

The St. Joseph County Conservation & Sportsman Club, Inc.



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 Clubhouse Telephone (269) 467-7128
 Home Page: <http://www.conservationclub.net>

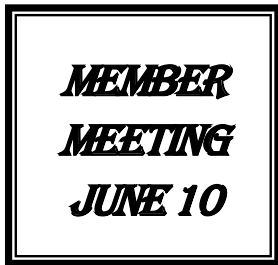


Volume Seventy-seven Issue 6

June 2024

Upcoming Meetings

- Member Meeting 7 PM
Monday, **June 10**
- Board Meeting 7 PM
Monday, **June 24**



Inside this issue:

Cowboy Round Up	2
Rifle Range Safety Issues of Concern	2
Upcoming Events	2
“The Back Page”... Range Notes	3
Financial News	3
New Members	3
Officers & Director Contacts	3

June Quarterly Member Meeting

Our guest speaker for this Quarterly Member Meeting on June 10, will be attorney **Matthew Cooper** from the VA Disability Law Center in Decatur Michigan. Matt will be discussing Compensation and Benefits for our Veterans. He will also speak about his Landmark Case and Book " A Soldier's Home". Matt will answer your questions about The Camp Lejeune Claims too.

We also plan on having hot dogs and fixins' at this member meeting.

Some very important range updates will be discussed at our meeting regarding **safety and training** at the rifle and pistol ranges. Please see **page 2** of this newsletter for more details. Therefore, there will be some changes to our new member orientations that most likely will also affect existing members as well.

A new committee has been established to address the safety issues occurring on these ranges. With so many new members, training and safety behavior must be improved.

Please plan on attending this member meeting as it will have information for all club members and especially for anyone using the rifle and pistol ranges. Plus your input is needed.

July 20 “Lost in the Hills” 3D Archery

Time to resume the “Lost In The Hills” 3-D Archery shoot! This event started in 2016 and ran for 3 years; then came the pandemic and then the disastrous August 2021 storm damage hit that shut down the archery range for a spell!

So, in 2024 it is returning on July 20. Start time is 8:00am and runs until 5:00pm. Please note, all shooters must start the course by 1:00pm. The course of fire will be 30 3-D Targets, with Multiple Classes. The cost is \$15 adults, \$10.00 for age 17 and under.

- **New for 2024:** a Pro Team Competition!
- Free t-shirt to the first 40 entries
- Free gate prizes
- Vendors will be present. Trade Blanket.

For more information and details, call **Lost Nation Archery** at 269-659-6002



Cowboy Round-Up

Hidden Valley Cowboys May 19 Report

We had 27 shooters at the Valley this month and many visitors came by to watch. We all joined in a prayer for Triple Threat, he was a great Cowboy and a good friend. The Valley will not be the same without him; he will be missed. Coal Car Kid has donated a Forged Cross that he made and we will be making a plaque to honor our fallen Cowboy.

Congratulations to our 4 Clean shooters this month, Ranger Mike, Rover, Spoon River Sam and The Hungarian. Our Cool Clean Match Coaster's are made by Ka Adik Krista.

I would like to thank all that helped out with posse duties we have a great bunch of Cowboy and Cowgirls that are always willing to help out when needed. Krista and Tommy did a fantastic job as always with Coffee, Donuts, and our lunch. I have a great posse that helps set up on the Sunday before our shoot thank you, Stubby, Ya Big Tree, Tommy Two Fingers, and Ka Adik Krista.

Our next shoot will be June 16, 2024. Registration opens at 8:15 AM, side shoots start at 8:30 AM, and the mandatory safety meeting starts at 9:45 AM, preceding the main match.

Johnny Rebel
574-349-3764



UPCOMING EVENTS

June 1-2: FD Level 2 Carbine/Rifle (IDPA)
 June 1: IDPA Practice 9am (IDPA)
 June 8-9: DTI Class (IDPA)
 June 8: CPL Class
 June 10: **Member Meeting** 7pm
 June 15: *Clubhouse Rented*
 June 15: IDPA Shoot (IDPA)
 June 16: Cowboy Action
 June 16: Combat Carbine (IDPA)\
 June 22: 22PRS Rifle (Rifle Range)
 June 21-23: SASP State Shoot (IDPA)
 June 24: **Board Meeting** 7pm
 June 29: IDPA RSO Training (Clubhouse)
 July 13: FD Women's Intro Handgun (IDPA)
 July 14: FD Tact. Treat. Wounds ((IDPA)
 July 20: **Lost in the Hills 3D Archery Shoot**

Rifle Range Safety Issues of Concern - PLEASE READ!

