



Tri-County Sportsmen's League • 8640 Moon Road, Saline, MI 48176 • 734-429-9561 • tcs1.org

President's Column

Happy New Year!!!

The idea of New Years' resolutions dates back around 4,000 years when ancient Babylonians held celebrations for the new year as they celebrated a 12 day religious festival which was known as Akitu. At that time the new year started in March, and the Babylonians crowned a new king or affirmed their allegiance to the sitting king. Crops were planted, and promises were made to gods. It was believed that, if the promises to the gods were kept, the gods would view the Babylonians in a good light, and it would be a good year. If promises to the gods were not kept, then the concern was that the result would be a bad year.

This tradition continued in ancient Rome, and around 46 BC Julius Caesar changed the start of the new year to January 1. January was named in honor of Janus, the two-faced god. Janus looked back to the previous year and also forward to the upcoming year. Sacrifices to the gods were combined with promises to end bad deeds, and promises of good conduct were made to the gods.

In 1740 John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, started a Covenant Renewal Service, which was frequently conducted on December 31 or January 1. At the renewal service, which was also known as "Watch Night Service," scripture was read, hymns were sung, and resolutions were made for the new year.

Studies have shown that approximately 50% of the population make New Years' resolutions. However, nearly 80% of those fail by February. Ultimately, only 8% of New Years' resolutions end up successfully being kept.

Frequently New Years' resolutions are the result of "following the crowd" or giving into peer pressures, so there isn't a real commitment to adopting the resolution when it is made. It is said that small, specific goals are easier to achieve.

We each will decide whether or not we will set resolutions this year. I do believe the New Year offers each of us the opportunity to reflect upon the past year. For TCSL, 2020 was a year with new

challenges based upon COVID-19. It appears as if we will still be dealing with COVID-19 at least for the first quarter of 2021. Our members stepped up with new ideas during 2020 to help the Club address the financial issues that surfaced this past year. Some of those ideas were the chicken take-out dinners, different hand gun or rifle shooting events, the TCSL Booster Club, take-out breakfasts, and new firearm classes. Can you think of a new idea that you can help implement during 2021 at TCSL to keep income coming in? IDPA is going to conduct its first Tier 3 event later this year, and it looks like the income it generates will top the 2020 IDPA Challenge event. Is there a new handgun, rifle, or shotgun activity that could generate additional income for TCSL? How about a new youth activity to help get the younger generation interested in shooting sports? Is there a new Zoom activity/class that should be conducted (i.e., reloading, fly tying, snow shoeing, geocaching)? How about a new food take-out event? A gun raffle? A car show? A garage sale? Let's think outside the box to come up with activities that will bring members together for socializing or generating income for TCSL.

Please take the time to vote at the upcoming February 18 elections. If you are interested in running for an office or for the TCSL Board, you should attend the Zoom January 21 Board and Membership meeting to announce your candidacy. If you want to have an absentee ballot to vote, your request must be in writing and received at least thirty days prior to the election. Email requests for absentee ballots to president@tcs1.org. Your absentee ballot must be received at the club on or before election day/time.

If you would like to get an update on the happenings at TCSL, attend the Zoom January 21 Board and Membership meetings. At the Membership meeting the chair of each committee is to make their annual report to the membership to let us know what transpired in 2020 and what is anticipated for 2021.

Be safe, and have a great 2021.

[Steve Reed](#)



Safety Committee

As we put the crazy year of 2020 behind us and begin the new year, the TCSL Safety Committee felt it was worth a look back at last year. The ranges were closed for an extended period of time due to the Governor's COVID orders. However, once allowed to reopen, we put protocols in place that allowed our members and guests to use the ranges in a fairly normal manner. There were many people involved in making this happen, and that effort truly was a bright spot in the history of TCSL. You may or may not be aware that many clubs took a long time to reopen. In fact, some clubs in Southeastern Michigan still remain closed.

At this time, we'd like to recap some of the recurring issues that we've had at the ranges. The majority of issues seem to be because people become hasty and/or lax in the use of firearms.

