



## ON TARGET

TRI-COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S LEAGUE  
8640 Moon Road • Saline, Michigan 48176  
Telephone (734) 429-9561  
<http://tcsl.org>  
January 2017

### January President's Column

Quickly name a winter shooting sport. How about Biathlon (Derived from a Greek work meaning two contests), a winter sport that combines cross-country skiing with target rifle shooting? Originally a training exercise for Norwegian soldiers the first competition was in 1767. Biathlon became an Olympic Sport in 1960 and women's biathlon competition was added in 1992. In 2014, mixed relay biathlons were added to the Olympics. Prior to being an Olympic sport demonstration "Military Patrols" were conducted at the 1928, 1936 and 1948 Olympics.

Typically, men compete in events of 10 km, 12.5 km, 20 km and a 4-man relay of 7.5 km. Women's events are 7.5 km, 10 km, 15 km and a four-woman relay of 6 km. The rifles are .22 caliber with a minimum weight of 7.7 pounds. There are shooting stops along the cross-country trail and the participants must shoot from either prone or standing positions. Missing the target results in either added distance for each shooter or time added to the final time. The targets are 1.8 inches wide and set 50 m (160 feet) away. Most commonly five shots are fired at five targets at each shooting station.

While the majority of the competitive winners have come from Russia, Norway or German there is a United States shooter who has been gaining worldwide attention. Sean Doherty, from New Hampshire, is a winner of 10 individual medals at the youth and junior world championships. Doherty has his sights set on the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea where he intends to pursue the United States' first Olympic medal in biathlons. He gained prior Olympic experience when he was the youngest member of the U.S. team at the 2014 Olympics.

Novices take up the sport and each year with new shooters ranging from youngsters to 60 plus year olds. The cross-country component is a challenge of stamina and exertion. The shooting component tests fine motor skill and breath control (as well as all of the basic shooting skills). If you are interested in watching a biathlon do a google search and you will find quite a few around the country. For examples, Ishpeming Michigan has competitions. Blackhawk Ski Club in Middleton Wisconsin has weekly practice days as well as competitions. World Cup events are held around the world.

### President's Column (Cont.)

If you are a TCSL Committee Chair, please plan to be at the January 19, 2017 TCSL Board meeting. Each chair is required by the TCSL bylaws to make an annual report to the Board of the activities of their committee. This is a great time to update the Board on activities conducted in 2016 and anticipated 2017 activities. Please try to keep your report to five minutes or less.

On February 16, 2017, the annual election for TCSL Officers and Board Members will be conducted. If you are going to be out of town you will need to make a written request for an absentee ballot before January 17, 2017. Once again Bill Bond has graciously agreed to be in charge of conducting the election. Bill can use help during the day of the election and to help count the ballots once the poll is closed. E-mail me ([steve@reedlawgroup.com](mailto:steve@reedlawgroup.com)) if you can help Bill. If you would like to be an officer or a board member, you will need to be nominated / placed on the ballot at the January 2017 membership meeting. TCSL has been successful for more than 75 years due to the members who have stepped up and helped keep TCSL moving forward. I am confident this tradition will be continued by those elected at the 2017 election.

Lance Monroe is the club manager. It is important to keep Lance up-to-speed on events or activities at TCSL. It is difficult / impossible for Lance to answer questions on the phone or in person if he isn't kept informed. If he is going to need to do shopping (e.g., groceries, paint, etc.) he is better able to manage / schedule his time if he knows what is going on. If Lance is changing the street sign or he needs to remove something, he needs to do what is scheduled or canceled. If volunteers are needed for upcoming events, he can inform members of possible opportunities to earn hours. Since Lance is frequently the "face of TCSL" we all look better and give a better impression if he is kept up-to-date.

I hope to see you at the club or on the ranges. In the meantime, I hope your 2017 is full of happiness.

