



Berrien County Sportsman's Club, Inc. Newsletter

www.bcsportsmansclub.com

Volume 13

Issue 9

October – Mid Nov. 2008

President's Column

Hello all.

Well it is finally here...the fall hunting season. By the time you read this, many bow hunters will have had a few days in the woods, and I hope they are successful. Of course many of us gauge success on the beauty of the woods around us! BCSC has been busy with activity the last month, and are preparing for an exciting Fall. Remember, elections, and activities such as hunter sight in days are right around the corner...so look for announcements regarding these items. We have had a wonderful increase in shooting on the shotgun ranges, so if you have been thinking of coming out and shooting a round of skeet or trap, now is a great time. Also Fall bow leagues are starting, and we have a few more IDPA matches on the schedule, so it isn't too late.

MUCC has sent out a bulletin to all clubs regarding a new affiliation program they are CONSIDERING....it would cost all members \$5.00 to be a member of the MUCC in hope of making all clubs in Michigan 100% affiliated clubs. BCSC has a founding member of the MUCC and I feel like it is high time we become 100% affiliated again. If this program MUCC is discussing becomes a reality, I am hoping all of our members will see the benefit, and allow the board to increase our yearly dues to

reflect this worthy cause. We need a solid unified voice in Lansing.

We have many ideas and activities we would like to do, but need more people to come out and get active. If you have a chance, please come out to one of the membership meetings. They are on the third Wednesday of the month, and are potluck if you choose to eat. Dinner is at 7pm and meeting starts at 7:30pm. If you are a long time member and have never been to one, well it is time, and if you are a relatively new member it is essential you come out, and learn what our club has to offer...we are much more than a place to sight in your rifle once or twice a year.

That is it for now...hope to see you at the club,

*Dr. Chad A. Sharkey D.C.
President-BC*

It's **Membership Renewal** time again. Sheryl Hausmann, membership chairperson, would appreciate help in assembling the forms for mailing on either the first or second weekend of November. Please call her at 269-208-1506 if you can help for a few hours.

The work session will be held at the Clubhouse. This year there will be no parking stickers but of course you will get a new membership card. If you took the range safety orientation and got your pass card in 2008, you are all set. If you did not, you still need to take the safety class which is generally the first Monday of each month.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Matt & Robbee Center	Niles
Howard & Pam Kahne	St. Joseph
Dale & Christi Hodges	Berrien Springs

Membership total is currently 446.

Careful readers: Jim Hausmann again was the first reader to find the **spelling error** in the September issue. Tonja Walker also found it. Don't let Jim win all the chances for a free membership. This month I will accept the first caller who reads the newsletter online and the first one who reads the printed and mailed version.

Upcoming Election

Our campaign is off to a relatively slow start. So far, we have 3 interested parties running for office. I would like to thank Larry Janke and Karen Brumbelow for joining the nominating committee. We are still looking for nominees to run for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Board of Directors. If you are interested in running for one of these positions, contact Larry Janke, Karen Brumbelow, or myself. You can email me at kc8afw@yahoo.com or call me at 269-484-4881. Now is your chance to get involved and make a difference.

Kevin Pounders

IDPA

Not much to report for IDPA as our September match was rained out. We did, however, have 16 shooters show up on August 30th to shoot an IDPA classifier. Congratulations to those shooters for earning their classification.

Our next match is scheduled for Saturday, October 11th. Just a reminder, the rifle range will be closed at 7:00 p.m. the Friday before the match for setup. Sorry for the inconvenience. We will also be holding a November match on Saturday, November 8th, and will be held on the tactical and pistol ranges.

