

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 10

October 2023

Upcoming Meetings

- Member Meeting 7 PM
Monday, December 11
- Board Meeting 7 PM
Monday, Oct 30



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Let's Zero In That New Rifle!

Fall is a special time for all of us outdoors folk. The colors change, the weather cools off, and the mosquitos and flies return to hell where they belong. It also means deer hunting season is upon us, and all the fun and frustration that comes with it. I want to help with eliminating some frustration. I can't do anything about that squirrel who spotted you and now won't shut up, but I *CAN* help you get that new rifle zeroed quickly. *Article submitted by Lower Range Director, Andy Rockwell.*

Step 0: Unload your rifle and check that the chamber and magazine are empty!

Step 1: Make sure the scope bases and ring are tight and crosshairs are level! Scope mount manufacturers publish torque specs, and there are excellent scope levelling tools and torque screwdrivers available. Evenly torque the screws in an alternating pattern, like a tire's lug nuts. You can eyeball the crosshairs level, but have your buddy double-check. (Don't forget a tiny drop of BLUE Loctite on all screws!)

Step 2: Bore sight your rifle! (You're going to be pointing your rifle at things, so BE SMART WITH YOUR MUZZLE!) Lever Action and Pump Action, skip to Step 3. On AR platforms, take the upper off the lower and do this step with ONLY the upper. Rest your rifle/upper upright on something stable like a Gun Vice or sandbags. Remove the bolt from your rifle. From behind your rifle, look through the action and barrel, and center a distant target in the bore. Without moving the rifle, adjust the elevation and windage dials so the scope's crosshairs are in the center of the target you're aiming at. Take your time with this. Double and triple check. You now have a "bore sight zero", and you're ready for shooting!

Step 3: Preliminary zero your rifle! Start at 25 yards. Use the largest paper target you have and aim for a small point in the center. Take your time and fire 3 carefully aimed shots. **DO NOT ADJUST YOUR SCOPE BETWEEN SHOTS.** Find the center of your 3-shot group, then adjust the scope left-right and up-down to move your group's center to your point of aim. Remember, each scope click is about 1/16" at 25 yards, so measure the distance in inches, multiply x 16, and then count as you click. Repeat this step as many times as needed to confirm your group is where you want. **Suggestion:** If your scope center is more than 1-1/2" above the rifle's bore axis, which is common with AR platforms or large scopes in high mounts, "zero" your group about 1" to 1-1/2" low at 25Y. ...*Continued on page 2...*

National Trap Day ATA Shoot Sunday Oct 8

Our final 2023 full ATA trap shoot is set for Sunday, October 8. This is our **National Trapshooting Day** shoot, also known as "**The Leather Shoot**", as there are various **Shamrock Leather** goods for trophies for the various winners. There are 20 trophies in all, including trophies for youth and lady shooters as well. The first 50 participants also receive a National Trapshooting Day pin. A light breakfast and lunch are planned for donations, which the proceeds go to your youth trap program. This shoot is the standard 3-Event shoot with a 100-Singles Target Event followed by 100 Handicap and 100 Doubles targets events. You can shoot 1 event, 2 events, or all three. There is a High Over All (HOA) winner for the best combined score of these 3 events. This year the **HOA Champion** will receive the very nice **Shamrock Leather shooting bag**. As the new ATA season has started September 1st, you will need to renew your ATA membership at this shoot unless you have already renewed with the ATA. Also, please note, the ATA daily fee has increased from \$3 to \$4 per day for the 2024 ATA shoot year that began Sept 1, 2023.

Cowboy Corner

Hidden Valley Cowboys Sept Shoot Report

The Valley welcomed 30 shooters for our September match, with lots of Black Powder shooters to smoke up the Valley. Michigan held there State Match Range War over Labor Day weekend and we have 5 club members who are State Champions in their categories, Three Gun Cole (49r), Triple Threat (Cattle Baron), Tommy Two Fingers (B-Western), Ka Adik Krista (Lady Wrangler) and Lighting Bill Carson (Senior B-Western) Well Done! Congratulations to our 4 Clean shooters this month, Joe Quick, Mez Cal, Ranger Mike, and Sauk Valley Stubby. Our Cool Clean Match Coaster's are made by Ka Adik Krista. I would like to thank all that helped out with posse duties we have a great bunch of Cowboys and Cowgirls that are always willing to help out when needed. Krista and Tommy did a fantastic job as always with Coffee and Donuts and our lunch, Cowboy Beans and Corn Bread Muffins. I have a great posse that helps set up on the Sunday before our shoot thank you, Mike, Triple Threat, Stubby, Ya Big Tree, Tommy Two Fingers, and Ka Adik Krista.

Our next shoot will be October 15, 2023. Registration opens at 8:15 AM, side shoots start at 8:30 AM, and the mandatory safety meeting starts at 9:45 AM, preceding the main match. Once again we will be doing something special for our last match of the season in October. We will be Shooting 6 Stages... Bring Extra Ammo! Lunch will be served Free for every one... **Yee-Haw, Free Vittles!** Ladies will Shoot for Free... Regular Match fee of \$15 for Men folk, Buckaroo's and Buckarett's always shoot Free. Maybe a few more surprises, hope to see ya there!

