

The St. Joseph County Conservation & Sportsman Club, Inc.



23640 Featherstone Rd, PO Box 339, Sturgis, MI 49091
 Clubhouse Telephone (269) 467-7128
 Home Page: <http://www.conservationclub.net>



Volume Seventy-six Issue 1

January 2023

Upcoming Meetings

- Member Meeting 7 PM
Monday, March 13
- Board Meeting 7 PM
Monday, January 30

**Happy
New Year
2023!**

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Winter Trap League Jan 8 - Mar 5

This year's annual **Winter Money Trap League** will run on Sunday mornings from 1/8/23 to 3/5/23 starting at 9:00am. Each week will be 50 Singles targets (2 rounds of 25). Both club members and non-members may shoot the league, as well as youth shooters. It will be an 9-week league with 8 of the scores to count. You may make-up missed weeks on subsequent Sundays - only 2 make-ups can be shot on any single day plus that day's shoot (150 total targets of league per date). Plus, it's the return of the weekly "**Buck Can**" drawing. March 5 is a planned food carry-in as we await the final scores to be tabulated and posted for the league winners. Plus open Trap and skeet shooting will continue concurrently with the league.

Shoot program may be modified if agreed upon by participants and the Trap Directors. The cost will be \$20 for the league "pot of money", plus each week's shoot fees (target fee). There will be no BIG 50 mini-ATA shoots held this winter.

League Winners are chosen by the **Lewis Class system**, meaning scores are ranked highest to lowest at the completion of the league. There generally are between 5 to 10 shooters "per class" depending on the total number of shooters participating. League fees are split evenly between all classes. Each "class" has 3 winners split 50/30/20% of that class's pot of money. Therefore the more shooters participating, the more winners there are! So bring out your family and friends.

Other shotgun program notes: Please note that Tuesday trap and skeet will be closed until March 7 and then run weekly March 7 until Nov 28 at 6pm. Also of note, trap, skeet, and 5-Stand fees will each increase \$ 0.50 per round of 25-targets as our price for purchasing targets have increased by 30% over last year (there were 4 increases in target costs since our last purchase in Dec 2021). This will make our prices \$5.00 for members, \$6.00 for non-members, and \$4.00 for youth (≤ 18 years of age). Our first registered ATA Trap Shoot for 2023 is set for Sunday, March 19 - a program of 100-Singles, 100-Handicap, and 100-Doubles.

For questions, call, text, or email **269-483-6803** trapgeek2010@gmail.com

Watch for Short-term Range Closures

The Rifle range, and possibly other ranges including archery, continue to have some tree work clean-up from the major storm the club experienced in August 2021. This work will result is sporadic and short duration range closures while the heavy machinery and persons operating them will be downrange to complete the much needed work. **THIS WILL RESULT IN RANGE CLOSURES ON VERY SHORT NOTICE.** It may not be possible to notify members of these sudden closures. No work is expected to occur on weekends.

Safety Spot

To expound on the topic from last month, a more in-depth review of one of the safety concerns will be addressed here this month.

As noted, several gun handling issues occurred during rifle sight-in this year. Many of these involved people handling their firearms while others were downrange.

This is never OK on our ranges.

Why?? Well, there are a few good reasons for this rule. The first reason is that although YOU may feel your gun is "safe" and unloaded, others on the range (and especially those downrange) do not necessarily know that your firearm is unloaded and safe. They may turn around and see someone handling a firearm, or worse yet, pointing it downrange AT THEM!

But most importantly, you might have gotten distracted, even just for a split second, and "thought" you unloaded your firearm, but perhaps you didn't. And you pulled (or bumped) the trigger, and it goes off... Boom! Are you sure it's pointed in a safe direction? Are you sure no one is in its path?

We must all be aware of others at all times while at the ranges, and where our firearms are pointed.

NEVER EVER handle your firearm for ANY reason when ANYONE is downrange on our rifle or pistol ranges! This includes casing it.

