



Sparta Hunting and Fishing Club

P.O. BOX 264 SPARTA, MICH. 49345

Dates To Remember

Please Mark These Dates on Your Calendar

NEWS LETTER

March 2004

March 18, Sport & RV Show (We Need Help) See Below.

April 6, General Meeting At 7:00 pm. Gun a Month Drawing. 7:30

April 15, Hunters Safety Sign-up. 6 pm to 9 pm

April 17, Hunters Safety Sign-up 9 am to 12 pm.

April 18. First ATA Shoot. 10 am start time.

April 19, 21, 23, Hunters Safety Class 7 pm to 9:30 pm. And the 24th. From 9am to 1pm.

April 24, Archery Breakfast and course set-up. Starts at 8:00 am.

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Welcome new members: Fred Sands, Timothy Knudsen, Ron Churchard Sr, Terry Strain, Robert Karnicki Thomas White, Rick Averil Daniel Rector, Chad Anderson, Mike Ball, William Smith, Norman M. McIntosh George R. Bush Jr. Claude Kiel, Dan Grabill, Darrell Grabill, Alan Taylor, Bill Sanders, Scott Postal, Thom Rosely, James Harmon, Lane Sage, Gary DiPiazza, Larry Frank, Norbert Denhof, Roy Karasiewicz, Jason Katenin, Michael Brooks, & Dan Van Sweden

NEW TOTAL 171. Some of you have not picked up their Membership Packets. They are at the Clubhouse. Come by on a Sunday and pick them up.

We will be In front of the new DeVos Center at the **Sport & RV show** March 18th. Between 10am and 8pm. On that day people who donate canned goods get into the show for free. We will be taking that food for Sportsmen Against Hunger drive, and putting it in a truck donated by Hanson Bulk Heat Treating. If you could help, please stop by.

We will be holding a **Hunters Safety Class** April 19, 21, 23, & 24. Sign up will be on April 15th. From 6 to 9 pm, and the 18 th. From 11 to 1.

MUCC Camp for Kids. Attention full members!! We are looking for two full member's kids or grand kids between the ages 12 and 15 to go to camp this July. The club pays for a week of camp. **MUCC's Camp for Kids** is run at the beautiful Cedar Lake Outdoor Center. Every summer youngsters learn about fishing, riflery, archery, ecology, and other fun outdoor topics and activities. Counselors carefully chosen from Michigan colleges and universities supervise campers closely. The club will randomly pick from names turned in. It will be your responsibility to get them there.

We are having a **Gun of the month raffle**. This will run January thru December 2004. Only 300 tickets will be sold. The drawing will be at SHFC the first Tuesday of each month at the meeting. 190 tickets have been sold at this time. Tickets are \$100.00. January's winner was Ron Stout. February's winner was Dave Olson, and the winner for March was Scott Lovell.

We will be having a catered **Pig Roast** June 26th. At 5:00. This will be free to all full SHFC members and there families. \$10.00 a plate for associates members and their families. Associate members have time to get their meetings and time in before the event. We need your RSVP with payment by June 1st. send to PO box 264 Sparta, Mi. 49345 with how many will be coming. Or come to one of the meetings (1st. Tuesday of the month)

Mike Bennett has the Spring Turkey Shoot Tickets. You can pick them up at the clubhouse.

Enclosed is your 10 % discount card for Gander Mountain. If you didn't know it as a club member we get a discount at Gander Mountain, 10% off Classic Tire and Auto in Sparta. Call is 887-0350, and 5 % at Gordon Foods.

Shooting News

The scholastic team currently has 12 members. We will be going to the Spring Team Shoot, on May 2, in Mason to compete and to help prepare for the State Team Shoot in July. Thank You to SHFC for voting to cover the entry fees for the scholastic shooters at the Spring Team Shoot. The scholastic team is still looking for shooters. We are in need of 3 high school shooters. Please remember you don't have to be an experienced shooter - we have all experience levels. Our next practice is on March 11 at 6:00 and March 14 at noon. If you would like to come and see what scholastic is about we'd love to have you join us.

The scholastic youth will be helping with the road clean up organized by Sue Blackall and the spring/fall clean up. We will also have a booth at the Spring Turkey Shoot, with the proceeds going to the SHFC to help cover the cost of targets donated to the scholastic shooters. We would like to thank SHFC for the support you have shown the youth in the scholastic program. Anyone wanting information on the Scholastic Shooting Program can call Linda Kruger at 231-834-7504.

Here are the Sparta American Trap Association dates for 2004. April 18th, July 25th, September 26th, and October 17th.

Remember we have open trap for the general public Sundays between 10am & 4pm and Thursdays 2pm to 10pm. Sporting Clays and five stands are open Sundays 12pm to 4pm.

Michigan United Conservation Club Update

The deer harvest was down 7% from last year. Of the 277,000 deer during firearm season, half were from southern Lower Peninsula. Of the 17,235 tested for TB, 28 were positive. All were in the northwestern counties. Of the 5,500 tested for CWD, none were positive.

Six bear dogs were taken by wolves in the U.P. Warning signs about hunting near wolf packs with pups were posted, but not heeded. 329 wolves are in the U.P.

Call Sue Blackall (887-8771) if you would like to join MUCC and receive the Michigan Out of Doors Magazine. Fifteen dollars isn't asking for much to protect Michigan habitats and shooting sports!

On February 17 the Senate committee vote was 3 vs. 3 for the Dove Bill.

