

SPRINGS ROD & GUN CLUB NEWSLETTER - WINTER/SPRING 2009/10
DEDICATED TO YOUTH AND THE FUTURE OF OUTDOOR SPORTS

MAILING ADDRESS FOR THE CLUB IS: P.O. Box 115, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403

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Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month at 8 pm during DST and 7 pm. when on EST.

THE WEBSITE: The club website is www.springsrodandgunclub.org. Look for current information there!

BE SURE YOU SIGN UP FOR 2009/10* - \$20 INDIVIDUAL, \$25 FAMILY, \$80/100 five yr, \$200/250 life. You can sign up at Edinboro Outdoors, Finck Tire, Hendrickson's True Value and John's Barbershop or use the application on the web site and mail it to the secretary.

- **NOTICE: Membership year is now July 1 to June 30.**

THINK GREEN – RECYCLE! RECYCLE! RECYCLE! Leaves, wood and paper products compost well.

MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITY – Of the membership of about 145 less than ten regularly attend meetings and dare to commit to run events for the club. We are pleased that recently others have stepped up when asked and have helped out at the Gun Party, the Waterford Fair and the Fireman's Carnival. As club members we need everybody to pitch in when we have an event or conduct a major work project at the club. It is difficult and time consuming to find help. Since so few members attend club meetings, contact with the membership is limited. Please volunteer to help out without being asked. This isn't the senior prom! Just let any officer or active club member know that you are willing to help out. If you can't work consider donating a prize. Support the club by ATTENDING CLUB MEETINGS and events. You might find it to be fun.

ARCHERY PARTY – The archery party is scheduled for March 20, 2010. It will be held at the Venango VFW. Planning has started and a nice list of prizes will be awarded. **Tickets will be available at the January 13, 2010 club meeting.**

Please give the club a hand and sell some tickets.

2009 GUN PARTY – The gun party was held September 26, 2009. Ticket sales were a little disappointing. We only sold about 700 which did not cover expenses. In the past we have sold as many as 1400 tickets. The crowd at the VFW was also down a little, but saved the day. We ended up making about \$2000. The food served was the best yet, the pork and chicken were both excellent.

We need more folks to work on ticket sales. If we could develop a chain of command sort of thing where say a dozen folks would distribute say one hundred tickets in books of ten to ten other people we would be getting somewhere. Right now we leave it all to chance wondering how ticket sales are going with no one really responsible for keeping track of what is going on.

BUILDING & GROUNDS – Progress on the new building continues with concrete at the front and rear entrances and a pad at the side entrance. There is still inside work, but we are getting closer to wrapping up things up so we can concentrate on building up the treasury so we can start on Phase II, the indoor range portion of the project. The pistol range canopy project is, I guess, on a back burner for now. Marvin Morton did dig a big pile of mud out of the pond to use as fill next year. After the fill is in place poles can be set.

Another project is converting the old club house into an organized storage building. We have no overhead storage in the new building due to the type of construction, thus we need a place to keep a lot

of stuff we have accumulated such as canopies, target carriers and targets, lumber, 4H equipment, safes, cabinets and you name it.

None of these projects will get done without help. Volunteers will be treated with great respect!

FINANCES/FUND RAISING – Fund raising is down this year. Tickets do not sell themselves, it takes effort. We have intentionally tried to hold no more than two major events per year that involve ticket sales. The excuse “I’m tired of selling tickets” doesn’t wash in the long run. Ticket sales either make or break the club. We just can’t make expenses on dues income alone.

Surprisingly, we had the best series of turkey shoots this fall that we have had in years. I hope you attended!

We would like to find that activity that would bring in steady income – any ideas?

POTLUCK DINNERS – The potluck dinners have hit the skids. None have been held in 2009 due to time conflicts with the three couples that did attend. Pending greater interest, some kind of dinners might be scheduled. Watch the marquee out front or better yet, attend a club meeting to find out when.

SECURITY – We are increasing security at the club. The combination to the old club house will be changed and the key to the new club house will be removed from the old club house. We regret creating this inconvenience, but we seem to be missing a few things.

