

Good day Members of Massasoit (and others). May I have 6 minutes of your time?

This is an UNOFFICIAL newsletter FOR MEMBERS of the Massasoit Gun Club (not FROM Massasoit Gun Club). This newsletter is NOT from the club but from me personally, as a concerned member reaching out to other members. The purpose of this newsletter is to inform you of information you will most definitely NOT hear from the Executive Committee in the Official Newsletter. This newsletter has NOT been approved or edited (censored) by the management of The Massasoit Gun Club, Inc. I will never report anything in these newsletters that I have not verified personally with at least two independent sources.

If you're new to the list this is the 5th edition, February 29th, 2020.

A couple of months ago the Pistol Team captain was suspended and brought up on charges by the EC. Now another member of the pistol team has been suspended. This involves a relatively new member of the club, who we shall call Maria (because that's her name). Maria has been a very active member of the club, participating in both club shooting events and meetings. She's a member of the pistol team and her 8 year old son participated on the Junior rifle team. Sometime in November of last year she became aware of the lead contamination issue and has been a vocal proponent of cleaning up the club and fixing the problem. Maria felt strongly enough about the situation that, given the devastating effects lead has on children especially females, she informed the junior rifle team parents that it might be a good idea to get their children tested for lead exposure. Her son tested with an elevated lead count and had only been shooting for a few months. With that background information we proceed....

Please keep the timeline in mind as it is important.

Maria's card was shut off February 5th. She received a registered letter alleging a possible safety violation. Also, in that letter was a no trespass order which the club said they would enforce with police involvement and prosecution. This Draconian method of dealing with "possible violations" is not only unprecedented but unacceptable. Shutting off a member's card and banning them from the property needs to be reserved for an actual, gun handling, safety violation (pointing a gun in an unsafe direction). And that should be from security camera video or multiple complaints.

Maria had a hearing at the EC Meeting on February 17th. She was accused of allowing her 8-year-old son to shoot unattended. The alleged violation took place on October 27th of 2019, MORE THAN THREE MONTHS PRIOR to her notification. The "incident" was not only observed by a club Range Officer/EC member, but the Range Officer took a smart phone video of the "incident" as it was happening. Maria's account of the approximately 3 second video, which she was shown at the EC meeting, is her son is standing by himself, on a stool holding an unloaded Ruger SR22, posing for a picture. During the video a shot is heard (end of video). There is no recoil of the gun her son is holding, no smoke, no muzzle flash, no sound of a shell falling, there is also no target downrange. Without the sound it is impossible to determine if or when a shot is fired. Her account is the Range Officer asked if he could get a picture, for the web page, of her son holding the gun. It has been established and agreed by all parties involved there were 4 people on the range at the time: Maria, her son, the range officer and his guest. The EC was unable to reach a conclusion regarding whether a shot was fire from the Ruger despite the lack of any gun movement, smoke or flash. The outcome of the disciplinary hearing was the EC would have to interview the Range Officers guest before it makes a ruling on the alleged violation. The EC is going to consider the testimony of a guest regarding an incident that, as of the February 17th meeting, happened FOUR months prior. An "incident" that wasn't an incident AT THE TIME. What are the chances the guest will admit to shooting without the Range Officer present or if he even remembers the day at all (remember, four months ago). Since this sounds like one of those 3-minute mysteries let's make it one. Assuming Maria's account of the video is correct can you find the holes in the EC and Range Officers' story?

Answer:

1. If this violation took place at all why didn't the range officer say something as it was happening and immediately report the incident to the chief range officer as required.

2. Why is there no range video, from multiple angles, only cell phone video?
3. Why did it take 3 months for the incident to surface?
4. If it is obvious to anyone familiar with what happens when a gun is fired that no shot was fired by Maria's son then who fired the shot that is heard in the video? Remember there are ONLY 4 people on the range. Maria says she was standing just out of the picture and nobody is accusing her of shooting. This leaves the Range Officers guest shooting several ports away. Where was the Range Officer when his guest was shooting? He was taking the video.
5. This "incident" only came to light immediately after Maria had been quite vocal about the lead problem.

