ON TARGET

February 2026

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

President's Column

Annual elections are being held at Tri-County on Thursday, February19, from noon until 8pm. Stop by the Club and vote for all Officers and Regional Directors who are running. Bring your membership card when you come to vote. Voter ID is Important! If you will be out of town on that day you can request an absentee ballot by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope or by email request. Any absentee ballot must be received by election day. Here is the slate of candidates for 2026:

President	Phil Cardon
1st VP (Finance)	Jim Walter
2nd VP (Hall)	Carol Grubb
Treasurer	John Harden
Membership Secretary (vote for 1)	Fred Girbach Charlie Unbehaun
Recording Secretary	OPEN
Region 1	Nate Newlin
Region 2	Jim Jackson
Region 3 (vote for 2)	Rob Grubb John Vidolich
Region 4 (vote for 1)	Brian Craig Jon Yost

The Recording Secretary position is open as of ballot closing. It's an important role for the Club. Anyone interested in filling that spot, let us know.

At the close of the year, one of the final duties of the President is to recognize a few members for their efforts during the prior year. It's a difficult assignment, as TCSL has so many members who give their time to make this Club great all year round. Here are this year's award-winners:

Member of the Year 2026
Jim Walter
Associate Member of the Year 2026
Stephanie Grubb
Leadership Award 2026
Pam Hasslebach

If you are able to attend the Membership Meeting in February, the above three will receive their award plaques, and you can congratulate them in person.

As my term as president draws to a close, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to every member of our sportsmen's club for your support, enthusiasm, and camaraderie. It's been an incredible honor to lead such a dedicated group, and I'm grateful for the memories we've created together. Here's to continued success and many more adventures ahead—thank you all!

Mark Smokowicz, president@tcsl.org

Membership

Eight people submitted applications in January:

Jacob Bender - Probationary	Dominic Sapienza - Probationary
Michael Gerdeman - Associate	Alex Stanich - Probationary
Angela Muir - Probationary	Steven Szura - Probationary
Mark Rotary - Probationary	Michael Zandi - Probationary

Three people attended orientation in January:

Daniel Scrochi - Probationary
Tom Starkey - Probationary
Evan Wight - Probationary

Please welcome them to the Club.

The next orientation is scheduled for Saturday, February 14. About a week before the date, I will send an email to new applicants who need orientation. Any current members are also welcome to attend as a refresher. We have had a couple of requests for a weekday orientation. If you would like to attend then, please let me know about possible date and time options.

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.

Below is our current membership by type:

Associates: 26
LEO First Responder: 1
Junior: 7
Life: 17
Military: 5
Probationary: 50
Past President: 9
Probationary Young Adult: 1
Regular: 202
Senior: 80
Young Adult: 2
Total: 400

At the January Membership Meeting I added to the various committee reports the number of volunteer hours worked in 2025. Following are some highlights:

2025 IDPA Challenge Match: 1003
IDPA Monthly Matches and Practices: 1446
Board and Membership Meetings: 792
KORD: 725
WOT: 812
Trap: 482
Grounds: 625
Range Maintenance: 450
Bowling Pin Shots: 521
Total: 9550

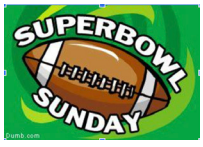
If you have any questions regarding membership or volunteer hours, please contact.

Thanks,

Charlie Unbehaun, Membership Secretary
membership@tcsl.org

SUPER BOWL WATCH PARTY

****** AND GAME NIGHT!!! ******
AND POTLUCK
Sunday, February 8 - 5pm



Mark your calendar now to join the Super Bowl Watch Party at Tri-County Sportsmen's League. It will also be a Game Night and Potluck.

We'll be watching the game on the big-screen TV. And in case football isn't really your thing, we're adding in Game Night. Tables will be set up for cards and various classic board games. If you have a favorite, bring it along!

