

2010 BIRD & BOW PARTY 2010 – The Bird & Bow Party was held March 20, 2010. Advanced ticket sales were disappointing, but the crowd at the event made it a success. We made enough money to pay the club insurance, but not enough to also pay our propane bill. As usual, the prize winners had a great time and the rest ate and, maybe, drank well. It was a good day!

BUILDING & GROUNDS – There is still a lot of work to be done on the new building. The front entrance looks nice with the fill dirt moved away. The front steps are a project for this year. John Anderson painted the range canopy and made a new sign, John and Bob Toski have done the mowing and others have done some inside plumbing. The cherry trim boards are planed and edged, ready to install. Marvin Morton moved dirt from the pond to the area where the pistol range canopy is to be built. That area looks much better with the burn pile covered. Want to do something? Get a wheelbarrow and shovel and fill holes made from plowing snow last winter. You will extend the life of the mower and the rears of the lawnmower operators! Volunteers will be treated with great respect!

FINANCES/FUND RAISING – If you looked back ten years at financial records you would find a great increase in club income and a matching list of expenditures recently. We are a non-profit organization, organized to benefit the local area. We hope to build an Indoor Shooting Range and Training Facility to service youth, women and our membership. Finances are the key to continuing progress on this project. You ask: Why does the club want to build an indoor range, I don't have any use for an indoor range! Think for a moment about what the future might hold. Ohio requires the completion of a training course for concealed carry. If you as a PA resident want to carry in Ohio, you must complete that course to be legal. Is it conceivable that PA could make similar requirements? You better hope it isn't worse! For all of that, it is for youth that we plan. Surely shooting in the backyard is not to be with us forever.

In addition to dues, we hold two major fund raisers a year, the Bird & Bow and Gun Parties. We need every member to support these events by selling tickets, working at the event and by attending. The only other significant fund raisers are turkey/ham shoots fall and spring.

We run air gun shooting booths at the Fireman's Carnival and the Waterford Fair which make some money and bring much good will – and are a lot of "fun" to work if you exclude setup and tear down!

High power rifle matches are held monthly February through November. These matches do bring in some money, but are scheduled mainly for a member activity.

HIGH POWER RIFLE – We are still holding high power rifle matches on Sunday's, usually the last Sunday of the month – see the attached schedule of events. Relays are scheduled at 8:30 AM and 1:30 PM for the convenience of those who attend church in the morning.

We are very serious about running a safe match so there are rules to be followed. Other than that we have a good time with excuses and sometimes good scores. Come to think of it, I started shooting just so we would have some shooters at the matches. Now I look forward to the next match – and my scores have improved. I have learned a lot and there is more to learn!

We are associated with the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) so if you are a club member and can show that you have shot in a match, you can buy a surplus M1 Garand or an M1 Carbine. Ammunition is also available. Other rifles are available from time to time. Garands can be bought for \$495 plus tax. Look at the CMP website www.odcmp.com for more information.

This is an invitation: bring that old military rifle that sits in the closet, out and shoot it. Don't have one? Come and shoot one of our ours! Afraid you'll look bad? You won't!

VIPL PISTOL LEAGUE– Our participation in the VIPL is down this year. Everybody that shoots a pistol on our range should be submitting scores to the league. It is so easy! The purpose of the league is to get more people involved in pistol shooting – it is an art! The only cost is targets and your club membership. Targets are available through the club, B-6 Pistol Targets mounted on cardboard backers are leaning on the front inside wall of the old clubhouse. There are usually targets in the old outhouse too. Bring a roll of masking tape and a roll of electrical tape so you can paste up your targets. Rules for the league are posted on the www.springsrodandgun.org website. Generally they are: from the lowered gun position; five shots in two minutes, score them, five shots in 20 seconds, score them, five shots in 12 seconds, score them. You are done! Don't like your score? Shoot again and again and again Shoot rim or center fire or both.

Our team captain is Mike Mioduszewski. Email your scores to him. His email is mike@crestintegrators.com. Targets are also available through the club if you want to shoot elsewhere.

RIFLE/PISTOL RANGE – DON'T FORGET TO SIGN IN WHEN USING THE RIFLE OR THE PISTOL RANGE!

A few requests to range users:

1. Make certain there isn't anybody down range or fishing. See "The Fishing Derby".
2. Make certain that your bullets end up in the dirt backstop!
3. Never handle rifles/pistols/shotguns when somebody is down range!
4. Keep your bolt open other than when firing!
5. When shooting at targets closer than 100yds try not to line up with and destroy target carriers down range. Use the pistol range for short range shooting.
6. If you bring it, take it with you. We don't have garbage pickup!
7. Clean up after yourself.

