



Member M.U.C.C.

TRI-COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S LEAGUE

8640 Moon Road • Saline, Michigan 48176
Telephone (734) 429-9561

January 2009

January 2009 President's Report

Rob Bolog

Depending on when this newsletter reaches you, have a Merry Christmas, or I hope you had a Merry Christmas. We are trying to get it to you before the holidays but you get what you pay for and we at TCSL are all volunteers.....

We continue to try and improve our relationship with the officials at York Township. Earlier this month, over 60 members attended a meeting of the York Township Planning Commission. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the show of support. We at TCSL had some issues with the language regarding shooting ranges that the township was amending (Go to the TCSL forum for "exclusive web based coverage"). As a result, we are going to participate in a joint ad hoc committee with the planning commission and try to help them draft appropriate shooting range zoning language. This is a big step for both parties. The Planning commission recognizes we have quite a bit of knowledge in the area of shooting ranges and has sought our input. I am in the process of putting together the committee of three TCSL members who are York Township residents (me being one of the members). We need to continually build support with the folks on Stony Creek Rd. as the members of the local governing bodies change. Relationships take effort; we need to make sure we are doing our part. It would be great to have a TCSL member attend every Township meeting. Please consider volunteering to represent TCSL, it would be helpful if you were a York Township resident. Work hours will be credited for those providing an update to TCSL on what happens at the meetings.

Membership renewal time is here. Times are tough and some of you may be making tough choices. We want to keep all of our members and gain more. The club will not be in a position to waive dues; that said we will do everything we can to try and work out some arrangement to help folks stay at TCSL. Don't hesitate to call Mike Moehl or me. We will try to be flexible and work things out during these difficult economic times.

Thanks to each of you who have worked so hard all year to bring home the bacon. It has all made a difference. We continue to try and bring down the cost of operating at TCSL. Despite all of your efforts, revenues from our activities are down and we are running out of things to trim. The bills are getting paid and TCSL will survive but there isn't much left for

Rob (cont.)

those improvements we all want. We can't cut our way to prosperity; at some point we need to increase revenues. Increasing membership is a sure fire way to help pay for the fixed costs. Ask your friends or frequent shooting guests to join our club. Give someone a membership for Christmas or Birthday. Imagine if we had 800 dues paying members; our fixed costs would be paid for by dues and then the income from our activities could be used to fund improvements to the ranges and clubhouse.

Hope to see you around the club!

---Rob

Go to the Forum

<http://tcsl.org/smf/>

There you'll find the latest on the York Township situation; other info of interest to club members; and the opportunity to sound off on the topics of your choice.

12/18 Membership Meeting

Amendments to Articles 2 and 4 of the Bylaws were approved (see last newsletter). Jim Pryce reported that MUCC is struggling financially and looking at further cutbacks. Chuck Tellas reported a topographic survey of TCSL grounds was completed thanks to the contributed efforts of Dennis Schultz. Mike Moehl reported total membership at 804.

Dues Payment

Dues for 2009 will be \$125.00 plus charges for hours not worked, and any optional fees. Membership renewal forms are in the mail and due by February 28. Special Reminder to Life Members—due to changes regarding MUCC membership your renewal form must be signed and returned with payment of the MUCC renewal fee and any optional fees. Failure to return the form will be treated as resignation of your status as a Life Member of TCSL.

Changes for 2009

The TCSL Board of Directors recently made some tough but much needed decisions that will help the club going forward. Beginning with the annual renewals this February, members will be eligible to receive an electronic newsletter or stop by the clubhouse and pick up a printed copy for free. A member may still elect to receive the newsletter via mail but the cost of producing or mailing the newsletter will be passed onto the member. Right now that cost is twelve dollars per year.



Bear Hunt Raffle Ending!

Get tickets while you can for the TCSL 70th Anniversary Bear Hunt Raffle. The drawing will be in January. This is a five-day all inclusive hunt (or cash out for \$1,800). Only 100 tickets will be sold—about 50 sold so far. Tickets are available behind the bar. The price is \$40.00 each. One (1) work hour will be credited per ticket sold or purchased. See "Big Al" Lamoreaux at the range or call the club for more info.

