

## WASHINGTON ARMS COLLECTORS



### Special points of interest:

- Show Hours: 7:30 am for table holders
- Member doors open at 9:00 am
- Visitors door opens at 10:00 am

### Inside this issue:

President's Note 1

Board of Directors June 2023 Minutes 2

John Hilsendeger's Straight from the Holster 3

Want Ads 4

Show Schedule 4

Special Events: Sherlock Holmes and the Armed Citizen 4

# GunNews



Volume I, Issue I

July 2023

## The What & Why of WAC's Business Decisions:

As most of you know the last several years at Washington Arms Collectors has been difficult, not only with COVID, but the ever changing gun laws. Unfortunately the Board of Directors have had to make decisions that while we knew would be controversial, they had to be made for various reasons.

First and most distressing to our members was ending the GunNews that we all enjoyed for various reasons. While the entire Board understood the impact it would have on our members we also understood that we simply could not continue to produce it.

The deciding factors were, our Editor was retiring and although we briefly looked around to replace him we realized that we could no longer afford to employ an editor. Beyond that the cost of printing and mailing was a huge incentive to stop. When the financials were reviewed we were spending between \$87,000 to \$95,670.00 per year for editing, printing, and mailing depending on the number of members.

While the magazine provided a number of important and informative comments and information WAC simply could no longer afford to continue producing it. Our shows as well as others had continued to be smaller than previous years, but the overall cost of producing the shows had increased drastically in some locations.

So what is the Board of Directors doing to solve some of these issues? We have been implementing changes that may help with getting information out and distributing events that our members would enjoy participating in.

If you go to our website you will see an Events page. This was set up to highlight activities in and around the Northwest that people may find interesting. A number of months ago I sent over a flyer from the Cartridge Collectors show in Castle Rock that several members commented on after the event. They found it very interesting and informative.

We are also working to get the Want Ads section up and running and we are trying to get it implemented as soon as possible, but it will require more work to get it underway. We know that a large number of you miss reading John Hilsendeger's stories, as well as Joe Waldron's political updates.

All of the various projects are being discussed and we will expand our website to accommodate the various articles, as well as other forms of producing flyers to assist. All of these take time, and we want to thank all of our members who have continued to support us. Without your continued support we have nothing and for that we will continue to work on your behalf, and try our best to fulfill some of your requests, if not all of them.

So from the Officers and Board of Directors from Washington Arms Collectors we thank you and remind you that you are always welcome to come to the Board of Directors meetings on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm, keeping in mind that it is a business meeting.

Karen Jennings  
President Washington Arms Collectors

# Washington Arms Collectors

## Board Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2023

### Attending:

Karen Jennings, President  
Richard Ripley, Director, Acting Secretary  
Brenda Neigel-Britt, Office  
Kacie Haynes, Show Manager  
Kirk Foreman, Media  
Ray Dotson, Director  
John Hubbard, Director  
Forbes Freeburg, Director  
Jim Weaver, Director, via teleconference  
Damien Wongwai, Director

### Absent:

Marcy Hinkley, Bookkeeper & Office/Property Manager  
Tim Wegner, Director  
Tani Iwashita, Director  
Holly Henson, Treasurer  
Boyd Kneeland, Past President

Guests: Brad Steenrod, Jane Milhans

Business conducted pre-meeting by e-mail:

March and April, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes  
Move to approve by Director Freeburg, Second by Director Hubbard  
Aye Directors Iwashita, Freeburg, Dotson, Ripley, Hubbard  
Motion Passes

Meeting called to order at 6:51 PM

Approval of Prior Board Meeting Minutes:

Minutes for the May 23<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting were not available.

Guest: Jane Milhans, President Tacoma Rifle & Revolver Club, Board Member, Washington State Rifle & Pistol Association

Jane talked about the legislation that had passed in the last 3 years here in Washington. Essentially, Democrats vote 100% against us, Republicans vote for us, and since the Democrats have almost a super majority, these laws pass. Jane says that generally, neither gun owners nor Christians vote. Jane expects that next year the state preemption law will be repealed, making every county and city and town able to pass different laws, so driving could become hazardous for gun owners.

### Officer & Staff Reports:

#### President

President Jennings requested the Bookkeeper submit the show financials 2 weeks following the shows, and the Treasurer financials 1 week prior to the Board meeting. If information (such as invoices) is missing, make a note and submit the final report when available. The BOD voted to approve that request.

