

BOONE COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

SPRING NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2012

Welcome:

It is hard to start without taking note of the exceptional weather that this winter has provided for us. It has been a very long time indeed since we have had so mild a winter as this. On December 31st a substantial group gathered at the club to shoot Skeet in nearly balmy mid 50's temperatures. There was no snow to be found anywhere. Again at the end of January we gathered once more under slightly cooler conditions in the mid 30's but certainly not bad for the season. As of this writing we have not yet had a zero degree, day in Iowa this winter. We have had however many days in the 40's and 50's and even a couple of sixty degree, days in January. But as with all good things there will surely be a piper to pay somewhere.

Since last year and the last time that I communicated with you in October, our club has launched a new vehicle for communicating critical information to our membership. New in 2012 you will be able to access Club News, Range closings, Event Schedules and much more on our new website. You can access our new site at <http://boonesportsmensclub.com>. I anticipate that as time goes by we will continue to refine this site, but for now here are some the things that you will find when you visit.

- ❖ On the "Home Page" you will find a greeting and a calendar of events that will be updated regularly throughout the year.
- ❖ On the "Membership Page" you will find an explanation of the annual dues and what they cover. You will also notice that there are links to the Membership Application and the Rule Booklet, each in printable PDF format.
- ❖ On the "Range Page" you will find our hours of operation and a brief description of the various ranges found on the property. (Skeet, Trap, Rifle, Pistol & Archery)
- ❖ The "gun Show" page gives an overview of our annual show held each year in August at the "Boone County Fairgrounds".
- ❖ From the "Newsletter" page you can access the latest biannual newsletter as well as archived newsletters going back several years.
- ❖ Additionally you will find an aerial view of the property, contact information for the Board of Directors & Club Officers and links to other associating groups and organizations.

I hope that you will take a few moments and check it out. Check back often for information on special events, range closings, service opportunities and other information of interest to the membership body. Please be sure to include <http://boonesportsmensclub.com> into your favorites directory of your browser and check it often. I would also like to thank Rick Allen and Jim Moreland for all of the work that they put into developing the site and getting it up and running.

We recognize that not everyone has access to, or is comfortable with a computer. So for that reason we will still continue to send out newsletters twice yearly, once in the spring and again in the fall. If you wish to opt out of receiving a hard copy of the newsletter by mail please make a note to that effect on your next membership renewal and we will remove you from the mailing list.

Spring Cleanup Day:

This day is exactly as it sounds. We clean up, fix up, and rake up, service, machinery and stock up our supplies. Clean up day will be **Sunday May 20th** beginning at 8:00 am. **We do need help!** It would be nice to see some fresh faces. Please stop out and help, even if it's only for an hour or two. It will really be appreciated. Lunch will be furnished for all workers who come out and help.

Memberships:

We are off to another good start with memberships again this year. It looks like we will meet or exceed last year's levels.

If anyone, especially new members, have any questions about how things are done at the club, please feel free to call or talk to any of the officers or board members. **We also wish to remind everyone to take a moment to review the rule book that the club sent out in 2009 and which should have been mailed to each new member since. If for some reason you did not receive a rulebook, please contact Jim Moreland at 515-298-0682 to get one or download the PDF version from the website at <http://boonesportsmensclub.com>.**

As usual 2012 membership forms are available from the usual locations. You can get a form from the clear plastic box at the front gate to the club, by contacting one of the club officers, or by copying the one that is attached to this Newsletter. Also starting this year they will be on the new website mentioned above. It is always appreciated when members have their form completely and neatly filled out with all required fields filled in and legible. By using the website form you can just type in the information and print it out. If you are going to manually fill out a form, please print legibly. Without a legible name and address you may not get your newsletters or membership card. In order to expedite processing, please remit your membership to Jim Moreland. His address is at the bottom of the membership form. As with all of the positions at our club, Please remember Jim is a volunteer. Please give him several days to process your application and get your card to you by return mail.

All memberships run from January 1st. to December 31st. of the calendar year that is shown at the top of the membership application.

Exceptions:

- ❖ At the end of August, during the three days of our annual "Gun Show" in Boone we offer a special deal for anyone who has not yet become a member for that current year. Any new membership that is applied for during the three days of the show receive the balance of the current year plus the full next year for the same normal annual price.
- ❖ During the last three months of the year we offer a pro-rated membership for the remainder of the current year when a full annual membership is purchased for the next year.