MUCC News

MUCC District II met at TCSL on December 2, 2008. John Gary and Chuck Tellas made a presentation on TCSL's environmental stewardship program. Duane Bock was recognized for his activity on behalf of TCSL (Past President) and MUCC (Past District II President)—62 years as a member of TCSL and MUCC and still active, not bad!

MUCC has changed its dues policy. For the year 2009, each member of an affiliated club will be assessed a \$5.00 affiliation fee. Each eligible voting member of TCSL, including life members will bear the cost of the MUCC affiliation; this year the cost will be \$5.00. This will be assessed during the renewal process. The \$5.00 fee will entitle the member to the online version of the "Michigan Out of Doors" magazine. The paper magazine will be available to members at an additional cost of \$20.00 for 2009. MUCC is trying to make some much need changes to its cost structure in order to survive going forward and TCSL is going to support the effort. The MUCC affiliation will be a requirement for membership in TCSL. Hopefully everyone, including the life members will remember their conservation and hunting heritage and choose to renew their membership at Tri-County.

Election of Officers

Election of officers and directors will be in February. If you are interested in running for office contact Nominating Committee members Ed Hayes (edhayes@umich.edu) or Ed Benko (734-994-2470). The new Bylaw changes affect geographical boundaries so take them into consideration when deciding to run.



IDPA

Upcoming Winter Matches

There will be winter matches on Saturday, January 24 and Saturday, March 28 (no match in February). Registration will open up on the 1st day of the month for the match (on the web site). Go to <http://tcs1-idpa.org/> after January 1st to sign up for the January match.

IDPA Safety Officer Course

On December 13th we ran an IDPA Safety Officer Course, and now have 12 newly certified IDPA Safety Officers. The course offered a comprehensive review of all the IDPA rules, and training of skills needed to run a safe IDPA Course of Fire. As part of the course, the new SOs will come back to run a Course of Fire during a match, so be sure to congratulate them as you see them on the line.

IDPA Match Schedules

IDPA matches are on the 4th Saturday of the month (except February). New shooters (including CCW holders) are welcome to attend. Please register on the web site <http://tcs1-idpa.org/>, and show up to the match 30 minutes before your start time. You may choose from the following start times: 10:00am, 11:15am, 12:30pm, or 1:45pm. Food (burgers, brats) and soft drinks will be available. Cost to shoot the match is \$20, and if you wish to shoot again, it is \$10. Plan to bring your defensive carry pistol and equipment, and 150 rounds of ammunition.

Intro To IDPA Session

For those who have never shot an IDPA match, and would like to try it out—we recommend signing up for the "Intro to IDPA Session". This session will teach you all the rules of IDPA, and let you try shooting IDPA scenarios without being scored. The focus will be to practice the skills needed to shoot simulated defensive scenarios (i.e. drawing from holster, moving while shooting, using cover, tactical-reloads, emergency-reloads, etc.) If you are interested in participating in the session, please send an email to michael_barrera@hotmail.com. The next "Intro to IDPA Session" will be offered in March 2009 at LCSA (located in Brighton). TCSL will offer our "Intro to IDPA Session" in May 2009.

Youth Activities

The youth air rifle program has picked up nine new shooters this year. Helping the kids learn to enjoy the shooting sports is a rewarding way to get your hours in – call Jeff at 734-621-2093 to volunteer to help. See the web site: (tcs1.org/Youth.html) for schedule and details.

Military Member Update

Send military member info to:
jkidle@comcast.net

Send photos to: Webmaster@tcs1.org

Upcoming Events

Dec. 31 New Year's Dance - Wolverton

Jan. 2 CCW

Jan. 3 CCW; Trap

Jan. 4 Breakfast; Trap

Jan. 7 Air Rifle

Jan. 8 Board Meeting

Jan. 10 Dance – Solitaire

Jan. 13 Euchre Night

Jan. 15 Membership Meeting

Jan. 17 Trap; Dance – Wolverton

Jan. 18 Jam Session

Jan. 21 Air Rifle

Jan. 23 Steak Fry

Jan. 24 IDPA; Dance-Classic Combination

Jan. 25 Trap

Jan. 27 Euchre Night

Jan. 31 Trap; MUCC Big Buck Night

Events Requiring Help

Jerry Chie, Hall Reservations Chairman

Thanks in advance for your help!

