



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

President's Column

The good news this time of the year is that daylight increases with each passing day. An odd phenomenon of the solar times is that the extremes of sunrise and sunset are not exactly coordinated. The earliest sunset is about 5:04pm, extending this year from December 2-16. The latest sunrise is about 8:05am in the first week of January. Even though daylight is increasing, we all know how ugly January and February can be!

Annual Meeting. Thursday, January 18

Committee Chairs: Please prepare a recap of your activities in 2023. This should be in the form of a written report that can be delivered to the [Recording Secretary \(via an emailed PDF\)](#) or a hard copy) for inclusion in the January meeting minutes. This document may include the number of events and their details, a general financial overview, and numbers of participants. Think about any notable achievements, if you overcame any significant issues, or if there are any issues that are bedeviling you or your committee? Please include any suggestions for improving your area next year. These reports serve to inform the Club of our current activities and document them in our history. Maybe in 2044, 20 years from now, we (well . . . someone) will look back and say, "Wow, those old-timers must have been pretty great committee chairs to put on such terrific events! Let's see how can we do even better than that!" This is not as far-fetched as it may seem. On one of the tables near the bar is a photo album with pictures from many years ago. You'll see several current-day members in those photos who are still very recognizable, albeit much younger.

Officer/Director Nominations. We will accept nominations and finalize the ballot for the February elections. The Bylaws describe the requirements for running for an office or a director's seat. You can nominate yourself or someone else, but each nominee must accept the nomination at the Annual Meeting or by email prior to the meeting. I will be happy to answer questions president@tcsi.org.

Officers. Each Club officer is up for election each year. Some are term limited, and some are not.

First Vice President (Hall Rental) is limited to serving no more than four consecutive one-year terms and then must step down for at least one year. Mark Smokowicz has been doing a stellar job in this capacity for four years and doubling for much of that time as Kitchen Chair. (Thank you, Mark, for all that you do!) If you have a desire to serve the Club by handling our frequent hall rentals (including setting contracts, coordinating times and volunteers, and helping to ensure any food and bar necessities are in place), please step up to the challenge, realizing that it requires a fairly sizeable time commitment.

All the other officer positions are open, but the incumbents are eligible for reelection. Thank you to those current officers: Jim Walter, Charlie Unbehau, John Harden, and Fred Girbach for their efforts.

First Vice President (Finance) requires a careful oversight of Club income and expenses, as well as knowledge of Club history and anticipating the future.

Membership Secretary is engaged year 'round in bringing new members into the Club and processing annual renewals.

Treasurer processes and documents Club income and expenses, payroll, and bank accounts; coordinates tax returns; and so much more.

Recording Secretary takes the minutes of the Board and Membership Meetings and publishes them.

President is the presiding officer at meetings and has duties related to the operation of the Club.

Directors. Three Directors are elected from each of our four geographic regions. They serve staggered three-year terms so that one director's seat is up for election every year. Members in good standing are encouraged to run for the board. The minimum commitment is attending the monthly board and membership meetings. Earl Austin is term-limited in his region and cannot run again without a one-year hiatus. Earl has done three terms, or nine years, on the board. Thank you, Earl, for your talents and time.

Our search for a new **Clubhouse Manager** continues. This is a 32-hour-per-week position with normal days being Wednesday to Saturday. Good people skills and handyman experience are a good start. This person maintains the facility, coordinates repairs, and is the face of the Club to the membership and the public.

The Charter Agreement with **Scout Troop 439** has ended. We wish the troop well as they continue with their next chartering organization.

Enough of that sort of stuff! All that good information above ensures that our Club continues to run smoothly, but we can never forget that it exists for our members! It is the people who matter—both current and prospective members. I think we must be doing something right, as I recently observed the hall being set up for a rental. I marveled at the good spirit and efficiency of the setup team. But then it hit me: Wait—I see that spirit and efficiency all the time at Tri-County. Whether it be at a Steak Fry or Breakfast, at a meeting, on the range, or at one of our huge events, we work as a team to shine a bright light on Tri-County Sportsmen's League. Thanks to all who make it happen.