Hello Members! I'm writing to discuss some not-so-great developments at our rifle range, and ask for your help!

In 2018, our club completed a \$170,000 upgrade project to the lower range, which included the addition of a 300-yard rifle range, separating the 100-yard and 200/300-yard ranges, enclosing and heating a section of the pistol range, and enclosing and heating part of the rifle range. Since that project's completion, we have experienced episodes of damage to our ranges. It's my sad duty to report to you that our enclosed range has over 50 bullet holes in the building. It is abundantly clear that some of these holes are the result of carelessness, some as a result of intentional unsafe acts, and some are acts of vandalism.

In Spring of 2022, we experienced a bout of vandalism by someone with a shotgun and a 10mm pistol. We believe these acts from 2022 were perpetrated by trespassers. St. Joseph County Sheriff was called in to investigate, and several club neighbors were interviewed. The Sheriff reported to us that they identified a likely "candidate" for the bad actor, but there was not enough evidence to pursue criminal charges.

In Spring/Summer of 2023, the vandalism began again—this time by someone with a small caliber rifle, likely a .17cal or .20 cal. and also, a larger caliber rifle, likely a .350 Legend. Summer 2023 also saw a hole appear in our roof ridge line above the aluminum stairs. It's clear that someone attempted to shoot over the range house at the 300 yard "gong" while using the stairs railing as a shooting rest.

This Spring has been no exception: We have had several of our range house vertical posts shot on the 200/300-yard side, and several overhead door frames shot on the 25- and 50-yard side. Most egregious: In two separate incidents, both of the double-entry-doors on the enclosed 100-yard side have now been shot. The larger caliber hole went inward at a downward angle, but the 22-caliber bullet traveled the entire length of the range house and exited the west wall. **THIS COULD HAVE KILLED SOMEONE!**

Several of the wooden shooting rests have been used as targets too. And, to add insult to injury, a few weeks ago, someone killed a deer on the 200-yard range. It may be possible the deer ran in front of someone while they were shooting but that seems unlikely as it was a perfect heart-shot. **Michigan DNR is investigating this as an act of Poaching.** Poaching---at a sportsman's club with a mission of conservation and preserving our natural resources. *Unbelievable!*

There are several holes in the walls, window frames, ceiling, roll-up door, and floor. All of which were likely UD (Unintentional Discharges)—a result of poor muzzle control combined with poor trigger discipline.

What I'm asking of you:

1. If you experience an Unintentional Discharge (UD) that caused damage, please contact a board member to tell us about it! We've had a few members do exactly that! They had to review the incident with the Board and repair the damage, but they are still members! You will be treated the same!
2. If you witness a UD, Vandalism, or "General Dumbassery", report it! The offender will have a chance to tell their side of the story. In the case of dumbassery, *safety is everyone's duty!*

What does all this mean for us going forward? Well, lots of things. We now have two different Law Enforcement Agencies with a spotlight on our club. We have physical damage to our structures which degrades them for everyone. And, it's very likely the club will have to add a camera system, additional gate monitors, full-time paid range officers, or a combination of the above, which could easily result in **increased dues for the entire membership.**

Look folks, I know, and the entire Board knows, that the 900+ members we have are responsible, safe, and ethical. Like most things, it's the few who ruin it for the many.

HELP US RESOLVE THIS NOW!

Andy Rockwell, Lower Range Director call or text **260-668-9317**

REMEMBER: EYE AND EAR PROTECTION IS REQUIRED ON ALL RANGES
ALSO: THE FRONT GATE IS TO BE LOCKED BEHIND YOU WHEN ENTERING OR LEAVING, EXCEPT FOR ORGANIZED ACTIVITY TIMES

Financial News: April BOD Meeting 2024

Checking Account \$ 42,811.24 CC Trans Acct \$ 11,687.80
 Pre-paid Dues CD \$ 1,755.00 Emergency CD \$ 60,270.71
 Storm CD Rec'd \$125,000.00 Excess CD \$ 20,000.00

Membership Status: As of last Board Meeting

Total paid member households **821**

If there is a change in your address or you know someone who is not getting their newsletter, call 269-341-5930 and leave a message and corrected information. Thank you.

