

January 21, Gun a Month Banquet 5:30 PM

We have some Dinner only tickets left for the Gun A Month Banquet if you would like one call Morrie at 678-4523

February 7, General Meeting 7:00 P.M.

February 15, Archery comity planning meeting 6:30 PM. (See Below.)

February 18 euchre party at 5:00 PM. (See Below.)

February 21-22 Gun & Knife show at Delta Plex.

March 7, General Meeting 7:00 P.M.

March 14, Meeting for club Membership Improvement & Pizza Party 6:30PM. (See Below.)

April 4, General Meeting 7:00 P.M.

April 9, ATA Shoot. Starts at 10:00 AM.

May 2, General Meeting 7:00 P.M.

**Welcome all new members:**

NEW TOTAL. Jason Campbell, Rich Hastuden, Ryan Swartz, Frank Kruger Randy Jamison, Dennis Byrne Jr., Jerry Chouinard, Joel Bos, Chris Henry, and Robert Rennells. (265). Some of you have not picked up their Membership Packets. They are at the Clubhouse. Come by on a Sunday at noon for orientation and pick them up. We still have few members who haven't renewed there 2006 memberships that were due January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Officers and board members:** Elections for officers and board: Pres. Morrie Seites, vice Pres. Mike Bennett, Treasurer. Linda Kruger, Secretary. J. Rybski.

One year Board members are Jim Brown, Dave Schmidt, Gordon Ryan, Bill Castle, and Dan O'Brian.

Two year board members are Loren Ambrose Sue Blackall, Dave Rusch, Dale Graybill, and Marilyn Knight.

Alternate will be John Sullivan. Welcome to all new board members.

We need your help running your club. If you can take the time and come out to help, it would be very much appreciated. As of December we had 377 members. Out of that 377 only 41 are full members. But only about 30 come to any given meeting. We need your help and your ideas if you want to keep this club running as good as it has in the past. Come to a meeting, become a full member, get evolved.

Everyone is invited to a think session, to "Stimulate Membership involvement" and pizza party on March 14<sup>th</sup>. At 6:30. Call Dave Rusch to RSVP. 887-9009.

We are having another euchre party at 5:00 pm on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited. The one that we had in December with 14 players and it was a lot of fun. BYOB and a dish to pass. Contact Jill at [jillybeandog@prodigy.net](mailto:jillybeandog@prodigy.net) or 887-2006.

We are looking for a couple of full member's kids, Grandkids between the ages of 12 to 14 to send to MUCC's Camp for Kids. These are one-week camps. All you need to do is get them there and back. Please stop by or e-mail me at [jrybski@hotmail.com](mailto:jrybski@hotmail.com). Deadline is end of May.

We will be having a food drive for Sportsmen against Hunger again In mid March. We will need volunteers at the Sport and R.V. show. You can get in if you brought a bag of groceries to donate. We have had a good response by the public. Last year we collected 14,190 Lbs. of food for hunters for hunger. Hanson Balk donates the use of their truck to put all of the food into. We will have a sign up sheet at the club after the February meeting.

SHFC supports our community and the Sparta Chamber of Commerce by giving children the opportunity to shoot bows and arrows at the Sparta fire barn during the annual week long event Santa Days, held the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in December. Dozens of kids came through. A great time was had by all. Thank you to all the volunteers who showed up to help. THANK YOU! By Jill Curry.

The Humane Society of the United States has merged with the Fund for Animals, the radical anti-hunting organization. The newly formed Humane Society of the United States - Fund for Animals listed the elimination of dove hunting in Michigan as its top priority. They also listed banning bow hunting as a priority. Not to be confused with your local dog and cat shelter, the HSUS, located in Washington, DC has nearly \$100 million in annual revenue at disposal to take your hunting rights away. It doesn't operate a single animal shelter and lobbies aggressively to end hunting in America. If you would like to help contact Jim Shaeffer Citizens for Wildlife Conservation PO Box 652 Saline, MI 48176-0652 Phone: 800-298-9987 or 734-741-9987 Fax: 734-741-9528 E-Mail: [jcs@jcsinc.com](mailto:jcs@jcsinc.com). It deals with the upcoming anti-hunting ballot referendum that we'll be facing on Election Day, November 7th, 2006.

We are looking for a Tractor or hi-low with forks & turf tires. We need something that we can move pallets of clay pigeons around, if you have an idea of were to get something like this call Tom Knight 866-2536 or the club house and leave a message.

Soda Pop is going up to .75 cents a can. The rise in price will help out with the Scholastic Shooting Program. The kids will also be taking the pull tabs off to benefit charity.