Here's what's up for January. We need hall and kitchen help for a Chie Family dinner on the 5th and clean up on the 6th. The Sunday Breakfast needs help on the 7th for prep and clean up. Come on out and bring your friends for a great breakfast. Trap continues on Sundays. Steak Fry returns on the 26th. Just like the Breakfast, we need kitchen help and diners for the Steak Fry. Bring your friends. Rifle has a bench match on the 20th. The Annual Meeting, with Burger Night, is on the 18th. Safety and Finance meet via Zoom on the 15th. WOT and KORD begin planning for their summer events on the 10th. We are a volunteer organization needing volunteers.

Our friends in Lansing have been busy this legislative term enacting laws related to firearms. Our current-day press outlets are of such low quality or so deliberately biased that discovering what is happening in Lansing is not easy. Rarely does an article reference the specific bill numbers that were passed so that we can read exactly what's they contain. Anyone out there with knowledge of the new laws is encouraged to present a sufficiently detailed account of these new laws for inclusion in our newsletter so that we can determine what is required of us.

Happy New Year to All!

Sincerely,
Stuart Berry

2024 Rifle Match Schedule

Sat, Jan 20
100-yd HP Bench Match (10am start)

Sat, Feb 17
100-yd HP Bench Match (10am start)

Sat, Mar 16
March Madness Match (10am start)

Sat, Apr 20
Lever Action Match (10am start)

Sat, May 4
Cavalry Match (10am start)

Sat, May 18
Military Match (10am start)

Sat, Jun 29
185-yd HP Bench Match (10am start)

Thur, Jul 11
IBS 22LR 100-yd Match (6:30pm start)

Sat, Jul 27
Kentucky Windage 22LR Match (10am start)

Thur, Aug 1
IBS 22LR 100-yd Match (6:30pm start)

Sat, Aug 10
March Madness Match (10am start)

Thur, Aug 22
IBS 22LR 100-yd Match (6:30pm start)

Sat, Sept 21 - Military Match (10am start)

Thur, Sept 26
IBS 22LR 100-yd Match (6:00pm start)

Sat, Oct 5
185-yd HP Bench Match (10am start)

Sat, Oct 19
Military Match (10am start)

Sat, Nov 9
Trench Match (10am start)

Sat, Nov 23
March Madness Match (10am start)

Sat, Dec 14
White Elephant Match (10am start)

Dave Vandermark, rifle@TCSL.org



Did You Know?

On this day in history:

- January 1, 1776 - George Washington unveiled the Grand Union Flag, the first national flag in America.
- January 1, 1863 - The Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves in the Confederate states.
- January 4, 1809 (d. 1852) - Louis Braille was born in France. Blinded as a boy, he later invented the Braille system for reading using punch marks in paper.
- January 7, 1714 - A patent was issued for the first typewriter.
- January 8, 1935 (d. 1977) - Elvis Presley was born in Tupelo, Mississippi.
- January 11, 1964 - The U.S. Surgeon General declared cigarettes may be hazardous to health.
- January 15, 1870 - The first use of a donkey to symbolize the Democratic Party in America appeared in a cartoon in Harper's Weekly.
- January 15, 1929 (d. 1968) - Martin Luther King was born in Atlanta, Georgia.
- January 17, 1706 (d. 1790) - Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston, Massachusetts. *[Let's see who actually reads this column. He was my 16th great grandfather.]*
- January 24, 1848 - The California gold rush began with the accidental discovery of gold during construction of a sawmill.
- January 27, 1967 - Three American astronauts were killed as a fire erupted inside Apollo 1 during a launch simulation test at Cape Kennedy, Florida.
- January 28, 1986 - The U.S. Space Shuttle Challenger exploded 74 seconds into its flight, killing all seven aboard.
- January 29, 1919 - The 18th (Prohibition) Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified.
- January 30, 1835 - President Andrew Jackson survived the first assassination attempt on a U.S. President.
- January 30, 1919 (d. 1972) - Jackie Robinson was born in Cairo, Georgia. He was the first African American to play professional baseball and was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.

note: Not intended to be an exhaustive list!

White Elephant Match Held

Our Fifth Annual White Elephant Rifle bench match was held on Saturday, December 9, at the 100-yard rifle range with three shooters.