New Members - April (12)

Allen M Beebe	Mendon, MI
Robert Alan Beldon	Constantine, MI
Strawberry Alice Blum	Centreville, MI
James Vather	Dublin, OH
Emily Gentz	Leonidas, MI
Randy Johnson	Sturgis, MI
Philip "Chip" LaFave	Indian Land, SC
Isaac Lowery	Three River, MI
Jeffery Maurer	Sturgis, MI
Lance Ogreen	Three Rivers, MI
Maxwell Tokarz	Sturgis, MI
Aaron Trouten	Burr Oak, MI

THE BACK PAGE... RANGE NOTES

- ♦ **REMINDER LOWER RANGE CLOSED THURS EVE:** 4-H Riflery and BB Gun runs on Thurs eve 5:30-8pm, May into Sept. Therefore the Rifle and Pistol ranges are closed during these times.
- ♦ **MUCC Youth Camp:** We still have 2 openings for youth to attend the Summer MUCC Youth Camp. Contact Allen Kasdorf to sign up 269-251-0113
- ♦ **Summer Shotgun Ironman:** Planned for Sun. Aug 11 at 1pm. 16-yd & 23-yd trap, Skeet, and 5-Stand. One round of each (100 targets total).

Looking for **Volunteers** for various Committees and Fund Raising activities; also Board Positions.
 Contact: conservationclubeditor@gmail.com

MUCC Conservation Pledge

**I give my pledge as an American
 to save and faithfully defend from waste,
 the natural resources of my country
 - its air, soil, and minerals,
 its forests, waters, and wildlife.**



Quarterly Member Meetings: Mar, Jun, Sept, Dec

CLUB OFFICERS

President	Jeff Brazo	689-0200*
Vice President	Paul Hassenger	625-4668
Executive Secretary	Kathy Crandall	341-5930
Treasurer	Tom McLaughlin	651-9951
Recording Secretary	Leslie York	483-6803

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

District #1	Kathy Book	659-4056
	Denny Parker	535-4739
District #2	Mark Speicher (574)	361-5847
	Roy Rawlinson	341-1726
District #3	Benson Baumeister	221-0288
	Randy Crandall	808-6730
District #4	Nancy Lawrence	651-1700
	Pete Davis	651-1388
Dir. At Large	Tom Whitford	432-4070

Dist #1: Flowerfield, Park, Fabius & Lockport Townships
Dist #2: Mendon, Leonidas, Nottawa & Colon Townships
Dist #3: Constantine, Florence, Mottville & White Pigeon TWP's
Dist #4: Sherman, Burr Oak, Sturgis & Fawn River Townships
At Large: All areas outside of St Joseph County

COMMITTEES AND CHAIRMEN

Membership and Administrative Activities

Newsletter/ & Website	Leslie York	483-6803
Advertising (Newsletter)	Leslie York	483-6803
Public Relations	Jim Perlberg (313)	310-4897
NRA Recruiter	Leslie York	483-6803
MUCC Region 7	Allen Kasdorf	651-7086
Finance	Tom McLaughlin	506-3361
Nominating Chair	Kathy Crandall	341-5930
Calendar of Events	Leslie York	483-6803
Hunter Education	Mark Quirin	503-0191
CPL Instruction	Jeff Brazo	689-0200
Fair Sign-up	Jim Perlberg (313)	310-4897

Weekly / League Activities

Trap & Skeet	Larry & Leslie York	483-6803
Trap - Tues	Bill Thompson	290-5798
5 Stand Sporting Clays	Joel Weeks	788-4946
Archery	Larry Murray	659-6005
Cowboy Action	John Daniels (574)	349-3764
IDPA Defensive Pistol	Mike Philley (574)	202-0641
Combat Carbine, High Power	Jay Baker	532-4445
Lower Range	Andy Rockwell (260)	668-9317
Youth SCTP Shotgun	Leslie York	483-6803
Youth SASP Pistol Rifle	Shawn Scott	251-8126
Youth 4-H	Nelson Schug (248)	379-8654

