

Rockford Sportsman's Club



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February 2015 Newsletter

The time for starting 2015 projects is approaching. We are looking for someone interested in the 25/50 yard pistol range improvement to coordinate the project (chairperson). Gordon Pickerd and Dan Vincent will be part of the committee and are already working on the preliminary plans. Our objective is to keep on half of the range open at times during construction improvements. Members will have access all during the project except for a limited amount of time, those times and hours will be listed on the calendar as they are needed.

During the January board meeting we determined that our investment accounts could have had a much better return than the 2014 performance. Two members of the board along with one or two other members are needed to review and make recommendations to the board. If any member has interest or experience in this area we would welcome assistance. This will be a subject at the February meeting.

The board agreed to continue the monthly silent auctions as long as there remains member interest. Bring in your unused items. If they don't sell the first time bring them in again for members who may have missed a meeting.

Ron Dreyer has accepted the appointment as Chairman of the Board. We welcome Ron and his assistance in running an efficient meeting.

We need to again remind shooters to target only backboard and berms for the safety of the surrounding area. There were three bullet holes in a stake near the ground level and indicated the bullets struck the ground behind the stakes and ricocheted to who knows where. If you want to shoot at something small use clear scotch tape and stick the size you want to shoot to the backer boards. There are some chipmunk size squirrel targets in the range target box. Have fun and improve your accuracy without shooting random objects around the range. I know this reminder only applies to a very small percentage of members, but it keeps occurring. We are a unique club that allows members to shoot at their convenience and following rules is each member's personal responsibility.

For those members heading for or already in warmer weather we say have fun and we look forward to seeing you when you get back to North Country.

The cowboy action crew is hoping for some better weather. Folks travelling from the east side of the state have a tendency to stay home with bad weather. That has occurred on several of the events this year, looking forward to a good February.

Trap and Skeet winter event (January-March) has improved participation over the previous two years. Some of this is due to the implementation of a Rockford School Team. Approximately fifteen students have received training and are competing in a ten week event. There is still time to be a part of this group that shoots on Thursdays with some practice time also available on Sunday and Monday. Stay warm and especially to those ice fishermen who will probably show off their catches in the first quarter judging at the April Meeting.

George

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:15pm. Gordon gave invocation.
Minutes are approved from last membership meeting and board meeting.

President's Report – George Mayhak

Chairman of Board volunteer Ron Dryer. The board will vote in a new chairman at the January board meeting.

Vice President's Report – Gordon Pickerd

Update given about tax tribunal. Bill not voted on, will be brought up again under new congress.

Treasurer's Report – Len Laitila

December 2014. Total Income \$14,859.51. Total Expense \$7,510.40. Net Income \$7,349.11.

Secretary's Report – Barbara Blough

No report.

Sergeant at Arms – Dan Vincent

No Report

Committee Reports

NSSA/Trap/Skeet – Monday, Thursday and Sunday shooting.

Cowboy had monthly shoot with 11 shooters.

CMP completed Fall and Winter league this December. January Saturday 24th, Sniper Shoot using the 200 yrd range, weather permitting.

Hunter's Safety class April 20, 22, 25. Please see Bill if you have anyone to sign up for the class or if you would like to volunteer.

MUCC meeting last Thursday of January at Sparta.

Old Business

Updated Range Rules are available.

Hunting Contest 3rd place Terry King, 2nd place Phil Harrison, 1st place Joe S.

Spring NSSA Ruger Rimfire is May 16, Michigan State Championship.

Technology Committee meeting will be held tonight with Steve Gardner.

Raffle winners were George Mayhak and Bob Middlebrook, \$21 each.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52pm.

Register for Camp!

<https://mucc.org/home/education-programs/michigan-outdoors-youth-camp/youth-camp-admissions/>



Michigan United Conservation Clubs has operated summer youth camp programs continuously since 1946. During this time, more than 55,000 youth have learned to enjoy the outdoors safely and have left camp with a deeper appreciation and respect for the natural world they live in. Michigan OUTof-DOORS Youth Camp is held throughout the summer at the restored Cedar Lake Outdoor Center near Chelsea, MI. This camp exceeds the sprinkling of nature programming offered by most camps by including conservation and ecology lessons as part of each and every camp offered. During their week at camp, youth will increase their knowledge of ecological concepts and broaden their awareness of conservation issues through hands-on nature experience.