It's a potluck so bring a dish to pass or a snack.
Bring your friends. Cash bar will be open.

Call Carol Grubb for more information at 734-417-9599.

Hunter Education

Preaching to the Choir

At the monthly Board/Membership meetings, the committee chairs speak of what has been going on and what is up and coming.

I speak for the Hunter Education Committee at these meetings and have been looking to increase the number of Hunter Education certified instructors, which is a volunteer role in both TCSL and the State of Michigan. So . . . when asking at the meetings for volunteers (which most all attendees are already), it's like preaching to the choir.

So now I'm Preaching to YOU the Congregation.

Last month, we sent out an email blast (copy below) that you may or may not have read. I am reaching out through this newsletter in the attempt to achieve the optimal amount of instructors needed to run a quality Hunter Education program.

It is not too late to join the fine group of people we have working to make a deference in the community.

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email blast
Hunter Education, Become an Instructor

I am reaching out to the Tri-County Sportsman's League community who are interested in making a difference.

Hunting in Michigan is a long-time heritage and family tradition. is a great way to enjoy our great outdoors, exercise, and put high protein food on the table.

As you may know, the hunting population is dwindling in numbers, and so is the number of certified instructors. It is hard to take a hunter safety class if you can't find one locally.

I have been a Hunter Education instructor for going on eight years now, and I have found it to be one of the most rewarding things I have done, next to my career and raising a family.

It is a volunteer position with the state of Michigan, Introducing like-minded people on how to become safe, responsible, and ethical hunters.

I believe that God wants us to help others, and this how I can in a small way. So I am reaching out to you to make a difference in 2026 and forward by YOU becoming a part of our Hunter Education Committee.We will get you started in becoming a Certified Instructor through the State of Michigan.

If you have read this to this point, I can see you may be a good candidate. See the attached from Michigan.Gov To learn more.

I will be glad to help you on the journey. Also, we are having a planning meeting on Monday, February 2, at 6:30pm at TCSL in our downstairs clubhouse, if you would like to check it out. Or you can visit our first class, on Saturday, March 3, at 9am.
For either, RSVP me at huntereducation@tcsl.org

You can also contact me with questions.

Thanks for your interest

Respectfully
Jon N Yost, huntereducation@tcsl.org

https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/about/get-involved/volunteer-recreational-safety-instructor

MUCC News

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs Annual Convention is this month at the Suburban Collection Showplase in Novi. The dates are February 20-22. This year it is being held in conjunction with Outdoorama. Outdoorama opening day is Thursday February 19. There are volunteer opportunities* to work the MUCC booth by signing up at mucc.org. By signing up, you and a guest get FREE admission to the show, along with other MUCC swag. Working the booth is easy, and you get a chance to shoot the breeze with sportsmen and sportswomen from around the state. Opening night is also Big Buck Night where "Michigan Outdoors" hosts Jimmy Gretzinger and Jennie Olson will be filming their television show. C'mon out and meet them.

Thanks.

Jim Pryce, mucc@tcsl.org

*If you do volunteer your time will count toward TCSL work hours (they always have for any MUCC activity).

Tri-County Euchre

Mark your calendar to come out and enjoy a fun night playing euchre at the club. We play on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. Upcoming dates: February 4, March 4 and 18..

Cover charge is $5, with $2.50 of that going to the prize pots at the end of the night: 80% goes to the high scorer and 20% goes to the player at the other end of the scoresheet.

Play starts at 7pm. We serve hotdogs and coney dogs from shortly after 6pm on. The cost is $2.50 each. The cash bar is open and the popcorn is free.

Carol Grubb, 734-417-9599

Support your Club with a Donation to TCSL's Booster Club

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.

Or mail a check to:
Tri-County Sportsmen's League
Attn: Booster Club
8640 Moon Rd., Saline, MI 48176

. . . for your generous support!

Please note: Contributions to TCSL are NOT tax deductible as charitable contributions.

