

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-nine Issue 5

May 2026

Upcoming Meetings

- Member Meeting 7 PM
Monday, **June 9**
- Board Meeting 7 PM
Monday, **May 18**



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So What's Going On At The Club Now?

May is a busy time for our club. Lots of activities are either ongoing or just starting up. So, if you're looking for something to do, look no further than your own Conservation Club. Below are some of the main active activities as of May:

Archery: The 3-D and bag target archery is open on Tuesday evenings at 5:30pm. Plus, open archery is available to members, just place your fee in the mailbox slot in the door of the archery shed. The bag target range is available to all club members and guests at no charge. Those who use the 3D range are asked to contribute \$5 each to cover the cost of the targets. 269-832-2816

Shotgun Sports: Trap, skeet, and 5-Stand Sporting is open Sunday Mornings 9am - noon, plus Tuesday eve 6 - 8pm. 269-483-6803

Cowboy Action: The 3rd Sun on the Cowboy range thru Oct. 574-349-3764

Long-Gong 22, High Power, and PRS 22 Rifle Shoots: On the rifle range on various days and times. Long-Gong on 3rd Sun's at noon. High Power every Tues eve at 6pm thru Sept. PRS on last Sat on the month (except Aug 22) at 8am. 269-251-3946

IDPA Shoots and Combat Carbine: IDPA Practice on 3rd Wed 5pm. IDPA shoots generally 3rd Saturday with Combat Carbine on the 3rd Sun on IDPA Range. 269-251-3946

Youth Shooting Sports: Many of these activities are open or opening up soon! We have Trap & Skeet (SCTP & 4-H) contact 269-483-6803. For 4-H BB Gun, 22 cal and 4-H Riflery contact 248-379-8654. For Scholastic Action Shooting Program (SASP) Rifle and Pistol contact 369-625-1918. And for 4-H Archery contact Nelson Shugg 248-379-8654.

Heads Up: Required Range Safety Briefing

There still are existing club members who have not yet taken this required, **mandatory** Range Safety training that must be done before renewing your membership after Dec 2026 for the 2027 club year. ALL CURRENT MEMBERS, regardless of your activity of choice, need to take this one-time training review. These sessions are held on the **1st Monday evening** and **3rd Saturday morning of the months through July**. The remaining scheduled dates are **listed below**. They are also listed in the club monthly calendar; found on-line in the club website and in the monthly newsletters. **Sign up now!** Call **Kathy Crandall** at **(269) 341-5930** to schedule your date and time.

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| • May: | Monday | May | 4 | 6 pm |
| | Saturday | May | 16 | 9 am |
| • June: | Monday | June | 1 | 6 pm |
| | Saturday | June | 20 | 9 am |
| • July : | Monday | July | 6 | 6 pm |
| | Saturday | July | 18 | 9 am |

Food for Thought

Most of us have been shooting for years. Some are very fresh to shooting. Sometimes, regardless of our experience, we need to take a moment to remember and intentionally practice the basics of safe firearm handling rules below:

Treat every firearm like it's loaded:

We just cleared and safety checked our gun. We know there is absolutely nothing in the chamber. However, if we still treat it as if it were loaded, **we don't have to remember** two handling rules of "loaded or unloaded".

Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction: Simply put, we want our gun pointed in a direction that if it were to unintentionally discharge, the projectile will not hit something or someone.

Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to fire: We keep our finger off the trigger until we are absolutely ready to fire the gun. Life throws us surprises and our ENTIRE body can react. Keep the finger off that trigger so we don't have an extra surprise.

Know your target and what's beyond it: You are sure of your target. But what about the rock that's behind it. Is there a deer on the backstop that a ricochet could kill?

(Continued on Page 3, back page)

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2 & 3: FDC (IDPA)

May 4: Clubhouse Orientation (6 - 7 pm)

May 4: Lower Range Closed (6 - 8 pm)*

May 9: CPL Class (Clubhouse & IDPA)

May 15: Night Vision Dusk Shoot (Rifle)

May 16: Clubhouse Orientation (6 - 7 pm)

May 16: Lower Range Closed (6 - 8 pm)*

May 17: Cowboy Action (Cowboy Range)

May 17: Long Gong 22 (Rifle Range)

May 18 Board Meeting 7pm

May 20: IDPA Practice (IDPA Range)

May 23: IDPA Shoot (IDPA)

May 24: Combat Carbine (IDPA)

May 26: High Power (Rifle Range)

May 30: PRS22 Rifle Shoot (Rifle Range)

May 31 & 31: Fortress Def Class (IDPA)

*Contact Kathy Crandall 269-341-5930 to register for this safety orientation.

20th Annual April ATA Shoot Results

Our Club had an even greater turnout for our April registered ATA Trap Shoot with 45 shooters attending from Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan. There were again quite a few youth athletes from competitive teams from IL and IN, plus many of our own youth team members. Pictured below is **Wyatt King** (below left), a member of our **Club's Straight Shooters Clay Target Team** and also **Constantine High School's trap team**, shooting in his very first ATA shoot, and won the **Junior Singles** event with a great score of 96/100. Pictured middle-left is **Dave Hauck**, taking Singles Class B with 97/100. Dave is Coach of the Edwardsburg Youth Trap team. Pictured in the middle-right photo is **Colton Skinner** winning Champion in all three events plus the High-Over-All (HOA) hitting a total of 281/300 targets (SNG 98, HDC 94, and DBL 89). And pictured below right is **Madison Krummrey** sweeping the Lady categories in all three events. The Club threw a total of 8,700 targets in this shoot, not counting practice rounds before the shoot. See Club website for more winners.