We no longer receive a discount at Gander Mountain; they said that they have done away with all discounts. But as a club member we still get a discount of 10% off Classic Tire and Auto in Sparta. Call is 887-0350, and a 5 % discount at Gordon Foods.

We are looking for a podium or stand to use for teaching classes at the club.

We are also looking for a couple of volunteers to help teach our hunters safety classes. We have two a year, one around April and one in the fall. If you are interested call J. Rybski at 678-4397 or e-mail at [jrybski@hotmail.com](mailto:jrybski@hotmail.com).

Tom and I would like to thank Kim Meuser of Eaglewood Kennels for an enjoyable and fun day of pheasant hunting. My first. It was fun watching Chase & Taz flush birds for us. We look forward to going on another hunt. Tom & Marilyn Knight.

There will no giving a non-member the combination to the gate. When you come to the gate you have to get out and open the gate your self. No giving a non member the combination to open the gate. A member can give his or her other half the combination. And remember to **Lock and spin the gate lock** when you come and go.

There will be NO DRINKING alcohol on any of the ranges. If you have a problem with someone who is, back off and call 911.

Is there any body who wants to shoot muzzle loaders? I am looking for ideas for having a muzzle loader shoot. Call J. Rybski at 678-4397 or e-mail me at [jrybski@hotmail.com](mailto:jrybski@hotmail.com).

### **Shooting News**

The ATA Trap shoot dates at our club for 2006 are April 9<sup>th</sup>. June 18<sup>th</sup>. August 6<sup>th</sup>. & October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Trap, 5 Stand tower, and Sporting clays league have started. They will continue until March 26<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested come by the club some Sunday or Thursday and get signed up.

Watch for a Youth Trap Sports Camp later this spring. Questions? Interested in a class? Contact me at: Barry Anderson / NRA Training Counselor / Instructor PO Box 141362, Grand Rapids, MI 49514 or [Barry45ACP@aol.com](mailto:Barry45ACP@aol.com)

**Handgun Silhouette:** We are looking at shooting the hunters silhouette course Saturday's. This is small and large bore pistol. Ranges are 25, 50, 75, and 100 meters. Come on out and give it a try. If interested Contact either Bob Thomas 678-4173 ([bobber01@wmis.net](mailto:bobber01@wmis.net)) or Allen Gillette 696-5391 ([parents19@juno.com](mailto:parents19@juno.com).)

Reminder, we are open for trap to the general public Sundays between 10am & 4pm and Thursdays 2pm to 10pm. If we get enough interest Sporting Clays and five stands are open Sundays 12pm to 4pm.

### **Scholastic Shooting**

If you know a youth that is interested in shooting please let them know about our scholastic program. Our schedule is posted on the bulletin board in the clubhouse or you can call Linda Kruger at 231-834-7504. All shooting levels welcome! Scholastic Shooting Program: Linda Kruger 231-834-7504. (backwoods@pngusa.net)

### **Archery News**

We will be having a 2006 archery planning meeting. February 15, at 6:30 PM we will discuss all of the events for this up coming year.

The Habitat for humanity bow shoot, that we held last summer, made just under \$6000 according to Jeff DeJager. This will become an annual event.

### **MUCC News**

It is important to contact congressmen to agree to tighter regulation and enforcement to stop chronic wasting disease. The recent audit of the deer farms showed that over one third weren't following the laws. Only a few of the 400 escaped deer were reported. Ninety percent of the captive deer that died were not tested to find out why they died.

An invasive fish, the Asian Carp, is swimming up the Chicago Sanitary Shipping Canal. It could destroy the food web in the Great Lakes. An electric barrier that cost \$9 million has been put up to stop it. It has a \$25,000 electric bill. A bill to pay for it sits on President Bush's desk. However, the EPA Administrator, Stephen Johnson, sent him a report saying that no new dollars should be spent. Please sign a letter to encourage him to authorize the funding at: [emonough@mucc.org](mailto:emonough@mucc.org) (to Erin McDonough. You can see the letter at: [www.mucc.org/WaterQuality.htm](http://www.mucc.org/WaterQuality.htm)).

There is a draft of new deer population goals for each of the 98 Deer Management Units in the state. They will be used to guide deer management through 2010. They are posted at the DNR website at [www.Michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.Michigan.gov/dnr) or the 2005 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide. They will take public comments on them until January 20, 2006.

