

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 10

October 2026

Upcoming Meetings

- Member Meeting 7 PM
Monday, **Dec 14**
- Board Meeting 7 PM
Monday, **Oct 26**



Scan for Club Website



Inside this issue:

Straight Shooters	2
Trap Team Results	
RANGE SAFETY TRAINING SESSIONS	2
Nelson Schug 4-H Retirement	2
Fall Trap League & BIG 50's	2
Upcoming Events	2
Financials & New Members	3
Sept Member Program DAR Award	3
Club Contacts	3

Shotgun Ironman Set for Oct 4

This annual, non-registered, friendly shotgun event is set for Sunday, October 4 starting at **11:30 am for the first flight** with a **second flight starting at 1:00 pm**. This is a change from prior years to accommodate more than 4 full squads (*i.e. more than 20 people*). Last year we had 31 participants and several people had to wait a little before shooting, as we do a "round-robin" start. This event is open to members and non-members (*public too*), so bring your family and friends! Contact **269-483-6803** for more details or to sign up for your preferred flight.

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 2026 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 \$35 per adult, for 4 rounds and a hot dog lunch. Pre-squad (free) 269-483-6803

Youth Ironman Champion: Bring out your young'uns and let 'em have a go at the **Ironman Youth Award**! They do have to be physically and mentally capable to handle and shoot a shotgun to participate. Youth fee is \$30.

National Trap Day ATA Shoot Sunday Oct 11

Our final 2026 full ATA trap shoot is set for Sunday, October 11. This is our **National Trapshooting Day** shoot, with select **Shamrock Leather** goods for trophies for the Champions. There are 20 trophies in all, including trophies for youth and lady shooters as well. The first 40 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 team. 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. Youth shotgun athletes are always welcome!

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.

We have also selected our **2027 ATA Trap Shoot** dates as follows:

- March 14, April 11, **June 5 & 6 (MI Zone 6)**, August 29, and Oct 10
- And 16 BIG 50's on either Sun mornings or Tues evenings end of Sept to Thanksgiving week's Sunday. See Club calendar for exact BIG 50 dates.

Straight Shooters Trap Team Take Fall Brawl Runner-Up!



Eleven of our Club's Straight Shooters Trap team attended the Fall Brawl at Michigan Trapshooting Association in Mason on Saturday, Sept 19. Our "team" score was 471 out of 500 which placed us in the Runner-Up team spot behind a much larger team from Ida, who scored 478/500. The top team hit only 7 more targets than our team. Top competitors for the Straight Shooters were **Wyatt King** (98), **Caden Fritts** (97), **Bryce Sherwood** (96), **Evan Wendt** (93), and **Ricky Ziolkowski** (87). Also winning individual medals were **Wyatt King** taking the Top Runner-Up Score with his 98, and **Caden Fritts** taking the Class AA Runner-Up Score with his 97. *Coach Leslie York*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 1: Rifle Range Closed (*Range Set-Up*)
 Oct 2 - 3: Project Appleseed (Rifle Range)
 Oct 3: Advanced CPL Class (IDPA)
 Oct 3 - 4: Fort Def Class (IDPA)
 Oct 4: Shotgun Ironman (11:30am - 3pm)
 Oct 5: Clubhouse Reserved (Training)
 Oct 5: Lower Range Closed (6-8 pm)
 Oct 10: CPL Class (Clubhouse & IDPA)
 Oct 16: Night Vision Dusk Shoot (Rifle)
 Oct 17: Hunter Ed Class (see DNR)
 Oct 17: Lower Range Closed (8am-2pm)
 Oct 17: Range Training (9-11 am)
 Oct 18: Cowboy Action (Cowboy Range)
 Oct 18: Long Gong 22 (Noon-Rifle Rng)
 Oct 18: Combat Carbine (IDPA)
 Oct 21: IDPA Practice (IDPA Range)
 Oct 24: IDPA Match (IDPA)
 Oct 25: Clubhouse Training (11 am)
 Oct 25: Lower Range Closed (11 am)
 Oct 26: **Board Meeting** 7pm

REQUIRED Range Safety Training Sessions

29% of our existing club members have not taken the mandatory Range Safety Training. It is required for all members, regardless of your activity of choice, if you want to continue your membership in 2027. And it needs to be completed by Dec, 2026. You only need to take it once, so if you took it last year, you're golden! Members of our Board will try to contact the above 29% in the coming month. Since it's been in the newsletter for 2 years, AND on your Annual Dues Invoice, we will have done our due diligence. Now it's up to you!

You may think you already know all the safety rules, and you might very well, but a refresher is never a bad idea, and it's well worth it to be able to participate at the best sportsman club in the area. Besides, we've added a new rule or two, and you'll even receive a free gift! The dates through the end of the year are:

Oct:	Monday	Oct 5	6 p.m.
	Saturday	Oct 17	9 a.m.
	Sunday	Oct 25	11 a.m.
Nov:	Monday	Nov 2	6 p.m.
Dec:	Monday	Dec 7	6 p.m.
	Saturday	Dec 19	9 a.m.

