



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

President's Column

Well, that storm prior to Christmas was quite a doozy! The old guidance is that you can drive in rain, wind, or snow without too much trouble; but when ice is thrown into the mix, it's a whole new ballgame. Temperatures in the single digits, some snow, and a lot of wind produced that dreaded ice both on the roads and on the walkways. I hope each of you had a safe and enjoyable December.

Human nature is a funny thing; and if we listen, sometimes we can hear it. In a previous life I was working midnights. One night a nasty ice storm coated the whole area. As the day shift staggered in one by one, each said almost the same thing: "Half the people were driving way too fast, and the other half were poking along too slowly." The human nature lesson? We all think we are correct in how we view ourselves and that others are the outliers. And when it was my time to brave the ice on the way home, I grumbled exactly what all of the dayshifters said!

At the Club, December was a busy month. The highlight of the month was two visits by Santa to our events. One visit was to the Wicked Jeeps Christmas party, and the other was to our Scout troop who hosted a breakfast with Santa fundraiser. Those still fortunate enough to believe were thrilled to get a chance to make personal contact with Santa.

As we move into January, our recurrent events continue; and we begin planning and organizing for the year. The monthly Country Breakfast is moved to the second Sunday, January 8. The Steak Fry returns on the fourth Friday, January 27. Both of these are open to the public, as well as to members, so bring your family or friends to the Club. They are also good ways to become involved and to get volunteer hours. The breakfast especially needs a few more hands. They start early on Sunday morning and are wrapped up by about noon. You don't have to work the entire shift. Any help you can give is appreciated.

The committees are active! Education is putting on several classes and their monthly gun safety seminar. Safety and Finance meet through Zoom on the 16th. There are two orientation classes scheduled.

Planning for Women on Target (WOT) and Kids on the Range Day (KORD) for the year 2023 kicks off on January 25 in the clubhouse. Tons of volunteer help is needed each year for these events. Please join us.

Club elections are scheduled for February. Nominations for Club Board and officer positions are finalized at the January business meetings on the 19th. Our Board of Directors is comprised of three members from the area that is divided into quadrants by I-94 and US-23. Members in good standing are eligible to run for a three-year term. This year, a board seat in each region is up for election. The officers are the President, First and Second Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and Recording Secretary. These are one-year terms, and each is up for election each year. Some positions are term limited, and some are not. Of particular mention this year is that Carlos Soto is term limited as 1st VP. This is an important position that keeps the club headed in the correct financial direction. Carlos guided the Club through the COVID days of abruptly reduced revenues. Those were new times for all of us. He helped us survive and prosper. Thank you, Carlos.

The required attitude to be 1st VP is a good business sense regarding revenue, expenses and adhering to our financial policies. The 1st VP chairs the Finance Committee and works with the Treasurer and the Board. We have a few possible nominations for this position, but nothing firm.

Mark Smokowicz has been doing double and triple duty as 2nd VP, Kitchen Chair, and Steak Fry Chair for quite a while. We need to find members to step into some of those positions for training. Each is important to the Club.

I have made some directed contacts to members regarding board and officer nominations. If I have not contacted you, please feel free to contact me (president@tcsi.org) regarding the duties and responsibilities of each position and the process to place your name in nomination.

Membership renewals are in process. We hope the Club provides value to you, and your continued membership is appreciated.

Happy New Year,

[Stuart Berry](#)

Memorial & Wellbeing Celebration & Thanks



Jerry Gutekunst, a Club member since 1967, passed away unexpectedly due to complications from surgery on September 8. He was 79 years old. After graduation from

from Ann Arbor Pioneer High School in 1960, Jerry served in the Michigan National Guard. He was a member of the An electrician by trade, Jerry served for nine as president of IBEW Local 252, going on to work many more years on the arbitration committee. Jerry is survived by Bonnie, his wife of 58 years, as well as a number of other family members. Affiliations included being a 32nd degree Mason and a life member of several other lodges. Funeral services were held at St. Paul United Church of Christ in Saline on September 13. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in his name may be made to the [American Diabetes Association](#) or to [St. Paul United Church of Christ](#). To leave a memory you have of Jerry, to sign his guestbook, or for directions please visit www.rbfhsaline.com.