Let's keep it safe for everyone.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TRAP & SKEET WILL BE CLOSED ON TUE EVENINGS UNTIL MARCH 7

Trap and skeet will be open 9am on Sundays

Jan 6 & 7: Winterseed (Rifle Range)

Jan 8: Winter Trap League Starts

Jan 14: CPL Class (IDPA Range)

Jan 30: Board Meeting 7pm

Feb 26: Youth Trap Team Sign-up 2pm

Supporting Local Conservation Groups

There are many locally involved conservation-minded groups that support youth programs and conservation in our area. These groups hold annual banquets to raise much needed funds to support these youth and other programs. Please consider joining these organizations, volunteering, and attending their fun-filled banquets. Below is a list of three of the more active groups in our area. There's other groups out there. Check them out!

Nation Wild Turkey Federation: Our local "Limbhangers" NWTF group has their banquet April 1 at the Sturges Young Auditorium, Sturgis MI. They sponsor the youth JAKE'S Day at our Club. This event is free to all youth 17 and under and comprises a fun day of conservation and shooting sports in a safe and fun way. Contact Kathy Himes at 269-816-1658.

Pheasants Forever: Our local chapter's banquet is Feb 25 at the Eagles in Sturgis. This group has supported the Club's youth Shotgun Trap and Skeet team and the Constantine High School Trap team with generous donations of shotgun ammo. Contact Brett Johnson at 269-251-9894.

Friends of the NRA - NRA Foundation: This non-profit leg of the NRA supports youth, women, and physically-challenged (handicap) programs in the shooting sports, including our own youth SCTP shotgun and SASP rifle/pistol youth teams. The local SW MI chapter holds their banquet in Lawrence MI May 6, 2023. Several of our Board have attended these events over the years. Contact John Andradi at 269-925-0911 or jandrasi@ymail.com

December Member Program Report



The program for our December Quarterly Member meeting presented by Eric Zablocki (pictured) on our Local Red Cross Disaster Team was very interesting and informative. She described what these volunteers within our own community do and how they help people in their immediate need right after a disaster strikes them, such as a fire, tornado, severe storm, etc. This team also helps teach our children about safety preparedness. Club members Walt Zablocki and Nancy Lawrence are also on our local Red Cross team. If you are interested in becoming part of this much needed volunteer team, contact Erin at 269-919-2223. We also enjoyed refreshments of homemade cookies and coffee to enjoy during the presentation. Cookies were made by Karen Perlberg and Leslie York. A meat and cheese tray was also donated by Mike Philly.

Promo Club Merchandise for Sale

We still have some nice Limited Edition Club Hats for sale \$20 - one style in a darker tan cap with a deer on it and nice camo brim and another style is non-camo in a light tan color. There are also Club Patches (\$3) and License Plates (\$5). Get them before they're all gone!

The proceeds for this sale will benefit our Hunter Ed program for patches for the new youth hunters. Please support this program with a purchase. Items are available for purchase Sunday mornings or contact Fred at 269-625-3749.

REMEMBER: EYE AND EAR PROTECTION IS REQUIRED ON ALL RANGES
 ALSO: THE FRONT GATE IS TO BE LOCKED BEHIND YOU WHEN ENTERING OR LEAVING, EXCEPT FOR ORGANIZED ACTIVITY TIMES

Financial News: November 2022

Checking Account \$ 118,873.13 Transfer Acct \$ 444.04
 Pre-paid Dues CD \$ 10,446.75 Emergency CD \$ 59,462.38

Membership Status: As of last Board Meeting

Total paid member households **934**

If there is a change in your address or you know someone who is not getting their newsletter, call 269-341-5930 and leave a message and corrected information. Thank you.

New Members (2) — November

Justin R Herrli White Pigeon, MI
 Scot Harold Sturgis, MI

Notice: At the December Member Meeting there were no new nominations presented for the Board of Directors, including Officers or District Directors, therefore, the slate of officers and directors of the current board will be unopposed during the Annual March Meeting elections.