First, let's review the four cardinal rules of safe gun handling:

- Always treat all **firearms** as if they were loaded.
- Never allow the muzzle of any **firearm** to point at anything you are not willing to destroy.
- Never put your finger near the trigger until you are ready to fire.
- Always be sure of your target, and what is behind and in front of it.

Target placement is critical to ***"being sure of your target and what is behind and in front of it."*** The target should be in line with the muzzle of the firearm. If you have to point your muzzle down or up, then the target is not properly placed. Keep in mind that there are ground elevation changes between the firing line and where the target is placed. For example, in the pistol house the concrete firing line area is close to 6" above the dirt ground level, where targets are placed. Therefore, if you plan to shoot from a standing position and place a target at shoulder level, when standing on the dirt, that target is really 6" BELOW your shoulders as you stand at the firing line. That may seem like a slight difference, but such improper alignment can easily result in skips off the ground further down range. Also remember that target placement is different for shooting from a seated position than from standing. On the rifle ranges the longer distances amplify the target placement error.

We have noticed damage to the overhead structures and the vertical posts on the rifle ranges and pistol house. In some cases, we have been able to determine who was shooting when this damage occurred and appropriate actions have been taken. Other times we have not been able to determine how, or who created the damage. Therefore, we are looking into surveillance options for the ranges. We realize that accidents do occur even when proper precautions are taken. In those cases, we ask that members self-report what happened and so that we are aware and can possibly offer suggestions, or make range improvements, to avoid similar mishaps.

The ranges at TCSL allow for a variety of firearm usage. However not all firearms are appropriate for every range. The rules that are in place are not arbitrary. They are the result of research and consideration for the safety of our members and neighbors. This year we posted signage on each range that displays what firearms and ammunition is allowed on that range. We continue to see

damage to the plate rack, located on the action range. Quite often when the damage is noticed, there are also shotgun hulls found on the ground. Sometimes the hulls are from slugs. **Shotguns are NOT to be used on the plate rack.** The racks are not designed for such usage and injuries could result from improper use. The range rules can be found on the TCSL website. On the home page, click on ["Ranges & Rules."](#) If there is a use that you would like to have changed or considered, please feel free to contact the safety committee at safety@tcsl.org.

The issues we've seen are not limited to the firearm ranges. We have also had broadhead tip arrows used on the archery range. The signage on that range clearly says NO BROADHEADS. The reason is simply one of cost to the club. We spent a considerable amount of money on new archery targets. Broad Head tips perform exactly as designed by doing significant damage to the target. That is ok when the target is wild game, but the same damage significantly shortens the lifespan of the club's targets.

Please remember, that as a member of TCSL, you have an OWNERSHIP in the ranges, structures (archery targets, plate racks, etc.) All members and guests should treat these as if they were their own personal property. Also remember that a little housekeeping/clean-up of the ranges and property goes a long way to making TCSL a club to be proud of. You should leave the range in the same or better condition than you found it—clean up your brass, pick-up that stray paper or target.

You may remember that over the last couple of years we've had to shut down ranges because the backstops had become frozen and possibly cause skips of rounds that could get off of our property. In October the backstops were reworked and a new layer of sand was put in place. We anticipate that ground should not freeze to the degree that causes skips.

Looking forward to 2021, there are several exciting things coming to TCSL. There is a rework of the old "Turkey Range" area underway. When completed, it will give the members another range that will include relocating the existing plate racks to this location. Depending on the restrictions, based on COVID, we anticipate Kids on The Range Day and Women on Target will return. There are new events planned for the rifle range, to challenge your skills while enjoying yourselves. The IDPA Sportsmen's Challenge is expected to grow even larger, and the pin shoots and fall handgun shoots are already being placed on the calendar. If you have an idea for an event or special use for the ranges, let us know. We'll try to offer support and help get things going.

Also, early next year we will be holding a Range Safety Officer (RSO) class. This will most likely have to be a Zoom class. It will give existing RSOs and those who wish to become RSOs the training necessary for that position. At TCSL we rely on the RSOs to observe and support proper range usage. More information about that class will be forthcoming. In the meantime, if you are interested please send an email to safety@tcsl.org.

With a little forethought we can greatly reduce the damages to the ranges and equipment. Thank you for your continued support of TCSL. Hopefully 2021 will see a return to normalcy.