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John Harden's wife Debbie Harden recently retired from Thomson Reuters after nearly 29 years. Debbie is currently an Associate Member of the Club. John also worked there for 19 years before he retired.

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Please send your healing thoughts to Diane Daniels who is having some health issues; and as always, we have a number of other members who could benefit from our thoughts and prayers.

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Please send items for this column to newsletter@tcsi.org.

February Newsletter

Absolute deadline for article submission:
January 24
newsletter@tcsi.org

2022 Rifle Season Final Results

These are the final 2022 rifle match season standings. Shooters earned 5 points per 1st place finish, 3 points per 2nd place finish, and 1 point per 3rd place finish.

Dave Harris won the last match of the season, which pushed him from 3rd to first for the season, his third consecutive win.

Name	Season Score
Dave Harris	33
Jerry Marken	31
Mark Smokowicz	29
Dave Vandermark	25
Brad Orr	15
Ed Benko	12
Charli Unbehaun	9
Chris Leite	6
Jeff Gage	5
Loylle Settlemeyre	5
Larry Jackson	4
Jake Slater	4
Todd Schmidt	3
Toni Stumpo	3
Michael Sapienza	3
Jim Walter	1
Pete Stumpo	1



Kids on the Range Day Saturday, July 15, 2023

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at our initial planning meeting on Wednesday, January 28, at 6:30pm at the Club. Whether you're able to volunteer for Kids on the Range Day or Women on Target or both, I hope you'll attend. (Of course, we hope you'll volunteer for both!)

Event applications will be available online on April 1. We were nearly full last year, so please spread the word to any kids 8-18 who might want to participate.

Let me know if you have questions or comments.

Please also see the Women on Target article to learn about volunteer T-shirts. We will be buying them for KORD volunteers as well, so please provide your size.



Val Kabat
KORD@TCSL.org

White Elephant Rifle Match Held

Our 4th annual White Elephant Rifle bench match was held on Saturday, December 17, at the 100-yard rifle range with 12 shooters.

Results of the match:

Place	Shooter	Rifle	Round	Score	Adj. Score
1 st Place	Dave Harris	AR-15	223 Rem	200-14x	200-14x
2 nd Place	Charlie Unbehaun	Ruger American Bolt	6.5 Creedmoor	188-10X	200-10x
3 rd Place	Pete Stumpo	Savage Bolt	308 Win	200-18x	195-18x
	Jim Szocik	AR-15	223 Rem	195-2x	195-2x
	Ed Benko	AR-15	223 Rem	196-6x	194-6x
	Todd Schmidt	AR-15	223 Rem	186-1x	191-1x
	Mark Smokowicz	AR-15	223 Rem	188-2x	188-2x
	Jerry Marken	1903A3 Springfield	30-06	185-2x	185-2x
	Larry Jackson	AR-15	223 Rem	175-2x	184-2x
	Dave Vandermark	1903A3 Springfield	30/06	176-1X	181-1x
	Mike Thompson	91/30 Mosin Nagant	7.62x54R	152	156
	Keaton Lutes	Ruger PCC	9mm luger	49	49

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 (a 100-yard Bench Match) will be held in mid-January 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 center-fire rifle (no full autos), foreign or domestic, modern or vintage, with iron sights or scope. Watch the calendar for the exact date.

The upcoming winter matches are conducted from the bench rest, and course of fire is 10 rounds sight-in over a period of 10 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.



John Harden always makes a wonderful Santa Claus!

January



Country Breakfasts Return to Tri-County Sportsmen's League!

**Sunday, January 8
8-11:30am**

Come Enjoy Breakfast with Friends.

