

Rockford Sportsman's Club



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rockfordsportsmansclub.com

The holiday season is in full swing with Thanksgiving already celebrated and Christmas fast approaching it is time to reflect on the best that we can accomplish in respect for others and our own opportunities

One joyful event will be "Cookies and Cocoa with Santa" on Sunday December 7 from 1-3. Come and bring your kids, grandkids or neighbor kids. The activities will be making a craft, decorating cookies, listening to stories and of course visiting with Santa. Bring your camera to record memories for a lifetime. Judy is the chairperson and could still use more volunteer help (540-1099 or judymayhak@gmail.com).

The board approved the installation of WiFi which has been completed in the club house. (additional work still in process) It has been suggested that there may be interest in having parties using the three wide screen T.V.'s for such events as Bowl Games, Super Bowl or Daytona Race etc. We would need several members to host each event. We will ask at the meeting how many would be consider attending or organizing such an event.

We had several members scheduled to meet with Rockford High School Representatives (rescheduled due to snow storm) for the purpose of establishing a high school skeet team which has been proposed by several high school students. It has been reported that other area schools are in the process and we may have some competition next year after we work with the team on education and shooting practices.

There are several piles of cardboard in the shoot building and storage areas. We need someone to volunteer (probably monthly) to drive it to North Kent Service Center. They have a compactor and use the income to help with their services.

The next newsletter will be for January 2015 so we hope everyone has the best Christmas and holiday possible as we go into the new year. Our slate of officers will be nearly the same with one new trustee and a new secretary to vote into office. No competing nominations were recorded other than the current officer lineup. I believe that the 2015 slate of officers are looking forward to the growth of the club and continuing a family atmosphere.

The board spent over three hours preparing a 2015 budget proposal that will be presented at the December meeting.

Hope those who pursued chasing whitetails were successful and will enjoy the gourmet venison. Please remember to bring your fish pictures, turkey beards, or whitetail racks to the January meeting for cash prizes in each category.

Regular Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2014

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

Invocation: Tim Hall

Pledge of Allegiance and Conservation Pledge

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

President's report: George Mayhak – George announced the focus of the November Board meeting is budget plans for 2015 as noted above.

Vice-President's Report: Gordon Pickerd –

Please watch language on club grounds – lately swearing has become an issue. Remember that guests or prospective members or current members may be present and using off-color language is not representative of our club values.

MUCC has decided to work with the legislature to come up with wording to help clubs statewide either become or remain tax exempt. More information to come. Gordon would like to see a group of Rockford Sportsman Club members organize a committee to discuss our tax exempt status with the State Finance committee. More information to come. If interested in serving on such a committee please contact Gordon. Our property taxes run about \$12,000 a year.

Gordon's grandson has been working with Rockford Public Schools – High School administrators and students to encourage the start-up of a student trap/skeet club. Many other area schools are thinking about doing the same thing.

Chairman's report – Barbara Blough – Absent tonight

Secretary's Report: Terry Stuart – Read two notes thanking the club for the donations in Willie Bradley's memory. Also noted – Donna Bowyer is recovering from surgery, Tom Smith will not be returning to Michigan – he is in the hospital in New Jersey (this is where his brother and sister live) and will be released to a nursing home as soon as he is able to leave the hospital.

Treasurer's Report: Len Laitila:

Income for through October 14 – Total Expenses \$5,313.74 – Net Income for October (through the 14th) is \$5,926.48. This leaves a net income for this period of \$612.74.

Sergeant at Arms: Dan Vincent – Dan reported shoot dates are on the club 2015 calendar. January 4th the winter trap/skeet league begins.

Trustee Steve Gardner: Steve reported that we will soon be connected to Charter Business which will give us access to cable TV, telephone service, and Wi-Fi. This will eventually lead to more security for our club as well as many other benefits. Steve would like to see a committee of members who are familiar with the new technology – computers etc. to work with him to look at the possibilities of this new system.

Trustee Tim Hall: Reported on the MUCC meeting in Hamilton last month. There has been confusion about the new licenses (especially deer) and Tim reported that this system will be with us for two more years.

Regular Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Committee Reports:

- Trap/Skeet is opened every Sunday from 10 AM on and every Monday and Thursday evening starting at 6 P.M..
- CMP scheduled for November 22nd - Saturday. 10-2 PM.
- Defensive pistol, pistol league, bench rifle league starts again in the spring.
- Apparel – Many RSC shirts were available for sale this evening.
- Hunter Safety: Good turn outs at all three classes, a complimentary letter was sent by one of the parents to the director of Hunter Safety regarding our terrific hunter safety program. Many thanks to all the instructors and helpers who made this possible – *a special thank you to Bill and Maryly Skallos who head up our Hunter Safety program.*
- Building and Grounds: Work continues on the ranges
- Work Hours: See web site

Sunshine - As mentioned above, our thoughts are with the Bowyers on Donna's speedy recovery and on Tom Smith's family as he battles his illness..