Your membership includes complete access to all of the manual outdoor ranges on our club grounds including all pistol ranges, rifle ranges and archery ranges. Members receive a discounted rate for all games of Skeet or Trap shot during open shooting sessions.

All memberships are considered to be "family memberships" and cover the primary member of registration, spouse or partner and any children under the age of 18 yrs. still living at home. Authorized, family members must be accompanied by the primary member of registration while using facilities located on the club grounds. Minor children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult at all times while on club grounds. Any family members using the club facilities must be legally eligible to handle a firearm. This is a private club, but all applicable federal, state and local laws concerning firearms and firearm ownership still apply. Violations will result in immediate revocation of your membership.

Shooting Hours:

As we start a new shooting season we would just like to remind everyone to observe and honor our shooting hours, which remain unchanged from previous years. We are able to continue operations by the grace and good will that we show to our neighbors. Shooting hours are still **8:00 am to 9:30 PM. No after dark shooting** except trap and skeet under the lights in the fall. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** (Unless pre-approved by the board) We do have several neighbors now and we are trying to take a pro-active stance on being neighborly.

Calendar of Events:

May 1st. our regularly scheduled Trap & Skeet will start and will run through the end of October. Hours will be 5:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. on Tuesdays & Thursdays. There will be pop & water available to shooters and guests for \$0.50 at the main club house.

May 20th. / Clean-up day 8:00 A.M. – Until done (Rain or Shine)

June 23rd. Jim Egeland, Tod Bertram & Scott Clark will be conducting a three gun Match. The range will be closed to open shooting from 8:30 AM to 2 PM. give or take. See additional information under the heading of Special Events on page four.

August 24th – 25th. & 26th. gun show at the Boone County Fairgrounds. (Contact a club officer if you can help) This event requires a lot of people to ensure a successful show.

4th Saturday of every month “Defensive Pistol Match”. (9:00 am start during daylight saving time) Check for updates on the website at (<http://boonesportsmensclub.com>).

Range Closings:

Please note that some or all of the ranges will be closed on the following days, for various reasons.

April 7th. Darrin Van Ryswik will be conducting training classes from 7:30AM to 5:30PM. This will close the south pistol range only.

April 12th. The Civilian Police Academy will be meeting to shoot on the south pistol range from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. The south range will be closed to other shooting for this 2 hour, period.

May 20th. / Until cleanup is done! The club will provide a lunch for all who come out and help during the morning hours. We start at around 8:00 AM and are usually done by Noon or 1:00 PM so come early. (Come out and help, it will go faster).

May 22nd & 23rd. the south pistol range will be closed from 8:00AM till 4:00PM for Boone PD qualifications.

June 23rd. The range will be closed for a Three Gun Match, competition. (Closed from 8 AM to 2 PM).

June 26th. & 27th. The north pistol range will be closed from 8:00AM till 4:00PM for Boone PD qualifications.

On rare occasions, other non-scheduled closings may become necessary for as yet unscheduled maintenance or event reasons. Check for updates on the website at (<http://boonesportsmensclub.com>).

Gun Shows:

This year our club is putting on our 9th Annual gun show at the Boone County Fairgrounds. It is scheduled for Aug. 24 – 25 – 26, with set up beginning Friday morning, August 24th. Help is needed with set up, as well as with working the show, and tear down after the show. If you can help your club with any of these projects, please contact Mark at 515-212-0125. If you sign up and work at the show you will also be eligible for free admission to the show.

Please support your club bring a friend and check out the show. We have a very nice selection of good dealers that will be showing merchandise. This will be the 9th. year that this show has been held and it gets better and better each year. This show represents our main fundraiser and all proceeds go directly to the Boone County Sportsman’s Club to support operations and improvements to the facility.

Trap and Skeet:

Trap and Skeet will be on Tuesday and Thursday starting in May, as in the past. The hours will remain the same; start time – 5:00 pm, and last round started no later than 9:00 pm, to be completed by 9:30 pm. Steve Gus and Rick Howell will run Tuesday evening shoots & Mark Hasstedt and Loras “Woody” Woodard will run Thursday evening shoots. The price of a round for a member will remain at \$ 3.00 until such a time our expenses force it higher. Non-member rounds start at \$ 5.00 and drop from there according to the number of rounds shot. If you plan to shoot, don’t wait until 9:00 to show up, because if it’s a rainy or otherwise dead night, they might close early. (Remember, they are volunteers too!)