Upcoming IDPA Matches

10/5 Bend of the River CC - Buchanan, MI

10/11 Berrien County Sportsman's Club

10/12 Michigan City Rifle Club - Michigan City, IN

10/12 South Kent Sportsman's Club - Dorr, MI

10/19 North Porter County CC - Chesterton, IN

10/25 New Buffalo Rod & Gun - New Buffalo, MI

11/2 Bend of the River CC - Buchanan, MI

11/8 Berrien County Sportsman's Club

Kevin Pounders

ARCHERY

The outdoor 3-D archery season has ended and now our focus is on applying what we learned this summer on the whitetail herd in Michigan. Thanks to all of you who shot the outdoor course during the week in between the scheduled 3-D shoots that raised an additional \$260.00 for archery this year. Ironically, those who shot the outdoor course the most and consequently had their names in the door prize drawing the most seemed to win the door prizes this year too. Congradulations to Justin Arney, winner of the Ameristep Intimidator Blind; Cody Greenwood, winner of a free club membership; and Ken Kozminski, winner of the Thermocell Mosquito Repellant System.

Indoor Archery Leagues will begin on January 4th and 5th, 2009. With the closing of All Seasons Archery, these leagues will fill up quickly so if you did NOT shoot in last years' league and want to shoot this year, call Larry Janke at 429-0199 to sign up for 2009. Club members and last years' shooters will get first preference to be on the leagues. Leagues are 10 weeks long and cost club members \$25.00 and non-members \$80.00.

Youth Instructional Leagues will begin on Sunday, January 4th, 2009 and are again FREE. Youth may bring their own equipment or use the Clubs' equipment. Mark your calendars now.

*Larry Janke
Archery Chairman*

Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it. -Ronald Reagan (1986)

THANK YOU TO:

- **ARCELOR/MITTAL STEEL of Burns Harbor, IN** for the generous donation of \$1200.00 to the Club this summer as arranged by Paul Gipson. Arcelor/Mittal Steel has a foundation for charitable giving. We thank them very much. The Board may use the money as it sees fit but the Foundation is interested in helping the Boy Scouts program when they attend BCSC.
- **Manny and Susan Stoes** for preparing newsletters for mailing for both August and September. In August, **Sheryl and Jim Hausmann and Dick and Shirley Moeckel** also worked on the project.
- **Margo Howley** for offering to take on the project of getting the coming newsletters from printer to post office. It's a big job and the editor appreciates this help.
- **Brian Murray** for taking over the Jr. Rifle Program (see below).
- **Cindy Kuhn, Barb Orlich and Rosemary Prillwitz** for offering to be Santa's shoppers for this year's Christmas Party.

Junior Rifle Program

The Jr. Rifle Program returns this fall with the first shoot on Wednesday, October 22 from 7 - 9 p.m. Rifles, ammo, and targets will be supplied by the Club. Parents are required to sign a waiver. Cost is \$2/night. The first night will have a rifle safety class followed by practice shooting. Call Brian Murray at (269) 556-9906 for further information.

Dates Scheduled:

October 22, 29 – 7-9 p.m
November 5, 12 – 7-9 p.m.
December 3, 10 – 7 – 9 p.m.

IMPORTANT, IMPORTANT, IMPORTANT

The proposed by-laws which were mailed to everyone in August and are posted on the website will be voted upon at the October 15 meeting.

Geocaching

Autumn is, by far, my favorite time of year. The cool, brisk mornings (yet the sun is still warm)...the changing leaves...and the bugs have thinned out...it just doesn't get any better. And every year at this time, my thoughts turn to hiking, backpacking, and geocaching. What is geocaching you ask? Well...let me fill you in on one of the greatest outdoor activities around...

Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. The basic idea is to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, outdoors and then share your experiences online. Basically...you go online and search for geocaches in your area (or some other area you are travelling to)...plug the coordinates into your GPS...then go looking for them.

The terrain involved varies from a leisurely stroll in a city park to a grueling trek in the middle of nowhere. Your GPS will only get you close (within 30 feet or so), then you will have to search the area and look for things that are out of place (they won't be buried, but they might be camouflaged). Caches are usually things like ammo cans or Tupperware containers. Once you find a cache, then you sign the log...most of the time you will take a piece of "treasure" from the cache, and replace it with a trinket of your own...replace it exactly as found...then log your find online.

The thing I love most about geocaching is that it takes you to places that you would not normally go...or even knew existed. I have discovered nature preserves and hiking trails within a mile or so from my house. I have also discovered caves...the remains of a Frank Lloyd Wright house...and our very own Stone Henge. Geocaching has shown me the best of what nature in Southwest Michigan has to offer.

