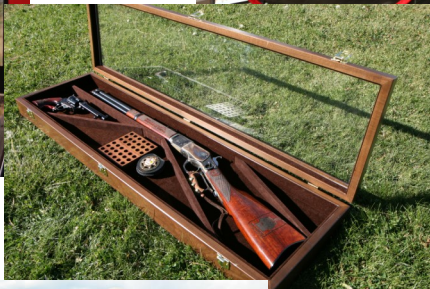




# The Whittington Crier

## NRA Whittington Center

### 2011 IN PICTURES



From Bottom Left— Lee Hoots pronghorn hunt. Salina and Cindy with the gas grill given away at our June Open House. Wayne with Matt and Jesse from The FNRA TV show. Nick Sandoval retires. Survival trials. Gatling Gun and FBMS renovated. Weddings galore at the Center. Adventure Camp fun. Center - Patriot membership gun set.

## NRA ANNUAL MEETING

We are making plans to attend the NRA Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri this year, April 12 through 15. If you are going to be in attendance at the Annual Meeting, be sure to look us up at Booth #2705. We have a new booth location very close to the official NRA booth, so we won't be difficult to find! The Annual Whittington Center Breakfast will be held at the Renaissance Grand Hotel on Saturday, April 14, at 7:00 am, in the Statler Ballroom. **Reservation forms are included in this mailing.** We hope to see you in St. Louis!



*New Mexico Centennial of Statehood - 1912—2012 - Labor Day Weekend*

Start making your plans now to attend this year's Labor Day Weekend Donor Celebration. We will be honoring the 100 years of New Mexico Statehood with Native New Mexican entertainers, tours of the Van Houten mine and Whittington Center facilities, more games, more raffles, and WAY more fun than ever!

Thursday, August 30 starts us off with our exclusive Annual Trailblazer/Patriot members event. Our featured entertainer will be Syd Masters and the Swing Riders. Syd has played for

us in the past, and was requested for a return performance by a number of members. Syd also wrote the Centennial song for New Mexico, "Under New Mexico Skies".

Friday and Saturday will be jam packed with shooting games, tours, and special guests. New Mexico native Ronny Cox will be back on Friday evening, with his musical and storytelling talents.

On Saturday night we have a very special guest coming in to give us his views on the issues current to today, as

well as his particular brand of humor and entertainment—we are so pleased to have Will Rogers himself perform! What you didn't know is Will is originally from New Mexico too! This is definitely a weekend of fun you won't want to miss!



**M e m b e r s h i p s**

Are you a Member of the Whittington Center? Is it time to upgrade your membership? 2012 will be the last year for you to join the Founders or become a Trailblazer. In 2013 this membership format will be sunset, and new, sustaining memberships will be put in place. Coming in 2013 will be the Frontier Club at \$400, the Pioneer Club at \$1,000, the Prospector Club at \$2,500, and the already announced Patriot Club at \$5000. Upon joining any of these new memberships, you will be asked to give a minimum 10% annual sustaining due to maintain that level of membership. The Patriot membership has been very popular since its introduction at last year's Wild West Weekend. We currently have 3 of the original 40 charter member spots still available. Once all the Charter memberships are sold, we will start with number 41, whose premium is a choice of either the pistol or the rifle in 44-40 caliber. Each of the new memberships will have special premiums and varying discounts available at the NRAWC, including in the Pro Shop and Emporium, on housing, range fees, etc. Be sure to call Mera at 575-445-2336 with questions.



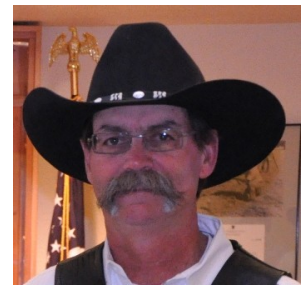
**Curator's Corner**

We have started another New Year and it is again time to give your museum a whole new look. This year is New Mexico's Centennial, having joined the Union in 1912. We will have several new and exciting displays dedicated to the celebration. These will include the regions' original inhabitants, the American Indian. If you've ever traveled in New Mexico, you'll have noticed the Spanish and Mexican influence throughout the state. We will honor our Hispanic heritage with a display going back to the time when New Mexico was a part of New Spain and the conquistadors roamed the prairies. Also included, will be a display honoring the courageous New Mexicans who proudly served with Teddy Roosevelt during the Spanish-American War. The Civil War and the Battle of Glorieta Pass will also be represented, along with displays featuring Henri and Fred Lambert. Henri Lambert, built and operated the famous St. James Hotel in Cimarron and Fred, his son, was the "law" in Colfax County for many years. Last but not least, a display will feature two of our most famous (or infamous) citizens; Billy the Kid and Pat Garrett. One firearm of interest that will be on display will be the Colt carried by Black Jack Ketchum when he attempted his last train robbery at Twin Mountain, New Mexico. A lot of our rich and colorful history will be on display thanks to many friends who have loaned us the artifacts to make it all possible. Those friends include Jim Gordon, Jim Taylor, Marc Simmons, Ron Kil and the National Firearms Museum in Fairfax, Virginia. Plan a visit to the Frank Brownell Museum of the Southwest this summer. You will be glad that you took the time.