HIGH POWER RIFLE – Springs Rod & Gun Club hosts a High Power Rifle match each month through the spring, summer and fall. See the Club Calendar for exact dates. As a rule, we will have one relay at 8:30 am Sunday morning and a second relay at 1:30 pm Sunday afternoon. Matches last about 1 ½ to 2 hours at a cost of \$7 for adults and \$3 for juniors. You may shoot both relays for a discounted price. This past year we generally had about 8 to 12 shooters at a match and we collected about \$750 before expenses. We had pretty good attendance at several clinic/practices for new shooters, juniors and recruited some new shooters to balance the attrition of the old ones. The matches are shot with iron sights (no scopes) at 100 yards and consist of 50+ shots spread over the standing, seated and prone positions (no kneeling at least), with a couple of timed rapid fire segments. The club usually has discounted ammo available for the matches and loaner rifles if you want to try something new. We also have some shooting mats, spotting scopes and other equipment on hand. The Springs Rod & Gun Club is affiliated with the Civilian Marksmanship Program (see www.odcmp.com). Participating in just one of our High Power matches satisfies a shooters marksmanship requirement for purchasing U.S. Military surplus rifles and ammo. The rifles you can currently purchase include; M1 Carbines, M1 Garands, Springfield Rifles and .22 cal. Target Rifles. This year the High Power League started a new tradition with the Terry Williams ‘Bolt Gun Match’. As many of you know Terry was a long time High Power Shooter who left some money to the club when he died last year. In his memory we have established a fund to support Junior Shooters which is funded by from the ‘Bolt Rifle Match’. We had a pleasing turnout this year from many of the local clubs where Terry used to shoot. Bart Wineland, from the Greenville White oak Shooting Club won the inaugural match and will his name engraved on the plaque. Everyone had a good time and we look forward to continuing this tradition next year along with our regular High Power season. It is generally the High Power Shooters and supporters who clean the rifle range, repair and maintain the target stands.

VIPL Pistol league – The second year of the “Very Informal Pistol League” is on the books. This fun league has few rules and is intended to introduce more people to pistol shooting. You may shoot your targets anywhere, any time up to the 25th of the month. Score your own target or shoot more targets if you like. Turn in one score via email for center fire or/and rim fire to the team captain each month, April through August. Your scores and those of the rest of the league are posted on the club’s web site. The only organized event is the season finale at the Saegertown Club. The SR&GC has had a good turn out except for the season finale. Last year no SR&GC shooter shot at Saegertown, in 2008 we had only three participants. I guess our shooters are bashful and don’t want to meet new people or share ideas! Well, the purpose of the league is to get more folks shooting pistols and we are helping with that!

Our team captain is Mike Mioduszewski. His email is mike@crestintegrators.com. Targets are available through the club.

RIFLE/PISTOL RANGE – DON'T FORGET TO SIGN IN WHEN USING THE RIFLE RANGE!

A few requests to range users:

1. Make certain that your bullets end up in the dirt backstop!
2. Never handle rifles/pistols/shotguns when somebody is down range!
3. Keep your bolt open other than when firing!
4. When shooting at targets closer than 100yds try not to line up with and destroy target carriers down range. Use the pistol range for short range shooting.
5. If you bring it, take it with you. We don't have garbage pickup!
6. Clean up after yourself.

This spring we finally found out why we have leaks on the lower edge of the range canopy. The shingles weren't put on correctly. The tab cutouts were aligned leaving only the felt under the cutouts over the OSB. Consequently as the felt deteriorated water was coming through and rotting the lower edge of the roof proper. The problem goes back to the building contractor who put the shingles on and did a lousy job. We use large clamps to hold our high power targets on the carriers with the targets glued on cardboard backers. It saves a lot of staples and makes the targets easier and safer (less cuts and punctures from the staples) to handle. May we suggest you try the same? Bring a roll of masking tape and a roll of electrical tape and you can paste up your targets so you can use the same one over and over.

A WORD ON GUN CONTROL – I just read an article on a California Junior High Power Rifle Team that won a big event at Camp Perry this past summer. It seems they can't practice with the standard magazines that the rest of the states allow, California has banned certain magazines and how they are attached to the firearm. The team overcame that obstacle however there is a lesson here for all. **GUN OWNERSHIP IS UNDER ATTACK!** The attack is from all sides from outright bans on firearms to the regulation of ammunition, magazines and even certain features on firearms themselves. Don't think that the recent Supreme Court decision declaring DC handgun ban as unconstitutional has changed things much. There are many, many other restrictions still being imposed by state and local governments. An example is the City of Erie Council ban on handguns just imposed last summer – after the Supreme Court decision. Watch out for those "REASONABLE" gun control laws. Remember, even though a law may seem not to affect the guns you use, they will get around to yours eventually.

SPORTING CLAYS - The sporting clays shoots will not be held again until the second Sunday in March of 2010 (weather permitting). Some days we had a lot of shooters, and some days only a few, but we always had a great time this year. Almost every day for the clays shoot was very good weather. However, with winter coming on, the possibility of deep snow and bitter cold has made me decide to wait for the promise of better weather in the spring. Please watch the newspaper in early March for a notice of the date for the next shoot.

