors

**President – Aaron Cohen**

850 766-9349

[president@trpc.net](mailto:president@trpc.net)

**Vice President – Kevin Fleming**

850 509-9569

[vicepresident@trpc.net](mailto:vicepresident@trpc.net)

**Secretary – Gary Rickard**

850 212-6445

[secretary@trpc.net](mailto:secretary@trpc.net)

**Treasurer – Michael Tentnowski**

850 815-2842

[treasurer@trpc.net](mailto:treasurer@trpc.net)

**Board Members at Large –**

**Rob Aguilera**

[director1@trpc.net](mailto:director1@trpc.net)

850 274-2934

**David Kirk**

[director2@trpc.net](mailto:director2@trpc.net)

850 422-2974

**Billy Hartsfield**

[director3@trpc.net](mailto:director3@trpc.net)

850 445-4687

TRPC website: [www.trpc.net](http://www.trpc.net)

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**PLEASE REMEMBER**  
**General Membership Meeting**  
**Saturday, April 12, 2025, 12:00**  
**@ TRPC range pavilion**

**RANGE WORK DAY**  
**MARCH 29, 2025**  
**8:00AM TO 10:00AM**  
**RANGE WILL REOPEN**  
**AFTER COMPLETION**

## **Destin Guest appointed to United States Military Academy at West Point**

Destin Guest began participating in the TRPC Youth Program when he was a student at Deerlake Middle School in 2018. Destin has always had a passion for firearms and marksmanship, and he even completed his 7th grade science fair project on the subject of ballistics with the help of TRPC volunteer, Jim Fowler.

Destin has also had a long-time desire to serve in the military with inspiration from many TRPC volunteers, as well as from his father who served as a tanker in the Marines in the Gulf War. His wise father advised Destin to join a college ROTC program or attend a service academy rather than enlisting after high school. Destin decided to set his goal high and try to earn an appointment to a service academy.

Destin learned that service academies look for high achievement in academics, leadership, and athletics. His counselors at Lawton Chiles High School navigated him to take challenging Advanced Placement courses and guided him to leadership positions such as becoming the President of the Chiles Ambassadors. However, his path to high achievement in athletics did not go as planned.

Destin had competed in team sports including tackle football since he was 6 years old. He was the starting Center for the Deerlake Bucks when they won the District Championship in 2021. He also trained in various forms of martial arts and began wrestling in 8th grade with early success earning a medal as Youth State Runner-Up in his weight class. He earned a Varsity Letter in wrestling his freshman year at Lawton Chiles High School. Then, halfway through his sophomore year, Destin tore the ACL in his right knee while wrestling.

Destin's injury required surgery, and his orthopedic advised him to not return to wrestling if he still wanted to serve in the military. It was very difficult for Destin to leave the sport of wrestling behind, but he realized that he needed to rehabilitate his knee and stay healthy to be able to serve in the military. After reviewing the athletic teams at the service academies and realizing that Rifle is an NCAA team sport, Destin decided that he wanted to become a precision rifle athlete.

In January 2023, Destin came back to the TRPC Youth Program to find some guidance. Luckily, he found John Schmidt who had prior experience with training his own son in precision rifle. John spent countless hours at the range with Destin and journeyed to the Ole Mill Range Complex in Griffin, GA with the whole Guest family to watch Destin compete in his first air rifle competition using John's son's air rifle.

That summer, Destin's parents helped him acquire his own air rifle, a custom fit Capapie shooting suit, and all the necessary equipment to attend a Civilian Marksmanship Program camp for precision air rifle taught by NCAA college athletes at the CMP South range in Anniston, AL. At the camp, Destin met the Leon High School JROTC rifle team led by Sergeant Major Russell Brown who invited Destin to practice with them on their electronic targets at their home range in Tallahassee throughout the school year.

To further his training, Destin joined Team Winning Solutions (TWS) which is a national organization led by members of the USA Shooting National Team. He received regular virtual training from his main coach, Jeanne Haverhill, who was a previous member of the Akron Rifle program and then used her fifth year of eligibility as a member of the TCU Rifle Team that won the 2024 NCAA Rifle National Championship. Jeanne pushed Destin to succeed and encouraged him to compete in all three of the U.S. Olympic Trials. Destin had just received his new Walther KK500 smallbore rifle days before the first Trials at the Army Marksmanship Unit range in Ft. Benning, GA, but he successfully completed the competition and met the assistant coach from West Point who started recruiting Destin for their rifle team.

Over the course of the next year, Destin continued competing in both air rifle and smallbore around the country at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, CO, at the Shooting Sports Education Center at Georgia Southern University, at West Virginia University, at the University of Kentucky, and at CMP Camp Perry in Ohio. He even traveled overseas with TWS to train and compete in the International Grand Prix of Leppa in Finland.