Results of the match:

Place	Shooter	Rifle	Round	Score	Adj. Score
1st Place	Larry Jackson	AR-15	223 Rem	191-3x	200-3x
2nd Place	Mark Smokowicz	AR-15	223 Rem	197-8X	197-8x
3rd Place	Dave Vandermark	1903A3 Springfield	30-06	189-2x	193-2x

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 January 20 (a 100-yard 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 center-fire 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 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.

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



Harry's Auto Service

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



[from the Hunter Education Committee](#)
[Jon Yost](#)



Country Breakfast Tri-County Sportsmen's League!

Sunday, January 7 - 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



Tri-County's Steak Fry Friday - January 26

Flame-Broiled Ribeye, Salmon, or Chicken



Steak\$25.00
Salmon \$20.00
Chicken \$15.00

Meal includes:
Main Entree Above, Plus
Salad, Roll, Potatoes, Vegetable, Baked Beans, and Dessert.

Children (5-12)..... \$10.00
Children (under 5) Free

Meal includes:
Hamburger or Hot Dog, Mac & Cheese, Salad, Roll,
Vegetable, Baked Beans, and Dessert.

Open to the public.

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

Rob Struk

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Award
2014

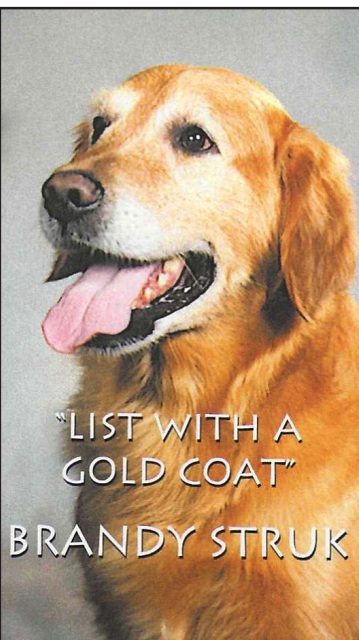
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Office



"LIST WITH A
GOLD COAT"
BRANDY STRUK

February Newsletter

Absolute deadline for article submission:
January 24

newsletter@tcsl.org

For advertising information and
(very reasonable) rates:
tcsl.org/newsletters



Memorial & Wellbeing Celebration & Thanks

Please keep the Grapentien family in your thoughts and prayers as Tim's wife Michelle continues to struggle with health issues.



Kris Matthew could also use some healing thoughts as he recovers from a back injury. He says he's too ornery to let it keep him down (or words to that effect).



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



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

Jim Pryce and I continue to be involved with various organizations and have attended meetings representing TCSL.

On Saturday, December 2, the MUCC Conservation Policy Board met at the Perch Point Conservation Club in St. Clair County. One of the major tasks for this meeting was to review resolutions that had been submitted for consideration at the March MUCC Annual Convention. Positive action on a resolution at the Policy Board means that the resolution will be considered—and voted on—by the delegates at the MUCC Convention. Information about the December Policy Board actions and the plans for convention can be found on the MUCC website. Go to www.mucc.org; select "About," select "Conservation Policy Board," and/or go to www.mucc.org; select "Events" and select "MUCC Annual Convention."

I plan to represent TCSL as a delegate to the MUCC Convention and would like to hear from you if you support or oppose particular resolutions, or if you would like to know more about them. The 2024 convention will be held from March 8-10 at the Kewadin Casino & Hotel in Sault Ste. Marie.

If you are interested in getting more involved with MUCC, and/or getting involved in MUCC projects and activities, please contact Jim or me. Michigan United Conservation Clubs is a very important organization within Michigan; and I have found that my involvement with the organization has been beneficial to MUCC, to the clubs where I'm a member, and to me.

If any TCSL member is interested in more information and/or in being involved with MUCC programs and activities, please contact Jim or Kris. Thank you and Happy New Year!

[Jim Pryce](mailto:jpryce@aol.com)

jpryce@aol.com, 734-691-9749

[Kris Matthew](mailto:wkris matt@aol.com)

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



Membership

Two people submitted applications in December. The new applicants are:

Adam Jeffrey - Probationary
Jason Rohrabough - Associate

One applicant attended orientation, and he has been approved by the Board of Directors; so please welcome him to the Club.

