

Rockford Sportsman's Club



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rockfordsportsmansclub.com

April 2014 Newsletter

I know this is a repeat notice, however we still have MUCC petitions to support the drive to pass a law called the Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act. We probably have several hundred signatures to date and we have until May to file all petitions. Blank Petitions will be available at the April and May meeting for all those who would like to have their signature play an important part to have a law that will make it more difficult for anti-hunters to attack the hunting seasons currently on the books and future DNR objectives.

This is a reminder for the Hunting and Fishing quarterly contest. The April meeting is the award date for the first quarter (Jan, Feb, Mar) entries.

Nicer weather is approaching for the members who would like to put in some volunteer time. There will be a lot of outdoor cleanup. Also we need signups for maintaining the garden areas. The folks who do this usually take care of an area all summer. Some have done the same area from year to year. The club contributes for the expense of the flowers, shrub, bark etc for the areas. These landscaped areas give the club grounds a very attractive scene.

We have had very few auction items during the winter months. Now that Spring (and Spring Cleaning) is approaching bring any unwanted items to the meeting. If you put a low starting price probably someone will bid on the item. 10% goes to the club and the owner keeps 90%. Winter damage fixes are needed on the two gates back to the Cowboy area. The stop posts for the gates are broken and replacements are needed. There is spare wood available at the club. Anyone with some spare time (when shooting events are not scheduled) can do these repairs. Our club participates in the North Kent Round Robin shoot each year with five clubs in the area. We rotate to a different club each month. It starts on April 22 and 27 at Lowell (Qua-Ke-Zik club) and then to Rockford on May 15 and 18 and continues to the remaining clubs through September when the year- end banquet is held. The banquet will be at Tri-town this year. This is a shotgun event, either trap or skeet or both. The cost is \$10 for an event for the season plus \$4 at each club for the targets. This is a great way for the opportunity to shoot at neighboring clubs and have fun with your own club members. All members are welcome to participate. For those looking to complete their volunteer hours look for sign-up sheets at the meetings. We also need members who can lead on some of the committees. Leaders can always find adequate information from board members about the needs of a project.

Welcome to the many new members. We appreciate you choosing the Rockford Sportsman's Club and we look forward to you as a part of our club family.

George Mayhak

Regular Club Meeting

March 4 2014

Call to Order and Pledges by President George Mayhak 7:15 PM

Invocation: Tim Hall

Next Board Meeting is March 18 – 7:00 PM - all members are welcome

Sunshine: Willie Bradley is home, his brother passed away last week. Our thoughts and prayers are with him.

Jim Jones is recovering from surgery. Curt Becker will be having surgery this month. Our hope is for a speedy recovery for both.

New members: Gregory Nozkowski, John and Kim Olinger, Andy and Mika Albrecht (motion by Mike Roche to accept these new members supported by Dan Sisson – motion approved.

Congratulations to Maryly Skallos on completing her graduate work requirements for a Doctorate degree in information technology. Way to go!!! J

Minutes from the last regular meeting and board meeting accepted as printed.

President's Report: George Mayhak

- MUCC petitions for hunters' rights available for signing and for distribution. This time the target will be
- wolf hunting – a petition will be available for you to sign at the April 8th regular meeting and some will be available for you to take and collect more signatures.
- March 20th – Food drive (Sport's Show) 6 cans of food = one free ticket. Workers needed to help load food into trucks. This is part of the Sportsmen Against Hunger campaign.
- There are two \$250 dollar scholarships available for students attending college. First choice will be given to students entering some type of natural resources curriculum. Students need to send a letter requesting a
- scholarship to the club and a committee will decide who gets these grants.

Vice-presidents report – Gordon not present this evening.

Chairman's report – Barbara not present this evening.

Secretary's Report: Terry Stuart:

- Minutes and agenda are available on the check-in table. On the back of the agenda is the latest safety
- information from Trap/Skeet/Five Stand. Shooters will be given a copy and this information will be on each scoring clip board.