For more information, visit www.geocaching.com and click on the "getting started" link.

Kevin Pounders

Want to be an Instructor

Have you ever thought about becoming an NRA Certified Instructor or wondered what is involved in becoming an instructor. The BCSC is considering putting on a series of classes that would help interested members and non-members become NRA Certified Instructors. These classes are set up in a logical progression to give the instructor the "Knowledge, Skills and Attitude" necessary to train others in the Shooting Sports. Although some of the classes can be taken out of order or you could be given credit for previous training, some must be completed prior to the actual instructor class for a given discipline.

One of the classes needed is the Basic Instructors Training Course or the "BIT". This is a 6 hour class designed to teach the prospective instructor how to order training material, work with the training team to plan and prepare for a class, present the material in a positive and organized manner and the proper procedure for submitting course reports to the NRA for the student to gain credit. This class costs \$100.00.

Although not required by the NRA, it is strongly recommended that the instructor also be a Range Safety Officer which is a 9 hour course, costing \$25.00. The club is offering this class on Feb. 21, 2009.

A class that is required in this process is the basic course for the discipline the individual is interested in learning to teach such as the NRA Basic Pistol Shooting Course or the NRA Basic Shotgun Shooting Course. This class teaches the proper safe handling techniques of the firearm, gun parts and action types, shooting positions and safe cleaning and storage. This class could be taken prior to the "BIT" but a copy of the certificate of completion must be presented in order to attend the instructor's class. These classes last approximately 9 hours and cost \$50.00 each.

Next is the instructor class for the specific discipline of interest such as the NRA Pistol Instructor Training or the NRA Rifle Instructor Training. These classes teach the prospective instructor how to teach the concepts included in the Basic Shooting Courses. The classes last between 11 and 14 hours each depending on the firearm type. The cost of these classes is \$100.00 each.

Next, and absolutely the most important part is to put it all together. Go into a classroom full of 12 and 13 year old kids and teach them the basics of safe shotgun or rifle shooting. Or stand in front of a class full of men

and women who want to learn how to safely carry a pistol for personal protection or just how to improve their shooting skills. Watch their eyes as you present them with their Certificate of Completion. This is why we do it. Are you still interested?

For more information or to express interest in attending a class, contact Gary Brumbelow (olpoop01@comcast.net), Karen Brumbelow (rnkb55@comcast.net), and phone 269-465-6736 or call Marty Prillwitz at 269-463-3472.

Enjoy the shooting sports and pass them on.

Gary Brumbelow

Berrien County Sportsman's Club
Training Chair
Member of the Board of Directors

ANNUAL SIGHT-IN DAYS

Come out and sight-in your Rifle or Shotgun for Hunting season at BCSC Annual Sight-In Days Saturday, Nov. 1st and Sunday, Nov. 2nd from 9AM to 4PM. The fee is \$5 per gun. For more information call *Marty Prillwitz* at 269-463-3472

RSO Class

BCSC will be holding a Range Safety Officer Class on Saturday, February 21, 2009. You do not have to be a club member to attend. Class fee is \$25 for materials and there will be a cost to the NRA for your certification. You must also be a NRA member. If you are not a member of the NRA, you can apply for membership at this class for an additional cost. Anyone interested in obtaining their RSO certification should call Marty Prillwitz at 269-463-3472.

Campground Opening

The waiting list for a permanent campsite is down to one. To be put on the list, call Archie Foreman at cell: 219-242-0438 or home: 219-759-4033

Buck Fever – A hunter's illness which takes many forms, buck fever can cause even a seasoned, well-prepared hunter to forget even the simplest of things...like shooting a trophy buck right in front of him.

