

Boone County Sportsman's Club

2008 Fall / Winter Newsletter

October 30, 2008

Editors Comments:

We are wrapping up another great year of service to Boone County Sportsmen and we feel great pride in the service that we provide to our community.

Because of the frequently cold and rainy weather this spring and early summer and possibly the cost of gasoline, we noticed a marked reduction in skeet and trap shooting for the first part of 2008. The latter part of the season has been much better due to warmer and dryer conditions on Tuesday and Thursday nights. If you have never tried clay bird shooting you will find it an excellent way to sharpen your skills for fall bird hunting as well as a great way to pass the time with friendly people. We would like to invite you out to experience the informal environment of our open shooting on Tuesday and Thursday nights starting at around 5:00 PM, May through October. On any given night you are sure to encounter shooters at all skill levels. Our more experienced shooters are always willing and happy to offer pointers and help you with your game.

We are fortunate to have this beautiful, private facility here in our own back yard and we encourage all of our members to take full advantage of the different activities (Pistol, Rifle, Bow and Shotgun) that our facility offers. We also encourage you to invite others who are responsible sportsmen or shooting sports enthusiasts to become members for the coming year.

Again this year we have been able to make numerous improvements to our facility.

- 1.) Additions and upgrades were made to some of the shooting benches.
- 2.) New cement walkways and pads were added at strategic locations around our facility.
- 3.) We have made a substantial investment in establishing a pad of crushed asphalt on the archery range.
- 4.) The walk-in doors on the main cabin were old and allowed water to enter the building, so they were replaced with new metal doors.
- 5.) Weed control, tree management, grass mowing and general maintenance to backstops and other club infrastructure are all ongoing activities.

All of these activities were performed by a small but dedicated group of volunteers, and it represents a substantial investment of their time and club resources. If you are like me, you appreciate having a well, groomed, attractive and safe facility to enjoy. Please join with me and show your appreciation to those who make this possible by continuing to protect and respect all of their hard work.

Some activities of note include, our 5th annual Gun Show, which was a great success. If you did not get a chance to attend please put it on your calendar for next year. You wont be disappointed. Dates for the show are listed below under the heading "Gun Show". We also hosted our 3rd annual Mike Schmidt Skeet Shoot. Paul Boley won it again this year with a perfect score of 50. But best of all, we operated another full year with no injuries or safety problems. You are to be congratulated for you adherence to safe shooting practices and courteous behavior on the ranges. Please keep up the good work and we can expect to have a successful year in 2009 as well!

Note: At the October meeting this year, the board voted to not host the Iowa Games Skeet or Sporting Clays events in the future because of the lack of volunteers to run & score the events.

Memberships:

A blank 2009 membership application form is attached for the convenience of anyone who wants to get set for next year. The gate combination will change on Jan. 1st. 2009. Memberships for 2009 will remain the same as last year despite substantial increases in the cost of liability insurance, utilities Etc: (NRA Member \$ 50.00 / Non-NRA Member \$60). The NRA helps us with our insurance costs based upon the percentage of our members that are also members of the NRA. You must provide a **CURRENT** membership number in order to qualify for the reduced annual dues. No Exceptions! You can become a member of the NRA by going to <http://membership.nrahq.org/>

You can get or renew your membership to the BCSC in one of four ways.

1. Fill out the application and mail it to the address on the application and your membership, card will be mailed to you.
2. Catch an officer at the club anytime you see one there, or on regular Tuesday or Thursday trap & skeet nights May through October. When you turn in your application and appropriate membership fee you can receive a temporary membership. (good until you receive your card in the mail).
3. If one of the above won't work for you, Steve Gus will be taking applications and issuing temporary memberships at Bacon Jewelers, but you may have to be patient and wait for him to finish with customers first. If this gets abused, it will be discontinued.
4. Doc Menefee said he would take applications, at his office, and issue temporary memberships if Steve is not available. (710 Arden St.) There again you may have to wait a spell.