In June 2024, Destin attended Summer Leader Experience at the United States Military Academy at West Point followed by another week of Elite Rifle Camp at the Tronsrue Marksmanship Center, which solidified his desire to become a cadet at West Point. On his birthday, September 13th, Destin was invited for an unofficial overnight visit at West Point followed by the Black Knight Open rifle competition that weekend. He left West Point knowing that he was now a recruited athlete. On February 28th, Destin committed to the West Point Rifle Team and accepted his offer of appointment to the USMA Class of 2029.

Destin's main rifle goal for his senior year of high school was to qualify for National Junior Olympics, which he had missed out on the year before. The Florida Rifle Junior Olympics was held at the Firearms Training Club of America in Lakeland, FL in January and February. In March, Destin was notified by USA Shooting that as the U21 Florida State Champion in both air rifle and 3-position smallbore, he earned an automatic invitation to the National Junior Olympics that will be held at CMP in Anniston, AL in mid-April.

Destin will be part of the Rifle Team at West Point. Congratulations!

For future updates, follow Army West Point Rifle on X, Instagram, and Facebook.



U.S. Congressman Neal Dunn, Destin Guest,  
Chiles H.S. Principal Joe Burgess



## Tallahassee Senior Center Foundation – Silver Star Award Winner

John Schmidt loves people. Born in Milwaukee, WI to an engineer dad and a stay-at-home mom, he joined the Air Force at 18 years old. He would meet his future wife, Phyllis, who was also in the Air Force when they were both stationed in Sacramento, CA. They were married in 1958 by a chaplain at the base in 1958.

The next year, their son John was born. And the year after that, their daughter Jill completed their family. The Schmidt family moved to Melbourne, FL where after 23 years, John retired from the Air Force. He made printers and card punches before landing a job with Honeywell working on the space shuttle's computer system. His final job before retirement was working on a drone program at Harris Corporation for Lockheed Martin. "That was a fun job!" John exclaimed.

John would've happily continued working on the interface and testing of drones when his daughter called with the news that she was pregnant with their first grandchild. John and Phyllis decided to move to Tallahassee to help raise their granddaughter, Lindsay.

John and Phyllis loved helping raise Lindsay. They took her on an annual vacation to Shades of Green in Orlando. John taught her how to drive a car – he taught many of her friends how to drive. When Phyllis became ill, Lindsay moved her wedding date up by a year just so her grandmother



could attend.

In 2022, Phyllis passed away. John had been her loving caregiver. With Lindsay grown and living in Orlando, John needed social interaction. His daughter Jill encouraged him to visit the Tallahassee Senior Center. John stopped by a few times but at the encouragement of his daughter, on the third visit he took a tour. John attended the Friends Connection group and found his home. "I can't live without friends," he explains.

John soon became an indispensable part of Friends Connection. Then he started taking fitness classes like Brain, Body, Balance and Mindful Movement. John thought, “What can I do?” and soon he found himself serving on the TSC Advisory Council, the membership committee, and most recently he is the volunteer check-in at Brain Body Balance. He takes his role seriously by attending the monthly Coalition on Aging meetings that typically just staff attends – “you learn so much!” he says.

Then John started volunteering at the monthly TSC Coffee Chat meetings that introduce new participants to the various programs offered at the Senior Center. John, ever the ambassador, takes new participants on tours and has been known to share his personal cellphone number with those participants who seem shy, hesitant, or overwhelmed. He relates to that feeling because he felt the same way when he first visited. He enjoys making others feel welcome and at ease.



For the past several years, John has been volunteering at the Tallahassee Rifle & Pistol Club every weekend teaching kids how to use guns safely. His son went to college on a shooting scholarship and his granddaughter enjoyed “shooting trap” with family. One of the young men John mentors just won the Florida Air Rifle championship and the Smallbore Rifle championship.

John enjoys mentoring kids. His advice to people young is “Your word is your promise. Stay honest and true it.” John practices what he preaches.

John was one of eight recipients of the Silver Star award in Tallahassee

Article courtesy of Lisa Baggett - photos courtesy of Jamison Redd

## **Secretary’s Report**

The last General Membership Meeting was held at the TRPC Pavilion on a Saturday at noon with 59+ members in attendance. The consensus was to continue the Saturday meetings rather than going back to the past Wednesday night dates and times. The upcoming quarterly meeting on April 12, 2025, will again be held at the TRPC pavilion starting at noon.

We have a workday scheduled this Saturday, March 29, 2025, from 8:00am to 10:00am. TRPC has one last workday scheduled for the 2024 – 2025 year on May 31, 2025. Renewal notices will be mailed prior to this date, but you can still use the May workday towards the \$80.00 credit for next years dues if needed.

Membership continues to rise and currently stands at 440.