Treasurer's Report: Len Laitila:

- February's Report – Total Income \$6,016.00, Total Expense \$1,467.17 Net Income for the month - - **\$4,548.83**
- The club received a thank you note from Colin McLaughlin (Tim Hall's grandson) thanking the club for his scholarship stipened.

Special Presentation: Greg VerVeer and Steve Gardner

Steve and Greg showed the club members in attendance what phase I of the audio/visual improvements would look like. An excellent presentation with graphics depicting where the new televisions (60" flat screens) would be placed – two near where the old ones are now and one nearer the entrance to the banquet room that could be rotated to accommodate viewing in the old section of the clubhouse. These improvements will take place in the next 6-8 weeks with upgrades to the cd/dvd/video capability, and the other various equipment to make everything work together. It was made clear that a user would only have to insert his/her video and adjust the volume. All the equipment that makes this system work together will be in a secure location and locked up.

Regular Meeting Minutes - cont.. On next page

Regular Meeting Minutes - cont..

Safety Issue: Member Terry King displayed a rolling type target that was found on the rifle range. These can and do cause ricochets and are never allowed on our range. Also, it was reported that another bullet hole was found in the cowboy flagpole. The trajectory of this indicated there is a good chance that the bullet left our range. The question is – how many shots missed the flagpole before hitting it. This type of careless use of firearms must stop. The Board will take up the question of how this can be controlled. Please – everyone is a safety officer. If you see an unsafe condition, speak up.

Committee Reports:

- Trap/Skeet is opened every Sunday from 10 AM on and every Monday and Thursday evening starting at 6 P.M.. Winter League continues and you may still join this shoot.. Shooting will be on Sunday from 10-3 and Monday and Thursday from 6-9.
- NSSA Wednesday night events continue on the first Wednesday of each month. Next one is March 5th.
- Cowboys reported 16 hardy shooters for the February Old Coot Shoot and 14 shooters for the March 1st regular match. . Next Old Coot Shoot – March 12th. Eye and ear protection are required for participants and spectators.
- CMP reported 11 shooters at the last match (Brrrr!) It was followed by a welcomed chili lunch provided by participants. The next match will be March 22nd.
- National Shooting Sports Foundation – rimfire shoot – May 9-10th. A sign-up sheet was passed around asking for volunteers to assist with this program. Many signed up a volunteer Range Officers – thank you! More help will be needed – this shoot is replacing the Ruger Rimfire Shoot held in past years.
- Winter archery program ends March 6th. A good time has been had by the participants.
- April Hunter Safety is scheduled for April 21st, Monday – 23rd Wednesday (evenings) and April 26th Saturday – all day. Helpers are always needed and welcomed. See Bill Skallos' contact information on our new website and let him know you are available or call him at 866-0096. Many thanks – Great program and many hands make light work. There are 26 students signed up already. If you have a child or grandchild ready for this hunter safety program the April class is a great time to complete the requirements.
- Publicity/Marketing: No report this evening.
- Food and Beverage: No report this evening
- Apparel: No report this evening.
- Building and Grounds: . Snow needs to be removed from the clubhouse roof. Repairs will be needed this Spring to the ceiling by the back entrance.
- Work Hours: See web site
- Road Clean-Up: April 11 – volunteers needed and appreciated. Saturday, April 19, is the date for Adopt-A-Road Clean-up. We'll meet at 9:00 near the gate. Gloves and appropriate shoes are a good idea, Safety vests and trash bags will be provided.
- Party Committee: No parties planned yet but the annual dinner is scheduled for Sept. 13. Donations of prizes would be appreciated.
- Gun Show: A new replacement club banner is in the works to advertise all of our venues. Send your suggestions/art work etc. to peter.kreutzfeldt@comcast.net . A new tri-fold pamphlet would be very helpful in introducing people to our club, its history, and its activities. Help would be appreciated.
- Annual tree give-away is in the planning. Dan Hankinson is seeking more information regarding dates, times and details. Stay tuned.
- Old Business:
- As reported earlier the improvements to the club audio/visual systems are on track and moving forward. Help is needed to pull wires etc. Please contact Greg VerVeer or Steve Gardner if you can assist.