### Memorial and Well-being

Sadly, Reed Whitley, grandson of Al Whitley, a TCSL member, has passed away. Please keep their family in your prayers. Email announcements to the newsletter at: [newsletter@tcsl.org](mailto:newsletter@tcsl.org).

### The Waterfowl Decoy



Special thanks to Larry Darling for a great presentation on the developmental history of duck decoys. Twelve people, both members and nonmembers attended the presentation. The following topics were covered during the hour and a half presentation on Wednesday, December 14.

#### Developmental History

Waterfowl - Important source of food  
Commerce - Harvest and sale of waterfowl  
Decoying - The principal method of harvesting  
Industry - Manufacture and sale of waterfowl decoys  
Sporting - Decoys for recreational shooting  
Art - Waterfowl illustrations and decoys as collectables  
Regional importance - Makers

During his presentation, Larry showed many examples of the evolution of decoys used to harvest waterfowl for food and the development of an industry to manufacture and sell the decoys used by today's hunters. The most intriguing part of the entire presentation was the development of decoys as an art form, making/ carving actual full-size decoys for competition which Larry has won. He brought along his prize-winning decoy to show the audience. Decoy carving and waterfowl illustration has evolved into an ART form that has become a desirable collectable.

## Range News

**Rifle Range:** Dave Vandermark reported the plastic sheeting has been put up on the rifle range for the winter

**Pistol Range :** Plastic sheeting has been installed as of Dec 28<sup>th</sup>

**Trap Range:** Range is open all winter – weather permitting – snow does not stop these brave shooters.



## Military Rifle Match 2017

Our first Military Rifle Match of 2017 will be held on Saturday, Jan 21st. Registration begins at 9:00 am and the match starts at 10:00am. The match is open to members \$10 and guests \$15. To compete bring a military style rifle (non-automatic), domestic or foreign, vintage or modern, customized, scoped or iron sights. You will need 20 rounds of safe ammunition, safety or shooting glasses and ear protection. Spotting scopes are helpful. Course of fire for the winter matches will be 10 rounds in 5 minutes for sight in and 10 rounds in 10 minutes for score. For more information contact Mark Smokowicz, marks@comcast.net , (734) 276-2514



## Women on Target

Women On Target will once again be held at Tri-County. Sharon Burkhart has volunteered to co-chair the event with me this coming year. Mark your calendars for June 10, 2017! Thank you to those who showed interest in helping keep Women on Target an ongoing event. For all those interested in finding out how they can help with Women On Target please attend our first January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm downstairs. Also, I would like the range leads to attend so we can get a list of ammunition that will be needed. **email me: [cbrklich25@hotmail.com](mailto:cbrklich25@hotmail.com)**, or call Carol at 734-417-6895



## Turkey Shoot

Turkey Shoot Organizer Needed – We need someone to chair / lead the Turkey Shoot event. After years of taking charge of the Turkey Shoot event, Dale Radak is stepping down. Contact Steve Reed ([steve@reedlawgroupcc.com](mailto:steve@reedlawgroupcc.com)) if you are interested

## Steak Fry

Come join us on Friday, Jan 27th, for a Flame broiled Steak Fry. Dinner is served from 5:00 pm – 7:00 PM. Steak, Salmon or Chicken. Open to the public so bring family or friends. We now offer kids meals with a choice of hamburger or hot dog with mac and cheese included. Main meal includes salad, roll, potatoes, vegetable, baked beans and desert. Steak \$15, Salmon \$13, Chicken \$9, Children (12-5) \$6, under 5 Free.

## New Board Members

Steve Reed announced at the December membership meeting that there are currently two offices open - First Vice President – formerly held by Mike Brown and Membership Secretary - currently being held by Al Lamoreaux. In order to qualify as a president or vice president one must be a member for 5 years and a board member for two years. Contact Steve Reed if you are interested in running for one of the positions that are open. In addition, the cutoff date for absentee ballots is January 17, 2017.