**Open to the Public.
It's a great place to meet old friends
and make new ones.**

**\$8 for adults
\$4 children (12 and under)
Children under 5 are FREE**

Tri-County Sportsmen's League
8640 Moon Road, Saline, MI 48176



Harry's Auto Service

**221 E Michigan Ave.
Saline, MI 48176
734-429-9930**



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
I HAVE A DREAM

January 16

Hunters Education

Four Primary Rules of Firearm Safety

1. Always keep firearm pointed in a safe direction. Never point your gun at anything you do not intend to shoot.
2. Treat all guns as though they are loaded.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot, and remove it from the trigger after the shot.
4. Always be sure of your target and what's beyond it.

Know any new firearms owners who need more training? If they can't get some of the preferred hands-on training, here's a good start:

[IHEA-USA Firearm Fundamentals](#) offers gun owners basic firearm safety instruction through online handgun, rifle, and shotgun courses. These courses are carefully designed to help new firearms owners have a safe and positive experience. Learn at your own pace:

- Firearms Safety Rules
- Firearms Owner Responsibilities
- Safety in the Home
- Storing and Transporting Firearms
- Specific information on Safe Handling of Your Type of Firearm and its Ammunition
- Locks and Safes
- Range Safety Etiquette and Equipment
- Firearms Care and Cleaning
- Opportunities to Use Your Firearm in Fun Environments

Visit <https://www.ffcourse.org>

We hope you have a safe and blessed holiday.

[Hunter Education Committee](#)
[Jon N Yost](#)



TCSL STEAK FRY

Friday, January 27, 5-7pm

**At Tri-County Sportsmen's League
8640 Moon Road, Saline**

Take the night off from cooking and join us.
This is the best dinner money can buy!

Open to the public, so bring friends and family along.
Great time to connect with other TCSL members!

Choose from a Steak, Chicken or Salmon,
and watch it get cooked over a huge outdoor grill.
Then choose from an assortment of side dishes.

Meal includes:
Salad, Roll, Potatoes, Vegetable, Baked Beans, and Dessert.

Now offering kids meals:
Hamburger or Hot Dog, Mac & Cheese.

Steak Dinner \$20.00
Salmon Dinner \$15.00
Chicken Dinner \$10.00
Children (12-5) \$ 6.00
Children (under 5) Free

Range Safety at TCSL

First, on behalf of the TCSL Safety Committee, I'd like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. As we begin 2023, I'd like to recap some of the most common complaints that the Safety Committee receives.

1. Shell casings on the range. Specifically, casings that indicate the wrong firearm has been used on that particular range. There are signs on each range that note what firearms and calibers are permitted on that range. If you are unsure, just ask when you sign in. I know it can be a bit of a pain to have to move from one range to another when you change firearm, but the use designation is based on range design and safety factors. Also, please remember to pick up your shell casings. "Your mother isn't there to clean up after you."
2. Target placement. This continues to be a concern. On the Action Ranges, the targets should be placed as close to the backstop as possible. Shooting distance can be varied by moving your firing position.
3. Target height. Target placement is very important in helping to ensure fired bullets stay contained within the TCSL property. Every target must be of a height to ensure that all bullets fired at it will impact 8 feet or lower on the earthen backstop and not skip off the ground, impact a wall, or hit any other structure. Aerial shots will not be tolerated.
4. Damage to the vertical posts on the firing line. The committee feels that this is a result of wild almost "spray & pray" type shooting. Remember the gun safety rule that says never point at anything you do not wish to destroy? Well, some people are destroying the posts that are just a few feet from the firing.
5. Damage to target stands. Granted, target stands are somewhat perishable items, but please remember to place your target away from the wood that makes up the stand. If you are sighting-in you should place the target in the center so that you have a WIDE margin for error.



Items No. 4 and 5 above are reasons that we had to remove the 25-yard target stands on the Rifle Range. We realize this is an inconvenience for new sight-in, and we are continuing to explore ways to bring back that distance—in a safe manner that does not destroy TCSL property. Until we come up with a solution, 50 yards is the minimum distance for rifle shooting. DO NOT bring a stand from another range—or your own stand.