Executive Secretary: **Kathy Crandall**
PO Box 339
Sturgis, MI 49091
269-341-5930

**All area codes 269 unless noted*

Officers, Directors, E-mail Listings

Jay Baker (High Power, Combat Carbine)	keplerdog@outlook.com
Benson Baumeister (Dist 3 Director)	bbaumeister92@gmail.com
Kathy Crandall (Exec. Sec)	kcrandall1952@gmail.com
Randy Crandall (Dist 3 Director)	kmc52ran@aol.com
John Daniels (Cowboy Action)	johndaniels@imcaa.com
Pete Davis (Dist 4 Director)	peted02@yahoo.com
Paul Hassenger (Vice President)	phassenger@yahoo.com
Allen Kasdorf (MUCC)	allenkasdorf@gmail.com
Gary Kondek (.22 Shoots)	gary.kondek@yahoo.com
Nancy Lawrence (Dist 4 Director)	jlawrence1700@charter.net
Tom McLaughlin (Treasurer)	trmclaughlin@frontier.com
Larry Murray (Archery)	sturgis_larry@frontier.com
Denny Parker (Dist 1)	stormrider.dp@icloud.com
Jim Perlberg (Pub Relations)	gunslinger6@me.com
Mike Philley (IDPA)	mphilly60@gmail.com
Mark Quirin (Hunter Ed Coordinator)	canman11@gmail.com
Roy Rawlinson (Dist 2 Director)	leroyrawlinson@gmail.com
Andy Rockwell (Lower Range Dir)	zrock4365@hotmail.com
Mark Speicher (Dist 2 Director)	markspeicher26@aol.com
Larry York (Trap, Skeet, 5 Stand)	larry.york54@gmail.com
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**St. Joseph Co. Conservation
& Sportsman Club, Inc.**
PO Box 339
Sturgis, MI 49091

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The Second Amendment

A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

PLEASE NOTICE

The St Joseph County Conservation & Sportsman Club, Inc., has a 501(c)(4) tax-exempt organization status. Under this rule, donations to the club are *not* deductible on your individual taxes as charitable contributions.

APPLICATION FOR NRA MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the NRA obtained through our club benefits us in that the NRA returns part of your fee to us, and benefits you because you pay a reduced membership fee because of belonging to a member club.

- Renew** my NRA membership: NRA member # _____
- New Member**, please sign me up as a new NRA member:
Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____
Birthdate: _____

Club Rate: **\$35** per year. **Make check payable to NRA:** \$ _____

Magazine Choice: (circle one):
America's 1st Freedom American Hunter American Rifleman Shooting Illustrated

Mail to: Leslie J York, club NRA recruiter
17101 Tomahawk Trail
White Pigeon, MI 49099

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

ST JOSEPH COUNTY CONSERVATION AND SPORTSMAN CLUB Inc.

I respectfully apply for membership in the St. Joseph County Conservation and Sportsman Club, Inc. I certify that by signing this application I am a person 18 Years of age or older, who accepts the Purposes and Objectives of the Corporation and agrees to promote the same, and has complied with the requisites of membership as provided in these Bylaws. I further give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully to defend from waste the natural resources of my country; its air, soil, minerals, forest, water and its wildlife. I understand that to become eligible to join, I must be recommended by a club member in good standing, or personally inform the Board of Directors why I wish to be a member. **(please, print clearly)**

Full Name _____ Birth Date _____

Spouse _____ Birth Date _____

_____ Check if spouse desires a membership Card **(Add \$5 for this second gate card)**

Address _____ Phone # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address (Print) _____

Recommended By _____

Area (s) of Interest: Range Work Parties _____; Committees _____; Club Board _____; Maintenance _____

New member application fee: **\$130***
*subject to change

Renewal Dues (after 1st full year): **\$105***
*subject to change

Total Amount enclosed \$ _____

Signature _____ Date _____

**Mail application and Check to: St. Joseph County Conservation
& Sportsman Club
C/O Kathy Crandall
P.O. Box 339 Sturgis MI 49091**

Membership subject to the approval of the Board of Directors at the next Board meeting. **After Board Approval New Member Information Packages are handed out at the mandatory New Member Orientation**, to be scheduled within 30-days. Club Newsletters start within 60 days.