Gary Rickard – [secretary@trpc.net](mailto:secretary@trpc.net)

## Report From The Florida State Trapshoot

The 109<sup>th</sup> Florida State Shoot was held in Odessa March 18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. TRPC is a member of the Florida Trapshooting Association and was well represented. The six day competition included 14 events, 1300 targets total. 499 trapshooters participated through the week.

Several club members attended and enjoyed a well run tournament, lots of camaraderie, and some beautiful south Florida spring weather. Outstanding shooting performances included:

Gary Rickard – Event #2 Handicap 3rd; Event #9 Handicap Runner Up  
Wyatt Gebhart – Event #2 Handicap Jr Champion; Event #12 Handicap Jr Runner Up  
Jim Oreilly – Event #8 Doubles Sub-Vet Champion  
Roselle Gainer – Event #10 Singles Lady 1 Runner Up; Event #12 Handicap Lady 1 Runner Up  
Steve Buckingham – Event #10 Singles Class D Champion  
Kevin Fleming – Event #11 Doubles Class B Champion



Roselle Gainer and Wyatt Gephart were recognized for their exceptional performances during the 2024 target year by being named to the Florida All-State team. Madison Gebhart participated in her first state program. Both Wyatt and Madison participated in the AIM program as well and were placed on squads with other youth participants. They made many new friends for life. Friends and family made it a week to remember! Congratulations!

Steve Buckingham



Jim Oreilly



TRPC Squad – Rob Aguilera, Wyatt Gebhart, Gary Rickard, Madison Gebhart, Kevin Fleming, Henry Gainer



## General Membership Meeting Minutes January 11, 2025

>Quorum – 56 members

### OLD Business

\$\$\$ - motion to allocate up to \$6000.00 for club purchase of electronic targeting system for High Power Match. This motion was brought before the membership at the October meeting but was tabled due to lack of quorum. Jim Fowler presented the targeting system to the members. After discussion, the motion was approved. The system will be purchased through Jim Fowler and should be ready for delivery in the summer.

\$\$\$ - The continued development of Range H project was discussed. The project entails improvements and expansion of the firing line to the north side of Range B. The motion to appropriate \$30,000.00 to reprofile Range H and square it up to provide for a more logical and true 50 yard pistol/rimfire range; to clear and reprofile approximately 1 acre and construct side safety berms for an additional 25 yard pistol/rimfire range; to clear and reprofile approximately 1 additional acre for travel, parking and use as borrow area for necessary soil for the improvements. After discussion, the motion to allocate \$30,000 was approved by the membership.

- Vice President – TRPC will be trying to schedule another controlled burn of the property in 2025. Cost will be around \$5000.00
- Treasure's Report – TRPC is in good financial standing. All bills are paid and accounts reconciled. Motion to approve financial report approved by membership.
- Secretary's Report – TRPC Membership stands at 430 members. Renewal forms will be mailed out in May. Please return promptly or notify [secretary@trpc.net](mailto:secretary@trpc.net) if you will not be renewing. It helps me out immensely.
- Youth Program – the number of advanced shooters continues to grow. One of our long time youth shooters has an appointment to West Point Rifle Team. Destin Guest has moved through the ranks of TRPC youth program with the assistance of John Schmidt and many other youth volunteers. It is a great honor and achievement for this young man and TRPC.
- Leon County Sheriff's Explorers – David Kirk has been liaison for the reboot of LCSE program. The Explorers are back in full swing and utilizing TRPC for their training. They recently received high marks in state completions and are looking to expand their program.

### Annual election of officers:

President – Aaron Cohen

Vice President – Kevin Fleming

Treasurer – Michael Tentnowski

Secretary – Gary Rickard

Board Members at Large – Billy Hartsfield, Rob Aguilera, David Kirk

Motion to adjourn

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING APRIL 12, 2025, 12:00 NOON AT THE TRPC RANGE PAVILION**

**MARCH 29, 2025 WORKDAY PLAN**

A regular 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday work day will be held MARCH 29th. Let's get some Spring Cleaning accomplished and get our property looking good for the Summer.

Bring your yard care tools (edgers, blowers, string trimmers, etc.) Also remember that proper gear including gloves and good eye protection is just as important when working with power tools and clearing brush. Prepare accordingly.

Ranges A2 and B - new target backers and any needed repairs to target frames. Remove brush and dead wood A1 and B as marked.

Range F – trim overhangs and downed/dead trees.

Range G – prepare pad area for new conex. Clear all trees and brush as marked.

Painting - convenience tables on Range D and the pavilion/shelter. Paint and tools will be provided, included clean-up supplies.

Pick up brush, limbs etc. across the range and pile up in waste areas. A prescribed burn is happening and will take care of piles.

Empty trash cans.