James Scott - Probationary

Current probationary members renewal notices will be sent to them 4 to 6 weeks before their membership expires. Please check your membership card for the expiration date.

The current membership includes 25 Associate, 7 Juniors, 23 Life, 4 Military, 57 Probationary, 7 Past Presidents, 2 Probationary Young Adults, 227 Regular, 76 Senior, and 4 Young Adults, totaling 432.

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

Please remember to check on the hours that we have recorded. Also, just as a reminder, the cutoff for hours was November 30.

Also just as a reminder, the Board of Directors voted to increase the annual dues to \$180 and the annual range pass to \$80. The volunteer hours range pass reduction has been changed to \$20 for 20 hours, \$40 for 40 hours, \$60 for 60 hours and a free range pass for 80 hours or more. These rates will take effect on March 1, 2024. We have sent out renewal notices that reflect these changes.

Thanks,

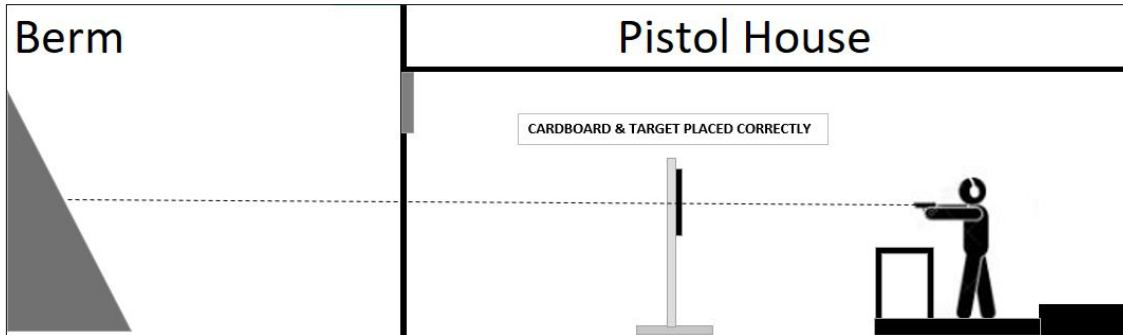
[Charlie Unbehaun](mailto:charlie.unbehaun@tcsl.org)
Membership Secretary



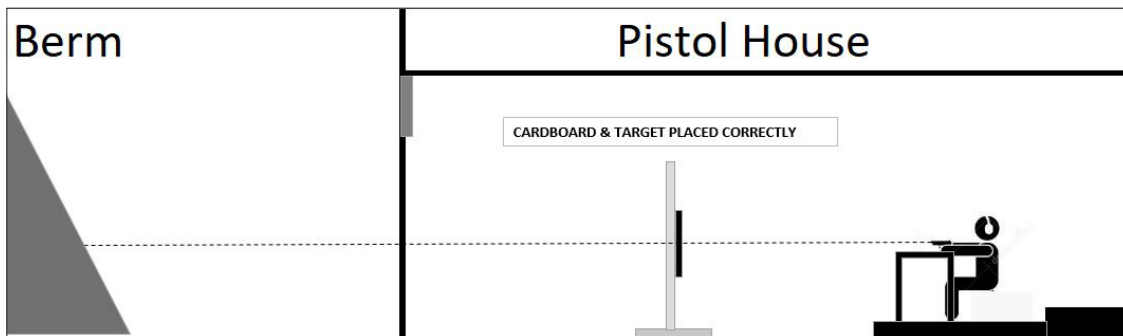
Target Alignment: A Top Priority!

At Tri-County target placement and sight alignment are very important to the overall safety of our ranges. Knowing your target and what is behind it is one of the fundamentals of safe shooting.