2015 Camp Offerings:

[Day Camp: Ages 5-9](#)

[Conservation Connection Camp: Ages 9-11](#)

[Fishing Camp: Ages 9-11](#)

[NEW for 2015! Wetland Wonders: Ages 9-11](#)

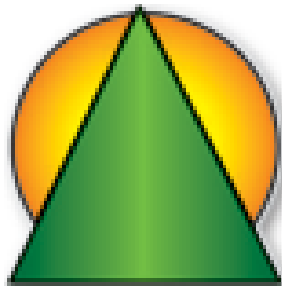
[Fur Harvesters Camp: Ages 12-14](#)

[Hunting Heritage Camp: Ages 12-14](#)

[Primitive Skills Camp: Ages 12-14](#)

[Stewards In Training Camp: Ages 13-15](#)

[Counselors in Training Camp: Ages 15-16](#)



MUCC

NEWS & UPDATES

MUCC Congratulates New NRC Chair John Matonich

Lansing—Governor Rick Snyder has appointed John Matonich of Davison as chair of the Natural Resources Commission, replacing J.R. Richardson of Ontonagon. Richardson will stay on the commission, and the Governor's office has described this as part of a regular rotation. Michigan United Conservation Clubs congratulates Commissioner Matonich on the appointment and thanks Commissioner Richardson for his service as chair.

"Both commissioners recognize the importance of convening divergent interests to reach compromise while making decisions based on sound science," said Amy Trotter, resource policy manager for MUCC. "We're confident that Commissioner Matonich will do a great job leading the commission through the challenges ahead."

Matonich is the president and CEO of Rowe Professional Services, which provides land use services like surveying, engineering and aerial photography. He is originally from the western Upper Peninsula and his term on the commission runs through 2018. Richardson has served as chair since 2013, guiding the commission through controversial issues, representing the Upper Peninsula and focusing on habitat.

TO READ MORE, visit: <https://mucc.org/mucc-congratulates-new-nrc-chair-john-matonich/>

The Opener: Follow the Money

It's the question on the minds of every hunter, angler, and trapper that has purchased a license in the last year (and probably many more): where does that money go? It is probably the same question you ask while you fill up your car, see the taxes taken out of your paycheck, and file your tax returns every year. But unlike gas, income, and sales taxes in Michigan, hunting, fishing, and trapping license revenues are *slightly* easier to track—they head straight to the Game and Fish Protection Fund and a few sub-fund accounts. This restricted fund is protected by the Michigan Constitution (thanks to a Constitutional Amendment in 2006), meaning these license fees can only be used for fisheries and wildlife work, habitat management, conservation law enforcement, and their associated costs.

Thanks to a good partnership and open dialogue between the Snyder Administration, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources management team, and many statewide and regional hunting, fishing, trapping and conservation organizations in Michigan, we know exactly where those new revenues went and had a hand in developing those outcomes.

TO READ MORE, visit: <https://mucc.org/opener-follow-money/>

Rockford Sportsman's Club Board Meeting Minutes—January 20, 2014

Attendance: Barbara Blough, Gordon Pickerd, Dan Vincent, George Mayhak, Mike Roche, Tim Hall, Steve Gardner, Robert Drury, George (Len) Laitila, Ron Dryer, Steve Mitchell and Dan Hankinson.

George called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Tim gave invocation.

- George made a motion to nominate Ron Dryer as the Chairman of the Board, supported by Dan Vincent. Motion carried.

President's Report – George Mayhak

Welcome new board members and old board members to new roles. Was there any objection from the board to continue with the monthly auctions, there were none. George is looking into renting the club to hold coin shows with Bob Brown. This would be worked around the rental calendar. More information will follow.

Vice President's Report – Gordon Pickerd

Need to find chairman for various projects, including the long range projects. Gordon will start on the Pistol Range planning with Dan Vincent, still looking for someone to lead this project.

Secretary's Report – Barbara Blough

The agenda will be sent to Steve Gardner so he can display it on the screens at the membership meetings. Also, if anyone has specific notes, dates or names to include in the minutes please turn in a note after the meeting.

Membership Secretary – Mike Roche

Mike made motion to accept new members Tony Dexterhouse, James Thomson II, John Verschueren and Tim Henkel, supported by Steve Mitchell. Motion carried. Paul K will receive a membership listing for Sunshine Committee.

Treasurer's Report – Len Laitila

Total Income \$4,116.30. Total Expense \$2,277.33. Net Income \$1,839.07.

Len made motion to have a three person investment committee to make recommendations to the board and monitor investments, support by Gordon. Motion carried. Steve Mitchell and Gordon Pickerd volunteered. An e-mail will be sent asking for another volunteer. This will be on February's membership meeting agenda.

A thank you was received from the Krause Memorial Library.

Sergeant at Arms – Dan Vincent

Winter league started for Trap and Skeet. High School League has 13 participants.

Please make sure when scheduling time on the calendar to include time for set up and clean up. Also, make sure to have the calendar changed if you no longer need as much time or if the event is cancelled.

If there are any issues with scheduling please inform Dan directly.