This and That

- The September meeting's raffles were won by Les Herrman and Larry Janke (\$100 gift certificates to Meijer and Walmart)
- The October meeting's raffle will be a "survival kit" for outdoor sport.
- **VETERAN DAY'S SPECIAL** - Attention, all veterans. Splash.N.Dash car wash will be giving free ultimate car washes to all veterans on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. We are located next to Dairy Queen in Stevensville. You have given us your best, so we are giving you our best.
- The Therapeutic Equestrian's had to cancel their event at our pavilion in September due to the rain that weekend.
- **The Boy Scouts** are coming to the club the weekend of October 17 – 19.
- Outdoor Pistol moves indoors in mid October. If you can't find them outside, check inside the clubhouse!
- December 6 is the Family Christmas Party. **RSVP by November 20th** in order to be included in the catered meal plans. See Special Invitation below.
- Volunteers needed for Christmas **decorating**. Someone to put up the tree soon after Thanksgiving and people to help decorate the clubhouse the evening of December 5. Call Shirley 468-3837.
- We will again participate in the **Toys for Tots project**. Chad and Shelly Sharkey will shop for those toys as well as what members care to donate. If you prefer to make a cash donation, the Sharkeys will do the shopping.
- The next newsletter will be the Election Edition.
- John Fata (see next column) was active member of BCSC before he moved. He was the newsletter editor prior to my taking the job.
- Welcome new sponsor: Red Rag Gunsmithing, Bruce Webber



This year's **Christmas Dinner/Party** will have a few changes---it will be catered by Classic Catering. This way all members can enjoy the meal and not be working hard in the kitchen. Cost is \$5.00/person and free for children three and under. The club will underwrite the balance of the meal cost.

YOU MUST R.S.V.P. by Nov. 20 for children's gifts and for your meal:
Gay Story at 429-3514 or cell: 269-921-4875 or to Tonja Walker at 269-449-4917
Be sure to leave in your message: how many are coming, names, ages of children under 12 and if boy or girl (some names don't leave that clear!)

As always, members are asked to bring food to share:

Last names A-K – bring hors d'oeuvres
Last names L-Z – bring a dessert

The entertainment this year will be singing by the Club's own Balos Family.

Greetings from John Fata:

We're now in Lovington, New Mexico - home of Brian Urlacher of the Chicago Bears. I'm currently working for Chevron in their Buckeye oil field. I found the Hobbs Trap Club & shoot there on Sunday afternoons. They have 4 or 5 trap houses in the desert. It's not the BC Sportsman's Club by a long shot. Oh well, I'll survive. We're on our way back to NM after driving to Grand Rapids for our grand daughter's christening. Sorry we did not have time to stop by. Hope all is going well. Hi to everyone!

Berrien County Sportsman's Club
P.O. Box 325
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Next membership meeting is October 15 potluck at 7:00 p.m.

OFFICERS AND BOARD

All area codes are 269 except Archie

President Chad Sharkey 429- 5439
Vice Pres Jim Walker 449 -5022
Secretary Scott Gane 429- 9269
Treasurer Gay Story 429- 3514
Director 3 yr. Gary Brumbelow 465-6736
Director 3 yr. Les Herrman 429-9963
Director 3 yr Delmar Lange 926-8221
Director 2 yr. Al Foster 465-3069
Director 2 yr. Bryan Dixon 422-1288
Director 2 yr. Sherrie Nitz 422-1739
Director 1 yr. Jim Howley 313-6450
Director 1 yr. Jack Teuteberg *428-2957
Director 1 yr. Oscar Hnanicek 428-9089
Caretaker Frank Halik 429-3792
Editor Shirley Moeckel 468-3837
Membership Sheryl Hausmann 208-1506
Camping Chair Archie Foreman (219)759-4033
CCW Registrar Jason Grimm 927-1793
Building/Grounds Dan Jennings 429-4656
IDPA / Nominations Kevin Pounders 484-4881
Deadline for next newsletter: Nov. 14
Email: sdmoeckel@comcast.net

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

October

6 – Range Safety Orientation
11 – IDPA 8 a.m. – noon
13 – Board Meeting/Exec.
15 – Membership Meeting /vote bylaws
17 – 19 Boy Scouts of SW Mich.
22 and 29 – Jr. Rifle 7:00 p.m.
22, 25 – CPL Class

November

1, 2 – Sight-In Days
8 – IDPA 8 a.m - noon
3 – Range Safety Orientation
5 and 12 – Jr. Rifle 7:00 p.m.
10 – Board/Exec. Meeting
19 – Membership meeting
20 – deadline to r.s.v.p. for Christmas party