The mission of the Booster Club is 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, and shooting; and to offer social activities for our members, provide leadership for our youth, participate in citizen action in the legislative process, and protect our environment.

Christmas At Tri-County – A Community Event

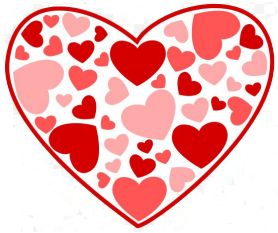
Event Follow-Up

The holiday party at Tri-County Sportsmen's League was a great way to end 2025!

Thank you to everyone who attended the event, as well as all those who donated food and clothing. We were able to donate more than 240 items (including almost 100 pounds of food!) to Saline Area Social Service. Great job, TCSL members and families!

We also want to extend a special thank you to all of the volunteers who made the event such a success. We'd like to especially thank KBK Garden Center and Nursery and Laura Girbach, who donated the raffled rug, porch pots, and poinsettias, which made the event that much more festive.

Stephanie Grubb



March Newsletter

Absolute deadline for article submission:
February 24
newsletter@tcsl.org

For advertising information:t
tcsl.org/newsletters

Women On Target
Saturday, June 6, 2026

At this time, **it is uncertain if Women On Target will take place this year** on June 6 or if it will take a one-year hiatus. **We need a Chairperson** to take over managing and organizing the event. While I am available to answer questions, I will not be available to lead the event.

In addition to needing a Chairperson, we also **need a person to act as the kitchen head** that day and days leading up to it, organizing menus and shopping. The kitchen coordinates the morning light breakfast and lunch for the participants as well as directing a team in getting morning snack/coffee and lunches to the volunteers on the ranges. We will also need a person to take over organizing and running the raffle.

As you can see, there are three major positions that need filling, most critically at this time is the Chairperson. The Chairperson does not need to be a woman. You can call me with any questions on what is involved. I'll be happy to answer them in detail.

A final determination on whether or not Women On Target will take place this year will be made at the WOT/KORD meeting taking place on Wednesday, February 11, at 6:30pm at the Club.

Women On Target has been one of Tri-County's main annual events. Not only is it important for the significant income it brings to the Club, but also for opening up our Club to 70 women and giving them a very important day of instilling confidence and familiarizing themselves with firearm handling and safety.

Please let me know of your possible interest and call me with any questions you may have.

You can reach me at WOT@TCSL.org or call me.

Carol Grubb, wot@tcsl.org
734-417-9599

Kids on the Range Day
Saturday, July 18, 2026

We'll kick things into high gear at our first meeting on Wednesday, February 11, at 6:30pm at the clubhouse.

The format will be the same as always, but now's the time to speak up if you see things that should be changed. I'm open to suggestions.

I'm counting on our regular Range Leads to gather at least five coaches for their range, so that they can keep an eye on what's going on.

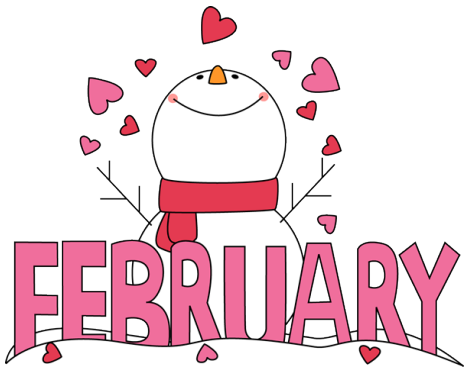
Action - Jon Yost
Archery - Coach AJ
Pin Shoot - Jim Walter
Pistol - Dick Cupka
Rifle - Dave Vandermark
Trap - Nick Coburn

Just FYI: I have finally had to admit that I'm OLD, and driving after dark is something I try to avoid. Thanks to Tom Lewandowski, who has graciously agreed to sit in for me for at least the first couple of meetings. Tom and I will be in close touch and I am always available by email - or phone/text.

