

# Rockford Sportsman's Club



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[rockfordsportsmansclub.com](http://rockfordsportsmansclub.com)

## Newsletter Article February 2014

It's time to update our By-Laws to reflect recent changes and procedures at the club. The Board approved Steve Mitchell as chairman of the committee and George Mayhak to appoint volunteers. Therefore, prior to the February 7 meeting please advise me at 616-540-3313 or by email at [judymayhak@gmail.com](mailto:judymayhak@gmail.com) if you would like to work with this group.

Our winter season is creating a lull in the range improvements however this activity will commence as soon as the thaw occurs. The on-going formal activities are many with CMP, Cowboy Action, Trap and Skeet. By the way the trap/skeet league could use some help on Sunday from 10-3 and Monday and Thursdays from 6-9. The cold weather has slowed down our volunteers however if you dress real warm it is a pleasure to be out for cold fresh air. No experience necessary. Training takes very little time and can even be a family team.

Several things were accomplished during the past few weeks by various members such as kitchen clean-up, carpet shampooing, salting of the parking lots and shoveling of the walks. This is very much appreciated and shows great support from our members. Many of you know the persons who have been involved in these activities without listing them (I would probably unintentionally leave someone out), but a big thank you goes out to them.

Just a note that some questions people have can sometimes be found in the meeting\board minutes. It can be somewhat boring to cruise through these and the cover page letter, however we like to pass along as much information as possible to keep everyone up to date. However, if you have questions or concerns, please bring them to the attention of a club officer. MUCC is collecting petition signatures to protect hunting and fishing rights in Michigan. We will have copies at the February through April meeting (due in May). Appreciate your help for this endeavor.

A question came up on how law enforcement compensates the Rockford Sportsman's Club for use of the ranges. They cannot provide cash however, they do provide supplies as we need them such as lumber and construction materials. This is also one of many of our community services that qualify us as a 501C3 organization.

Kent County Sheriff Stelma will be our special guest at the February meeting. The presentation will be on Concealed Carry. Hope you will be able to attend.

Think spring.  
George Mayhak

invocation: Tim Hall

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

**New Members – (motion by Mike Roche/Bob Middlebrook to accept new members – Charlie and LaDonna Watson, Melissa and Scott Sieracki, Aaron and Debbie Spence, Tom Fusee, and John and Caroline Harbin. Motion passed.**

**Next Board Meeting is January 21 - all members are welcome**

**Sunshine: Willie Bradley is recovering from neck surgery and would like a visit from his fellow club members - Sanctuary of St. Mary's, room 403. Stop by and visit if you can.**

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

**President's Report:**

Welcomed and introduced Terry Stuart as new secretary. If you need help with a question give him a call. 887-9917

We wished Gordon Pickerd a Happy Birthday!

Reported in Dan Vincent's absence that there will be NSSA in February and that the Trap/Skeet league has begun. Not too late to join.

**Secretary's Report: Terry Stuart:**

Minutes and agenda with January calendar available on check-in table.

**Treasurer's Report: Len Laitila:**

December Report – Total Income \$5,694.63, Total Expense \$7,589.75 (Property taxes \$4,119.69, Donations \$1,176.50) which accounted for the bulk of expenses, Net Income for the month - **-\$1,887.29**

Income for 2014 is liable to be reduced as there will need to be a clay target order placed and the JOAD archery program is leaving. (We still have our own archery committee and events planned)

The land acquisition fund and the Bond Scholarship fund did well in 2013 – dividends of \$963.13

**Committee Reports:**

Shoots Trap/Skeet doing very well. 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 11-3 and Monday and Thursday from 6-9.

NSSA Wednesday night events continue on the first Wednesday of each month.

Cowboys reported 607 shooters for 2013 – Jan. Saturday shoot brought out 18 hardy souls. Thursday, Jan 16<sup>th</sup> Old Coot shoot – 9:30 AM – no lunch. The next regular cowboy shoot will be February 1<sup>st</sup> – safety meeting at 9:30 AM and shooting begins at 10:00. Eye and ear protection are required for participants and spectators.