Since you have no way of knowing if Steve or Doc may be taking an afternoon off or they may be on vacation, your best bet is to mail in your application early. Most of you know if you are going to join. Don't wait until the day you want to sight in your rifle or shotgun before hunting season.

No longer will memberships be issued from anyone's home address !!!

Also, applications now have mandatory fields of information that must be filled in. **PLEASE YOU MUST PRINT LEGIBLY.** If you check the NRA box, you must provide your NRA number. **No Exceptions.** **NRA numbers are not kept on file by the BCSC from year to year!**

E-mail is not mandatory, but we are in the process of converting our newsletter to e-mail.

If you have an e-mail address, please print it legibly and help save your club printing and mailing costs. **"A quick reply"** when you receive your newsletter would be appreciated so we know you received it and won't needlessly send you a hard copy by US mail.

Gun Show:

August 22nd., 23rd., & 24th. 2008 were the dates of our fifth annual gun show. For the fifth consecutive year we have substantially exceeded our previous years attendance. We continue to refine and target our advertising dollars and solicit some of the best dealers in and around Iowa. We are now starting to gain a reputation for conducting a high quality show! We expect that this growth trend will continue as we become even more established and the show continues to mature. We will be putting on our "Sixth Annual Gun Show" at the end of August of 2009. We anticipate that we will continue to conduct the show on the Friday, Saturday & Sunday preceding Labor Day weekend. Please don't be afraid to volunteer! We would like to say "thank you!" to Mark Hastedt and all of the people who volunteered and made this year's show a success !!

Trap and Skeet:

Our Trap and Skeet shooting was down some from the last couple of years. A major contributing factor was likely due to poor weather conditions on many Tuesday & Thursday nights this year. On nicer evenings we had good numbers of shooters.

Again this year there has been a significant increase in the cost to our club for Clay Targets. As a result of these increases we regrettably will need to increase the cost per round of Skeet & Trap in 2009 to \$4.00 for members and \$5.00 for non-members. We appreciate your patience with these changes. Rest assured that we would continue to keep the cost of shooting as low possible. Other facilities in the area charge much more. I think we all realize how lucky we are to have such a nice facility at which to shoot trap and skeet.

Many thanks to Craig Menefee, Steve Gus, Mark Hasstedt, and Tom Snow for taking their time to run the Tuesday and Thursday night shoots. We will look forward to seeing all of our shooters return when we start up in May of next year. Please invite new shooters to come out and experience these informal games and improve their skills with a shotgun.

Pistol Shooters:

Jim Egeland and Tim Fitzgerald are still running defensive pistol matches on the 4th Saturday of every month. If you own a 9mm or larger handgun, and are interested in defensive pistol shooting, or just want to see what it's all about, feel free to stop out and check out their matches. If you have any questions, please contact Jim or Tim, or a club officer.

Archery Range:

Archery shooters will notice that the range has been turned to the east because carelessly launched arrows were ending up dangerously close to buildings and people on our neighbor's property. Understandably our neighbor didn't appreciate that. Please bear with these changes, as we certainly want to keep on good terms with others in the area. **All shooting must be done with the arrows going East!** Other changes to the archery range include the addition of a large pad of crushed asphalt being laid. This should keep the area from being so soft and muddy from rains.

Bench Shooting:

The portion of our facility that receives the most use continues to be the benches for 25, 50, and 100 yard shooting. We continue to see a large number of different shooters using the benches and are pleased that they do so. We will continue to improve the three ranges, striving to keep decent backstops for your targets. We have added more concrete to end muddy conditions around the benches and have also added some new benches.

Please be careful not to shoot at or hang your targets on or near the wooden supports as designated by the orange paint on the front of the target supports. This will help us to keep the cost of maintenance, materials and volunteer, man-hours to a minimum. Jake gets understandably grumpy with such inconsiderate foolishness.