#### Vice President

No Report

#### Treasurer

No report; financials sent by email the afternoon of 6/27.

#### Office Manager

As of today (6/27), we have 19 tables sold for Elma on July 8-9. Media has reminded membership that they get a free table. We have space for 150+ tables, which includes the additional room. Elma is charging \$2237. We need to decide whether to conduct this show. Media will send a message that we may need to cancel. The decision must be made by Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### Show Manager

Show Manager Haynes will need show cash. President Jennings will support making it happen.

#### Old Business

Discussion of the idea of adjusting the table rent structure to discount longer term commitments. We need an executive session to discuss this in detail – financials only.

New cell phones for staff. This is a more complex problem than we anticipated.

Open Director position, open Vice President position. Media will solicit membership for volunteers.

Gold Badges – Director Ripley is in process.

Database changes to support the “3 years continuous membership” for voting. This is a bigger lift, but discussion is in process.

Media Specialist Foreman got a new camera and will try to produce some video of collectors showing their expertise, and telling their story. Larry Talbert would be an ideal candidate for this.

A member (appeared inebriated at the January Puyallup show). He has not responded to the registered letter.

Area Gun Shows were handing out flyers promoting their shows at our shows. This is not allowed by our Rules of the Road. #8; we will send a cease-and-desist letter. We need to coordinate with other shows to avoid conflicts.

A life member in Idaho wants to raffle off a rifle at our show, but they will need a gaming license in Washington state. If they are only doing the raffle, we will comp a table. This member has not responded to contact requests.

Need to get website updated. This is actively in process.

Need to publish a new organization chart, with new phone numbers. There is also a set of Gmail accounts that need to be published.

Director Dotson has talked with City of Lakewood about holding shows there. Discussions are on-going.

#### New Business

Our prior head of security has resigned, but we have a set of experienced people to step up and accomplish the necessary tasks.

Tentative Show scheduling for 2024:

Jan 20-21 Enumclaw

Feb 24-25 Puyallup

March 23-24 Enumclaw

April 27-28 Enumclaw

May - none

June 1-2 Monroe (vendors prefer 2 day show), Alternatively or in addition, June in Enumclaw with the NW Overland Expo would be a good matchup, if they are not using the buildings

August and September are Fair months

Oct 19-20 Puyallup pavilion (if needed, we could add the Expo, it's a 60 table facility)

November knife makers show on 2 or 9 in Enumclaw?

December 14-15 in Puyallup

Let's get member demographics before abandoning Monroe.

Elma – try to match up an event at Elma like a stock car race, match up with an existing event so people could spend the day there...

October 2023 should be a collectors show, the 28-29 in Enumclaw.

Director Freeburg moves to adjourn, Director Dotson seconds, adjourned at 8:52 PM

### **STRAIGHT FROM THE HOLSTER BY J.T. HILSENDEGER**

Once upon a time in the 1950's, a few friends got together to discuss hunting fishing and of course guns. They would regularly meet in somebody's garage to tell their lies and show off their latest guns. These would have been world war one, two and Korean war era. Word got out, more guys showed up and they outgrew the garage and soon the liars club had to meet in school gyms or other large buildings. They officially started a collector's club, having members with identification numbers, badges and elected administrators. They had a yearly membership fee allowing free admittance to shows, where nonmembers paid to see their collections. Legal advice got them a non-profit status. As one would expect however, the elected administration guaranteed a non-profit, finding ways to line their own pockets. They were soon found out and "shown the hiway".

Sometime before the turn of the century this club bought out another gun show and Washington Arms Collectors became the biggest and best in the pacific northwest. (still is the best) During one of our US presidents reign, there was a gun ban panic and as only WAC members could buy guns at our shows, the membership swelled to over 15,000. After that panic, our numbers dropped to the 10,000's. Folks were buying the "black guns" of the Viet Nam era, the old wooden stock military rifles falling out of favor as well as the "sporterizing". Then there was the hi-capacity magazine ban by another nut in the Whitehouse and our numbers surged again, to drop off later to the upper 9,000's. Wooden stocks are back. I started with WAC in 1999 when our shows were 23 per year, between Puyallup and Monroe. Our largest show was in October in Puyallup with the military vehicle collectors attending also, bringing our table count to 1200. For lack of room, many vendors were turned away.