. Equipment (bows/arrows etc.) is available for those who would like to try out this venue. It is shot indoors so you won't need your longjohns.

**Regular Meeting Minutes - cont.. On next page**

## Regular Meeting Minutes - cont..

April Hunter Safety is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup>, Monday – 23<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (evenings) and April 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

Hunter Safety cont'd. Special note – there is no minimum age for boys or girls to take hunter safety, however the materials are written for 12-14 year olds. Students younger than that will probably have difficulty with course material. Students 10 years of age or younger must be accompanied by a parent or guardian or make special arrangements with Bill Skallos. 866-0096

MUCC – the anti hunters are at it again. This time the target will be wolf hunting – volunteers are needed at the Delta Plex January 23-26 to help man a booth to collect signatures on petitions. If you enjoy hunting this is probably a project you should participate in. You just need to show up and they will get you set up with what you need to do.

The RSC website is up and running. Work hours may be posted.

Jim Ruder (web site administrator), Mike Roche and Steve Mitchell (oversight committee) – a code of conduct was discussed (30 copies will be available for your viewing at the next regular meeting). Also we now have a Facebook page that is getting lots of attention.

Coming up in March – our annual help downtown with food donations for Sportsmen Against Hunger – help load donations in a truck for credit for our club toward this project. People who donate food items get a free ticket into the Sport show.

Publicity/Marketing: No report this evening.

Food and Beverage: No report this evening

Apparel: No report this evening

Building and Grounds: . Help is needed to 1. Replace lights on main building – South side, replace lights on sign at driveway entrance, 2. Carpet cleaning is in the works – it will take 4-6 people to help clean the carpet – Contact Gordon Pickerd if you are able to help.

Work Hours: See web site

Road Clean-Up: not scheduled yet

Party Committee: No parties planned yet but the annual dinner is scheduled for Sept. 13.

Gun Show: Jim Jones made a presentation requesting each venue provide a description of their shooting event with dates and times. Please send these to Peter Kreutzfeldt within the next week so they may be printed and available for the next gun show. Send your description to [peter.kreutzfeldt@comcast.net](mailto:peter.kreutzfeldt@comcast.net) . This way you can advertise your venue at no cost.

Old Business:

Gordon reported that we really need to find an electrician to install timers on all three of our outside lights – they are currently on 24/7. If you can help or know someone who can call Gordon or contact him through our web site. Many thanks!

Deer Winners – 1st Mark Kazmerski, 2nd Terry King, 3rd Bob Gillesse

Fish Contest - 1st, 2nd, 3rd – Ryan Cordes

**New Business:**

The target butts in the storage building belong to the Rockford Sportsman's Club except those especially marked. There was some question about what would happen to these when JOAD leaves. They will remain with the club.

**Open Forum:**

We are sad to learn that long ago member Jim Reintges has passed away. Our condolences to his family.  
25/25 Drawing Winners: Charlie Olmstead and Mike Leskey (\$28 each) - \$28 to Sportsmen Against Hunger project and \$28 for club revenue. Thanks to all who participated.

Respectfully submitted:

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**Board Meeting Minutes  
January 21, 2014**

***The Board was saddened to hear of the passing of long time member, Jim Irvine – Our condolences to Mona and his family.***

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

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by chairman Barbara Blough. Tim Hall gave the invocation.

Jim Jones made a presentation about the various venues who have provided information to be distributed at the Gun Show. Some discussion about the need for a new banner – ours is over 10 years old. Revisions need to be made to a new banner reflecting all of our venues and this will be looked into and a cost estimate to be provided by the February Board meeting. Members are encouraged to stop by the club table, and sit and talk with people interested in our club activities. Applications for membership are routinely handed out.

- Bob Middlebrook is working on timers for our outside lights – the gate light on our sign is back in operation.
- Another member is looking at replacing our old fluorescent lights on the 50 yard range with new LED lights.
- Jon Stotz has donated 49 bags of ice melt and used his big truck to spread ice melt on our drives and parking lot – a big thank you!
- Our carpet was cleaned in the main building – thanks to Pete Kruer who donated the machines and materials and to the crew who worked to make our building look great! (Thanks to Gordon for heading this up)
- Dan Vincent reported that our various police agencies provide backers and other construction materials as a thank you for allowing them to use our range. A range will always be available to club members when police agencies are on club grounds doing their qualifications.