Archery Range:

There are currently no **organized** activities associated with the archery range. Members are encouraged to freely use this range so long as they do so within the guidelines of the club rules. Shooting towards the neighbors property to the south will not be tolerated & will result in revocation of privileges.

Special Events:

Currently there is scheduled on June 23rd. a “Three Gun Match”. There will be events for Hand Gun (9mm or larger), Shot Gun (7.5-8-or 9 shot only), and Rifle in two classes (22 cal. & Center fire) – Bullets must be soft point/ ball ammo and nothing larger than 30-06. There will be a \$5.00 entry for each of the three events that you wish to shoot. Sign up will be at 8:30AM and shooting will start at 9:00 and run till approximately 2:00PM. The range will be closed to non-event shooting during that time. You can contact Jim Egeland at 515-290-1994.

Bench Shooting:

Over the past couple of years we have extended the concrete shooting pads and provided more benches to the north in order to accommodate the greater number of members using these ranges. We have also installed a 15yd. Target stand on the north pistol range that has proven to be very popular. There are some times when we have replaced the cardboard on a daily basis. Please again, do not intentionally shoot the 2x4 frames on the target backstops. It just puts the backstop out of service longer and costs more to maintain them.

Please be aware of shooters that are waiting to use the ranges. As soon as you are finished, please make room for the next shooter as quickly as possible. Also, if multiple ranges are being used, make sure everyone ceases firing before walking forward to check your targets. Be sure to communicate with the other shooters.

As always PLEASE pick up **ALL** center fire rifle and pistol brass, and all shotgun hulls. Also as always, **do not shoot into the uprights, cross braces, or concrete pads** on the backstops.

Please **remove your paper targets** from the backstops when done shooting. Instead of doing the next shooter a favor, by leaving them, you are actually creating hard feelings with our neighbors. Usually, they find your targets in their yard or the woods the next day because the wind has blown it from the backstop. Some paper targets have actually been found over on the fairways of the Golf Course.

Safety Information:

As we all know, safety is our number one priority at our club! If you ever see anyone doing anything that is not safe, please write down his/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 on club property to show their membership card. 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 parties and turn them in with your name to the officers or directors. Then we can effectively handle the problem. We will not act on hearsay information. We must have facts!!

Club Meetings:

We do have club meetings every month throughout the summer and fall. Because of the lack of activity we usually suspend meetings for December, January & February. The meetings are on the second Monday of each month, at 6:00 pm, unless there is a conflict. To check on a meeting, feel free to call a board member.

The True 99%

For several years now I have felt like I have been wasting my breath addressing the behavior of the 1% of our membership that I mentioned in my article last spring. You know, the ones that seem incapable of following the rules. It seems that there is no way to shame them or embarrass them into good behavior. So, this time I would like to recognize the efforts of the other 99% who know how to properly behave. I for one would like to recognize those sportsmen and sportswomen among our membership who strive to do things the right way.

I have been involved in hunting and other shooting sports both organized and casual for most of my adult life. Many of my friends and family avidly engage in hunting and or fishing. I have had many opportunities to observe up close and personal, the nature of true sportsmen. Who they are and what they think about their responsibility to the natural world and society at large. I have been the beneficiary of good advice on technique and practices that result in improved scores on the range and better success level in the field by these sages of the outdoors. In the early days my mentors focused their coaching on the fundamentals, like sportsmanship and safety. I in turn have attempted to pass those lessons along to younger shooters over whom I have some influence. My sporting friends are always quick to share tips about where to get inexpensive or high quality shooting gear and loading components. I have observed seasoned sportsmen tutor their children and grandchildren about hunting & fishing and what it means to be a good steward of the land and public waters. These are not just corny notions of a bygone day. The vast majority of the people that I encounter are people who reverence God, respect freedom and value individual rights. The evidence of this is that they willingly place themselves within the limits of the law in order to protect and preserve hunting for future generations. They respect the rights of landowners and their property. They feel that it is their responsibility to be good stewards of our resources and abide by good management practices.