We also have Elma and Enumclaw shows now. Puyallup built new buildings and our rent skyrocketed, as it did in Monroe who upgraded with a very nice new building a few years later. Consequently we had to raise our table fees and our vendor count dropped a bit, as did the non-member attendance, that gate fee also having to increase. Right after the turn of the century, WAC with legal advice installed new checks and balances to assure a "clean" administration. What I've written so far, I've gotten from the "old-timers", many now deceased, the last having been one of the six guys in somebody's garage. One of these guys told me in the magazines in the 50's, there would always be an application to be a Federal Firearms License holder. He stated he clipped it out and sent it in with the \$10 and became a FFL guy, at 12 years old. Yup, 12 yr. old.

Anyway, I was asked by our WAC president to write a short story (yeah, like I can keep it short when I'm on a roll). So any short hunting, fishing, funny member observation, sasquatch or gold panning stuff will be in another writing.

*Editors Note: John Hilsendeger's stories have been a huge success in past issues. WAC will continue to encourage his writing in future formats either on line, or periodical GunNews editions.*

## WASHINGTON ARMS COLLECTORS

Primary Business Address  
1006 Fryar Avenue Bldg D  
P.O. Box 400  
Sumner, Washington 98390

Phone: 425-255-8410

E-mail:

office@washingtonarmscollectors.org

**Washingtonarmscollectors.org**

**Follow Us On:**  
**Facebook**  
**WA Guns**

GunNews Editor and Producer:  
Karen Jennings



## Sherlock Holmes the Armed Citizen

Join WAC member and local Sherlockian James Romnes Saturday October 21st for a lecture on the guns of the world's most famous detective Mr. Sherlock Holmes and his colleague Dr. John Watson. In 45 minutes we will see how the 19th century British Empire created some of the world's finest arms and how these are woven into the stories of Sherlock Holmes.

The lecture will include some of the revolvers possibly used by Mr. Holmes as well as an assortment of historical artefacts. If you love the Holmes literature or history don't miss it!

## Washington Arms Collectors



# 2023

Gun Show  
Schedule

www.WashingtonArmsCollectors.org

OFFICE: (425) 255-8410

## SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Jan.	14	Monroe
Feb.	25 & 26	Puy. Pav.
Mar.	25 & 26	Enumclaw
May	20 & 21	Puy. Pav.
July	08 & 09	Elma
Sept.	16	Monroe
Oct.	21 & 22	Puy. Pav.
Oct.	28 & 29	Enumclaw
Nov.	11 & 12	Elma
Dec.	9 & 10	Puy. Pav.

## SHOW LOCATIONS

Elma Show - Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds

Enumclaw Show - Enumclaw Expo Center

Monroe Show - Evergreen State Fairgrounds

Puyallup Show - WA State Fair & Events Center

VERIFY ALL SHOW DATES BEFORE TRAVELING

## Military Appreciation Show:

**Vehicles from WWII will be presented at the Puyallup Pavilion show Saturday October 21st. More information will be on our website**

## Seminars and Upcoming Attractions:

WAC would like to present more seminars, and informative displays that would be of interest to not only our members but the general public attending our shows.

We are all sports minded people so if you know of a knife maker, fishing guru, outfitter, or black powder enthusiasts let us know and we will feature them on our webpage and in upcoming GunNews editions.

We have lots of talented people in this organization so think about it, and contact the office so we can get you featured in all our advertisements.

## W.A.C. - Membership Application (New and Renewing)

Last Name:			First Name:			M.I.:	Mem#:
Mailing Address:			City:	State:	Zip:	Phone#	
E-Mail: ( We will not share this with anyone.)						DL# Drivers License#	Exp. Date:
Birth Date: (Month)	(Day)	(Year)	CPL# Concealed Pistol License			Exp. Date:	
			<b>CHECK PAYMENT TYPE</b>		New and Expired Members, if you do not have a current CPL or FFL, add an additional \$15.00 for the Initiation Fee which includes a Washington State Patrol background check.		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year - \$57	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Background	(if no valid CPL)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Donation	Total Amount: \$			
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Years - \$114	<input type="checkbox"/> Assoc. \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Life \$600	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Donation				
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Years - \$171	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Life \$350	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Donation				

\*\* SEE THE BACK OF THIS APPLICATION FOR ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS AND YOUR REQUIREE