**Business Items**

\*Correction to end of year treasurer's report. A \$3,000 amount that should have been reported for 2014 was mistakenly used in the 2013 end of year report. It has been corrected and the Board has approved this correction.

\*Announcement to all shooters – Dan Hankinson reported that CCI, Winchester, and Remington have invested over \$20 million dollars in new lines to produce .22 ammunition. This means new jobs for people and the shortage of this ammunition will be eased soon. You can help – if you have 10 or so boxes of .22 ammo why not wait until the shortage eases up before purchasing more.. By this fall we should see shelves stocked again.

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) Their first target – wolf hunting...soon to follow bear hunting and who knows where this will go. You, as a member, will be given the opportunity to collect several signatures on a petition form created by MUCC to help keep our hunting tradition. The Board is asking for several members to attend the District MUCC meetings to represent RSC on issues that we want brought before MUCC and to bring issues back from the meetings that would be helpful for our Club. As a member you can log into the MUCC website and read the monthly magazine. Contact Mike Roche for login information.

For an additional \$5 you can get the magazine delivered to your home.

Gordon is working with our representatives and MUCC spoke person Amy Trotter about our property tax issue.

#### **Officer's Reports**

President – George – There are three shows in town where MUCC will have a booth – the RV Camping Expo, the gun show, and Grand Rapids Hunting Time Expo. All members are welcome to volunteer some time working these booths.

Vice President – Gordon reported that the club carpet has been cleaned – see special note section.

Secretary – Terry provided an agenda for the Board meeting and also a preliminary agenda for the February regular meeting. The Board will provide additional suggestions for the agenda.

Treasurer – Len – As of 1/21/2014 Total Income for January = \$6,122.80. Total Expenses = \$3,790.96. The biggest expenses for January were the snow plow bill and the insurance for RSC Board of Directors. That was \$1,681.49. Detailed reports are 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.

Sgt. At Arms – Dan Vincent reported that requests for range time by police agencies have been placed on the monthly calendar – see our website for that information.

#### **Trustee Reports**

Dan Hankinson – In addition to providing the good news about the increase availability (soon) of .22 ammo he indicated that the club investments will soon be looked into as our rate of return could possibly

Dave DeVries – no report.

Steve Gardner – Rifle target stand are in poor shape. When the weather breaks this will be attended to. **Steve requested March 25<sup>th</sup> and Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> be approved for CMP make-up dates.**

By motion Dave DeVries with support from Gordon – motion approved.

Steve also reported that the old Ruger Rimfire Shoot – Now the National Shooting Sports Rimfire Challenge has been established to occur on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Lots more information to come.

The audio visual enhancement committee has been working on a final proposal to bring to the board and membership regarding the updating of our sound and visual system in the main building. This proposal will be ready for Board consideration in February.

Tim Hall requested that the club continue with a safety tip of the month. Discussion about our emergency first aid boxes – kept behind the door in the kitchen – each venue has a hook for these and they should be present when a shooting event is held. Safety meetings should be held before each shooting event – discussion about providing a list of safety rules to be given to late comers to such events as CMP. More discussion will follow. Every person is a safety officer at the club. If you see an unsafe action – SPEAK UP.

Bill Skallos – Next hunter’s safety will be held in April. 2014 dates are on the calendar. Indoor archery started last week with 11 participants. All are welcomed to come. Bill is looking into a connection of websites between the new archery center and RSC. Inquires about shooting events that come into the archery center would be directed to RSC and archery events that come to RSC would be directed to the archery center. This will be worked on by interested parties.

Steven Mitchell – By general consensus Steve Mitchell will be the chairman for the By-laws revision committee and George will appoint the other committee members. Mike Roche/Dan Vincent made the motion to approve this – motion passed.

