

Rockford Sportsman's Club



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rockfordsportsmansclub.com

April 2015 Newsletter

Our winter quarter is coming to a conclusion and the first quarter wild game (fish) contest will end at the April 7 meeting. There are several entries already. Be sure to bring in your pictures of your catches for cash awards. Next quarter there should be more fish entries along with Wild Turkeys. If you like to be in the outdoors the weather should be cooperating since the calendar says it is Spring time.

The Winter League finished with a banquet at the club house Thursday evening March 26. This year we had 14 trap and 13 skeet entries in the Junior classification for the Rockford Public Schools. Gordon Pickerd's grandson, Colin and Gordon's son Brian were instrumental in developing the school group. This seems to be only the beginning as some are registering for the Spring league that begins March 29. New shooters are more than welcome to shoot with the league as the experienced shooters are always willing to help.

Our little silent auction that we have every month is still on going. Not many have participated in the past few months, but with spring coming you may have some clean up items you are not using which can be turned into cash and the club benefits 10%.

It comes around every year and we need volunteers to maintain the gardens. This work has always been done by members divided into individual areas. There will be a sign up sheet at the April meeting to adopt a garden that you can maintain for the summer. Members have kept the grounds/ landscaping looking superb which is appreciated by all.

This has been a challenging year for the snowplowing activity and Andy Laitila did a nice job on a timely basis after every snow fall to have all of the shooting and rental venues accessible.

At the March meeting Tom Smith a long time member of the RSC was presented with an award plaque from the Michigan DNR for his more than 40 years as a Michigan Hunter Education Instructor. This is also a great honor for the club and Tom donated the plaque to hang in our facility. Thanks to Tom for all his dedication.

Several new members have joined in the past few months. As you meet them extend a hearty welcome.

We keep putting out reminders to shoot at only paper targets on backer boards to keep projectiles on our property. Someone still had to shoot at a plastic pill bottle within the last several weeks. As an added feature to the shooting range, the board voted to purchase some self-sealing targets that can be hung from cables. These targets will move when hit and will not produce deflections since the bullet is absorbed and the hole sealed from the heat. This will give target shooters more to shoot at than paper and will move as they are hit. If the trial of the first purchase is favorable, they can be ordered for all the ranges. Hopefully we can continue to eliminate shooting at unauthorized trinkets.

Hope everyone has a nice Easter Holiday. Gordon Pickerd, VP, will lead the April meeting. I hope to be fishing in some warmer weather.

George

Regular Meeting Minutes

Rockford Sportsman's Club Membership Meeting Minutes March 2, 2015 Call to order at 7:15 P.M.

- Invocation was given by Tim Hall.
- Approval of minutes. Minutes are accepted.
- Introduction of Guests. Mark VanDunk.

President's Report: George Mayhak

- Notice from MUCC, Spring Clean Up, May 1 and 2
- Sports Show at Devos Hall, March 19th through 22nd. Sportsman Against Hunger collection on Thursday. Anyone that brings six cans of food gets in free that night.
- Thanks to John for setting up the chairs for the meeting. Chairs will remain set up for the Wild Turkey dinner here on Saturday.
- Tom Smith was recognized for over 40 years of being a Michigan Hunter Safety Instructor for the DNR.

Vice President's Report: Gordon Pickerd

- No Report.

Chairman's Report: Ron Dreyer

- No Report.

Secretary's Report: Barbara Blough

- Grand Blanc Huntsman's Club, Registered Skeet Shoot on March 27 through 29.

Membership Secretary's Report: Mike Roche

- Motion made by Mike to accept new members Emory and Ida VanDunk, Alek & Kara Pettinger, supported by Kevin Kubiszewski, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Len Laitila

- Total Income \$4,604.00. Total Expense \$3,592.30. Net Income \$1,011.70.

Sergeant of Arms Report: Dan Vincent

- No Report.

Committee Reports

- NSSA: Extended winter league one week due to weather. Banquet will be held at club. NSSA shoot tomorrow night.
- Cowboy: Shoot coming up this Saturday.
 - CMP: 10 shooters for last month. Next shoot is March 28.
 - Hunter's Safety: April 20, 22 and 25. See Bill if you have anyone to sign up or would like to volunteer.

Membership Meeting Minutes continued on next page

Regular Meeting Minutes continued

- MUCC: State licenses down significantly, number of deer are down due to the reduced food supply. Low Harvest but safest hunting season. July 19th District 5 shoot. May tree giveaway. Proposed bill to ban all deer feeding in the winter due to corn toxicity. Trying to pass a resolution to ban drones in regards to harassment of hunters. See Dan Hankinson if you are interested in MUCC raffle tickets.
- Sunshine: Donna Boywer is getting better. Bee Sobie fell and broke her elbow.