New Business:

MUCC camp is coming up. The club pays part of the cost of attendance. Let George or any Board member know if you have a child or grandchild interested in attending this summer camp experience.

Open Forum:

- 25/25 Drawing Winners: Bill Lane and Mike Denick(\$34.00 each) - \$34.00 to Sportsmen Against Hunger project and \$34.00 for club revenue. Thanks to all who participated.

Respectfully submitted:

Secretary Terry Stuart

**Board Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2014**

Congratulations to Kevin Kubiszewski (1st) and Dan Hankinson (3rd) at the recent DU shoot at Flat River New members this month (motion by Mike Roche/supported by Dave DeVries to accept these new members – approved)
Benjamin and Lavonne VanderWeide III, David and Molly Henderson, Doug and Karen Herrmann, Lee and Lilibeth Marvin, and Michael and Melissa Okenka.

Attendance: George Mayhak, Bill Skallos, Mike Roche, Barbara Blough, Dan Vincent Gordon Pickerd, , Len Laitila, Steve Gardner, Dan Hankinson, Dave DeVries, Steven Mitchell, and Terry Stuart.

Guests: Ron Draper, Doug Herrmann, and Tom Smith

Absent Board Members: Tim Hall

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Barbara Blough. Gordon Pickerd gave the invocation.

Report #1

- By-Law committee update – Steven Mitchell – The next meeting of this committee is to be held March 25th. This meeting will deal with Article IV – Officers: Eligibility, Nominating Committee, Vote, Term, Duties, Resignation, Removal, Vacancies, and Reimbursement of Expenses.
- So far about 25% of the By-laws have been looked at. Article I, II, and III which deals with Club formation, Purpose and Objectives, Restrictions...Membership/Dues and Service hours, Payment of dues, Code of Conduct, Suspension or Termination...Board of Directors: Board Powers, Membership of the Board of Directors, Committees, Standing, Removal from Office, Vacancies and Conflict of Interest.

Report #2

- Audio/Visual Improvement Committee – Steven Gardner – Progress is being made and the committee welcomes Curt Becker and Ben Schnepf who have offered to help with the wiring. Thursday evening (March 20th) is the next scheduled meeting for this group in the clubhouse.

Business Items

MUCC (Michigan United Conservation Clubs) is working to collect 300,000 signatures as a counter measure to those who would try to control hunting in Michigan. (RSC will try to obtain at least a thousand signatures to help in this fight) Petitions will be turned in before April 1st at the Sport Show.

\Officer's Reports

President – George indicated the monthly auctions are going slowly with \$7.00 in club income so far.

There will be a candy concession set up in the shoot building with a 20% return to the club. Rental requests are increasing. (side note: the Board will be reviewing rental rates at the next Board meeting – those already on the calendar will not be affected)

Vice President – Gordon indicated we have a serious problem with ice build-up and water damage in the old portion of the main building. The ceiling in the old portion of our clubhouse will need to be replaced with additional work done to seal the attic and add additional insulation. This will be discussed at the next regular meeting with an attempt to find one or two members to head up this project. *There will be a broadcast announcement by e-mail to members and a request placed in the newsletter looking for these volunteers. Gordon brought to the board an idea for an 85 watt LED light to be used on our building to light up the parking area and the pavilion from dusk to 1:00 AM. The cost of this with a timer will be in the \$450.00 range. Motion by George Mayhak supported by Steve Gardner to spend these funds for this project – approved. This will mean we can eliminate the light on the pavilion and the cost for operating this new light will be less than \$23.82 per year where now we are paying around \$3.00 per night for our existing lighting. The money for this will come from our maintenance budget. Tab DeJonge has volunteered to make 24 steel target stands for our ranges – in lieu of payment for all the steel he has requested a two year membership. Dan Vincent made the motion to approve this with Dan Hankinson supporting. Motion passed.