Steve made the motion to approve the website code of conduct and in addition authorize committee chairmen to be able to make changes to the website according to this code of conduct. Motion supported by Mike Roche - approved. 30 copies of the code of conduct will be available for interested members at the next regular meeting.

Mike Roche - no new member applications this month – the bylaws need to be upgraded – there are inconsistencies with what the old ones say and what our practices actually are. See note above about a committee being formed to revisit the old bylaws and make the changes needed. These of course will need to be approved by the membership in two out of three successive meetings.

General announcement – the annual arbor day tree give-away will be held at the township hall. Dates to be announced.

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.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Terry Stuart - Secretary

**Meeting ended at 9:32pm. Next board meeting February 18, 2014**



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## 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 Kyle Van Leuven [kyle@appicstudios.com](mailto:kyle@appicstudios.com)

Sat Feb 1, 2014 - 8am - 4pm Cowboy Action Shooting, 8am - 4pm Joad Archery  
Sun Feb 2, 2014 - 10am - 2pm Trap & Skeet Open to Public, 1pm - 4pm JOAD Archery  
Mon Feb 3, 2014 - 6pm - 9pm Trap & Skeet open to public  
Tue Feb 4, 2014 - 7:15pm - 8:15pm General Membership Meeting  
Wed Feb 5, 2014 - 9am - 3pm Range Maintenance - Cowboy Bowl/Rifle/Pistol, 6pm - 9pm  
JOAD Archery  
Thu Feb 6, 2014 - 6pm - 9pm Trap & Skeet Open to Public, 6:30pm - 9pm Winter Archery  
Fri Feb 7, 2014 - 4pm - 11:30pm Len Laitila rental  
Sat Feb 8, 2014 - 8am - 4pm Joad Archery, 10am - 1pm Defensive Pistol-Cowboy Bowls  
Sun Feb 9, 2014 - 10am - 2pm Trap & Skeet Open to Public, 1pm - 4pm JOAD Archery  
Mon Feb 10, 2014 - 6pm - 9pm Trap & Skeet open to public  
Wed Feb 12, 2014 - 9am - 3pm Range Maintenance - Cowboy Bowl/Rifle/Pistol, 6pm -  
9pm JOAD Archery  
Thu Feb 13, 2014 - 6pm - 9pm Trap & Skeet Open to Public, 6:30pm - 9pm Winter Archery  
Fri Feb 14, 2014 - 8am - 4pm Joad Archery, 8am - 4pm Winter Archery-Main bldg  
Sat Feb 15, 2014 - All day NSSA 4x50, 8am - 4pm Joad Archery, 8am - 4pm Winter  
Archery Tournament -Main Bldg  
Sun Feb 16, 2014 - 10am - 2pm Trap & Skeet Open to Public, 1pm - 4pm JOAD Archery  
All day Winter Archery Tournament-Main Bldg  
Mon Feb 17, 2014 - All day Winter Archery Tournament-Main Bldg, 6pm - 9pm Trap &  
Skeet open to public  
Tue Feb 18, 2014 - 6pm - 8pm RSC Board Meeting  
Wed Feb 19, 2014 - 8am - 3pm Old Coot shoot, 9am - 3pm Range Maintenance - Cowboy  
Bowl/Rifle/Pistol, 6pm - 9pm JOAD Archery  
Thu Feb 20, 2014 - All day ES Team 50 yd range 10-2, 6pm - 9pm Trap & Skeet Open to  
Public, 6:30pm - 9pm Winter Archery  
Sat Feb 22, 2014 - 8am - 4pm Joad Archery, 10am - 2pm CMP - 100/200 range  
Sun Feb 23, 2014 - 10am - 2pm Trap & Skeet Open to Public  
Mon Feb 24, 2014 - 6pm - 9pm Trap & Skeet open to public  
Wed Feb 26, 2014 - 9am - 3pm Range Maintenance - Cowboy Bowl/Rifle/Pistol  
Thu Feb 27, 2014 - 6pm - 9pm Trap & Skeet Open to Public, 6:30pm - 9pm Winter Archery

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