[Tom Lewandowski](#)
[TCSL Safety Committee Chairman](#)

Education Committee

Dear members,

During the Covid shutdown some classes were moved off site. While off site, TCSL still received the rent as if the course were on site. The same is true for the upcoming NRA Instructor Training Workshop. Below are all the classes and or workshops offered in January.

TCSL On-Site Courses

NRA First Step Rifle Orientation (3 hours) - Sun, Jan 10, 12-3pm

First Steps Rifle is designed to provide a hands-on introduction to the safe handling and proper orientation to one specific rifle action type for classes of four or fewer students. Advance registration required.

Register here:

<https://www.nrainstructors.org/CourseDetails.aspx?Courseid=624389&seats=4&State=n&zip=48176&radius=25.1&id=8&bsa=&youth=&women=>

Education Committee Meeting (via Zoom) - Thur, Jan 14, 6:30-8pm

Register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tJf6e2tqDgJHNNF-cObLCLi_ivLPEnDCKgW4s

M1 Garand/M1A Workshop (2 hours) - Sat, Jan 23, 1:to 3pm

Course Outline: Standard cleaning procedure, field strip and detailed cleaning procedure, proper lubrication, proper ammunition, loading/unloading techniques, zeroing and sight adjustment, recommended M1 information sources.

Workshop Leader: Rob Ashley

Cost: Free

Register here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSesWuYVD2cZO-jnBNk9F_eMEHIPBfvY7NVkMSg5pmzRz5BiqcQ/viewform

NRA CCW (8 hours) - Sun, Jan 24, 9am-6pm

Register here:

<https://www.nrainstructors.org/CourseDetails.aspx?Courseid=635881&seats=8&State=n&zip=48111&radius=25.1&id=56%2c21%2c76%2c77&bsa=&youth=&women=>

TCSL Off-Site Courses

NRA Basic Pistol Shooting Course (8 hours) - Sun, Jan 9, 9am-6pm, T-Rex Arms Belleville

The course topics include: gun safety rules, proper operation of revolvers and semi-automatic pistols, ammunition knowledge and selection, pistol selection and storage, shooting fundamentals, pistol inspection and maintenance, marksmanship, and shooting range safety. Additionally, students will complete live fire training and a nationally standardized shooting qualification while on the range with an NRA Certified Instructor. Equipment list to be provided upon registration.

Register here:

<https://www.nrainstructors.org/CourseDetails.aspx?Courseid=635879&seats=8&State=n&zip=48111&radius=10.1&id=56%2c21%2c76%2c77&bsa=&youth=&women=>

NRA CCW (8 hours) - Sun, Jan 10, 9am-6pm, T-Rex Arms, Belleville

NRA CCW takes place in a traditional classroom and range environment. Course topics include: Firearm safety (mandatory), pistol nomenclature and selecting a pistol for self-defense, basic defensive pistol skills, drawing from concealment, loading and stoppage remediation, mindset, carry modes and pistol concealment, firearm cleaning, and sport shooting and training activities. Equipment list to be provided upon registration.

Register here:

<https://www.nrainstructors.org/CourseDetails.aspx?Courseid=635881&seats=8&State=n&zip=48111&radius=25.1&id=56%2c21%2c76%2c77&bsa=&youth=&women=>

Basic Instructor Training (6 hours) - Fri, Jan 15, 10am-4pm

NRA Basic Instructor Training is designed to develop NRA Certified Instructors who possess the knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary to conduct the NRA Basic Firearm Training Courses.

Registration: When you register for an instructor class, you are automatically assumed to be attending this class unless you have a card that shows you have taken BIT within the last two years. If you show up to an instructor class without this card and you did not take this class, you will not be able to attend the class until this is completed.

NRA Instructor Pistol Shooting Course (10 hours) - Sat, Jan 16, 8am-6pm, T-Rex Arms, Belleville

Course topics include: gun safety rules, proper operation of revolvers and semi-automatic pistols, ammunition knowledge and selection, pistol selection and storage, shooting fundamentals, pistol inspection and maintenance, marksmanship, and shooting range safety. Additionally, students will complete live fire training and a nationally standardized shooting qualification while on the range with an NRA Certified Instructor. Equipment list to be provided upon registration.