General information & safety:

Safety is the responsibility of each and every member using our facility. In addition to performing your activities in a safe manner you should also be aware of those around you. If you ever see anyone doing anything that is not safe, and we all hope you don't, write down his or her license number and leave at once. Then please call one of the officers or directors and let them handle the problem. Also, as paid up club members, everyone has the right to ask anyone to show their membership card. (be sure to check the expiration date). Our club is for paid up members only! If any member has a complaint about something that has happened at the club, get us names or license numbers of the errant party or parties and turn them in with your name to an officer or director. Then we can effectively solve the problem before it gets out of hand. We will not act on hearsay information. We must have facts ! **In past years, we have revoked about one membership per year for misuse of the range or not following rules.**

If you come out to the club and someone is using the range you want and you are unable to use the other ranges for whatever reason, talk to the person. They might be almost done or invite you to shoot with them. Be flexible and friendly, and you might just make a new friend !! Remember that we all support this club because we all have a common interest in shooting sports.

Problems !!!!

Live Birds: It appears that the problem that we had last year with people shooting robins, bluebirds and other birds has been resolved. However the marks remain from shooting them off the buildings and wires with shotguns. This defacing of our buildings and other damage will remain for a long time to come & is completely unacceptable. Hopefully the problem has been resolved for good! If you again see any activity of this nature please contact the DNR (515-290-0177) or a club officer. Thank you !

Shotgun Hulls & Brass: We still have the same old problem of certain people not cleaning up after themselves. Please pick up all of your spent shotgun hulls and brass on all ranges ! This seems to be more of a seasonal issue. It seems that the people who sight in their shotguns for turkey and deer season feel they do not have to pick up their empty shotgun hulls. **Please, Pick up your empty hulls !!!!** Those of us who try to keep the grounds nice are tired of cleaning up after the lazy shooters who don't clean up after themselves. Thank you !!!

Backstop Damage:

Please do not place targets or clay birds on or in front of the backstop framework !!!!

We also still have the same old problem of shooters needlessly destroying the backstops. We know the centers of the cardboard on the backstops will be shot up with normal use, but we still have some who place their targets in front of the posts and frames of the backstops. Also please remove any paper targets so that they will not end up coming loose in the wind and blow around creating a mess.

Club Hours:

In order to be thought of as a good neighbor, our club has shooting hours. Shooting starts no earlier than 8:00 am and **ends at dusk or no later than 9:30 pm, which ever comes first** ! We do not allow limited light shooting except by permission from the board of directors. Non adherence to these hours will not be tolerated. Many from the non-shooting public would not come to our defense and likely would help condemn us if we were to be seen as a nuisance. Anything we can do to be seen as a good neighbor in the community will assure that we can continue to operate within this community for years to come.

Club Rule Book:

I hope that everyone kept the club rule-book that we mailed to you when you became a member. The only change that we have made this past calendar year regards the use of guns that shoot 50 cal. BMG rounds. Because of the extreme power and range of these rounds we will not permit their use at our facility. We do not have either substantial enough berms or sufficient property to handle this round. Please take note of this change until we can get a new page made up for the rule-book. We recommend that you occasionally re read the rules so that you will be able to carefully abide by them !

Post Script

Please be sure to get out and avail yourself of the variety of the fall hunting opportunities that Iowa has to offer. Please be sure to conduct your hunts in a sportsman like manner and with safety and respect to all land, owners. When the privilege to hunt on private land is abused we all lose. We value all of our members and never want to learn that a club member was hurt or worse. Be safe, and we will see you again in the spring.

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Dale Pfrimmer 515-432-7526
Vice-President (Skeet): Craig Menefee 515-432-5413
Vice-President (Pistol): Jim Moreland 515-432-7989
Secretary: Rick Howell 515-432-7970
Treasurer: Steve Gus 515-432-7772

Board of Directors

Byron (Jake) Hull / Mark Hasstedt/ Pete Lonergan