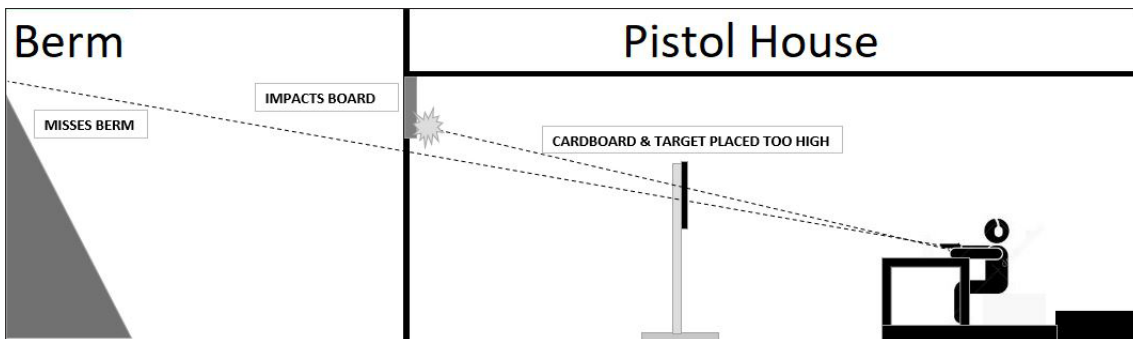
In the Pistol House we strive to place the cardboard target backers at the correct standing positions for average shooters, however people come in all sizes.



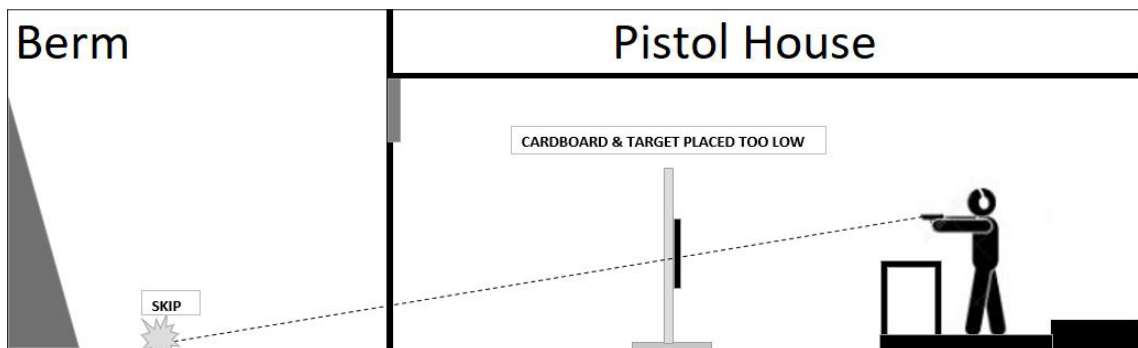
Many people enjoy shooting while seated or sighting in their pistols using a bench rest. This requires the cardboard and target to be placed at a lower position to properly impact the berm.



It is very important to remember to lower the cardboard and target to ensure proper target alignment, failing to do so can result in damage to the building or missing the berm entirely.



We ask that if you lower the cardboard for sitting you replace it to the original higher position when you have completed shooting. Shooters have been observed negligently shooting at low cardboard from a standing position. Remember you must always check your target alignment to prevent skips, this is especially important in the winter when the ground may be frozen.





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.



Women On Target Saturday June 8

AND WE'RE OFF! Preparations are beginning for Women On Target 2024. 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 10, at 6:30 at the club. Please 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.

Sponsorship Packets will be available at that meeting. Please consider who you might want to contact for sponsorship of the event, and pick up a packet to present to them.

CALLING ALL LEADERS! Will you consider chairing the 2025 Women On Target event? If your answer is "yes"—or even "maybe"—please contact Carol for more information or to work with her this year to see what is involved.

*Wishing you a Happy and
Healthy New Year!*



[Carol Grubb, WOT@TCSL.org](mailto:Carol.Grubb,WOT@TCSL.org)

734-417-9599

Deb Thompson, 734-649-5315

Kids on the Range Day Saturday, July 13

Please join us for our first planning meeting on Wednesday, January 10, at 6:30pm in the clubhouse. If you've volunteered for this event before, you know how much fun it can be; and this meeting will give us all a chance to touch base on what's coming up for this year's event.

If you're new to the event, it's give you a chance to see what it's all about and get acquainted with some of the many wonderful volunteers who help to make it possible.

Just a plug for our Tri-County volunteers: Y'all are the best!!! If you're new to the Club and haven't joined those ranks yet, please come out and see what we're all about!