Clay Target Cost Increases Forcing Per Round Increases

Due to clay target costs having gone up FOUR times (a 30% increase) since our last purchase of targets in December 2021, the following will be the new costs for shooting per round of Trap, Skeet, and 5-Stand Sporting Clays effective January 1, 2023.

TRAP & SKEET:

Members \$5, Non-members \$6, Youth* \$4

5-STAND:

Members \$6, Non-members \$7, Youth* \$5

We are sorry to have to make this change but it must be done due to the cost increase of the clay targets. Please plan accordingly.

**Youth rates (generally ≤18 years) also apply for youth participating in the club's youth shooting sports teams up to age 22. This includes 4-H, SCTP, AIM, and Michigan High School Clay Target League school teams.*

SJCCSC Shotgun Directors

MUCC Conservation Pledge



I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of my country - its air, soil, and minerals, its forests, waters, and wildlife.

Quarterly Member Meetings: Mar, Jun, Sept, Dec

CLUB OFFICERS

President Jeff Brazo 651-9076*
 Vice President Paul Hassenger 625-4668
 Executive Secretary Kathy Crandall 341-5930
 Treasurer Tom McLaughlin 651-9951
 Recording Secretary Leslie York 483-6803

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

District #1 Kathy Book 659-4056
 Denny Parker 535-4739
 District #2 Mark Speicher (574) 361-5847
 Roy Rawlinson 341-1726
 District #3 Benson Baumeister 221-0288
 Randy Crandall 808-6730
 District #4 Nancy Lawrence 651-1700
 Pete Davis 651-1388
 Dir. At Large Tom Whitford 432-4070

Dist #1: Flowerfield, Park, Fabius & Lockport Townships
Dist #2: Mendon, Leonidas, Nottawa & Colon Townships
Dist #3: Constantine, Florence, Mottville & White Pigeon TWP
Dist #4: Sherman, Burr Oak, Sturgis & Fawn River Townships
At Large: All areas outside of St Joseph County

COMMITTEES AND CHAIRMEN

Membership and Administrative Activities

Newsletter/& Website Leslie York 483-6803
 Advertising (Newsletter) Leslie York 483-6803
 Public Relations Jim Perlberg (313) 310-4897
 NRA Recruiter Leslie York 483-6803
 MUCC Region 7 Allen Kasdorf 651-7086
 Finance Tom McLaughlin 506-3361
 Nominating Chair Kathy Crandall 341-5930
 Calendar of Events Leslie York 483-6803
 Hunter Education Fred Shank 625-3749
 CPL Instruction Jeff Brazo 651-9076
 Fair Sign-up Jim Perlberg (313) 310-4897

Weekly / League Activities

Trap & Skeet Larry & Leslie York 483-6803
 Trap – Tues Bill Thompson 290-5798
 5 Stand Sporting Clays Larry & Leslie York 483-6803
 Archery Mike Grandstaff 625-0565
 Cowboy Action John Daniels (574) 349-3764
 IDPA Defensive Pistol Mike Philley (574) 202-0641
 Combat Carbine, High Power Jay Baker 532-4445
 Lower Range Andy Rockwell (260) 668-9317
 Youth SCTP Shotgun Leslie York 483-6803
 Youth SASP Pistol Rifle Shawn Scott 251-8126
 Youth 4-H Nelson Schug (248) 379-8654

Executive Secretary:

Kathy Crandall
PO Box 339
Sturgis, MI 49091
269-341-5930

**All area codes 269 unless noted*

Officers, Directors, E-mail Listings

Jay Baker (High Power, Combat Carbine) keplerdog@outlook.com
 Benson Baumeister (Dist 3 Director) bbaumeister92@gmail.com
 Kathy Crandall (Exec. Sec) kmcrandall952@gmail.com
 Randy Crandall (Dist 3 Director) kmc52ran@aol.com
 John Daniels (Cowboy Action) johndaniels@imcaa.com
 Pete Davis (Dist 4 Director) pdavis@greenmarkequipment.com
 Mike Grandstaff mike_grandstaff@yahoo.com
 Paul Hassenger (Vice President) phassenger@yahoo.com
 Allen Kasdorf (MUCC) allenkasdorf@gmail.com
 Gary Kondek (.22 Shoots) gary.kondek@yahoo.com
 Nancy Lawrence (Dist 4 Director) jlawarence1700@charter.net
 Tom McLaughlin (Treasurer) trmclaughlin@frontier.com
 Denny Parker (Dist 1) stormrider.dp@icloud.com
 Jim Perlberg (Pub Relations) gunslinger6@me.com
 Mike Philley (IDPA) mphilley60@gmail.com
 Roy Rawlinson (Dist 2 Director) leroyrawlinson@gmail.com
 Andy Rockwell (Lower Range Dir) zrock4365@hotmail.com
 Fred Shank (Hunter Education Director) rsnurse@hotmail.com
 Mark Speicher (Dist 2 Director) markspeicher26@aol.com
 Larry York (Trap, Skeet, 5 Stand) larry.york54@gmail.com
 Leslie York (Rec. Sec, ATA, Calen/Web) trapgeek2010@gmail.com
 Newsletter Editor (Leslie York) conservationclubeditor@gmail.com

**St. Joseph Co. Conservation
& Sportsman Club, Inc.**
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The Second Amendment

A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

PLEASE NOTICE

The St Joseph County Conservation & Sportsman Club, Inc., has a 501(c)(4) tax-exempt organization status. Under this rule, donations to the club are *not* deductible on your individual taxes as charitable contributions.

APPLICATION FOR NRA MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the NRA obtained through our club benefits us in that the NRA returns part of your fee to us, and benefits you because you pay a reduced membership fee because of belonging to a member club.

- Renew** my NRA membership: NRA member # _____
- New Member**, please sign me up as a new NRA member:
Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____
Birthdate: _____

Club Rate: **\$35** per year. **Make check payable to NRA:** \$ _____

Magazine Choice: (circle one):

America's 1st Freedom American Hunter American Rifleman Shooting Illustrated

Mail to: Leslie J York, club NRA recruiter
17101 Tomahawk Trail
White Pigeon, MI 49099

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

ST JOSEPH COUNTY CONSERVATION AND SPORTSMAN CLUB Inc.

I respectfully apply for membership in the St. Joseph County Conservation and Sportsman Club, Inc. I certify that by signing this application I am a person 18 Years of age or older, who accepts the Purposes and Objectives of the Corporation and agrees to promote the same, and has complied with the requisites of membership as provided in these Bylaws. I further give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully to defend from waste the natural resources of my country; its air, soil, minerals, forest, water and its wildlife. I understand that to become eligible to join, I must be recommended by a club member in good standing, or personally inform the Board of Directors why I wish to be a member. (please, print clearly)

Full Name _____ Birth Date _____

Spouse _____ Birth Date _____

_____ Check if spouse desires a membership Card (**Add \$5 for this second gate card**)

Address _____ Phone # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address (Print) _____

Recommended By _____

New member application: _____ Renewal application: _____

Membership Fee: **\$105** for family membership (new and renewal)

Application Fee: **\$25** (new members only, add to membership fee)

Total Amount enclosed \$ _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail application and Check to:

**St. Joseph County Conservation
& Sportsman Club
C/O Kathy Crandall
P.O. Box 339
Sturgis MI 49091**

Membership subject to the approval of the Board of Directors at the next Board meeting. **After Board Approval New Member Information Packages are handed out at the mandatory New Member Orientation**, to be scheduled within 30-days. Club Newsletters should start within 60 days.