

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-seven Issue 10

October 2024

Upcoming Meetings

- Member Meeting 7 PM
Monday, **Dec 9**
- Board Meeting 7 PM
Monday, **Oct 28**

Quarterly Members Meet
 2nd Monday: March, June,
 Sept, and December 7pm



Inside this issue:

- Cowboy Round Up 2
- Annual Shotgun Iron-
man Oct 6 2
- Financial News &
New Members 2
- Officers & District
Director Contacts 2
- New Lower Range
Rules: Please Read!** 3
- New Membership Ap-
plication 4
- NRA Membership Ap-
plication 4

Changes to Lower Range Rules & Orientation

Due to potential safety factors and volume of shooters on both the pistol (i.e. pistols and handguns) and rifle ranges (*especially the rifle range*), the board has made some much needed changes to increase safety through training on these non-monitored ranges; collectively referred to as the "lower range". These will be mandatory and consist of the following five points:

- A consolidated "**Lower Range Rules**" has been approved to simplify the rules on both rifle and pistol ranges to enhance understanding and for ease of use*
- A new "**Range Safety Training**" portion has been added to the new member orientation for demonstrating safe firearm handling and conducted at the range
- All **existing members** of record will be required to have this safe firearm handling training by December 2026 in order to have all members receive a consistent message and improve safety behaviors of all club members. This is mandatory and will only require about 30-minutes of your time.
- "**Empty Chamber Indicators**" (ECI) are now **required** to be placed into each rifle and handgun present on the ranges at all times when that firearm is not actively being used. This will be a visual verification to you and others, that the firearm chamber is unloaded. ECIs will be made available at the ranges (while supplies last) or you may bring your own (strongly encouraged).
- A camera system is planned to be installed on the ranges, both as a possible deterrent for anyone wishing to do deliberate damage and also to help understand the issues causing safety errors when they occur and provide follow-up. The camera video recordings will stay local to the club to protect privacy.

With everyone's cooperation and adherence to these important practices and new procedures, we will make the ranges safer for everyone. ***See page 3 for new rules.**

National Trap Day ATA Shoot Sunday Oct 13

Our final 2024 full ATA trap shoot is set for Sunday, October 13. 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 35 participants also receive a National Trapshooting Day pin. Breakfast and lunch are planned, donations accepted and the proceeds go to our club youth SCTP 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.

Cowboy Round-Up

Hidden Valley Cowboys

Sept Report

The Valley had 25 shooters for our September match and several visitors stopping to watch and ask questions. Congratulations to our 5 clean shooters this month, Justice D Spencer, Lighting Bill, Money Bags Mathias, Ranger Mike and his first at the Valley Toby Dirt. Our cool clean match coasters are made by Ka Adik Krista.

I would like to thank all that helped out with posse duties we have a great bunch of Cowboy and Cowgirls that are always willing to help out when needed. Krista and Tommy did a fantastic job as always with Coffee, Donuts, and our lunch. I have a great posse that helps set up on the Sunday before our shoot thank you, Stubby, Ya Big Tree, Toby Dirt, Tommy Two Fingers, and Ka Adik Krista.

Our next shoot will be **October 20, 2024**. 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 Buckarette's always shoot Free. Maybe a few more surprises, hope to see ya' there!

Johnny Rebel
574-349-3764



UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 2: Long Gong .22 Practice 5:30p (Rifle)
Oct 5: IDPA Practice 9am (IDPA)
Oct 6: BIG 50 Trap and League 9am (Trap)
Oct 6: Shotgun Ironman 1pm (Trap)
Oct 7: New Member Orientation (*by invite*)
Oct 9: CPL Practice (IDPA)
Oct 12: CPL Class (Clubhouse and IDPA)
Oct 13: ATA Trapshoot (Skeet/5-S closed)
Oct 19: HE Field Day - Lower Range Closed am
Oct 19: IDPA Shoot
Oct 20: Cowboy Action
Oct 20: Combat Carbine (IDPA)
Oct 20: BIG 50 Trap and League 9am (Trap)
Oct 27: BIG 50 Trap and League 9am (Trap)
Oct 28: **Board Meeting** 7pm
Dec 6: Friday Night "Lighted" 5-Stand (6pm)

Shotgun Ironman Competition Sunday Oct 6

Who is the Best Overall Shotgunner - Adult and Youth!

We will hold this annual Shotgun Ironman competition on Sunday, October 6 at 1:00 pm (or when open trap ends), including a 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 non-registered targets. Best total combined score wins the Title of 2024 Shotgun Ironman. There's a trophy and money to the winner. If there are more than 10 entrants there is a runner up winner for the pot of money.

- Cost is \$30 per person, that covers your 4 rounds *and lunch*
- No heavy or game loads, must use standard target loads of 7½, 8, or 9 shot
- Discipline-specific shotguns are allowed for each event if desired
- Call 269-483-6803 to pre-register or just show up on Sunday, Oct 6.

This year we will again be offering a separate award for the youth competitors. So bring out your young'uns and let 'em have a go at the **Ironman Youth Award!** Contact 269-483-6803 for more details or to sign up.