We use large clamps to hold our high power targets on the carriers with the targets glued on cardboard backers. It saves a lot of staples and makes the targets easier and safer (less cuts and punctures from the staples) to handle. May we suggest you try the same? Bring a roll of masking tape and a roll of electrical tape and you can paste up your targets so you can use the same one over and over.

PA FEDERATION OF SPORTSMAN'S CLUBS – The club is in favor of rejoining the federation, but cannot find anybody interested in serving as our delegate. The federation membership begins at the county level - that is where the delegate comes in. The federation is where member clubs combine to effect legislation for or by the Fish and Game Commissions. The Federation has a lobbyist in Harrisburg. Any interest?

National Rifle Association GRANT MONEY

Friends of NRA has provided nearly \$20,000 in grant money to our Club and the Dead-Eye 4-H Shooting Club since 1998. The Club has purchased training firearms and other equipment thanks to grant monies provided by FNRA. More than \$7000 has been designated for the training and indoor range facility.

The money funding these Friends of the NRA Grants is obtained through the banquets held the Crawford County in May and Erie County in the fall. Plan to attend a banquet soon.

It is time to give something back. The NRA is the only national organization of its kind working to protect and preserve our Second Amendment rights. If you're not a card-carrying member, PLEASE consider joining or renewing your NRA membership! And sign up a friend or family member!!!! The Club is offering NRA yearly memberships for \$35/yr with a \$5 rebate (per membership) being returned to our treasury by the NRA. As an aside, the Club is now a member of Pennsylvania Rifle and Pistol Association.

Dead-Eye 4-H Shooting Club The 2010 program is nearly completed as of this writing. Projects for this year included air rifle, air pistol, muzzle loading rifle, archery and shotgun. This was the 14th year for offering an air rifle project. From the membership standpoint, this was quite a rebuilding year. Many older members have moved on and other, new members are joining the program. Air rifle and air pistol project meetings and practices were held in our own facility. Eleven area boys and girls participated. The archery project was held at the PA National Guard Armory facility, which provided the members opportunities to shoot nearly 30-yards indoors. Six members completed the muzzle loading rifle project and we have a dozen or so in the shotgun project currently underway. Team selections are being made to determine the members which will be able to participate at 4-H State Achievement Days being held at Penn State in late July.

Many thanks are due to the dedicated volunteers, leaders and instructors to keep this program thriving. Further, thanks to NRA Foundation, Friends of NRA and Finck Tire for their continued financial support.

Please note: Brandi Hobbs, formerly one of our Deadeye 4H kids is representing the United States at the World Shooting Championships in Italy at the time of this writing. We are very proud of Brandi!

Newsletter editorial by Dave Birchard

We are about 1½ years into the term of the 44th President of the United States. Time will only tell as to what the content of today's chapter in American history says about protecting and preserving our freedoms. Health care reform (like it or not) has been rammed down our throats and scratched off Obama's to-do list. What's next? Assuming you are a law abiding gun owner in these great United States of America – please beware. Hillary Clinton, Rahm Emanuel, Eric Holder, Biden, Schumer, Pelosi.....these are powerful puppets and they are not

our friends. Don't think for one minute that the left wing fanatics have given up or backed off on their gun-banning agenda. And, please don't be so naïve to think that it can't happen here. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) stated so bluntly last year that the anti-gunners are only waiting to "pick the time". Everyone should take time to watch the You Tube excerpt of Mexican president Calderon's May-2010 address to a joint session of US congress. (*google: You Tube – Calderon – Congress – assault weapons*). When he asked for America's help and re-imposed the assault weapons ban, the response was a standing ovation by many members of Congress.

On the plus side, FBI released some encouraging statistics last month. As you might imagine, gun sales skyrocketed in America in 2008 and 2009. However, U.S. murders declined by 7.2%. You might think that statistic would have anti-gunners sitting on their heels, but don't bet on it.

This coming November's election is an incredible opportunity to make a statement that we are sick and tired of status quo in Washington politics. Recently Specter was sent packing along with other incumbents. Dahlkemper is next to hopefully vacate her office. Please get out and vote to preserve our freedoms. Each candidate has his/her platform on every topic. But, isn't preserving the Second Amendment where it all starts? Become a single issue voter. Also, Recruit at least one new NRA member AND sign up a member to this club.