Joe Shrader

NEWSLETTER CIRCULATION - Scheduled to be mailed to current members twice a year. Editorials are solely the opinions of the writers. Anyone is welcome to write an editorial or provide news relating to outdoors activities. Submit your news item or editorial, in writing please, to the club secretary.

Dead-Eye 4-H Shooting Club – the air-gun and archery programs will be starting in January, either the first or second week. The air-gun project will be run at the Springs Rod & Gun Club building on Route 99 north of town, If things work out the archery project will run at the Stryker Unit Complex on Center Street. Dave Birchard, 398-2262 is scheduling both projects and is waiting for final approval on using the Stryker Unit facility.

PRESIDENT’S LETTER

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR! WE MADE IT THROUGH ANOTHER YEAR. THE CLUB HAD TO STRIVE A LITTLE HARDER THIS YEAR WITH THE ECOMONY THE WAY IT IS BUT WAS ABLE TO COME OUT ON TOP. EVERY LITTLE FUND RAISER HELPED FROM THE ARCHERY PARTY TO THE GUN RAFFLE, THE FAIRS AND CARNIVALS AND WE EVEN DID PRETTY WELL AT THE TURKEY SHOOT. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED OUT THE CLUB THIS YEAR, MEMBERS AND NONMEMBERS ALIKE, WE CERTAINLY COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU. FOR ALL THE PEOPLE WHO BOUGHT THE TICKETS OR SHOT THE AIR RIFLE OR WON A TURKEY, THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR CLUB! I HOPE TO SEE MORE MEMBERS AT OUR CLUB ACTIVITIES IN 2010. ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD, SHOOT STRAIGHT, AND **REMEMBER YOU STILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS!** LET’S WORK ON KEEPING IT THAT WAY!

UNTIL LATER,
JIM JONES

FISHING REPORT – the report is that fishing has not been good for lake run trout. French Creek must be giving up some fish, at least there seem to be fishermen at the mouth of Conneauttee pretty much every day the water is open.

The good news is that the water will harden up soon and we can start fishing the inland lakes. Good luck!

FISHING DERBY – It looks like there will be a children’s fishing derby in 2010, a volunteer has offered to chair the event. The where, when remains to be decided – a reason to attend meetings? Volunteers will be needed to pull this off.

The word is: **Sign up a new member for next year!**

BORROWING CLUB PROPERTY– BUILDING RENTALS Call Dave Wise at 398-4554. Everything is to be signed out and signed in. Please put things back where you found them, not in the way of others using the area. Building rentals must be approved at club meetings. That means you must plan ahead if you are interested in a rental.

A RARE BIRD SITING – A Ruffed Grouse was seen in Venango Township in November! The first seen by this author in nearly ten years.

Did anyone else see the Sandhill Cranes across from the club this summer?

SPRINGS ROD & GUN CLUB 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Jan 10	Sporting Clays	Aug 08	Sporting Clays
Jan 13	Meeting	Aug 11	Meeting
		Aug 20	Gun Party

		Aug 29	High Power Match
Feb 14	Sporting Clays		
Feb 10	Meeting		
Feb 21	High Power Match		
		Sept 6-11	Waterford Fair
Mar 14	Sporting Clays	Sept 15	Meeting
Mar 10	Meeting	Sept 12	Sporting Clays
Mar 21	High Power	Sept 26	High Power Match
Mar 20	Archery Party		
Mar 28	Ham Shoot		
		Oct 03	Terry Williams Bolt Gun Match
Apr 14	Meeting	Oct 10	Sporting Clays
Apr 11	Sporting Clays	Oct 13	Meeting
Apr 25	High Power Match	Oct 17	Turkey Shoot
		Oct 24	High Power/Turkey Shoot
		Oct 31	Turkey Shoot
		Nov 07	Turkey Shoot
May 9	Sporting Clays	Nov 11	Meeting
May 12	Meeting	Nov 14	High Power/Sporting Clays/Turkey
May 23	High Power Match		Shoot
		Dec 08	Meeting
Jun 9	Meeting	Dec 12	Sporting Clays
Jun 13	Sporting Clays		
Jun 27	High Power Match		
Jul 14	Meeting		
Jul 11	Sporting Clays		
TBD	CS Fireman's Carnival		
Jul 25	High Power Match		

**Meetings start at 7 PM when on EST, 8 PM when on DST. Sporting Clays sign up is 11 AM till 2 PM
High Power Rifle Matches start at 8:30 AM. All other events start at 1 PM.**

THE HEALTH OF A CLUB IS ILLUSTRATED BY THE PARTICPATION OF MEMBERS IN CLUB ACTIVITIES.