I would like to encourage you by telling you that the efforts of the 99% far and away out shine the activities of a few bad apples. In reality, it will always be the misdeeds of a few that shape the ideas that are held by many non-hunting and non-sporting people. Unfortunately many of these people make the write the laws and set the table of public debate. These misdeeds are frequently used by the liberals in the media to create a false image about who sportsmen are and the values that we represent. We are frequently characterized as gun toting killers of innocent and cuddly animals. I am keenly aware of the stereotypical perceptions of persons who do not like guns and think that the cuteness factor of sporting animals trumps all reasonable efforts to maintain wildlife populations in proper proportion to the available food sources and abundance of habitat in an area. We contend with their irrational fear of firearms and a distinct distrust of people who legitimately use them for sporting purposes and self-protection. We are aware that they can't relate to the skill level required in hunting and target shooting. We understand that not everyone can see the attraction of pitting ones skill and competitive nature against others on the target range.

Self proclaimed intellectuals will never fully understand that sportsmen perform a great public service by their application of wit and skill in the harvesting of wild game animals. They seem willfully incapable of distinguishing between the natural role of wild game animals and the emotional attachment that they apply to companion pets. They have never seen the tragedy of nature when it is wildly out of balance. This is because it rarely happens in these days of controlled management through hunting. Proper hunting results in the harvesting of excess animals that are subsequently removed from competition for available habitat and are then consumed for food. Proper management practices result in keeping the levels of these animals within balance as it relates to available supplies of natural forage. Controlled hunting decreases the incidence of disease associated with overpopulation and lack of available food. Proper management lessens the financial loss from conflict between commercial crop production and available natural forage. Proper management lessens the financial losses associated with vehicle accidents related to collisions with these animals.

It always strikes me as sad & humorous when I hear someone vocally express how barbaric the activity of hunting is. Very often they are the same individuals that you find complaining about the number of deer on the roads, shortly after they and their car have tried to defy “Wolfgang Pauli’s” (Exclusion Principle) about two objects of matter not being able to occupy the same space at the same time. On one occasion I had a conversation with the owner of a rural acreage that was distraught and outraged about how deer view her expensive landscaping as a tasty snack. She was going on about how she just could not keep them away from her expensive shrubs and plantings no matter what she tried. This same person on another occasion expressed adamant disapproval of hunting and would not allow any hunting on her property. How very sad and confusing it must be to have a mind that resists the processing of cause and effect.

The true sportsmen and sportswomen that I know take their responsibilities very seriously. They represent the 99% and I will always be honored to stand in their company. They are always mindful of what is beyond their target before pulling the trigger. They make every effort to take only a clean shot, one that has a high likelihood of producing a clean kill and sure retrieval of the game animal. They show proper restraint about taking only animals that are of the proper gender and type as prescribed by law or for which they are properly licensed. They go to extraordinary measures to retrieve wounded animals so that they are not wasted or suffer needlessly. They are always concerned about being good guests when they have been granted the privilege to hunt someone’s private property. It is my contention that people who do not hunt or fish deprive themselves of valuable life and learning experiences.

I do not contend that there are no slob hunters or that they do not on occasion inhabit the timbers, fields and lakes of Iowa. The news reports always seem to highlight their misdeeds with a great deal of fanfare. The illegal activities of these individuals are often promoted by anti gun and animal rights groups as prolific rather than the abhorrent activities of a scant few that operate outside of the norm. These people should never be labeled as sportsmen or even legitimate hunters. Our enemies recount these misdeeds over and again, in order to further their own agenda. These relentless retellings and embellishments convert the deeds beyond facts to the level of “urban legend” with scant relationship to actual account. I would submit that the very fact that these individuals make up such a small group is evidence that the sporting community does a pretty effective job of policing their own. And further that we will continue to give no legitimate quarter to even this 1%. Despite the facts, it may always be the case, that a dedicated population of fearful individuals, fuelled by tales of lawless activities, committed by this 1% will continue to negatively control public opinion about the 99% of us who truly represent gun owners and sportsmen.

To the Men & Women who enjoy all of the shooting sports (target & field) or like to spend their time with fishing pole & bate. I would like to encourage you to continue to engage in your activities as honorable practitioners of your chosen sport. Hold your head high and continue to represent sportsmen and sportswomen with dignity. I hope that you can always say that you represent the 99% of us who respect the law, honor the trust that landowners place in us and recognize God’s bounty as a treasure to be valued, respected and ultimately preserved.

Rick Howell

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Dale Pfrimmer 515-432-7526

Secretary: Rick Howell 515-432-7970

Treasurer: Steve Gus 515-432-7772

V.P Memberships: Jim Moreland 515-298-0682

Board of Directors

Byron (Jake) Hull / Mark Hasstedt

Pete Lonergan