

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



23640 Featherstone Rd, PO Box 339, Sturgis, MI 49091
 Clubhouse Telephone (269) 467-7128
 Home Page: <http://www.conservationclub.net>



Volume Seventy-seven Issue 12

December 2024

Upcoming Meetings

- Member Meeting 7 PM
Monday, **Dec 9**
- Board Meeting 7 PM
Monday, **Dec 30**



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December Member Meeting

Monday, **December 9 at 7:00 pm** is our next Quarterly Membership Meeting. This is an important meeting as it is ***our last chance*** to propose any suggested amendments to our club by-laws. **Suggested by-law changes *must be submitted in writing*** to any board member. They will then be reviewed by the by-law committee to ensure they don't affect or conflict with other sections of the by-laws before presenting them for full review.

You can also propose, submit recommendations, or volunteer for any Club Officers or District Director positions at this meeting for the 2025-26 membership year. Elections for these positions occur at the next quarterly member meeting, which is also the **Annual Membership Meeting** to be held on **March 10, 2025** along with our wild game chili cook-off, and voting on any submitted by-law changes. Refreshments are planned for this December member meeting. This is a great time to learn about the new long range planning and financial committee. Hope to see you all there!

Winter Trap & Skeet Leagues Jan 5 - Mar 9

This year's annual **Winter Trap and Skeet Leagues** will run from 1/5/25 to 3/9/25. Trap is planned to be a 10-week money league with 8 of the weeks scores to count, *unless the participants collectively choose less due to weather, etc.* Each week will be 50 targets (2 rounds). Shoot can be modified if agreed upon by participants. The cost is \$20 for the trap league fee for the pot of money, plus each week's regular shoot fees (for targets). Plus, we will have our weekly **"Buck Can"** drawing for those interested in participating. *Skeet League details coming soon!*

As a reminder, open Trap and Skeet will continue concurrently on Sunday mornings starting at 9:00 am (*unless a blizzard or severe snow storm or warning*). Open trap/skeet will run concurrently with the league. However, there will be **no** ATA Big 50's this winter. Please note, Tuesday evening trap and skeet may close after Dec 3 if attendance continues to drop and will re-open in March 2025.

5-Stand Sporting Clays "Night" Shoot Dec 6

There will be an evening **5-Stand Sporting Clays "shoot under the lights"** fun shoot set for Friday evening, Dec 6 at 6pm-9:00pm (*weather pending*). Shoot as much as you want. Cost is \$6 per round for members, \$7 per round for non-members (*Youth 18 and under \$5*). For more details or to pre-register, call **Joel Weeks** at **269-788-4946**.

Safety Spot ●..

Range Safety Training **for All Existing Members**

Due to the safety issues and property damage incurred on the Rifle and Pistol ranges, the Board of Directors has implemented a new range safety training for **ALL MEMBERS**, regardless of your activity of choice. Every member needs to take this training by December 2026. The training is being offered in conjunction with our new member orientations on the first Monday of each month. The Pistol/Rifle Range Safety training follows after the new member classroom orientations.

Any existing member is welcome to join us on the Pistol Range (**be there by 6:50pm**) for the **Range Safety Training** portion on these new member training dates (first Monday each month). Everyone who attends will sign in so we have a record of who's been trained. We strongly suggest other members of your family who may use the ranges attend also so EVERYONE gets this important safety training information. The training lasts about 30 minutes.

Please call **Kathy Crandall** at (269) **341-5930** and let her know which date you plan to attend. We are trying to limit each session to 25 people, with new members getting the first slots.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUES TRAP & SKEET MAY* CLOSE **AFTER DEC 3 REOPENING MAR 4**

Trap and skeet will be open 9am on Sundays (unless severe winter weather or holiday)

- Dec 2: New Member Orientation (*by invite*)
 - Dec 6: "5-Stand Under The Lights" 6pm
 - Dec 7: IDPA Practice (IDPA range)
 - Dec 9: **Quarterly Member Meeting** 7pm
 - Dec 14: CPL Class
 - Dec 30: **Board Meeting** 7pm
 - Jan 5: Winter Trap & Skeet Leagues: 9am
- * Call 269-483-6803 if you want Tues eve Trap/Skeet to continue through December.