Board Meeting Minutes (Cont'd)

Trustee Reports

Bob Drury – snowplowing in the cowboy area has been good. There were a couple areas that could be wider; Bob will follow up on this.

Steve Gardner – CMP Sniper this weekend. Update on AV meeting with Technology Committee. Router replaced, drive for storage of club files. User manual is on inside door. The controls are labeled. Make sure to turn down volume when finished, reset to 0. Len made a motion to pay for the router, supported by Gordon, motion carried.

Tim Hall – MUCC District 5 in Sparta. Dan Hankinson will be able to fill in since Tim cannot attend. The meeting is this Thursday.

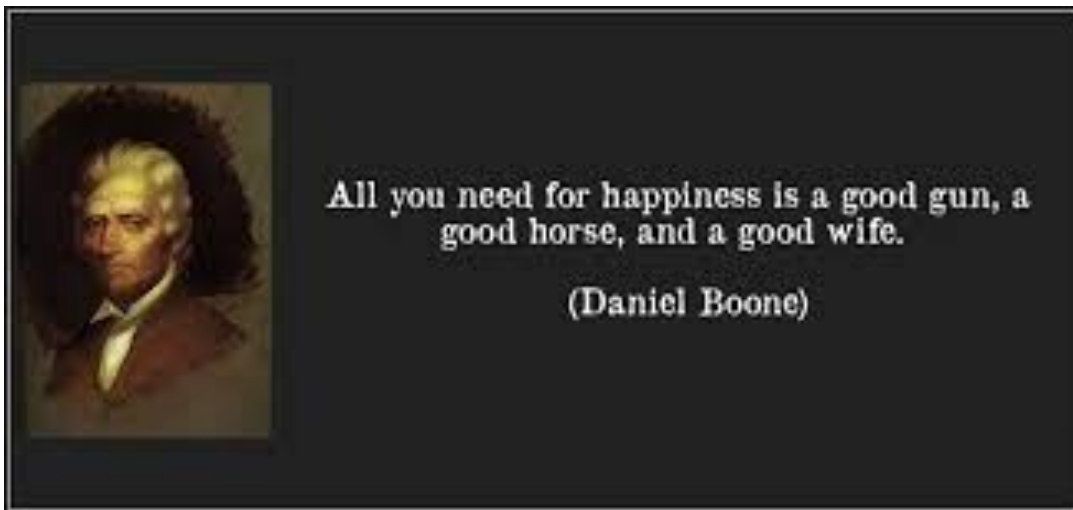
Dan Hankinson – No Report.

Steve Mitchell – Membership analysis was distributed, statistics on number of members. There was no interest in setting up a Super Bowl Party this year. Activity pages on the website need updating for several venues. Notes will be sent to people in charge of these venues.

New Business

Calendar – Maintenance scheduling needs to be more precise on times allotted. Delete events as soon as possible. Include a contact person for all events. Wednesday maintenance will end at 12:30 and some days will be removed due to the winter weather. Scheduling for ranges need to keep to that range. Only if no one else is using ranges can they switch.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.



Providing better opportunities for hunters with disabilities

Jan. 15, 2015

If you ask Michigan conservation officer Dave Painter, he'll tell you his relationship with his sometimes hunting partner Robbie Ivey was pretty unlikely.

Painter, who is assigned to Iron County in the western Upper Peninsula, was having processed photos he'd recently taken of a black bear when he got a phone call about a law-enforcement situation. He asked the attendant to look out for his photos. He'd be back.

When he returned, Carrie Ivey, who worked at the processor, told Painter that she couldn't help noticing the pictures and asked if he might spare a photo for her son, who had his room decorated with wildlife art. During the ensuing conversation, Ivey - who'd lost her volunteer firefighter husband to a car accident while he was responding to an emergency - informed Painter that her 12-year-old youngster had a physical disability. Painter offered to take him hunting sometime.

The youngster, who has muscular dystrophy and uses a wheelchair, was all about it.

Painter is one of 189 men and women who serve as Michigan conservation officers and one of roughly 1,300 full-time employees in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Like Painter, many of



these employees have a passion for the outdoors and a strong desire to serve people with [disabilities](#). That service takes the form of ad hoc volunteer efforts like Painter's, and a number of programs aimed specifically at people with disabilities, including programs such as Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors, which serves many veterans.

After his initial discussion with Carrie Ivey, Painter contacted some members of the Escanaba chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. The chapter has a [program](#) called Wheeling Sportsmen designed to aid the non-ambulatory. Painter set up a spring hunt and the club gave him access to a breath-activated piece of equipment, with a camera on a scope, which allows hunters without the use of their hands to aim and shoot a firearm.

Robbie harvested a "nice tom," Painter recounted. That outing was only the beginning

"We've kind of turned into hunting buddies," said Painter, who has helped Robbie collect three bears, three deer and two turkeys now. "He's a neat kid."