Register here:

<https://www.nrainstructors.org/CourseDetails.aspx?Courseid=635884&seats=8&State=n&zip=48111&radius=10.1&id=56%2c21%2c76%2c77&bsa=&youth=&women=>

NRA Instructor CCW (16 hours) - Sat, Jan 16, 6pm-10pm **AND** Sun, Jan 17, 8am-8pm, T-Rex Arms, Belleville

This course is 2 days. It will start at 6pm following the Basic Pistol Shooting course. The Instructor Candidates must pass the CCW Instructor Level shooting qualification Course of Fire. The NRA CCW Instructor Course will focus on developing the knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary for Instructor Candidates to teach carrying and using a concealed pistol ethically, responsibly, and with confidence. Equipment list to be provided upon registration.

Register here:

<https://www.nrainstructors.org/CourseDetails.aspx?Courseid=635888&seats=8&State=n&zip=48111&radius=10.1&id=56%2c21%2c76%2c77&bsa=&youth=&women=>

Brian Craig
Education Chair

White Elephant Rifle Match Held

Our 2nd annual White Elephant Rifle bench match was held on Saturday December 12th at the 100-yard rifle range with 6 shooters.

Results of the match:

<u>Place</u>	<u>Shooter</u>	<u>Rifle</u>	<u>Round</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Adj. Score</u>
1st Place	Mark Smokowicz	AR-15	223 Rem	199-7x	201-7x
2 nd Place	Ed Benko	M1 Garand	30/06	193-5x	193-5x
3 rd Place	Dave Harris	Howa 1500	6mm Creed.	200-15x	190-15x
	Jeff Gage	AR-15	223 Rem	176-2x	180-2x
	Bill Rushmore	M91/30 Mosin Nagant	7.62x54R	143-1x	148-1x
	Dave Vandermark	1903A3 Springfield	30/06	110-5x	120-5x

This was called a 'White Elephant' match because there was some random 'gifting' involved. Before scoring rounds, shooters drew a number from a hat to establish an order, and then in that order picked from a selection of sealed, unmarked envelopes. Each shooter had the option of picking an envelope from the stack, or taking one from a shooter who had already picked. If their envelope was taken, then that shooter had to pick another from the stack. After the second round, scores were tallied and the envelopes opened. Each envelope had instructions for whether to add or subtract to your or another shooter's score. What you see as the Adjusted Score was the result of these changes. All in all, it was a pretty amazing display of shooting.

Our next Rifle Match will be held on Saturday, January 16th (a 100yd Bench Match) and is open to all TCSL members and guests. Registration starts at 9am and the match begins at 10am. A short safety briefing will be held prior to the match. Fees for the match will be \$10 for members and \$15 for guests. You can compete with any military style rifle (no full autos), foreign or domestic, modern or vintage, with iron sights or scope.

The upcoming winter matches are conducted from the bench rest, and course of fire is 10 rounds sight-in over a period of 5 minutes followed by 10 rounds for score over a period of 10 minutes. Highest score wins. Bring 20 rounds of safe ammunition, safety or shooting glasses, hearing protection, registration fee and appropriate warm clothing. A spotting scope is useful, and you may also bring rests or other positioning gear. Some rests, blocks and sand bags are available.

Please Note: You need not be a military member to compete, as they are surely welcome, you only need to own a military style rifle.

For further information or questions contact Dave Vandermark at rifle@TCSL.org.

TCSL RANGE HOURS

Monday-Saturday:
Shooting may begin
no earlier than 10am

Sunday:
Shooting may begin
no earlier than 12 noon

Every Day:
Shooting must cease
by 8pm or dusk, whichever
occurs earlier.

February Newsletter

Absolute deadline for article submission:
January 27: newsletter@tcsl.org

Membership

As you are all aware, we are in the middle of renewal season; and we have had a steady flow of renewals since early November. The flow has slowed in the weeks before Christmas. So far, 168 members have renewed. Since February we have had more than 60 people become new members.