Open Forum:

- Items are on sale at the meeting auction.
- Fish contest will be at the April meeting.
- Brass needs sorting in the shoot building. \$215 sold in the last week. Put live rounds in designated red boxes.

Raffle: 50/50. \$20, Gordon Pickerd, Paul Kazmierski.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR'S WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

Allegan County

April 23, 2015 6:00 - ? w/dinner included

South Kent Sportsman's Club

2536 140th St. Dorr, MI

RSVP Terry Thompson by April 16

(616) 293-8245 EMAIL: Terry@miccwtraining.com

**check the instructor website or your county coordinator
for other possible dates and workshops in your area**



Join us at 9am on Saturday, April 4th at the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area to improve waterfowl habitat! We will be restoring duck nesting structures as well as cleaning out and relocating some of the duck boxes previously installed throughout the area to benefit mallard ducks.

A boat will be available but waders or hip boots will be helpful if you have them!

Hot dogs and chips will be provided for volunteers after the event. Volunteers will also receive their choice of a free Green & White or Maize & Blue OTG T-shirt as part of the *Spartan-Wolverine Challenge*, as well as a free digital subscription

to Michigan OutofDoors Magazine.

[Sign up here to volunteer for waterfowl!](#)

Sincerely,

Sarah Topp

AmeriCorps Member, Wildlife Volunteer Coordinator

Office: (517) 346-6493



2015 Rockford Sportsman's Club CMP MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE

Times: Saturdays 10:00A – 2:00P (dates shown in **RED** are Tuesdays, 4:30-8:00)

Dates: Fun Shoots (format TBD): Jan 24, Feb 28 (Weather Permitting)

Summer League: Mar 28, Apr 11, May 30, Jun 20, Jul 18, **Jul 28 (makeup)**

Winter League: Aug 29, **Sept 22**, Oct 17, Nov 21, **Nov 24(makeup)**, Dec 19

All RSC CMP Military Rifle matches are open to the Public. RSC is a CMP-Affiliated Club, but these are not CMP/NRA "registered" shoots.

Entry Fees:	<u>RSC Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>	<u>Junior(16 or under)</u>
League Fees	\$25	\$30	\$15
Add'l Event Fee	\$15	\$20	\$10
Individual Match	\$ 5	\$ 7	\$ 5

League fees cover all five shoots for one class (Semi-Auto or Bolt).

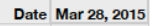
The entry fee includes a CMP Membership Card and Qualification Letter, which entitles the holder to purchase firearms, parts, and ammo directly from CMP.

Standard "**As Issued**" military rifles with iron or peep sights (no optics) (e.g. M1-A1, M-1 Garands, M-1 Carbines, SKS, AK-47, AR-15, Springfields, Mausers, Enfields, Nagants, Krag, etc). Rifles may be available for use and ammo or chamber flags for purchase with advance notice.

Relays will be fired during each match based on both Course A (30 rds, 3-position @ 100 yds, SR-1 targets) and Course B (40 rds, 4-position @ 200 yds, SR targets). Each course will be preceded with (5) sighters.

Classes will include Semi-Auto and Bolt Action, Large and Small Bore. Other classes may be added as determined by the CMP committee. League shooters may fire both Semi-Auto and Bolt for the same League entry, but will compete in Semi-Auto class. One or more awards will be given for each class depending on the number of shooters.

Scores will be recorded, with the winners based on highest average score for the five (5) matches. Ties will be decided first by most "x"s, then by a ten (10) round Slow Fire, Standing shoot-off if needed, or other determinate as agreed by the parties. Call Steve Gardner (616 745-7800) or Tim Hall (616 430-3585) with questions.

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Wildlife Wednesday: Small Game, Big Impact

March 25, 2015/ Sarah Topp

Last weekend, I was given the opportunity to be a part of the annual Youth Rabbit Hunt hosted by the Michigan DNR at the Crane Pond State Game Area. Guides, sponsors, mentors, and parents gave 22 eager youth a fun and enriching experience in the outdoors. For many, this was their first hunt. Programs such as this one are of critical importance for engaging today's youth in nature and conservation. After all, they're our future conservation leaders!