When using the ranges, please remember that you are more than just a member. You are part-owner. If you notice something not quite right, tell someone. Tim, our new club manager is a great resource. If you see another member or guest not following the rules, please take some time and have a friendly talk with them to help educate them.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that we have a number of "special events" at TCSL. Any event that uses the ranges should submit a request to the Safety Committee. The forms are available at the clubhouse. If you have an idea for a "new" event submit a form or contact the Safety Committee. (safety@tcsl.org). We will be happy to discuss your ideas and, if necessary, provide input to help the event conform to our range use policies. Our committee meets every month via Zoom. All members are welcome to participate. We meet on the Monday before the Board meeting, and the Zoom link is posted on the club calendar.

[Tom Lewandowdki](#)
[TCSL Safety Chairman](#)



Earl Austin with the 10-point buck he shot in Pennsylvania. Score: 158 1/4.

Membership

Three people submitted applications this month and were approved by the Board of Directors. They include:

Marlon Mayer - Probationary
Luke Cocan - Probationary Young Adult
Cheryl Hodgins - Probationary

Three people attended our orientation session in December:

Julia Barge-Siever - Probation
Luke Cocan - Probationary Young Adult
Amritraj Loganathan - Probationary

Julia is an aircraft mechanic. She joined to learn more about firearms and was looking for a welcoming outdoor range. Luke is a HVAC tradesman. Amritraj, who goes by "Raj," is a neurosurgeon.

There are two orientation sessions scheduled for January, Saturday the 11th at 9am and Sunday the 22nd at 1pm.

Current probationary members' renewal notices will be sent to them four to six weeks before their membership expires. Please check your membership card for the expiration date.

All renewal notices for 2023 have been sent, but there was an error in the time period noted on the form. It says "2/28/2023 -2/28/2023." This should be "3/1/2023-2/28/2024." I apologize for the error.

We lost a member this fall. We were notified that Jerry Gutekunst passed away in September. He had been a member of the Club since 1967.

If you have any questions about renewals, please contact me at membership@tcsl.org

Thanks

[Charlie Unbehaun](#)
[Membership Secretary](#)

TCSL RANGE HOURS

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

Sunday:
Shooting may begin
no earlier than 12noon

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

MUCC Committee Report

I was involved in deer hunting in the eastern Upper Peninsula from mid-November through mid-December. The hunting camp had another very poor year due to the wolf impact on the deer herd. MUCC has been involved with efforts, such as the Wolf Management Advisory Council, to find ways to improve the situation.

In late November, I attended an MUCC Park, Recreation, and Trails Committee meeting in Lansing. The committee acknowledged that it has a broader scope of involvement in the recreational aspects of trails, waterways, and forest areas that needs to be addressed.

On December 3, I attended the MUCC Conservation Policy Board meeting at the John A. Halter Shooting Sports Education Center, which is a part of Hillsdale College. The Policy Board committees met in the morning, and many of them worked on resolutions for Convention. The committees presented their resolutions to the full Policy Board in the afternoon, where the group decided which ones would be passed on to Convention (along with resolutions approved earlier). The Shooting Sports Center was a very impressive facility—it is the official home of the USA Shooting National Team.

On December 14, I attended the Conservation Coalition meeting at the MUCC office. The coalition is made up of many of Michigan's larger conservation organizations. These groups are involved in all areas of Michigan's natural resources. I suggested to the group that they form a

Policy Workgroup that would be involved with the southeastern Michigan Crystal Waters SGA development program. They did form a Policy Workgroup for this purpose.

On December 15, a number of MUCC Region 8 (southeast Michigan) members held a second meeting at the VFW Post in Romulus. The meeting was led by Region 8 MUCC Executive Board members, Leonard Shaner and Eric Braden. The group discussed ways that MUCC could help the Region 8 clubs with their needs. MUCC resolutions for convention were discussed. It is the intention of the Region 8 elected leaders to make contact with each of the Region 8 clubs, establishing additional communication between the clubs and MUCC and asking for their involvement and help in Region 8 and MUCC. The next Region 8 meeting is tentatively scheduled for the Maybee Sportsman's Club on January 21 or in late February. More information will be coming, and all MUCC members are invited to attend. You can contact me for more information.