Secretary – Terry - a proposal was given to the Board regarding recycled tire chunks to be used as a bullet stop on the 50 yard range. Bags are 4' round and 6' tall. Eight of these bags would cost slightly more than \$4,000 delivered. One bag contains 1 ton of 1" rubber chunks and at a 4" depth 1 bag covers about 200 square feet. After discussion sand was mentioned as a possible cheaper alternative. There will be an announcement at the next regular meeting when the range improvement committee will be getting together again to discuss improvements to all of the pistol/rifle ranges.

Treasurer – Len – As of 3/18/2014 Total Income for March \$3,277.50. Total Expenses \$2,774.82. Net ordinary income \$502.68. It was noted that \$1,250 was spent on Audio/Visual upgrades, and that \$288 was spent to replace a printer which is used to produce the newsletter. A detailed report is available from the treasurer at every regular meeting if you wish to look over the books. The secretary also has a copy for the official records.

Andrew Laitila has gone way beyond what is expected for snowplowing this year. Super job! He has asked that in lieu of payment for all the extra work the Board provide funds for a concealed pistol class and one Spring shotgun event. Motion by George Mayhak supported by Dan Vincent to provide this for Andrew – motion carried. The concealed pistol class cost is \$125.

Len reported last month that we are looking for two chairpersons for 2014 – Birds of Prey presentations, and Tracks magazine subscriptions for local schools. If interested please contact George Mayhak or a Board member. Tom Smith will assist George Mayhak with the scholarship this year. Thanks, Tom!

Sgt. At Arms – Dan Vincent - suggested we raise rental rates for future rentals to help with the cost of the audio/visual upgrades. The Board will take this up at the April Board meeting. Any increase will not affect current rentals on the calendar.

Trustee Reports

Dan Hankinson reported that Kelly's in Cedar Springs will cater our September dinner. He also indicated that the annual tree give-away will happen either May 10th or 17th depending on how quickly the snow goes away.

Dave DeVries had no formal report but contributed to the general discussions.

Steve Gardner – Steve reminded the Board that our annual Rimfire Challenge which has been scheduled to occur on May 10th. Steve thanked Jim Ruder for setting up a Pay Pal arrangement for this event. He also added a thank you for the NSSF website addition. CMP is set for Saturday the 22nd of March and also the 25th of March to make up some "snow day events."

Tim Hall will be our MUCC representative for the next two District 5 meetings. Thanks, Tim!

Bill Skallos – Next hunter's safety will be held in April. There are 46 already signed up. The other 2014 dates are on the calendar. The Archery league is finished for the winter.

Steven Mitchell – In addition to the report on the first page – Steven is interested in the inclusion of a Sponsor Page on our website. Gordon Pickerd made the motion to do this with Bill Skallos supporting same. Motion carried.

Mike Roche brought to the attention of the Board new members – Mike made a motion to accept these folks as new members supported by Dave DeVries. Motion approved.

General announcement – The range improvement projects this spring will follow this order – complete the rifle range, improvements to the South pistol range, then the major project on the North pistol range.

There was discussion about linking our web site to Facebook. After discussion it was decided by the Board to examine this and discuss possible problems as well as how this can help the club get our information out to the public. The Board will consider this and revisit it in 6 months.

Gordon mentioned that all of the cardboard will be gratefully accepted by the North Kent Service Center who will package the cardboard up and sell it for \$30 a bale..

Respectfully submitted by,
Terry Stuart - Secretary

Meeting ended at 8:35 pm by motion from Steve Gardner. Next board meeting April 15th, 2014.

BYLAW COMMITTEE UPDATE

Committee: John Harbin, George Mahyak, Steve Mitchell, Mike Roche, Bill Skallos, Tom Smith

The Bylaw Committee has had four meetings so far and completed the review of 1/3 of the planned topics. Three sections have been finalized with a fourth in final review. On the current schedule the committee expects to have completed 1/2 of it's work by the end of April.

Topics completed through March are Club Formation, Board of Directors, Membership and Officers. During April the most significant area that we will be covering are Club elections. We expect to discuss this topic at our April 22nd meeting. Any member with input on this topic is welcome to attend.