A WORD ON GUN CONTROL – Currently bill HB 2536, being considered by the PA Legislature, would make it illegal for a properly licensed resident of another state to carry concealed in PA.

SPORTING CLAYS - The sporting clay schedule for 2010 has been CANCELLED until further notice. Problems of finding people to run the shoots and virtually no participation by club members forces this decision.

NEWSLETTER CIRCULATION - scheduled to be mailed to current members twice a year. Editorials are solely the opinions of the writers. Anyone is welcome to write an editorial or provide news relating to outdoors activities. Submit your news item or editorial, in writing please, to the club secretary.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER - A new Club president doesn't mean a whole lot of changes until we've gotten some input from members on what is clicking and what is not. What it does mean is that Diamond Jim Jones should get a bit more time with his family and fewer phone calls or meetings. There will be a new Treasurer also. Thanks to Joe for his great job and the time it took to keep track of funds, forms and signatures.

In the retail sales world they call customer or product change "churn". It applies to the nearly 200 members who are Cambridge Rod & Gun. When coordinating the recent Kids Fishing Derby I made it a point of finding fresh faces to help. About 6 of the 9 who spent a wet Sunday afternoon at the pond were members ready to help when asked. There are more of you out there too. The same (old) guys need a break folks!

Guess we will have at least a couple of work days at the grounds before fall so, hey, a couple hours to make lasting improvements is a phone call away. Also, monthly Club business meetings take less than an hour.

So, we'll be in touch and thanks for supporting Springs Rod & Gun.

FISHING REPORT – Walleyes and perch are being taken from the big lake. No news on French Creek.

FISHING DERBY – Forty-eight kids participated in the fishing derby. Unfortunately mother nature put a dampener on things with rain which brought the fishing to an end after about one hour of fishing. The bite was slow and only three of the stocked big catfish were caught. That means there are thirty some left in the pond. All members are welcome to fish in the pond, BUT CHECK the shooting ranges before fishing. Leave your car so people intending to shoot can see it. It is a first come, first served situation. Whoever gets there first either fishes or shoots. Work things out with each other so nobody goes home shot or mad!

The word is: **Sign up a new member for next year!**

BORROWING CLUB PROPERTY– BUILDING RENTALS Call Dave Wise at 398-4554. Everything is to be signed out and signed in. Please put things back where you found them, not in the way of others using the area. Building rentals must be approved at club meetings. That means you must plan ahead if you are interested in a rental.

INTERESTING ANIMAL – In April I found an adult male mink killed on Forest Street in Cambridge Springs. Right in town! I got \$28 for one I trapped like it in 1953!

SPRINGS ROD & GUN CLUB 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Jan 10	Sporting Clays	Aug 08	Sporting Clays CANCELLED
Jan 13	Meeting	Aug 11	Meeting
		Aug 20	Gun Party
		Aug 29	High Power Match
Feb 14	Sporting Clays		
Feb 10	Meeting		
Feb 21	High Power Match		
Mar 14	Sporting Clays	Sept 6-11	Waterford Fair
Mar 10	Meeting	Sept 15	Meeting
		Sept 12	Sporting Clays CANCELLED
Mar 21	High Power	Sept 26	High Power Match
Mar 20	Archery Party		
Mar 28	Ham Shoot		
Apr 14	Meeting	Oct 03	Terry Williams Bolt Gun Match
Apr 11	Sporting Clays	Oct 10	Sporting Clays CANCELLED
Apr 25	High Power Match	Oct 13	Meeting
		Oct 17	Turkey Shoot
		Oct 24	High Power/Turkey Shoot
		Oct 31	Turkey Shoot
May 9	Sporting Clays	Nov 07	Turkey Shoot
May 12	Meeting	Nov 11	Meeting
May 23	High Power Match	Nov 14	High Power/ /TurkeyShoot/
		Nov 14	Sporting Clays CANCELLED
Jun 9	Meeting	Dec 08	Meeting
Jun 13	Sporting Clays	Dec 12	Sporting Clays CANCELLED
Jun 27	High Power Match		
Jul 14	Meeting		
Jul 11	Sporting Clays CANCELLED		
Jul	CS Fireman's Carnival		
Jul 25	High Power Match		

Meetings start at 7 PM when on EST, 8 PM when on DST. Sporting Clays sign up is 11 AM till 2 PM
High Power Rifle Matches start at 8:30 AM. All other events start at 1 PM.

THE HEALTH OF A CLUB IS ILLUSTRATED BY THE PARTICPATION OF MEMBERS IN CLUB ACTIVITIES.