Old Business:

Nomination of Officers and Trustees for 2015

Nomination of officers: Bill Skallos, Steve Mitchell, Tim Hall, and Dan Hankinson have one more year as trustee – Trustees whose term expires this year include Steve Gardner, Dave DeVries, and Mike Roche. We will be electing one new officer (membership chairman), and two new trustees.

President – George Mayhak

Vice-president – Gordon Pickerd

Treasurer – Len Laitila

Secretary – Barbara Blough

Sergeant at Arms – Dan Vincent

Membership Chairman – Mike Roche

Trustees – Steve Gardner, Bob Drury

New Business:

- Discussion soon on new range rules.

Open Forum:

- 25/25 Drawing Winners: Dan Yokom and Jim Bunn. (\$37 each) Sportsmen Against Hunger and the Club shared in the revenue.

Respectfully submitted:

Secretary Terry Stuart

Current Events and Issues from MUCC



Gun retailers see burst in sales surrounding new lower Michigan rifle law

GRAND RAPIDS, MI — Lower Michigan firearm deer hunters have more shooting options this season, much to the excitement of West Michigan gun retailers.

Saturday marks the first opening day of the new Limited Firearm Deer Zone in southern Michigan, a designation that will allow hunters to shoot rifles that use straight-walled pistol cartridges.

The use of rifles was previously prohibited in lower Michigan during firearm deer season due to the distance the rounds travel in a more dense population. The zone was formerly known as the Southern Shotgun Zone or “rifle line” by hunters, and stretched in a jagged line from central Muskegon County through northern Kent County and up toward Bay City.

Jake Lowing, the hunting supervisor for [Gander Mountain in Grandville](#) said the law change has created a run on the firearms and ammo.

“It opened up a whole new market that no one was ready for,” Lowing said.

- See more at: <http://mucc.org>

The Impact of the Rover Pipeline On Michigan Outdoorsmen and Women November 19, 2014

Be on the lookout this hunting season! Energy Transfer Partners will be working on their Rover Pipeline Project this fall. MUCC has agreed to spread the word in order to ensure hunter safety practices, especially in the presence of the pipeline project as there may be pipeline workers in your hunting area.

Along with discussing hunter safety issues, we've asked the company to explain the precautions they are taking to preserve wildlife habitat and conservation interests along the route.

Their response:

The pipeline itself will be buried at least 4 feet below ground on agricultural land, and deeper near sensitive land or waterways. Where possible, the pipeline is being located along existing easements, such as roads and power lines, to minimize land impacts. The company has also hired an independent agriculture auditor, to review land mitigation plans and advise on complete restoration.

The company also informed us they've been working with public officials as well as environmental and conservation groups to minimize impact on conservation easements and sensitive land.

If you are aware of protected or sensitive lands that may be crossed by the pipeline, Energy Transfer Partners has created a toll free notification number to prioritize potential sensitive land impacts.

That number is **1-888-844-3718**.

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 4, 2014

Contact: Drew YoungeDyke, Field Manager | [734.272.2584](tel:734.272.2584) | dyoungedyke@mucc.org

Moot Wolf Hunting Proposals Defeated, Will Continue Under Citizen Initiative Passed in August

LANSING—As expected, two laws that originally allowed wolf hunting were defeated through today's moot referendum vote following a one-sided political ad campaign from the anti-hunting Keep Michigan Wolves Protected group, which is primarily financed by Washington, DC-based Humane Society of the United States. However, a citizen-initiated law passed in August will take effect in March and restore the authority of the Natural Resources Commission to name game species using sound science – including wolves – regardless of today's vote.

“The results were about what we expected,” said Drew YoungeDyke, public relations manager for Michigan United Conservation Clubs. “HSUS spent millions on misleading political ads and flyers to take away hunting rights, but the citizen initiative we passed in August protects those rights. I'm sure HSUS's donors will be glad to know they spent \$1.5 million on what's essentially a public relations poll, money that could have gone to local animal shelters.”

Proposal 14-1 was a referendum on Public Act 520 of 2012, which originally added wolves to the game species list. Proposal 14-2 was a referendum on Public Act 21 of 2013, which authorized the Natural Resources Commission to add game species and issue fisheries orders, and made hunting and fishing licenses free for active military members. Both were put up for referendum by the HSUS-funded Keep Michigan Wolves Protected, but in a quirk of Michigan's ballot process, it was a “yes” vote that would keep the laws.