Joe Robison, a DNR wildlife biologist supervisor in southeast Michigan, has developed a similar relationship with 17-year-old Brik Jacobs, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and now uses a wheelchair. Robison has taken Brik on successful elk (at a game preserve) and turkey hunts and on a waterfowl hunt that didn't result in any game in the bag, "but he had fun," Robison said.

Robison has access to adaptive equipment through the Passing Along The Heritage Foundation (PATH) - a nonprofit organization begun by former Natural [Resources](#) Commissioner Bob Garner and Garner's buddy, Bob Knoop - that helps persons with disabilities participate in outdoor recreation. PATH has created a guide-training program to make sure volunteers who are taking hunters into the field have basic emergency health-care knowledge (such as CPR) and the ability to accommodate hunters with special needs.

Providing better opportunities for hunters with disabilities

Jan. 15, 2015

"Every year we take a few individuals - [accident victims](#) ■, stroke victims or others with disabilities - hunting for turkey, deer or elk," Robison said. "It's pretty rewarding helping out individuals like that, getting them out to enjoy the things that we all love to do."

The PATH Foundation partners with numerous organizations, such as Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors, to create more opportunities for more folks.

he Operation Freedom Outdoors program is a partnership that includes the DNR, Zero Day, the Eisenhower Foundation and other groups. Centered around the Sharonville State Game Area, Operation Freedom Outdoors provides guide services and specialized equipment to individuals with disabilities - including many [disabled](#) ■ [veterans](#) ■ - so they can experience opportunities similar to those of able-bodied hunters.



This year, Operation Freedom Outdoors took a few hunters out during the two-day Liberty Hunt in September. The Liberty Hunt is open to 100-percent disabled veterans, those who have been issued a permit by the DNR to hunt from a standing vehicle or use a laser-sighting devise, or those who are legally blind. The group also enabled 15 hunters to go afield during the four-day Independence Hunt in October.

"We had to hold a [lottery](#) ■," said the organization's Tom Jones, who coordinates events for disabled vets. "We had more folks who wanted to come than we could accommodate."

Jones said the group has use of three permanent 8-foot-by-8-foot blinds that are easily accessible and five track chairs for those with severe mobility impairments. More of both will be available next year.

"The track chairs are pretty much tanks," Jones said. "They have tank treads and with a full charge they're good for 10 miles. It's an amazing piece of equipment, comfortable, and the terrain is not an issue."



Although the special hunting seasons are finished for the year Jones will [continue](#) ■ to take hunters on an individual basis and has even taken folks out just to take photographs.

"We're reconnecting people with the outdoors for the therapeutic value of it and letting them know they can still pursue those opportunities," Jones said.

This year, Operation Freedom Outdoors was able to put Robert Ludwick, Jr, a 42-year-old Navy vet with a number of debilitating injuries on a hunt, accompanied by his 11-year-old son. Ludwick wound up taking a nine-point buck. "A very big one at that," Ludwick said. "I think what Operation Freedom Outdoors has going on is needed. It's spot on."

TO READ MORE , visit the DNR website www.michigan.gov/hunting



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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

February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 AM Trap & Skeet Open to Public Winter league 2015	2 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet open to public Winter league 2015	3 7:15 PM General Membership Meeting	4 8:00 AM Range Maintenance - Cowboy Bow/Rifle/Pistol	5 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet Open to Public Winter league 2015	6	7 8:00 AM Cowboy Action Shooting
8 10:00 AM Trap & Skeet Open to Public Winter league 2015	9 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet open to public Winter league 2015	10	11 8:00 AM Range Maintenance - Cowboy Bow/Rifle/Pistol	12 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet Open to Public Winter league 2015	13	14 8:00 AM SASS Range Officer Class /Shoot after Class NSSA 4x50 dvincent
15 10:00 AM Trap & Skeet Open to Public Winter league 2015	16 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet open to public Winter league 2015	17 7:00 PM RSC Board Meeting	18 8:00 AM Range Maintenance - Cowboy Bow/Rifle/Pistol 8:00 AM Old Coot Shoot-Cowboy bowl	19 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet Open to Public Winter league 2015 MSP ES Team 50 yd range	20	21
22 10:00 AM Trap & Skeet Open to Public Winter league 2015	23 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet open to public Winter league 2015	24	25 8:00 AM Range Maintenance - Cowboy Bow/Rifle/Pistol	26 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet Open to Public Winter league 2015	27	28 9:00 AM CMP-100/200 Range

Young Insurance

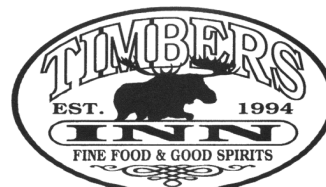
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