Not only did this event give kids a chance to safely scavenge the forest with a firearm, but it also provided a chance to learn about the role conservation and habitat restoration plays in the hunt. Thanks to the dedicated guides and mentors, they were able to see and utilize the brush piles created by DNR staff and volunteers from MUCC's On the Ground program in 2013; two lucky hunters even harvested a rabbit from the piles! What a sense of accomplishment that must have been for those kids. That day will be memorable for the youth participants and adults alike. I still remember my first hunting adventures with my Dad at a very young age.

"Daylight's burnin'!" That was the infamous phrase my Dad would shout as he rushed us out the door; one toddler, two toddler, three toddler, four. All dressed in carharts, camo, and fluorescent orange stocking caps, we trudged clumsily in Dad's footsteps—much like a line of ducklings trailing close behind their mom. For hours we'd walk down the seemingly endless two tracks, never missing a crunchy leaf. Much to my surprise, I saw a statue of a bull elk placed elegantly next to our path. He was looking right at us as if he was wishing us farewell while we ventured back to the truck. When we got closer the giant, beast of a statue stood up and ran away; I could not believe that statue had come to life! Another time, more mature in age but not in nature, I had

the honor of holding the rattling antlers as we hiked to our hunting location. Like a responsible 10 year old, I held them to either side of my head as I giggled and waited for my Dad to notice the shadow beside him as he walked quiet and focused on his hunt. Surely, my Dad knew he would not be harvesting a single animal with us along, but he brought us anyways and I'll never forget the memories.

(Continued on next page)





Youth are extremely impressionable and their imaginations run wild; they don't know what's going to jump out at them when they aren't boxed in by four walls and a ceiling or help captive by the screen of a TV, tablet, or smartphone. While technology is an innovative tool for education, it's equally important for kids to get outside and learn about nature through hands-on experience. That's why programs, like the youth hunt, that get youth outdoors are essential. Aside from the exhilarating hunting experience, the kids at Crane Pond SGA's Youth Rabbit Hunt also won some really cool outdoor gear provided by the event sponsors. Along with beaming smiles, some of the kids walked away with a generous membership to QDMA, items such as binoculars, camo hats, an oozing target, a fishing pole, or a bow complete with a quiver full of arrows. Each youth participant was also given a free membership to the National Turkey federation, and a gift bag with various outdoor gear such as a pocket knife and multi-tool! Events like this one are hosted all over the state for all hunting seasons; don't miss out on the next opportunity!



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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

April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1 8:00 AM Range Maintenance - Cowboy Bow/Rifle/Pistol NSSA	2 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet Open to Public Spring League	3	4 8:00 AM Cowboy Setup 10:00 AM Cowboy Action Shooting
5 10:00 AM Trap & Skeet Open to Public spring league	6 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet open to public spring league	7 7:15 PM General Membership Meeting	8 8:00 AM Range Maintenance - Cowboy Bow/Rifle/Pistol	9 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet Open to Public spring league	10	11 9:00 AM CMP-100/200 Range 12:00 PM Frandsen wedding reception
12 10:00 AM Trap & Skeet Open to Public spring league	13 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet open to public East Grand Rapids PD 50 yard range 10-4 Dvincent spring league	14	15 8:00 AM Range Maintenance - Cowboy Bow/Rifle/Pistol 8:00 AM Old Coot Shoot-Cowboy bowl 5:00 PM Defensive Pistol cowboy area	16 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet Open to Public spring league	17 EGR PD 50 Yard range 10-4 Dvincent	18 NSSA Springtime Open dvincent
19 NSSA Springtime Open dvincent	20 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet open to public spring league 6:00 PM Hunter Safety	21 7:00 PM RSC Board Meeting DHS Craig Smith N Pistol range 10-2pm	22 8:00 AM Range Maintenance - Cowboy Bow/Rifle/Pistol 6:00 PM Hunter Safety	23 4:30 PM 22LR Bench Rifle League - 25/50 Range 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet Open to Public MSP ES Team 50 yd range spring league	24 US Marshals North pistol range 10-2pm	25 Hunter Safety Ranges Closed
26 10:00 AM Trap & Skeet Open to Public spring league Birthday party (Della Shirley) G. mayhak 3pm Club house	27 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet open to public spring league	28 DHA Graig Smith N Pistol range 10-2pm	29 8:00 AM Range Maintenance - Cowboy Bow/Rifle/Pistol 5:00 PM Defensive Pistol-Cowboy Bowls	30 6:00 PM Trap & Skeet Open to Public spring league	1	2

Young Insurance

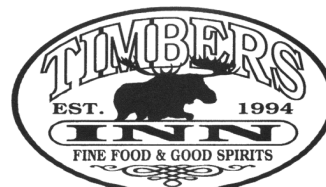
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