This year's KORD will follow the same basic format as always, but constructive suggestions about how to improve the event are welcome! Many of you already know the drill; but we're always looking for new volunteers, so let me know if you have questions.

Here's to a Very Happy New Year!



[Val Kabat, KORD@TCSL.org](mailto:Val.Kabat,KORD@TCSL.org)

MONTHLY WOT/KORD Planning Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm:

January 10 • February 14 • March 13 • April 10

May 29 - Volunteer Dinner

July 10 - KORD Volunteers only


Tri-County's First Annual Ugly Sweater Contest



Brian Fitzgerald, Nancy Lindeman (the BIG WINNER!), Dave Vandermark (Honorable Mention), Val Kabat, Stuart Berry, Nancy Arcy. Thanks to Phillip Garza for graciously agreeing to serve as judge and jury. (If you saw Nancy's sweater, you know it wasn't a tough call! Let this serve as inspiration to everyone to participate next December!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 RSO On Duty: Charlie U. 12pm - Trap Shooting @	1 12pm - Friends of 	2 RSO on Duty: Phil C. @	3 RSO on Duty: Mark S (am) 10am - Wednesday Range	4 12pm - Friends of	5 5:30pm - Chie Rehearsal	6
7 RSO on Duty: Charlie U. pistol house closed for 8am - Michigan CCW / 8am - Breakfast at 1pm - Orientation Class	8 12pm - Friends of	9 RSO on Duty: Phil C. @ 6:30pm - Education	10 RSO on Duty: Mark S (am) 10am - Wednesday Range 6:30pm - Gun Safety 6:30pm - WOT & KORD	11 12pm - Friends of	12	13
14 RSO on Duty: Charlie U.	15 12pm - Friends of 6:30pm - Safety 7:30pm - Finance	16 RSO on Duty: Phil C. @	17 RSO on Duty: Mark S (am) 10am - Wednesday Range	18 12pm - Friends of 5pm - Burger Night 6:30pm - Board Meeting 7pm - Membership	19	20 9am - High Power Bench 12pm - Private Party
21 Pistol House closed for RSO on Duty: Charlie U. 8am - NRA CCW Course	22 12pm - Friends of	23 RSO on Duty: Phil C. @	24 RSO on Duty: Mark S (am) 10am - Wednesday Range	25 12pm - Friends of	26 5pm - Flame Broiled	27 9am - Orientation Class
28 RSO on Duty: Charlie U.	29 12pm - Friends of	30 RSO on Duty: Phil C. @	31 RSO on Duty: Mark S (am) 10am - Wednesday Range	1 12pm - Friends of	2	3

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 RSO on Duty: Charlie U.	29 12pm - Friends of	30 RSO on Duty: Phil C. @	31 RSO on Duty: Mark S (am) 10am - Wednesday Range	1 12pm - Friends of	2	3
4 RSO on Duty: Charlie U. pistol house closed for 8am - Michigan CCW / 8am - Breakfast at	5 12pm - Friends of	6 RSO on Duty: Phil C. @	7 RSO on Duty: Mark S (am) 10am - Wednesday Range	8 12pm - Friends of	9	10
11 RSO on Duty: Charlie U.	12 12pm - Friends of	13 RSO on Duty: Phil C. @ 6:30pm - Education	14 RSO on Duty: Mark S (am) 10am - Wednesday Range 6:30pm - Gun Safety 6:30pm - WOT & KORD 	15 12pm - Friends of 5pm - Burger Night 6:30pm - Board Meeting 7pm - Membership	16	17 9am - High Power Bench
18 Pistol House closed for RSO on Duty: Charlie U. 8am - NRA CCW Course 1pm - Hall setup (entire 6pm - Oakwood Church	19 12pm - Friends of 6:30pm - Safety 7:30pm - Finance	20 RSO on Duty: Phil C. @	21 RSO on Duty: Mark S (am) 10am - Wednesday Range	22 12pm - Friends of	23 5pm - Flame Broiled	24 Oakwood Church
25 RSO on Duty: Charlie U.	26 12pm - Friends of	27 RSO on Duty: Phil C. @	28 RSO on Duty: Mark S (am) 10am - Wednesday Range	29 12pm - Friends of	1	2