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Follow AJ Archery on Facebook and "like" us.  
Coach AJ Berning-Matell is a TCSL member.

### Other News

- **Breakfast** – January 8th
- **Hamburger Night** - January 19<sup>th</sup> 5pm
- **Steak Fry**—Next one is January 27, 2017.
- **"I Support Blue" Signs**—The October Board approved sale of "I Support Blue" signs as a TCSL fundraiser. Watch here for details or check at the bar. Thanks to Ed Benko for developing the idea!
- **Mi-HUNT**—Find the perfect fall hunting spot with DNR's interactive, online mapping tool. Click [here](#).
- **Friends of NRA Dinner** is April 14, 2017. Volunteers are needed. If interested, please call Gary Knechtel at 734-218-0381, or email [garyknechtel@reagan.com](mailto:garyknechtel@reagan.com).

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**Clubhouse and Range Hours**  
**Rifle and Pistol Ranges:** Sunday through Tuesday  
Noon-Dusk,  
Wednesday through Saturday 10am-Dusk  
**Clubhouse:** Sunday through Tuesday Noon-6pm,  
Wednesday thru Saturday 10am-6pm

**WINTER HOURS NOW IN AFFECT**

## January 2017 TCSL Event Calendar

1 Sunday	2 Monday	3 Tuesday	4 Wednesday	5 Thursday	6 Friday	7 Saturday
	Safety Committee Mtg 6:30 pm					8am – CPL Concealed Pistol License Course
8 TCSL Breakfast 8-11:30am Two Gun Shoot 1pm Trap Noon-Done Trap Noon-Done		10	11	12 Education Committee Meeting 6:30pm	13	14 8am Basic Instructor Training  9am – 12 noon New Member Orientation
15 8am -6pmNRA Instructor Pistol Shooting Class 12pmTrap Shooting 1pmTwo Gun Shoot	16 6:30 Safety Committee Mtg	17	18	19 5pm Hamburger Night  Board & Member Meetings 6:30pm	20	21 8am NRA Instructor 8am NRA Shot Gun Instructor 9am Military Rifle Match
22 Trap Noon-Done  Two Gun Shoot 1pm	23	24	25	26	27 Steak Fry 5pm – 7pm	28
29 Trap Shoot – noon Two Gun Shoot – 1pm	30	31	Feb 1	2	3	4
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #fff9c4;">                     Contact Jerry Chie for hall rental information at <a href="mailto:sgchie@comcast.net">sgchie@comcast.net</a> or                      734-483-8435, or call the club at 734-429-9561                 </div>						

## February 2017 TCSL Event Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	1 Wednesday	2 Thursday	3 Friday	4 Saturday
						Safe Talk – 9am
5 CPL- 8am TCSL Breakfast -8am Trap - Noon Two Gun Shoot-1pm Super Bowl Party 4pm	6	7 Youth Air Rifle – 6pm	8	9 Education Committee Meeting 6:30pm	10 Veterans and Friends Dance 6:30pm	11 NRA Personal Protection Outside the Home 8am – 6pm
12 NRA Personal Protection Class -8am Trap Noon-Done Two Gun Shoot 1pm	13 6:30pm Safety Committee Meeting	14 Youth Air Rifle – 6pm  Valentines Day	15	16 TCSL Elections Noon – 8pm Hamburger Night 5pm  Board & Member	17	18 Military Rifle Match 9am New Member Orientation – 9am
19 Two Gun Shoot 1pm  Trap Noon-Done	20	21 Youth Air Rifle – 6pm	22	23	24 Steak Fry  5pm – 7pm	25 Basic Shot Gun – 8am
26 Two Gun Shoot 1pm  Trap Noon-Done	27	28 Youth Air Rifle – 6pm	March 1	2	3	4 NRA TCSL RSO Course (Members Only)8am-6pm

See the club's Google Calendar at <http://tcsl.org> for the latest updates. Add it to your Google Calendar and never miss a TCSL event!