Trash from Canada increased 43% in 2003. As trucks are being inspected 3 or 4 are being turned back for: having radioactive materials, containing yard wastes which could spread diseases to our trees, and some illegal drugs. Debbie Stabenow wants to ban municipal waste that is being brought here until restrictions are developed.

Townships on the east side of the state are asking DNR to restrict hunting in the once-rural areas whose populations have grown significantly since the 1990s. Complaints mention errant gunshots damaging cars and one home. About 3 percent of land in southern Michigan is available for hunting and supports the \$1.2 billion industry

Archery News

We would like to see more members join the 3-D archery league this year. Come on out on a Wednesday evening and shoot a round. You will find this is *not* cutthroat scoring and we really have a great time together. Bring the wife and kids out and have a good time.

We are open to the public on Wednesdays; start off between 5:30 and 6:30 pm. SHFC members only can shoot any time with the honor system. Put your fee in the box and take a scorecard. After shooting 12 times your low score drops off for each round.

Member - \$6, Member Family - \$8, Youth - \$3, Nonmember - \$8, Nonmember Family - \$12, Reduce \$1 for belonging to MBH.

Here is the archery schedule for this year.

April 24 – Breakfast at 8:00, set up the course at 9:00

May 8 – Youth Appreciation Day, 10:30 a.m.

May 12 – Marie DeRegnacourt Olympic Money Shoot.

May 12 – Open 3-D league begins.

May 29 – Michigan Archery Shooters Organization Shoot. Shotgun starts at 10:00am.

June 20 – American Shooters Association Qualifier. Shotgun starts 9:00 and 1:30.

September 11 – Iron man shoot with 8:00, 12:00, and 4:00 shotgun starts. Two other courses are to be determined.

September 22 – End of archery league. Awards and shoot.

Please stop in to these businesses that donated targets for our 3-D range:

Anderson Insurance, Sparta; Brew Taxidermy, Sparta; Hula Excavating, Belmont; North Kent Well and Pump, Cedar Springs, Process Engineering Equipment, Comstock Park; Silver Lake Country Club, Rockford; Sparta Sport Shop, Sparta; and Mike Lozon and Bruce Springer families. Thank you donors for supporting Sparta Hunting and Fishing Club and outdoors sports! If you would like to donate for this year please call Sue Blackall 887-8771 (archery110@aol.com) or Tom Hula 866-2300 (tihula@wmis.net)

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. And remember to **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.

If you have anything you want to put in this bi-monthly newsletter, give it in writing to one of the board members or E-Mail me at jrybski@hotmail.com before the 15th.of every other month.

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 March 2nd. We had 309 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.**

Committee Heads

Club House:	887-8982
Sporting Clays: Morrie Seites	678-4523 (mdseites@triton.net)
Trap: Dave Chittenden	834-5624
Archery: Sue Blackall	887-8771 (archery110@aol.com)
Tom Hula	866-2300 (tihula@wmis.net)

Step Outside Director) (Advertisement)

Jeff DeRegnacourt	866-4721 (jeffde@ameritech.net)
Silhouette-Handgun: Bob Thomas	678-4173 (bobber01@wmis.net)
General Maintenance: Tom Knight	866-2536
Newsletter: J Rybski	678-4397 (jrybski@hotmail.com)
Road Cleanup: Sue Blackall	887-8771
CCW & NRA Instructor Barry Anderson	791-9378 (barry45acp@aol.com)
Scholastic Shooting Program Linda Kruger	231-834-7504.

***Please make sure you lock the gate when you come in and leave.
Thank You.***

Committee Chairpersons Needed: Interested in taking a more active role in the club? Here's your opportunity. We need club members (spouses included) to assume Chairperson and committee members responsibility for various on-going projects. If you are interested in any of the following positions, please contact Morrie Seites (678-4523) or come to the next club meeting: *1) Club Grounds 2) Building Maintenance 3) Range Maintenance*

Attention Associate Members: because of the interest by many associate members to get in work hours, a **WORK PROJECT LIST** has been posted at the club indicating numerous work projects you can be involved in. Your involvement and efforts to become a full member are appreciated. Be an active member – get involved!

State Government e-mail and phone numbers.

U.S. Senator D- Carl Levin - E-mail senator@levin.senate.gov Phone (616) 456-2531

U.S. Senator D- Debbie Stabenow - E-mail senator@stabenow.senate.gov Phone (616) 975-0052

U.S. Representative R- 2nd Dist. Peter Hoekstra - E-mail TellHoek@mail.house.gov. Phone (616) 395-0030

U.S. Representative R- 3rd Dist. Vernon Ehlers - E-mail www.house.gov/writerep Phone (616) 451-8383

State Senator R-28th.Dist. Ken Sikkema - E-mail SenKSikkema@senate.michigan.gov. Phone (800) 774-1174

State Senator R-29th. Dist. Bill Hardiman - E-mail SenBHardiman@senate.michigan.gov. Phone (866) 305-2129

State Senator R-30th. Dist. Wayne Kuipers - E-mail SenWKuipers@senate.michigan.gov. Phone (877) KUIPERS

State House R-73rd. Dist. Doug Hart - E-mail dist073@house.mi.gov. Phone (888) 414-doug

State House R-86th. Dist. James I. Koetjete - E-mail jkoetjete@house.mi.gov. Phone (877) 4-KOETJE

State House R-75th. Dist. Jerry Kooiman - E-mail jerrykooiman@house.mi.gov. Phone (800) 875-2154