Val Kabat, kord@tcsl.org

WOT/KORD 2026 Planning Meetings
Wednesdays at 6:30pm

February 11
March 11
April 8
May 13
June 10
July 8 (KORD only)



Memorial & Wellbeing

Please keep Coach AJ in your thoughts and prayers. Her 89-year-old father, Frederick John Berning, Sr., passed away on January 3, surrounded by his loving family. He was living in Temperance, Michigan, but was born in Toledo, where, as many of you know, AJ has her AJ Archery Studio.

Fred was preceded in death by his beloved wife of more than 54 years, Julia "Juliette" (Wolinski) Berning, and by his son, Gregory J. Berning, Sr. He was a Registered Professional Civil Engineer and Land Surveyor in Ohio and Michigan. His more than 50-year career began in 1954 and he retired in 2007 as sole owner of Farnham, Wirries & Berning. Fred's professional legacy includes work on countless subdivisions and developments throughout Ohio and Michigan. He was especially proud to have designed and surveyed Bedford Hills Golf Club on Jackman Road in Temperance.

He loyally cheered for the Detroit Lions through every season. He also supported his children's athletic pursuits, many of whom played sports throughout their youth and beyond, as players, coaches, or both. Known for his dry wit and gentle humor, Fred was a patient teacher and a generous mentor. His attention to detail, creativity, and problem-solving skills extended well beyond his profession.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 8330 Lewis Avenue, Temperance, MI 48182, or to Bedford Senior Community Center, 1653 Samaria Road, Temperance, MI 48182.

Read his entire obituary here: https://bedfordfuneralchapel.com/obituary/frederick-john-berning-sr

Winter Rifle Bench Match Held

Our first high power 100 yard Rifle bench match for 2026 was held on Saturday, January 17, at the 100-yard rifle range with 10 shooters.

Results of the match:

Place	Shooter	Rifle	Round	Score
Scoped Division				
1st Place	Jason Curtis	Zeus	223 Rem	100-10x
2nd Place	Logan Curtis	Zeus	223 Rem	100-9x
3rd Place (tie)	Jerry Marken	AR-15	223 Rem	100-7x
3rd Place (tie)	Larry Sanford	Kimber	22-250	100-7x
	Julius Roberts	Howa 1500	308 Win	100-3x
	Phil Steenstra	Ruger Precision	6.5 Creedmoor	98
	Kevin Quinlan		AR-15	223 Rem 97-2x
	Tony Roberts		AR-15	223 Rem 94
Iron Sight Division				
1st Place	Dave Vandermark	AR-15	223 Rem	96-2x
2nd Place	Matthew Lang	AR-15	223 Rem	64

Our next Winter Rifle Bench Match will be held on Saturday, February 14 (this is a date change!), and is open to all TCSL members and guests. It will be Valentine's Day—bring your partner and they shoot for free! 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 style rifle (no full autos), foreign or domestic, modern or vintage, with iron sights or scope.

The 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 8 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 blocks and sand bags are available. No rear bags or rests will be used.

For further information or questions contact:

Dave Vandermark at rifle@tcsl.org

Did You Know???

. . . 11% of people are left handed

. . . August has the highest percentage of births

. . . unless food is mixed with saliva you can't taste it

. . . the only continent with no active volcanoes is Australia

. . . an ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain

. . . lemons contain more sugar than strawberries

. . . 8% of people have an extra rib

. . . 85% of plant life is found in the ocean

. . . Ralph Lauren's original name was Ralph Lifshitz

. . . rabbits like licorice

. . . the Hawaiian alphabet has 13 letters

. . . the average human brain contains around 78% water

. . . a lobster's blood is colorless but when exposed to oxygen it turns blue

. . . the longest recorded flight of a chicken was 13 seconds

. . . dreamt is the only word that ends in mt

. . . a cat has 32 muscles in each ear

. . . Switzerland eats the most chocolate equating to 10 kilos per person per year

. . . each time you see a full moon you always see the same side

. . . "stewardesses" is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand

. . . honey is the only food that never spoils.