Before attending, please confirm that the committee is on schedule by contacting the chairman, Steve Mitchell, via Email at: stevemitchell@rockfordsportsmansclub.com

Bylaw Meeting Schedule: 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month @ 7pm in the Shoot Building



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ROCKFORD, MICH. CALL FOR APPOINTMENT

2014 Calendar.

Please check website for latest changes <http://www.rockfordsportsmansclub.com/>
Calendar Changes Dan Vincent, Terry Stuart, Barbara Blough or Mike Roche
Calendar and Web design by Jim Ruders Jim@Ruders.com

Tue Apr 1, 2014 - 7:15pm General Membership Meeting
Wed Apr 2, 2014 - All day NSSA Rifle range closed, 9am Range Maintenance - Cowboy Bowl/Rifle/Pistol
Thu Apr 3, 2014 - 6pm Trap & Skeet Open to Public
Sat Apr 5, 2014 - All day JOAD, 8am Cowboy Action Shooting
Sun Apr 6, 2014 - All day JOAD, 10am Trap & Skeet Open to Public
Mon Apr 7, 2014 - 6pm Trap & Skeet open to public
Wed Apr 9, 2014 - All day JOAD, 9am Range Maintenance - Cowboy Bowl/Rifle/Pistol
Thu Apr 10, 2014 - All day ES Team 50yd range 10-2, 6pm Trap & Skeet Open to Public
Fri Apr 11, 2014 - 12pm Rockford DPS fun day skeet/trap/pistol/rifle
Sat Apr 12, 2014 - All day JOAD, All day NSSA Springtime Open, 1pm Archery- Main Bldg
Sun Apr 13, 2014 - All day JOAD, All day NSSA Springtime Open RIFLE RANGE CLOSED, 1pm Archery- Main Bldg Pending
Mon Apr 14, 2014 - All day Spring League 2014, 5:30pm Pistol League - Public Welcome, 6pm Trap & Skeet open to public
Tue Apr 15, 2014 - 7pm RSC Board Meeting
Wed Apr 16, 2014 - All day JOAD, All day Old Coot shoot 8-3, 9am Range Maintenance - Cowboy Bowl/Rifle/Pistol, 5pm Defensive Pistol-Cowboy Bowls Pending
Thu Apr 17, 2014 - All day Spring League 2014, 6pm Trap & Skeet Open to Public
Fri Apr 18, 2014 - 6pm Ryan Wheeler Archery Banquet
Sat Apr 19, 2014 - All day CPL (PPITH) Stuart Pending, 9am Adapt a Road 9am Main Gate, 10am CMP - 100/200 range
Sun Apr 20, 2014 - All day No Spring League, 10am Trap & Skeet Open to Public
Mon Apr 21, 2014 - All day Spring league 2014, 5:30pm Pistol League - Public Welcome
6pm Hunter Safety, 6pm Trap & Skeet open to public
Tue Apr 22, 2014 - All day Round Robin @ Qua Ke Zik 4-9
Wed Apr 23, 2014 - 9am Range Maintenance - Cowboy Bowl/Rifle/Pistol, 6pm Hunter Safety
Thu Apr 24, 2014 - All day 22LR Bench rifle league 5pm, All day Spring League 2014, 6pm Trap & Skeet Open to Public
Sat Apr 26, 2014 - All day Hunter Safety Ranges Closed, 9am Gun Show @28th Street
Sun Apr 27, 2014 - All day JOAD, All day Round Robin @ Qua Ke Zik 9-4, All day Spring League 2014, 9am Gun Show @28th Street , 10am Trap & Skeet Open to Public
Mon Apr 28, 2014 - All day Spring League 2014, 5:30pm Pistol League - Public Welcome, 6pm Trap & Skeet open to public
Wed Apr 30, 2014 - All day JOAD, 9am Range Maintenance - Cowboy Bowl/Rifle/Pistol

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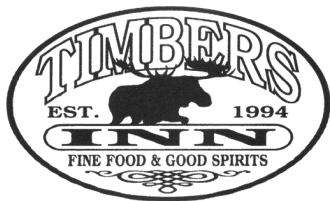
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