Jan. 4 Breakfast prep starts at 6:30am

Jan. 15 Burger Night – Membership

Jan. 23 Steak Fry

Jan. 31 MUCC Big Buck Night

Hall Reservations

We specialize in parties and fundraisers. The TCSL catering team is first rate. Custom menus and a variety of price points available. Please contact Jerry Chie for more info. Sgchie@comcast.net or 734-483-8435

Trap Range Will be Open on the Following Saturdays!*

January 3rd

January 17th

January 31st

February 14th

February 28th

March 14th

March 28th

* If you want to be sure that the range will be open on any given Saturday afternoon, it would be wise to telephone the Grants at (734) 761-3975, just to confirm.



June and Bob Grant, Trap Co-Chairs

Clubhouse and Range

Hours

The clubhouse is open with volunteer staff Sunday through Tuesday Noon-6:00pm, and is also open Wednesday through Saturday 10:00am-6:00pm. Please consider volunteering for Sunday, Monday or Tuesday clubhouse coverage. Call the club or Bill Feight 734-717-8112 for more info.

Sick or in the Hospital

Sandy Van Loon is home from the hospital, recuperating from a heart attack. Gordon Doody is home recuperating from surgery. Sanford Brumley died October 30th. Jim Spielberg of Whitmore Lake died. Please call the club to notify us of an illness or loss 734-429-9561 or 734-429-2274.



The NRA Foundation meeting will be held in Lansing on January 17. TCSL members are encouraged to attend. Contact Bob Parent at 248-214-5746 for info.

Next year's FNRA banquet and fundraiser is planned for April. Co-chairs for the event are Chuck Morgan and Jeff Morris (jeff.m262@gmail.com). Also serving on the committee are Bob Parent, Marshall Hill, Jerry Chie, and Rob Bolog. Additional committee members and helpers are needed. Call Bob Parent or Jeff Morris to volunteer.

Attention York Township Residents

York Township is looking to fill an opening on its Planning Commission. Any TCSL member living in the township who would be interested in serving should contact Rob Bolog (rob@thebologs.com) for more information. Also check the York Township website at www.twp-york.org.

Turkey Shoots Successful!

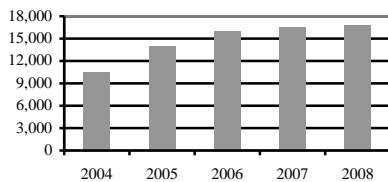
Dale Radak, Chairman

I would like to give a BIG THANK YOU to all those members and non club members who helped to make the Turkey Shoots a success this year. Special thanks go to Mark Ley and Al Whitley who worked every Turkey Shoot this year at the Shotgun Blast, and to Mike Cowey and his helpers at the Pistol Running Deer Shoot. At the last Turkey Shoot of the year we tried something different and gave away slabs of bacon as prizes along with the turkeys—which went over very well. We plan to continue this next year and hope to see you all again at the shoots next fall. Happy Hunting. (You can contact Dale Radak at daler48176@yahoo.com for more Turkey Shoot information.)

Your Work Hours Count

Sure, a new year is just beginning but it's a good idea not to let work hours slide. Regular members are required to put in 10 hours per year ending December 1st. Probationary members have 12 months from the date they join to complete their 20 hour obligation. You can check your work hours by going online and typing in your member number or by contacting the membership secretary. Hours not worked will be billed at renewal time at the rate of \$10 per hour. We would love to have folks work them off throughout the course of the year rather than be billed. Call a committee chairman or the clubhouse Wednesday-Saturday to see if Lance has something on his never ending list that you are capable of doing. Options become more limited late in the year. During 2008 members contributed 16,787 hours—that's the equivalent of eight full-time employees!

Total Hours Contributed



African Safari - Part 3 of 3

Ron and Sean Connors

The hunting was like nothing that we had experienced before. We would drive to an area where we expected to find what we were looking for (and on the way see lots of other animals) and then start looking for tracks or other sign. We would then head out on foot with a professional hunter into the bush, with the tracker staying with the vehicle. When we were successful, or needed to be picked up and driven to another area, we would call on the radio and the tracker would quickly find us.

We hunted all "plains game" which consists mostly of antelope species and others such as zebra, giraffe, etc. Some of the animals we were looking for tended to stay in open areas to avoid predators, so we would have to sneak through tall grass or hug the bush around the edges to try to get close enough to identify a good prospect. Sean shot his Red Hartebeest at 350 yards after walking and crawling over 75 yards through the grass.