Financial News: August BOD Meeting 2024

Checking Account	\$ 21,400.50	CC Trans Acct	\$ 423.80
Pre-paid Dues CD	\$ 1,767.38	Emergency CD	\$ 60,571.61
Storm Recovery CD	\$125,000.00	Reserve CD	\$ 20,000.00

Membership Status: As of last Board Meeting

Total paid member households **871**

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.

New Members - August (8)

Bruce Martin Fielis	White Pigeon, MI
Braden Minnard	Constantine, MI
Ryan Rivers	Three Rivers, MI
Evangelina Perez Rubio	White Pigeon, MI
Michael Robert Salmen	Portage, MI
Vince Santore	Colon, MI
Christopher Bret Tyler	Colon, MI
Edith Wilkinson	Middlebury, IN

HIGH POWER EQ 4 SALE

Please see the list in the Clubhouse hall for some High-power rifle equipment for sale. Please call: **Mark at 708-508-1374**
If you can't reach me please leave a voice mail with a call back number.

CLUB OFFICERS

President	Jeff Brazo	269-689-0200
Vice President	Paul Hassenger	269-625-4668
Executive Secretary	Kathy Crandall	269-341-5930
Treasurer	Tom McLaughlin	269-651-9951
Recording Secretary	Leslie York	269-483-6803

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

District #1	Kathy Book	269-659-4056
District #2	Denny Parker	269-535-4739
District #3	Mark Speicher	574-361-5847
District #4	Roy Rawlinson	269-341-1726
Director At Large	Benson Baumeister	269-221-0288
	Randy Crandall	269-808-6730
	Nancy Lawrence	269-651-1700
	Pete Davis	269-651-1388
	Tom Whitford	269-432-4070

See club website for Activity Directors and other club contacts: www.conservationclub.net

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

St. Joseph County Conservation & Sportsman Club Inc.

Affiliated with the Michigan United Conservation Clubs

23640 Featherstone Rd, Sturgis, MI 49091

PH. 269-467-4128

NEW!

LOWER RANGE RULES (RIFLE AND PISTOL)

- 1) Raise the range flag at the entrance to the range road (top of hill), when either range is being used. Lower the flag when leaving **IF** you're the last to leave the lower ranges.
- 2) Eye and hearing protection is mandatory for everyone, including spectators.
- 3) Case and Uncase firearms at the shooting benches, muzzles down-range.
- 4) Firearms not in use must be:
 - a. Resting on the bench or ground, unloaded, with Empty Chamber Indicators (ECI) inserted, muzzle pointed downrange, OR:
 - b. In a gun rack with muzzle up or down, ECI inserted, OR:
 - c. Unloaded and in a closed gun case.
 - d. DO NOT store unused firearms horizontally on the back tables unless in a closed case.
- 5) When loading, unloading, or dry-firing firearms, they must be on the firing line, pointed downrange below the berm, (Muzzleloaders may have muzzle up during loading procedure)
- 6) When actively shooting, muzzles must be even with or beyond the firing line, or beyond the glass if using the shooting windows in the enclosed portion of the range.
- 7) Paper targets or steel "gongs" are the only allowable targets. Steel targets must be shot **NO** closer than 30 feet. Reactive Targets such as Tannerite or objects such as Bowling Pins, Rolling Spinners, etc. are not allowed.
- 8) If you bring your own targets, position them to ensure all rounds fired will impact the berm and will not hit club's target frames or windage flags. Do not shoot diagonally across the range.
- 9) The short-range rifle (25/50/100yd) and the long-range rifle (200/300yd) operate independently.
- 10) Personal defense handguns are to be fired on the pistol range. Hunting handguns and Pistol Caliber Carabines, including AR- and AK- style pistols, may be used on rifle or pistol range.
- 11) No Full-auto or burst fire allowed.
- 12) When going downrange to set, retrieve, or review targets, etc.:
 - a. Verify that all firearms are unloaded, actions are open, and an ECI is in place.
 - b. The Rifle range has **SAFETY LIGHT SWITCHES**, turn one on for every person going downrange.
 - c. Verbally check with other shooters in and outside the enclosures **before** anyone goes downrange. Ask "**ARE YOU CLEAR?**" to ensure that all firearms are in a safe condition.
 - d. **DO NOT HANDLE FIREARMS FOR ANY REASON** when anyone is downrange.
- 13) When returning to the firing line, Turn off your safety light switch. Verify everyone has returned, and all range safety lights are off. To return to live fire, call out "**GOING HOT, EYES AND EARS**".
- 14) Live fire is allowed between 8AM and 9PM, unless otherwise approved by the Club's BOD

August 2024

These Range Rules may be modified or changed by the St. Joseph County Conservation and Sportsman Club BOD as needed and will be posted at the ranges with the most recent version.

**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 _____

Area (s) of Interest: Range Work Parties _____; Committees _____; Club Board _____; Maintenance _____

New member application fee: **\$130***
*subject to change

Renewal Dues (after 1st full year): **\$105***
*subject to change

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 start within 60 days.