“We encouraged our members to vote ‘yes,’ but we didn't spend any advertising money on the proposals because we'd already won the issue by passing the Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act,” said YoungeDyke. “Next, I expect the anti-hunters to throw a lawsuit at it, but they won't win based on the title-object clause of the Michigan Constitution. The object of that law is, as the title says, to make fish and wildlife management decisions on the basis of sound scientific fish and wildlife management, and that's exactly what it does.”

Even if the proposals had been approved, there would not have been a wolf hunt in 2014. Department of Natural Resources officials announced earlier this year that there would not be enough time to put together a hunt based on sound science between now and the end of the year. Once the Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act takes effect in March or April, the DNR will be able to examine the science to put together a proposal for a possible 2015 wolf hunt.

Founded in 1937, Michigan United Conservation Clubs is the country's largest state-specific conservation non-profit organization. Its mission is to unite citizens to conserve, protect and enhance Michigan's natural resources and outdoor heritage.

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Rockford Sportsman's Club Board Meeting Minutes—November 18, 2014

The main part of the meeting concerned the 2015 Club budget. After reviewing the expenditures and income for 2014, suggestions were made for adjustments to the 2015 budget. It was suggested by Gordon Pickerd that we use some of our savings to complete Capital Improvement projects suggested by the long range planning committee. There will be more discussion on this at future meetings – there seemed to be agreement to start work on the North pistol range as suggested by this planning committee.

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

Absent Board Members: Barbara Blough and Dan Hankinson

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by President George Mayhak

Tim Hall gave the invocation.

Election Update: Members running for office (no new names were suggested for nomination by other Board members at tonight's meeting) There will be no paper ballot for this election – voice vote for each office will be taken.

President – George Mayhak

Vice-president – Gordon Pickerd

Treasurer – Len Laitila

Secretary – Barbara Blough

Sergeant at Arms – Dan Vincent

Membership Chairman – Mike Roche

Trustees – Steve Gardner and Bob Drury(elect two)

Membership Update:

*Motion by Mike Roche and supported by Steve Mitchell to accept as new associate members –Joe and Jenny Halligan and Ryan and Rebecca Roggow. Motion carried. Welcome to our club!!!

Officer's Reports

President – George reported that \$68.00 was received over the course of the year at our monthly silent auctions.

Vice President - This Thursday night there will be a meeting at Rockford High School to discuss the proposed High School trap/skeet club. More information to come. Letters have been received and are being sought from the various police agencies who use our ranges for qualifications during the year to detail how much this use of our ranges saves them and allows them to spend these resources on their main focus which is to keep the general public safe. Letters from the U. S. Marshals service and Homeland Security have already been received. We are actively pursuing other agencies to do the same. The Michigan State Police is in the process of putting together a letter. These will be used as examples of why we should be able to be a property tax free entity.

Board Meeting Minutes (Cont'd)

Secretary - Questioned whether or not a ballot would be needed for this year's election as no new nominees have been named. It was decided by the Board that a paper ballot would not be necessary. Terry distributed the proposed budget for cowboys (received from Bob Drury) and Glen VanOrman indicated that the defensive pistol budget remains the same for 2015 with the possibility of a 5% increase in budgeted spending and also in income.

Treasurer – Len reported \$50,870 in our checking account and \$38,277 in our savings account for a total of \$99,147.

*Len made a motion supported by Mike Roche to accept the new snow plow proposal totaling \$1,299.00.

Motion carried. Andrew Laitila will be our snow plow person again this year.

Sergeant-at-Arms – Dan reported that the targets in the pavilion are hard to get to. We need to make sure that all boxes are broken down and placed in a neat pile in the pavilion so that they may be picked up and recycled. The Board would like to find a person or two to be responsible for taking on this recycling project.

Trustee Reports

- Dave DeVries - Reported on a request by Steve Dertien to use the rifle range and North pistol range for two weekends a kind of training. More information is needed as to what this training will involve. Concern that Steve may not be here for said training as he and his family are moving to Boston.
- Dan Hankinson - absent this evening.
- Tim Hall – Tim reported that there will be no MUCC meeting in November.
- Bill Skillos – no report this evening
- Steve Gardner – Steve also brought the Board up to date on the audio visual improvements and indicated that the audio visual project is almost completed at about \$2,000 dollars under budget. He indicated that the Wi-Fi connection was working and suggested that the Club look into using this to help with security. The telephone and cable for our club house TV sets is up and working as well.