Removing water from the Great Lakes should be decided at the state level through a commission that includes the Great Lakes governors and two Canadian provinces, rather than at the national level. Ground water cools trout streams. Removing too much can warm up the streams and we will lose the trout. Currently we draw 1.2 billion gallons each day, but we still have 12,000 miles of trout streams. If we keep water bottles and products that use our ground water in Michigan, the water will be reintroduced into the water cycle that refills our groundwater.

Five tribes are suing the state for hunting and fishing rights within the treaty of 1836. The trial will be in January. They could hunt in the summer, net or spear steelhead and walleye, and take timber from any land that is not currently settled. This would include 65% of private or public property from the Grand River north (not all of the east side) through the eastern half of the U.P.

### **CCW RENEWAL / TRAINING**

Since Michigan's CCW law went into effect July 1, 2001, thousands of Michigan residents took advantage, and obtained a license. Now, over three years later, license renewal is a concern. It's important that you start the application process six months before yours expires. For renewals you will be required to sign a statement that says: *"I certify that I have completed at least 3 hours of review of the required training and have had at least 1 hour of firing range time in the last 6 months preceding this application."*

Many of the laws changed (July 1, 2003). Michigan DOES NOT require that you attend a renewal class; however, I have had numerous people attending my renewal classes since July. This certificate class adds credibility to your application. The Kent County Gun Board has reviewed my class and although they cannot require the class, they will acknowledge my training certificate. The updated laws are discussed (2 hours), review of the training material, and the required range time

are all covered. Passport photos are also available within the class! Questions? Interested in a class? Contact me at: Barry Anderson / NRA Training Counselor / Instructor  
PO Box 141362, Grand Rapids, MI 49514 or [Barry45ACP@aol.com](mailto:Barry45ACP@aol.com)

If you have any thing that you would like to see or put in the newsletter E-Mail me at ([rybski@hotmail.com](mailto:rybski@hotmail.com).) I need things to put in these Newsletters. **Help Me.**

And remember to **Lock and spin the gate lock** when you come and go.

We are trying to get an E-Mail list of all club members together, so we can notify them about special events. We would also like to know if you would like your newsletter E-Mailed instead of a hard copy. It would save on postage also. Mail your address to ([jrybski@hotmail.com](mailto:jrybski@hotmail.com).)

We need your help running your club. If you can take the time and come out to help, it would be very much appreciated. As of December, We had 377 members. But only about 30 come to any given meeting. For all the members who have been helping out and coming to the meetings **thank you.**

Please tell your friends about the web sight. ([www.spartahuntingandfishingclub.com](http://www.spartahuntingandfishingclub.com).) We will be adding the newsletters. Announcements and other things as time go on.

**Remember Shooting Hours are between 10:00 A.M. and 10:00 P.M or Dusk. Which ever comes first?** We do shoot trap under the lights Thursday nights

We just want to remind people who practice drawing from a holster to be careful. For safety's sake, we as a club cannot condone this practice. So be careful. Also **Do Not Put Live Ammo in the Trash Can's.**

#### Committee Heads

Club House:	887-8982 <a href="http://www.spartahuntingandfishingclub.com">www.spartahuntingandfishingclub.com</a>
Sporting Clays: Jim Brown	696-8405
Trap: Loren Ambrose	667-3606 ( <a href="mailto:longjohn49435@yahoo.com">longjohn49435@yahoo.com</a> )
Archery: Sue Blackall	887-8771 ( <a href="mailto:archery110@aol.com">archery110@aol.com</a> )
MUCC Rep. Sue Blackall	887-8771 ( <a href="mailto:archery110@aol.com">archery110@aol.com</a> )
Hunters against Hunger Director Jeff DeRegnaucourt	866-4721 ( <a href="mailto:jeffde@ameritech.net">jeffde@ameritech.net</a> )
Silhouette-Handgun: Bob Thomas	678-4173 ( <a href="mailto:bobber01@wmis.net">bobber01@wmis.net</a> )
General Maintenance: Tom Knight	866-2536
Newsletter: J Rybski	678-4397 ( <a href="mailto:jrybski@hotmail.com">jrybski@hotmail.com</a> )
Hunters Safety	678-4397 ( <a href="mailto:jrybski@hotmail.com">jrybski@hotmail.com</a> )
Road Cleanup: Sue Blackall	887-8771
CCW & NRA Instructor Barry Anderson	791-9378 ( <a href="mailto:barry45acp@aol.com">barry45acp@aol.com</a> )
Scholastic Shooting Program: Linda Kruger	231-834-7504. ( <a href="mailto:backwoods@pngusa.net">backwoods@pngusa.net</a> )