ALL sessions begin on the Pistol Range, so come down to that parking lot shortly before the class begins. We will be outside as well as inside, so dress for the weather. To sign up, call Kathy Crandall at 269-341-5930.

Nelson Schug Retires 4-H Shooting Sports



After 25 years of serving as the St. Joe County Straight Shooters 4-H county coordinator and Leader in BB Gun and Air Rifle programs, Nelson is retiring his position. A surprise celebration was held in his honor at the Club on Sept 17 with many people in attendance. Nelson has more than 43 years total involvement in the 4-H programs of St. Joe County. Nelson (R) is pictured with Club President, Jeff Brazo (L). Nelson will be dearly missed by all.

Fall Trap League & BIG 50's

On Sunday mornings, *and on Tuesday evenings, through Nov 22 (minus the Oct 11 ATA shoot)*, is the Fall Trap League with concurrent (and optional) ATA registered BIG 50 Trap Shoots. You can still sign up for the Fall League, it's not too late to make up a few targets.

This is a 16-yard Singles money league with the "option" to register your targets in any given league week. The BIG 50 option must be stated prior to shooting that week's scores. Standard weekly target fees plus the league fee of \$20. Please note, the "optional" BIG 50 also has reduced ATA & MTA daily fees. BIG 50 handicap and doubles are also available.

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: as of Aug BOD Meeting 2026

Checking Account	\$ 60,501.98	SPC Acct	\$ 1,708.00
Emergency CD	\$ 61,793.40	HD Acct	\$ 16,026.88
Storm CD Rec'd	\$ 135,386.07	CD 115145	\$ 24,500.00

Membership Status: As of last Board MeetingTotal paid member households **817**

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 - August (13)

Duston Trevor Clark	Sturgis, IN
Jeffrey Dempsey	Three Rivers, MI
Joseph Dennis	White Pigeon, MI
Ricardo Draper	Three Rivers, MI
Carlos Hidalgo	Constantine, MI
Joshua Allen Jones	Constantine, MI
J Nicholas Laneman	Granger, IN
Austin Manson	Sturgis, MI
William Stanczyk	Niles, MI
Colin Tetzloff	White Pigeon, MI
Marc Ware	Sturgis, MI
Dillan Ware	Sturgis, MI
Floyd Wolkins	Cassopolis, MI

Fund Raiser for Board Member Butch Rieck.

Butch has some extensive hospital expenses due to his recent illness. This is a legit fundraising source at "supportnow.org". Scan this QR code with your phone to take you to the donation site.

**September Membership Meeting DAR Program**

The local Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Amos Sturgis Chapter presented a National Conservation Committee Award from the National Chapter of DAR to our own **Leslie York**. York is a member of the local DAR Chapter and received the award due to her leadership role in our Club's youth shotgun shooting sports programs for 24 years, as well as, an active Hunter Ed instructor for the same period of time. Several of York's family and a few of the many current and past members of the Club's Straight Shooters shotgun athletes were in attendance. Light refreshments for all were served after the meeting commenced. Pictured below (L-R) are Shone Ryner, Sherie Holben, Leslie York, Anne Davis, and Karen Perlberg.

**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	Larry Murray	832-2816
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
Finance Chair	Jeff Brazo (temp)	689-0200
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	Scott Sayer	615-4901
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)	kmcrandall952@gmail.com
Randy Crandall (Dist 3 Director)	kmc52ran@aol.com
John Daniels (Cowboy Action)	johndaniels@imcaa.com
Tom Featherstone (Dist 4 Director)	tommytwofingers1894@gmail.com
Scott Sayer (IDPA)	scott.sayer723@gmail.com
Paul Hassenger (Vice President)	phassenger@yahoo.com
Gary Kondek (.22 Shoots)	gary.kondek@yahoo.com
Open (Treasurer)	open
Larry Murray (Archery)	sturgis_larry@frontier.com
Sean Neely (Dist 4 Director)	sneely17@gmail.com
Mike Ortman (SASP)	mdortmann@yahoo.com
Jim Perlberg (Pub Relations/Fair)	gunslinger6@me.com
Mark Quirin (Hunter Ed Coordinator)	canman11@gmail.com
Andy Rockwell (Lower Range Dir)	zrock4365@hotmail.com
Mark Speicher (Dist 2 Director)	markspeicher26@aol.com
Joel Weeks (Dist 2 Director, 5-Stand)	weeksgsp@hotmail.com
Larry York (Trap, Skeet)	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.
PO Box 339
Sturgis, MI 49091

Non Profit
US Postage
PAID
STURGIS, MI
PERMIT #52

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 NOTE

The St Joseph County Conservation & Sportsman Club, Inc., is a non-profit, 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:** \$ _____

NRA Magazine included

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.