York Wins 2024 Fall Trap League

The top spot of this year's Fall Trap League was **Larry York**, who hit 383 out of 400 total targets for a score of 95.8%. Our Runner Up was **Jeff Bailey**, a VERY close second, with 95.5% (382/400). Larry and Jeff were neck-in-neck for the top spot throughout this fall league with Larry taking top spot by 1 target. Jeff hit the only 50/50 during the weekly league scoring. Our Third Place winner was **Leslie York** with a score of 92.3% (369/400). There was only one Lewis Class as there were not enough competitors this fall to warrant a second class. Congratulations to all the winners! This year had again less-than-normal turnout with a total of only 5 participating. We would love to see many more people participate in these fun leagues, because then there are more "Lewis Class" groups and therefore more winners. We will start up the **Winter Shotgun Leagues** in **January**'

Important Michigan Legislative News: Gun-Free Zones

Michigan Senate Bill 858 along with a few other related Senate and House bills is modifying some gun-free zones. Currently under the Michigan Penal Code, laws are in place that prohibit Michigan (and other state) residents from possessing a firearm on the premises of any of the following (*with some exemptions for CPL holders*):

- A depository financial institution or a subsidiary or affiliate of such an institution.
- A church or other house of religious worship.
- A court.
- A theatre.
- A sports arena.
- A day care center.
- A hospital.
- **An establishment licensed under the Michigan Liquor Control Code.**

A violation is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days' imprisonment or a maximum fine of \$100, or both.

Proposed changes to the existing law originally included the following:

- 1.** Under the new "revised" bills, the provisions above would now also include the premises of the **Michigan State Capitol Building, the Anderson House Office Building, or the Binsfeld Senate Office Building**. The bill would exempt from its provisions an acting member of the Michigan House of Representatives or the Michigan Senate who has a CPL, **but not other CPL's**.
- 2.** Additionally, the existing "law" exempts licensed CPL holders to carry a concealed weapon from some of the provisions described above. Most notably the liquor license to sell in places that didn't include consuming the beverages on premises (i.e. grocery stores, gas stations) **THE PROPOSED BILL WOULD HAVE DELETED THIS EXEMPTION!**

The new Senate Bill SB 858 originally proposed **expansion of gun free zones even for those who are licensed to carry concealed**. The largest change would have banned carry in "any location" with a liquor license, which includes any business that not only serves liquor but offers it for sale. This sweeping expansion would have prohibited carrying in many commonly frequented business establishments including gas stations, pharmacies, hotels, restaurants, grocery stores, big box retailers, and many other locations throughout the state. This expansion was not rooted in public safety, but in further eroding the rights of law-abiding Michiganders. Thankfully this section has been clarified and restored the exemption for CPL holders, **this time!**

Elections have consequences. This is a reminder that we must all stay vigilant and keep on top of proposed changes to the firearm laws of Michigan, as well as at the Federal level, to preserve our Second Amendment rights!

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: Oct BOD Meeting 2024

Checking Account \$ 22,226.09 CC Trans Acct \$ 423.80
 Pre-paid Dues CD \$ 1,767.38 Emergency CD \$ 60,571.61
 Storm CD Rec'd \$128,720.21 Excess CD \$ 20,499.97

Membership Status: As of last Board Meeting

Total paid member households **900**

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 - Oct (11)

Mack Baird	Burr Oak, MI
Christopher Boland	Mendon, MI
Megan Cornish	Three Rivers, MI
Marcus Finnerman	Sturgis, MI
Christopher Greer	White Pigeon, MI
Chad Lindsey	Three Rivers, MI
Chris Vaughn	Three Rivers, MI
Michael Lynn Vernier	Coldwater, MI
Michael Waldrop	Three Rivers, MI
Jamie Yates	Granger, IN
David Zinkie	La Grange, IN

THE BACK PAGE... RANGE & CLUB NOTES

- ◆ **If you have any suggestions for possible changes to the Club bylaws, please submit them in writing to trapgeek2010@gmail.com before the December membership meeting. Alternatively, you may bring them, typed or hand written, to the December membership meeting, or turn them into another board member.**
- ◆ **The Board is looking into possibly installing camera systems for the Lower Rifle and Pistol ranges to help prevent range damage and for safety/security purposes.**
- ◆ **Free Basic Firearm Safety:** Jeff Brazo is offering training to new gun owners. Contact Jeff at 269-689-0200 to schedule a free firearm safety class.

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 & Fair Sign-up	Jim Perlberg (313)	310-4897
NRA Recruiter	Leslie York	483-6803
MUCC Region 7	Allen Kasdorf	651-7086
Finance Chair	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

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
PRS22, NRL22 Rifle Leagues	Gary Kondek (574)	274-3694
Lower Range	Andy Rockwell (260)	668-9317
Youth SCTP Shotgun	Leslie York	483-6803
Youth SASP Pistol Rifle	Mike Ortman	pending
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)	kmcrandall1952@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)	mphilley60@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
Leslie York (Rec. Sec, ATA, Calen/Web)	trapgeek2010@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor (Leslie York)	conservationclubeditor@gmail.com

**St. Joseph Co. Conservation
& Sportsman Club, Inc.**
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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.