We currently have 20 people who have applied for membership and are waiting to attend the orientation. We were able to hold the orientation in person at the club house a couple of times during the year, we have been required to hold several via Zoom. Another orientation will be held at some point in mid-January. We are waiting to determine if we can have it in person at the club house before it is put on the schedule.

We had two people apply and be accepted by the Board of Directors on the 17th. They are Steve Tennyson and Douglas Notar. We also had four people attend the Zoom orientation on the 12th. They are Scott and Carrie Melcher, Keith Mernovage, and Steve Tennyson.

Thank you,

[Charlie Unbehaun](#)
Membership Secretary

TCSL Hunts - Fall 2020



Michael Chabon and brother John with an awesome 5x5. Shot in White River Nation Park north of the Big Beaver in Buford, CO.



Earl Austin bags a buck.



Tri-County Sportsmens League

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

www.tcsl.org

Hearty Breakfast

**Sunday, Jan 3rd
8-11:30 AM**

Menu

Scrambled Eggs,
Bacon, Sausage Links & Patties,
Breakfast Potatoes,
Coffee Cake

CARSIDE PICKUP ONLY

Prepay \$9.00 before Jan 1st
\$10.00 cash or credit card
at drive-through on 1/1

[Click here to Prepay
Hearty Breakfast](#)

Chicken Dinner

**Friday, Jan 22nd
5-7 PM**

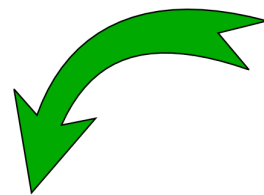
Menu

Baked Chicken Breast,
Drumstick & Thigh
Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Roll, Butter,
Cookie

CARSIDE PICKUP ONLY

Prepay \$12.00 before Jan 18th
\$15.00 cash or credit card
at drive-through on 1/22

[Click Here to Prepay
Chicken Dinner](#)



Booster Club

Donate to

Tri-County Sportsmens League

Purpose: TCSL Booster Club

\$10.00
USD

\$50.00
USD

\$100.00
USD

Other Amount:

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8640 Moon Road
Saline, MI 48176
Attn: Booster Club

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2020
AND GOOD
RIDDANCE**

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**Calling All Graphic Artists
(Or Other Creative Folks)**

Hoping to find a talented member
who can come up with a
logo for the
TCSL Booster Club.
contact: newsletter@tcsl.org

Memorial & Wellbeing

Please send Memorial & Wellbeing items,
to newsletter@tcsl.org. That includes the
sharing of happy news!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 Pistol House 9am - NRA CCW @	28	29	30 10am - Wednesday	31	1	2
3 8am - "Hearty"	4 12pm - Friends of	5	6 10am - Wednesday	7 12pm - Friends of	8	9 9am - New Member
10 12pm - NRA FIRST	11 12pm - Friends of	12	13 10am - Wednesday	14 12pm - Friends of	15	16 10am - High Power
17	18 12pm - Friends of 6:30pm - Safety 7:30pm - Finance	19 TCSL Voting -	20 10am - Wednesday	21 12pm - Friends of 6:30pm - Board	22 5pm - Chicken	23 1pm - M1 Garand /
24 8am - Michigan	25 12pm - Friends of	26	27 10am - Wednesday	28 12pm - Friends of	29	30
31	1 12pm - Friends of	2	3 10am - Wednesday	4 12pm - Friends of	5	6 10am - .22LR 100 yd

Very Important: [For up-to-date information, please see the online calendar.](#)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1 12pm - Friends of	2	3 10am - Wednesday	4 12pm - Friends of	5	6 10am - .22LR 100 yd
7 8am - "Hearty"	8 12pm - Friends of	9	10 10am - Wednesday	11 12pm - Friends of	12	13 9am - New Member
14	15 12pm - Friends of 6:30pm - Safety 7:30pm - Finance	16	17 10am - Wednesday	18 Elections for TCSL 12pm - Friends of 6:30pm - Board	19	20 10am - High Power
21	22 12pm - Friends of	23	24 10am - Wednesday	25 12pm - Friends of	26 5pm - Chicken	27
28 8am - Michigan	1 12pm - Friends of	2	3 10am - Wednesday	4 12pm - Friends of	5	6 9am - 50/100 yd