Johnny Rebel
574-349-3764



UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 1: Shotgun Ironman (1pm)
Oct 7-8: FD Level 2 Rifle Class (IDPA)
Oct 8: ATA Trap Shoot, "Leather Shoot"
Oct 14: CPL Class
Oct 15: Cowboy Action
Oct 21-22: FD Vehicle Defense (Special)
Oct 21: IDPA Shoot
Oct 22: Combat Carbine
Oct 28: HE Class (Lower Ranges Closed)
Oct 30: Board Meeting
Dec 8: 5-Stand Night Shoot (Shotgun)

Shotgun Ironman Competition Sunday Oct 1

Who is the Best Overall Shotgunner in Combined Trap, Skeet, 5-Stand Sporting Clays, and Wobble Trap - Adult and Youth!

This annual Club event is set for Sunday, October 1 at 1:00 pm (or when open trap ends), we will hold the Shotgun Ironman competition and hot dog lunch. This fun event consists of 1 round each of 16-yard/single trap, wobble trap, skeet, and 5-Stand for a total of 100 targets. Best total combined score wins the Title of 2023 Shotgun Ironman. There's a trophy and money to the winner(s). If there are more than 10 entrants there is a runner up winner for the pot of money. **NEW for 2023:** Separate trophies for adults and youth (*18 and under*).

- Cost is \$30 adults (\$25 youth), that covers your 4 rounds and lunch
- No heavy loads, must use standard target loads of 7½, 8, or 9 shot
- Contact **269-483-6803** for more info or to pre-register

Zero In Your New Rifle (cont. from page 1) ...

Step 4: Final zero your rifle! Put up a fresh, clean target at your desired zero distance. (50 or 100 yards is a good spot for most straight-wall cartridge shooters) Repeat the procedure in Step 3 at your final distance. Remember the scope "click values" change as your distance to target changes. The clicks will be about 1/8" at 50Y, about 1/4" at 100Y, and about 1/2" at 200Y.

Suggestion: Do this step with the ammo you intend to use for hunting. If you change ammo, repeat this step with the new ammo. This ensures your rifle is tailored to your ammo and gives you the best opportunity for an accurate shot and ethical kill.

Final Suggestion: Zero for Max Point Blank Range (MPBR)! With most factory ammo, a 450 Bushmaster or 350 Legend which is zeroed about 3" high at 100 yards, will be about 3" low at 200 yards. For the shot distances we're likely to encounter while hunting, and considering a whitetail's vital area is about a 6" circle, you won't have to worry about hold-over or hold-under in the field for any distance shorter than 200 yards. Just aim and shoot.

Big Buck Down!

(To check the MPBR of your .44 Mag, .30-30, 6.5 WunderGun, .300 LaserBeam, or .458 BuffaloHammer, go here (see below):

<https://shooterscalculator.com/point-blank-range.php>

Looking Ahead...



December 8: There is a **5-Stand Sporting Clays "night" shoot** being planned for Friday evening, Dec 8 (start time and weather pending). Watch Nov newsletter for all the details or call Joel at 269-788-4946.

December 31: Come on out and shoot trap on **New Year's Eve Day** (weather permitting). We'll plan on having some warm food to eat and shoot some clays!

There's always something going on at "The Club"!

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: Sept Member Meeting 2023

Checking Account \$ 19,657.40 Transfer Acct \$ 3,187.80
 Pre-paid Dues CD \$ 5,294.59 Emergency CD \$ 59,952.95

Membership Status: As of last Board Meeting

Total paid member households **896**

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 (13) - August

Kevin Converse	Athens, MI
Douglas D Deter	Briston, IN
Steve Falkenstein	Sturgis, MI
April Gritten	Three Rivers, MI
Robert E Heidbrink	Three Rivers, MI
Cheryl Jones	LaGrange, IN
Joaquim Liew	Burr Oak, MI
Douglas Mauldin	White Pigeon, MI
Michele McBride	Battle Creek, MI
Sean M Reed	Portage, MI
Brady Matthew Sholl	Sturgis, MI
Gerald Isaac Webb	Three Rivers, MI
Travis Walker	White Pigeon, MI

Member Meeting Program Report



Andy Rockell put on a very interesting and informative presentation on Big Game Hunting: "*What Happens After The Shot*" during our Quarterly Member Meeting held last month. Pictured above is Andy with the short presentation with photos of the game and the story of what occurs post the shot, plus how the harvested game benefits the residents from the country where the game was harvested.

Would you like to see more programs at our member meetings? Do you have any suggestions of things you'd like to see, learn about, or just have a reason to come out to the meeting? Drop us a line and let us know.

Leslie Y. 269-483-6803, Jim P. 313-310-4897

There's always something going on at "The Club"!

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	689-0200*
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's
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	689-0200
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	Larry Murray	659-6005
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

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Randy Crandall (Dist 3 Director)	kmc52ran@aol.com
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Pete Davis (Dist 4 Director)	peted02@yahoo.com
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Mark Speicher (Dist 2 Director)	markspeicher26@aol.com
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**St. Joseph Co. Conservation
& Sportsman Club, Inc.**
PO Box 339
Sturgis, MI 49091

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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) *Subject to change
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.