Did-You-Knows.com

2026 TCSL Rifle Match Schedule

(All Saturdays)

Feb 14 – 100-Yard High-Power Bench Match (New Date)
Mar 21 – March Madness Match
Apr 4 – Lever Action Match
Apr 18 – Military Match
May 2 – Kentucky Windage Match
May 16 – Cavalry Match
Jun 13 – Military Match
Jun 27 – Black Powder Match
Jul 2 – IBS 22LR Match
Jul 11 – 185-Yard Bench Match
Jul 23 – IBS 22LR Match
Aug 06 – IBS 22LR Match
Aug 15 – Slug Match
Aug 27 – IBS 22LR Match
Aug 29 – Military Match
Sep 19 – March Madness Match
Oct 3 – Military Assault Match
Oct 24 – 185-Yard Bench Match
Nov 14 – Trench Match
Dec 12 – White Elephant Match

Dave Vandermark, rifle@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.

Tri-County Sportsmen League Events — Feb 2026 (Eastern Time - New York

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 RSO On Duty: Charlie U 12pm - Trap Shooting @	2 12pm - Friends of 6:30pm - Hunter 	3 RSO on Duty: Phil C 6:30pm - Gun Safety	4 10am - Wednesday Range	5 12pm - Friends of	6	7
8 RSO On Duty: Charlie U 12pm - Trap Shooting @ 5pm - Super Bowl Party 	9 12pm - Friends of 6pm - Valentines Dance 6:30pm - Safety	10 RSO on Duty: Phil C 6:30pm - TCSL Education	11 10am - Wednesday Range 6:30pm - WOT/KORD	12 12pm - Friends of	13	14 9am - 100 Yd High Power 10am - Orientation Class
15 RSO On Duty: Charlie U 12pm - Trap Shooting @	16 12pm - Friends of 6:30pm - Finance 	17 RSO on Duty: Phil C	18 10am - Wednesday Range	19 12pm - Friends of 6:30pm - Board Meeting 7pm - Membership	20	21 Pistol Range reserved for 8am - NRA CCW course
22 RSO On Duty: Charlie U 12pm - Trap Shooting @	23 12pm - Friends of	24 RSO on Duty: Phil C	25 10am - Wednesday Range	26 12pm - Friends of	27	28 4:30pm - Washtenaw

Please always see the online calendar for up-to-date information!

Tri-County Sportsmen League Events — Mar 2026 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 RSO On Duty: Charlie U 12pm - Trap Shooting @	2 12pm - Friends of	3 RSO on Duty: Phil C 6:30pm - Gun Safety	4 10am - Wednesday Range	5 12pm - Friends of	6	7 9am - Hunter Education
8 RSO On Duty: Charlie U 12pm - Trap Shooting @ 	9 12pm - Friends of 6:30pm - Safety	10 RSO on Duty: Phil C 6:30pm - TCSL Education	11 10am - Wednesday Range 7:30pm - WOT/KORD	12 12pm - Friends of	13	14 10am - Orientation Class
15 RSO On Duty: Charlie U 12pm - Trap Shooting @	16 12pm - Friends of 6:30pm - Finance	17 RSO on Duty: Phil C 	18 10am - Wednesday Range	19 12pm - Friends of 6:30pm - Board Meeting 7pm - Membership	20 	21 Pistol Range reserved for 8am - NRA CCW course 9am - March Madness
22 RSO On Duty: Charlie U 12pm - Trap Shooting @	23 12pm - Friends of	24 RSO on Duty: Phil C	25 10am - Wednesday Range	26 12pm - Friends of	27	28
29 RSO On Duty: Charlie U 12pm - Trap Shooting @	30 12pm - Friends of	31 RSO on Duty: Phil C	1 10am - Wednesday Range	2 12pm - Friends of	3	4 9am - Hunter Education