Maria was asked by the President not to share the contents of the EC meeting with anyone, "for her own protection" (Was that a threat? No, it couldn't be), she declined the request. If Maria's account is correct, and I have no reason to doubt her, this is the most flagrant abuse of power by the EC to date.

Was a shot fired by her son or not? If they impose any penalty AT ALL on her then we will all get to see the video at her appeal and make the decision for ourselves. In the meantime, a contest to see who can shoot a Ruger SR22 (using real ammo) without producing any smoke, recoil, muzzle flash, muzzle flip or case ejection. I'd say send your videos to me but unfortunately my security consultant forbids opening any attachments.

"Its preparations are concealed, not published. Its mistakes are buried, not headlined. Its dissenters are silenced, not praised. No expenditure is questioned, no rumor is printed, no secret is revealed."
John F Kennedy regarding repressive regimes.

"It was reported last month that EC spent \$2000 of our money on legal advice. When asked if that was to sue the contractor they said no it was for "other matters" which they would not discuss. I'm assuming most of that was spent trying to stop me from communicating with you. They can afford to spend our money to silence the truth but won't spend \$2500 to bring in a professional range ventilation company to advise us on how to fix our ventilation system. Reminds me back in the 70's, when the government started to mandate fuel efficiency standards. The story goes GM hired 100 lawyers to fight it, in contrast Toyota hired 100 engineers to achieve it. We all know which company got the best value for their money.

So no legal action has been taken against the contractor. It would appear that the matter is dead because the President told us they are "looking into it". Ladies and gentlemen there is something very wrong with this situation. Either they have absolutely no case against the contractor (why not?) or there is/was some "arrangement" between the club and the contractor that neither side can afford to make public (or possibly a combination). Combine this fact with the president's insistence, at the February meeting, that we must forget the "mistakes" of the past and move forward. He said this many times. There is something in the past the EC very much doesn't want us to know about. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to put 2 and 2 together. The club has spent WAY too much money on that building. How do I know that?

Several contractors have looked at the building. One of these contractors built a similar size structure several years ago which was designed and built with the intention of housing a shooting range, that was built for \$298,000 (occupiable shell, no interior finish). The estimates for our building range from \$289,000 to \$342,000 (2020 dollars). To date we have spent somewhere around \$450,000 (and the building is only partially finished) .The accounting of the project we have received has insufficient detail to know exactly on what all that money was spent. This is ONLY MY OPINION, but the facts seem to point toward the EC covering up something more than just incompetence. Again, let me stress this is only MY OPINION, I do not, as yet, have any evidence of criminal activity.

Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence. - John Adams

I would like to point out when I mention the executive committee my comments do not include one truly dedicated member of the EC and servant of the club who wants only the best for the club and it's members. That person is The Executive Officer, Dave Griswold. Many of you know Dave but maybe don't know how truly committed he is to the club. I don't believe Dave would do or willingly participate in anything harmful to the club. There are a couple of other members of the EC whose participation in EC matters I would like to believe are more a case of not doing the right thing rather than actively doing the wrong thing.

The people who cast the votes decide nothing. The people who count the votes decide everything. *Joseph Stalin*

It has come to my attention that, at the last annual meeting, someone (not on the election committee) collected ballots early. At least a couple of tables had their ballots collected BEFORE the candidates had even declared their intention to run. I have asked the election committee chairman about this and he assures me nobody on the election committee collected any ballots before all the candidates had a chance to speak and all members had a chance to vote. This is a very serious situation and I intend to follow up further on this matter.

A little taste of China and North Korea right here in our own back yard. Uncle Joe (Stalin) would be proud.

Hope to see you all at the March meeting, Comrades (товарищ)

Regards

Jack Falcone