Clear roofs and surroundings of all structures of brush and straw in preparation on burning.

Clean up around BOD and Youth Conex. VP will give more info.

Needed: powered limb saw, string trimmers, chain saws, blower.

Crew 1 – target backers and stands. Empty trash cans.

Crew 2 – painting D range and pavilion.

Crew 3 – Clear structures, trimming/edging and blowing

Crew 4 – Sawing trimming piling.

Bring appropriate work clothes, eye and ear protection, gloves.



# SECOND QUARTER 2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| EVENT  | RANGE        | DATES  | TIME                     | CONTACT  |
|--|--------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| General Membership Meeting<br>TRPC Pavilion  | N/A          | April 12, July 12, October 11, 2025; January 10, 2026                      | 12:00 noon               | Aaron Cohen, President<br>(850) 766-9349<br><a href="mailto:president@trpc.net">president@trpc.net</a> |
| Range & Environmental Best Management Practices<br>WORKDAY /ALL RANGES<br>CLOSED UNTIL 10:30am | ALL RANGES   | 5 <sup>th</sup> Saturday March 29, May 31, August 30, November 29, 2025    | 8:00am to 10:00am        | Kevin Fleming<br>850 509-9569<br><a href="mailto:vicepresident@trpc.net">vicepresident@trpc.net</a>    |
| New Member Orientation   |              | BY APPOINTMENT ONLY  |                          | Gary Rickard,<br><a href="mailto:secretary@trpc.net">secretary@trpc.net</a><br>850 212-6445            |
| ATA Trap   | TRAP         | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday –April 6, May 4, June 1, July 6, 2025               | 9:00am                   | Gary Rickard<br><a href="mailto:atatrap@trpc.net">atatrap@trpc.net</a><br>850 212-6445                 |
| Boy Scout Fun Shoot & Camporee (Volunteer help needed)   | ALL RANGES   | Saturday, October 4, 2025  | 4:00pm                   | Aaron Cohen<br>850-766-9349<br><a href="mailto:youth@trpc.net">youth@trpc.net</a>                      |
| Cowboy Action Shoot (SASS)   | A1           | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday - April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, 2025        | 9:00am                   | Doug Boline -<br>850 510-7044<br><a href="mailto:SASS@trpc.net">SASS@trpc.net</a>                      |
| High Power Rifle   | E & F        | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday - April 19, May 17, June 21, 2025                 | 9:00am                   | George Klisiewicz<br>850 528-9559<br><a href="mailto:highpower@trpc.net">highpower@trpc.net</a>        |
| NRA Action Pistol  | A1, A2, & B  | 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26, 2025         | 9:00am                   | Mike DeGuire<br>850 694-6930<br><a href="mailto:nraactionpistol@trpc.net">nraactionpistol@trpc.net</a> |
| .22 Rimfire Silhouette   | C            | 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday – April 5, May 3, June 7, July 5, 2025            | 9am Rifle<br>11am Pistol | Andy Randall<br>850 320-0524<br><a href="mailto:silhouette@trpc.net">silhouette@trpc.net</a>           |
| Trap & Wobble Trap   | TRAP         | Saturdays & Sundays (1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday is ATA registered targets)     | 9:00am                   | Gary Rickard<br>850 212-6445<br><a href="mailto:atatrap@trpc.net">atatrap@trpc.net</a>                 |
| Youth Program Rifle/Shotgun (All Youth Under 18 Welcome)                                       | A1 & A2 TRAP | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday - April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, 2025        | 9:00am                   | Aaron Cohen<br>850-766-9349<br><a href="mailto:youth@trpc.net">youth@trpc.net</a>                      |
| Black Powder Muzzleloaders (Flint, Percussion – Rifle & Revolver/Pistol)                       | A2           | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday – January 19, February 16, March 16, April 20, 2025 | 12:00pm                  | Ron Gablehouse<br>(850) 591-1577<br><a href="mailto:nmlra@trpc.net">nmlra@trpc.net</a>                 |
| Steel Challenge<br>Scholastic Steel Challenge  | E & F        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday - April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, 2025        | 9:00am                   | John Burns -<br><a href="mailto:steelchallenge@trpc.net">steelchallenge@trpc.net</a><br>850 274-5347   |
| Steel Challenge Pactice  | E & F        | 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday –April 4, May 2, June 6, July 4, 2025               | 9:30am                   | John Burns<br><a href="mailto:steelchallenge@trpc.net">steelchallenge@trpc.net</a><br>850 274-5347     |
| Sporting Clays   | E & F        | April 5, 2025  | 9:00am                   | Kevin Fleming<br>850 509-9569<br><a href="mailto:sportingclays@trpc.net">sportingclays@trpc.net</a>    |

**SCHEDULED EVENTS TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ALL OTHER SHOOTING ACTIVITIES**