# Getting to Know You ~ Jack E. Polen, Jr. ~

In 1990 Jack read about a place called the NRA Whittington Center in a magazine, and thought it sounded like a good idea. At the time he was living and working in North Dakota. Jack started to vacation here in 1993, and in 1996 when the opportunity came for a job in Albuquerque, NM, Jack drove down for the interview and decided he would stop in and visit again the place he had been supporting with his donations. After a conversation with Mike Ballew, the Director at the time, he found out there was a position open in the Maintenance Department. It sounded like a great idea to him. That was 16 years ago. Today Jack is the Operations Director for the Center. The scope of his responsibilities ranges from operating heavy equipment, maintaining the roads and infra-

structure of the Center proper, as well as the back country, to guiding elk, pronghorn and mule deer hunts. There isn't much about the NRA Whittington Center that Jack does not know how to operate or fix. Jack is a member of the Founders Club, Trailblazers, and is now a Patriot member. There is nothing that transcends Jack's love for the Center, just ask his new wife. Jack recently married—and yes, he got married here in the lobby of the Admin Building. When asked what he likes the most about his job here, Jack will tell you it is the opportunity to work outdoors everyday, in such a beautiful place. Where each person's abilities are appreciated and valued. There is no better salesman for the Whittington Center



Jack E. Polen, Jr.

than Jack. The Center is very fortunate to have someone of Jack's skills and integrity on it's staff. Thank you Jack, for your dedication to the good of the Center.



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## Love is in the Air

Did you know that in 2010 there were eight staff people from the NRA Whittington Center that got married? Of those eight, four held their nuptials right here at the Center. When you think of the Whittington Center you don't normally think of weddings, but if you love the outdoors, and are looking for a place that has everything you need to host a wedding, you need to think of the Center. From the beautiful outdoor settings, to housing for all the guests, to the reception venues for small and large groups, the Whittington Center has it all! "The Whittington Center was the ideal place for our wedding" says Jack Polen's new wife. "All of our out of town family stayed in the Founders Cabins where we could gather in comfort and catch up on each other's lives. We all shot at several of the ranges, and got married in the beautiful lobby of the Admin Building. I can't think of anywhere else I would have rather been for this most important day. The staff was wonderful to work with, making sure everything was just the way I had envisioned."

This is also an ideal place for family reunions, church group retreats, business conferences, or just about any group that is looking for a special and unique place to host an event. Call the Reservation Specialists at 575-445-3615 for information on availability, or contact our Programs Department, to reserve your special event.



# NRA Whittington Center University

The NRA Whittington Center strives for excellence in everything. From friendly staff to comfortable housing and well kept ranges to the always interesting and intriguing Frank Brownell Museum of the Southwest excellence is at the heart of it all. 2012 will prove no different.

At the core of the Whittington Center is education. Be it in the form of our youth Adventure Camp or partnership with Kansas State University or Texas Tech University and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish the quest for quality educational experiences never ceases. This year the NRA Whittington Center launches **Whittington University!** No place in the country has the ability to provide the training experience like the Whittington Center can. **Whittington U** offers three distinct academies that allow a student to advance their firearm skill set further and further.



**Whittington University's Defensive Academy** focuses on the real world implementation of defensive use of both Pistol and Carbine Platforms. The **Defensive Academy** utilizes *scenario-based engagements* in a training environment that mimics everyday surroundings, complete with role players to introduce students to a flexible defensive posture. The **Defensive Academy's** goal is to instill a strong fundamental base of firearm manipulation and use to help further knowledge of the responsible gun owner. The **Defensive Academy** offers a progressive course lineup starting with the basics and leads up to a series of **Masters Courses**. Training is *key* to success in every endeavor and the **Defensive Academy** gives students the opportunity to test themselves, both mentally and physically in a controlled environment under the guidance of some of today's top instructors.



**Whittington University's Precision Academy** offers courses specifically oriented toward 1000 Yard and Extreme Long Range Engagements, allowing for all center fire cartridges and rifle platforms to be used. The School of 1000 Yards focuses on the caliber/cartridges and rifle platforms that are designed for engagements between 100 – 1000 yards, with the School of Extreme Long Range emphasizing the cartridge/calibers that are designed for 2000 yard engagements. **Precision Academy** courses take place in the Whittington Center's Backcountry Training Area equipped with a 2000 meter Known Distance and Unknown Distance Range. Both the School of 1000 Yards and School of ELR offer various **Masters Courses** that will challenge each graduate by putting them in an environment that forces them to employ skills taught in previous courses. **Precision Academy Masters Courses** are extremely progressive with certain prerequisites required to participate.



**Whittington University's Military and Law Enforcement Academy** offers military and law enforcement personnel specialized tactical instruction in an environment that gives operators the freedom to truly test their abilities. Utilizing the NRA Whittington Center's **Backcountry Training Area**, the Military and Law Enforcement Academy puts tactical operators in realistic training scenarios that closely mimic situations encountered in the real world. All courses are taught by combat veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan who teach based on their combat experiences. The absolute focus of all courses in the Military and Law Enforcement Academy is **Real World Implementation.**



To compliment these three academies **Whittington University** will, additionally, offer NRA Certified Courses. For those individuals interested in becoming NRA Certified Instructors or those who are simply interested in participating in NRA Certified Courses such as **Basic Pistol, Basic Rifle, Personal Protection In The Home & Outside The Home** (among others) **Whittington U** is your best choice for quality NRA Certified instruction.



For information or to register for any of the courses:

[www.nrawc.org](http://www.nrawc.org)  
 Click on "Training"  
 Or  
 Call 575-445-3615