Board Meeting Minutes (Cont'd)

Steven Mitchell – There was discussion about all the range rules for each of our ranges. A document was presented and much discussion occurred. * After this discussion a motion was made by Gordon Pickerd and supported by Dave DeVries to approve updated range rules. Motion carried.

- Steve Mitchell reported that 29 local schools have been contacted about our scholarship program. Hopefully we will have a nice list to select from in 2015.
- *If you have suggestions on how the club could improve its operation, please drop your suggestion in one of the shoot money boxes along with your name and telephone number.

Many thanks

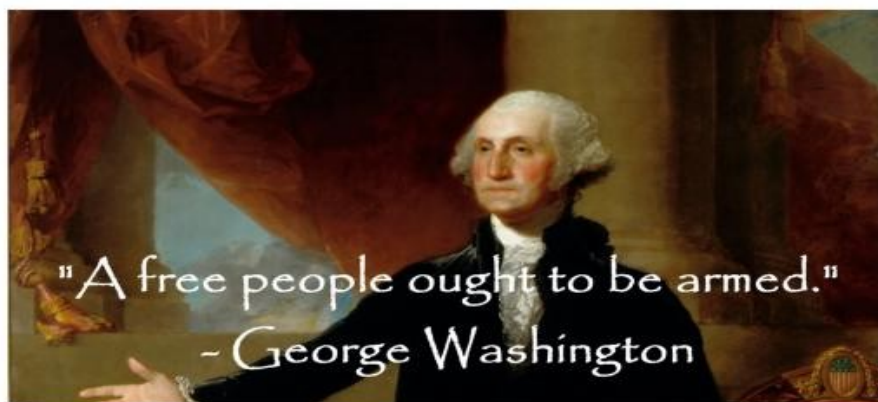
The rest of the evening was spent with discussion and line item adjustments of our 2015 club budget. Len put together a printed budget for Board members to look over and make suggestions as we went through each area of club income and expense. Some adjustment will be needed to balance the projected income and expense for 2015 and Len will work on this and send out an updated budget for consideration. There is going to be a separate budget for Capital Improvements and monies for them will likely come from savings and existing checking balances. Come to the December Regular meeting for more details and to vote for your officers and board of directors. Your input is needed and appreciated.

Meeting ended at 10:15

Respectfully submitted by,

Terry Stuart - Secretary

A personal note..I want to thank the members who supported me in the last election. I am stepping down from the position of Secretary due to spending the winter in Florida. I also wish to thank the Board for their help and support during this past year. I am sure that Dave DeVries feels the same way and I will take the liberty of thanking you all for the support you have given him. He has been a very valuable member of the Board of Directors and will be missed. To all of you – enjoy your families and time out-of-doors. The holidays are fast approaching and the Board wishes you and your families all the best during this holiday season.



Calendar

Please check website for latest changes <http://www.rockfordsportsmansclub.com/calendar/>
Changes: Dan Vincent or Mike Roche, Calendar and Web design by James Ruder jim@ruders.com

December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 10:00 AM Trap & Skeet Open to Public	1 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet open to public	2 7:15 PM General Membership Meeting RPS. North pistol range 130-230	3 9:00 AM Range Maintenance - Cowboy Bow/Rifle/Pistol	4 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet Open to Public	5	6 8:00 AM Cowboy Action Shooting
7 10:00 AM Trap & Skeet Open to Public 11:00 AM Cookies and Cocoa with Santa	8 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet open to public	9 7:30 AM MSP meeting in main building	10 9:00 AM Range Maintenance - Cowboy Bow/Rifle/Pistol Old cost shoot 8-3	11 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet Open to Public	12	13 NSSA 4x50 dvincent 4904067
14 10:00 AM Trap & Skeet Open to Public	15 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet open to public	16 7:00 PM RSC Board Meeting	17 9:00 AM Range Maintenance - Cowboy Bow/Rifle/Pistol	18 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet Open to Public ES Team 50 yd range 10-2	19	20 10:00 AM CMP - 100/200 Andy Laitila Christmas party (BA)
21 10:00 AM Trap & Skeet Open to Public	22 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet open to public	23 10:00 AM Larry Pierson	24 9:00 AM Range Maintenance - Cowboy Bow/Rifle/Pistol	25 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet Open to Public	26	27
28 10:00 AM Trap & Skeet Open to Public	29 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet open to public	30	31 9:00 AM Range Maintenance - Cowboy Bow/Rifle/Pistol	1 10:00 AM Defensive Pistol-Cowboy Bowls 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet Open to Public	2 10:00 AM Michel (pending)	3 8:00 AM Cowboy Action Shooting

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