AMERICA 250! Summer Shotgun Leagues

To help celebrate our nation's **250th Birthday**, we are holding both a Trap & a Skeet Summer League starting appropriately on **Flag Day June 14** and running 10 weeks long ending on **August 16**. It will be 50 targets each week that you shoot (*either trap or skeet depending on which league you join*), counting only 5 of the weeks for a total of **250 Targets**. Since only 5 of the weeks will count, you only need to shoot 5 weeks of the available 10 weeks. This way it allows for vacations, or other time-off interferences, so there is no pressure to shoot all 10 weeks. This is a fun way to join a friendly competition in the warm (*or shall we say hot*) weather instead of fighting the snow or ice as in our cold weather leagues. Cost will be \$25 to join either league plus the standard weekly shoot costs for the clay targets. Trophies to the League Winners and Runner Up placement. Youth may also participate and will have separate trophies for the youth participants. Contact **269-483-6803** or email trapgeek2010@gmail.com to sign up for either league or just to get more information. **"PULL!"**



👉 **4-H Riflery, BB Gun 5 - 7pm on Thursdays**
Rifle Range Closed during those days and times.

👉 **4-H Shotgun (Trap & Skeet) Tuesdays 6 - 8pm**

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: March Annual Meeting 2026

Checking Account	\$ 88,775.73	Trans Acct	\$ 12,480.89
Emergency CD	\$ 61,488.40	Excess CD	\$ 21,103.40
Storm CD Rec'd	\$ 132,522.71	Third CD	\$ 24,500.00

Membership Status: As of last Board Meeting

Total paid member households **530 (2026-27 Club year)**

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 - March (23)

Jeremy R Baker	Ian A Brubaker	Kodie Cox
Eric Eads	Adam Eidson	Andrew Hill (IL)*
Kyle Kelley	Gary Alan Hutchings	Mark L Kruger
Rodney Kyle	Renee Lynn Landrus	David Larson
Garry Opdycke	Mark Allen Oldenberg	Andy Ramer
Riley Reid	Fredrik Anthony Ristau	Trevor C Rowe
Thomas Smith	Emmanuel Schwartz	Gary W Tremblay
Tom Yost	Andrea Henneken	

** all Michigan except where noted*

"Food for Thought" continued from Page 1...

- **Rules two and three** are the most violated rules. Complacency or ignorance seem to be the problem.
- When it comes to **muzzle control**, we must remember that firearms are mechanical devices and are subject to failure. Time, lack of maintenance, and poor quality control can all lead to a potential unintentional discharge. Two of those we have absolutely no control over. It is important that we do our part to mitigate the chances of damaging people or property.
- **Keeping your finger off the trigger** until ready to fire is equally important. Humans are pretty amazing at the control that we give our fingers to perform the task of pulling a trigger. However, there are things that are out of our control. Tripping hazards, unexpected shots from nearby, your buddy startling you because you couldn't hear them the first three times. These unexpected surprises can lead our hands to flinch or grip as an uncontrollable reaction. If our eyes and muzzle are not at the target, where is that bullet going?
- I bring these up not because they might happen, but because they do happen. I've experienced guns pointed at me with fingers on the trigger at our range. Not out of malice, but out of ignorance. I really think we all need to take a few minutes next time we are at the range to slow down and go through our shooting procedures to make sure we are not violating the basic rules of firearm safety. *Submitted by Benson Baumeister*

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	506-3361
Recording Secretary	Leslie York	483-6803

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

District #1	Jammie Mosser	823-3564
	Butch Rieck (574)	903-7041
District #2	Mark Speicher (574)	361-5847
	Joel Weeks	788-4946
District #3	Benson Baumeister	221-0288
	Randy Crandall	808-6730
District #4	Sean Neely (260)	350-1901
	Tom Featherstone	718-8392
Dir. At Large	Valo Christensen	369-3603

- 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 & Fair Sign-up	Jim Perlberg (313)	310-4897
NRA Recruiter	Leslie York	483-6803
MUCC Region 7	Allen Kasdorf	651-7086
Finance Chair	Tom McLaughlin	506-3361
Nominating Chair	Kathy Crandall	341-5930
Calendar of Events	Leslie York	483-6803
Hunter Education	Mark Quirin	503-0191
CPL Instruction	Jeff Brazo	689-0200

Weekly / League Activities

Trap & Skeet	Larry & Leslie York	464-6895
Trap - Tues	Bill Thompson	290-5798
5 Stand Sporting Clays	Joel Weeks	788-4946
Archery	Larry Murray	832-2816
Cowboy Action	John Daniels (574)	349-3764
IDPA Defensive Pistol	Open	689-0200
Combat Carbine, High Power	Jay Baker	532-4445
PRS22, NRL22 Rifle Leagues	Gary Kondek (574)	274-3694
Lower Range	Andy Rockwell (260)	668-9317
Youth SCTP Shotgun	Leslie York	483-6803
Youth SASP Pistol & Rifle	Mike Ortman	625-1918
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)	kmcrandall1952@gmail.com
Randy Crandall (Dist 3 Director)	kmc52ran@aol.com
John Daniels (Cowboy Action)	johndaniels@imcaa.com
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Gary Kondek (.22 Shoots)	gary.kondek@yahoo.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):

American Rifleman or American Hunter

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.