I will have more information next month about MUCC's annual convention coming in March.

Jim Pryce and I hope everyone is having a happy holiday season.

Kris Matthew, wkris matt@aol.com
734-646-3763

Jim Pryce, jpryce@aol.com
734-368-2473

WOMEN ON TARGET

AND WE'RE OFF! Preparations are beginning for Women On Target 2023 to be held Saturday, June 10. Our generous volunteers are the wheels that keep this event rolling along! So here is where we are at the moment:

Our first meeting, in conjunction with Kids On The Range Day (KORD), will be held on Wednesday, January 25, at 6:30 at the Club. We hope you'll join us as we discuss what is needed and how you can help make this year's event a success. Once again, there are many volunteer positions to be filled.

This year, we will provide our Women On Target* volunteers with TCSL Staff T-shirts which will come in handy for future Club events. These will be at no charge to our volunteers. This means we will need your shirt size to be available when we place our order later in the spring. Would you please take a moment and send us an email with your name and shirt size. We will add it to the list. You can email us at: WOT@TCSL.org. Or if more convenient, send a text message to Carol Grubb at 734-417-9599. Be sure to include your name along with your shirt size.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year!



Carol Grubb, 734-417-9599
Deb Thompson, 734-649-5315

*NOTE: T-shirts will also be purchased for KORD volunteers as well.



Booster Club

DONATE TO

Tri-County Sportsmen's League

Suggested donations:

\$10 \$50 \$100

Or choose your amount.

You can also make this a recurring, monthly donation.

To donate via PayPal, scan the QR Code below with your smart phone or tablet.



Or mail a check to:

Tri-County Sportsmen's League

Attn: Booster Club

8640 Moon Road, Saline, MI 48176



The mission of the Booster Club is to raise funds to supplement TCSL's traditional funding through member dues. These funds will help to ensure that TCSL can continue to: Promote sportsmen and women in the betterment of hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, boating, shooting.

- Host social activities for our members.
- Provide leadership for our youth.
- Participate in citizen action in the legislative process.
- Protect our environment.



The first planning meeting for Women On Target & Kids on the Range Day:

Wednesday, January 25, at 6:30pm
at the Club.

There will be NO MEETING in February.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 12pm - Friends of 7pm - BSA Troop 439	2	3	4 10am - Wednesday Range	5 12pm - Friends of	6	7 8am - Michigan CPL 1pm - DeJonghe Family
8 8am - Breakfast at Tri-	9 12pm - Friends of	10 7pm - Troop 439	11 10am - Wednesday Range 6:30pm - Gun Safety	12 12pm - Friends of 6:30pm - Education	13	14 9am - Orientation Class
15 8am - NRA CCW Course	16 12pm - Friends of 6:30pm - Safety 7:30pm - Finance	17	18 10am - Wednesday Range	19 12pm - Friends of 5pm - Burger Night (lower 6:30pm - Board Meeting 7pm - Membership	20	21
22 1pm - Orientation Class	23 12pm - Friends of	24	25 10am - Wednesday Range 6:30pm - WOT & KORD	26 12pm - Friends of	27 5pm - Flame Broiled	28
29	30 12pm - Friends of 6pm - Troop 439-Patrol	31	1 10am - Wednesday Range	2 12pm - Friends of	3	4 8am - Michigan CPL

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30 12pm - Friends of 6pm - Troop 439-Patrol	31	1 10am - Wednesday Range	2 12pm - Friends of	3	4 8am - Michigan CPL
5 8am - Breakfast at Tri-	6 12pm - Friends of	7	8 10am - Wednesday Range 6:30pm - Gun Safety	9 12pm - Friends of 6:30pm - Education	10	11 9am - Orientation Class
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