We did most of our hunting in the "thicket" which is well-named as it is certainly thick with bushes and small trees, all of which have large thorns. Everything we wore to hunt ended up with small tears as the thorns grab you frequently. Here the animals know they have a significant advantage as they blend in so well that you can be close to them and not even know it. The hunting is challenging and

Safari (cont.)

when you have been able to be successful you feel you've earned it.

We each took three animals (and could have had many more if we would have wanted). Sean hunted the longest for his Gemsbok and eventually got the dominate bull on the ranch. He then also got a Red Hartebeest and a Springbok. Ron worked the most for his Eland (what the ranch is known for—one the most difficult plains animals). This Eland took two and a half days but was a gold-medal winner with a weight of over 2,000 pounds. Ron also got a Kudu and a Blesbok. In all we got six medals between us. Thanks again to Dennis Osborn and Al Lamoreaux for all of their help... we wouldn't have been as successful without it!

Our experience was so special that we are planning to go back again. The family at ElandPro treated us as if we were friends who had come to hunt and after a week we really feel like we are friends. There is much more that we would like to see and do there (as they will also help you with sightseeing before or after your hunt) and we certainly want more hunting. We've heard that there is nothing like the awe that a hunter feels the first time that he hunts in Africa. We feel the same way...it was awe-inspiring and we can't wait to get back to do it again!

January 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	1 Thursday	2 Friday	3 Saturday
				Happy New Year!	CCW 6-9pm	Trap 1-4pm CCW 8-5pm No Dance
4 Breakfast 8am-Noon Prep starts at 6:30 Trap 1-4pm	5	6	7 Air Rifle 7-9pm	8 Board Meeting 7pm	9	10 Dance - Solitaire
11 Trap 1-4pm	12	13 York Twp. Bd. of Trustees Mtg. 7:30pm EUCHRE NIGHT	14	15 Membership Meeting 7pm	16	17 Trap 1-4pm Dance - Wolverton
18 Jam Session Noon-7pm Trap 1-4pm	19	20 York Twp. ZBA Mtg. 7:30pm	21 Air Rifle 7-9pm	22	23 Steak Fry 5-7pm	24 IDPA Dance - Classic Combination
25 Trap 1-4pm	26 York Twp. Planning Comm. Mtg. 7:30pm	27 EUCHRE NIGHT	28	29	30	31 Trap 1-4pm MUCC Big Buck Night 5:30-10:30pm No Dance

Membership Report

Members are the Key to Success at TCSL

TRI-COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S LEAGUE

MEMBERSHIP BY TYPE

Type	As of						
	9/16	10/2	10/16	11/6	11/23	12/4	12/18
Associate	34	34	34	34	35	35	34
Honorary	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Military	14	14	17	17	17	17	17
Junior	18	19	21	21	21	21	22
Young Adult	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Life	268	268	267	266	266	266	264
Senior	15	15	15	15	17	17	19
Probationary	71	72	77	77	79	78	78
Regular	357	358	358	361	359	360	358
Total	789	792	801	803	806	806	804
Not Current	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Membership Database (Online).

ECH - 12/18/2008

Wild Game Wanted

TCSL is always looking for wild game for the game dinner. If you have some freezer ready game to donate please stop by the club and drop it off. Appropriate work hours will be credited.

Speakers Hung

Loud speakers for the sound system, that is. Thanks to Brad Hayes, Rob Barger, Bob Parette, and Jerry Chie for helping install speakers at the club on December 14th.

New Fireplace Enclosure

Thanks to Warren Cheesewright for building the new fireplace enclosure for the club—it looks great!

Youth Programs Supported

Many thanks also to Venetia Lathers for her continued financial support of TCSL youth programs.

Next Jam Session

Date: Sunday, January 18, 2009

Schedule: Open for setup at noon, bands start playing at 1:30pm, open jam starts at 5:30pm, and wrap up at 7:00pm (all subject to change based on who shows up).

Style: Anything goes; we are NOT limited to 60s rock!

More Info: Or to schedule time for your band—contact Joe Donndelinger, 313-530-2113 or jamsessions@tcsl.org

TOP SECRET

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION INSIDE. YOU MUST READ. THERE WILL BE A TEST!



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