



# Southern Chester County Sportsmen's & Farmers' Association

*Kennett Square, Pennsylvania*

## Top Stories

### Second Amendment Update

Powerful forces at the state, local and federal level are eager to curtail our Second Amendment rights. They won't succeed, as long as you stay engaged. Updates on progress are on page 2.

### The Answer to a Baffling Problem

The ranges look different, don't they? They are - they're safer. Read more on page 2.

### Reminders:

Membership Renewals Coming Soon

Field Day is Saturday, September 28th.

### News about the Club

It's been a busy summer. Lots of activity. See the Table of Contents for a look at what's been happening.

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## Second Amendment Update

Let's keep it simple this quarter:

1. The Government still wants to take your guns.
2. The Constitution still protects your right to keep and bear arms.
3. You will have that right as long as you stay involved, active and vocal.
4. Repeat as necessary.

In an interesting testament to what staying active and involved means, the State of Florida recently announced that it has issued its one millionth CCW permit. Our hats are off to everyone carrying a Florida permit. An armed society is a safe society.

## The Answer to a Baffling Problem

If you visited any of our rifle and pistol ranges over the last month or two, you probably noticed some additions to the scenery.

The post-and-beam structures you see between you and the target- backers are called baffles and they are an important upgrade to our safety profile at SCCS&FA.



Baffles are designed to keep errant rounds from leaving the range perimeter. Our earthen mounds do a very good job of keeping level fire safe and contained. The baffles will do the same for high-angle flyers or shots that may ricochet off the ground. Between the thick vertical posts and the horizontal beams (actually, they're troughs, soon to be filled with energy-absorbing rubber chips - that explains the big white bags staged along the range access road) we expect that only the birds and bees will be able to find an easy air-route off the property.

The baffles were laid-out according to NRA best range-practices guidelines. Their installation required a mix of hard-dollar expenditures (about \$52,000) and hard work on the part of a group of motivated members. We are grateful to all those who helped with the installation. Read about that effort elsewhere in this Newsletter. See the article "The All-Volunteer Army" on page 5.

## Reminders

### Membership Renewals Coming Soon

On September 3rd, the Membership Committee will begin sending out renewal notices for the club's 2014 year.

We began taking new members on board again this year after a short pause to change our intake procedures and interest in shooting sports has increased across the region, so we expect a record number of members to renew their association with the club. The more, the merrier.

And the earlier you send in your renewal package, the better.

Amy Hutchins pulls all the loose ends together for the renewal process at SCCS&FA. She has taken on some additional professional responsibilities away from the club recently, so the speed of response to your questions and requests might be a bit slower than normal. But rest assured that Amy will be on duty for this year's cycle and that renewals will be processed by the due date if you get your information and funds to us in time.

### Field Day

Field Day is Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. Join us from 10am to 4pm to see all that the club has to offer. [Contact](#) your favorite committee if you'd like to lend a hand before or during the event.

### Young Guns

We are fortunate to have an active and expansive junior program at SCCS&FA. From archery to muzzleloaders to modern rifles to trap to pistols, we offer a wide range of sporting experiences for young shooters. The latest edition to our junior program comes to us through the efforts of Larry Bickings and the generosity of the NRA Foundation.

We recently received a grant from the NRA Foundation that funded the purchase of six .22 caliber **Ruger** semi-automatic pistols. These guns - **Model 10101, Mark III's** with 5½" bull barrels in blue steel - are fine, target-grade pistols, owned by the Club and intended for use in training young shooters. With a market value of \$300, each, they are robust, reliable pieces that



are a welcome addition to our inventory and will be a pleasure to use for any of our young members.

Over the last two years, in addition to the Ruger pistols, the NRAF has provided to us a Cannon forty-gun safe, six CZ 452 Military Trainer .22 Rifles, four Remington 870 Shotguns, four muzzleloading rifles, cases of .22 ammunition and targets, two pallets of clay targets and fourteen cases of shot shells for Junior Trap, and a host of miscellaneous rifle stands, shooting mats, kneeling rolls, and spotting scopes and stands. The total value of their philanthropy exceeds \$8,000, all directed at promoting youth involvement at the club.

The NRA Foundation is the 501c3 division of the NRA and is not supported by member dues. It receives most of its funding from events held throughout the country such as our local Chester County events in Kennett Square and Pottstown. We are grateful for their efforts and their contributions.

Contact Larry Bickings at: [junior@sccsfa.org](mailto:junior@sccsfa.org) for more information about our Junior Programs.

## The WiFi Steel Challenge

Fast shooting for fast internet service



The WiFi Steel Challenge competitors assemble for a day of fun.

It seems simple enough: aim your .22 caliber pistol or rifle at the first of twenty-five targets, start firing when the range master beeps his timer and don't stop until all the targets are down.



Two-thirds of the course. Looks easy. Isn't.

That's exactly what thirty-plus SCCS&FA members and guests did on Saturday, July 27th on the fifty yard range. Once the shooting started, (after our usual, thorough safety briefing) it became clear rather quickly that simple doesn't mean easy and that there are a lot of things that can go wrong – gun jams, balky targets and an occasional case of the yips – once the start buzzer goes off in a contestant's ear.



The reason for all the noise.

Maybe it's the pressure of the clock – fastest time wins and each shooter gets a maximum of thirty seconds per stage, with three stages of ten, five and ten targets in a group – or the realization that any missed target triggers a three second penalty but a competition like this is not a piece of cake. Fun, yes and stimulating, for sure but not at all easy.



Rifle committee chairman Dave Stephens monitors progress .

Some of our shooters had it wired, though, which is a little ironic, since the economic purpose of the shoot was to finance our plan to make the clubhouse and grounds WiFi capable.



Bill Zinck gets the start signal from Mark Rowles.

And in particular to the top three finishers in each category:

**Pistols**

<u>Place</u>	<u>Shooter</u>	<u>Total Score</u>
1	Joe Livingston	51.44
2	Dave Stephens	52.65
3	Mike Bloh	52.67

**Rifles**

<u>Place</u>	<u>Shooter</u>	<u>Total Score</u>
1	Wesley Schwarz	23.23
2	Dave Stephens	23.53
3	Frank Sofranek	26.24



IT committee chairman and event organizer Mark Rowles checks a score.

When program sponsors Mark Rowles and Dave Stephens crunched all the numbers, we had a winner: two, actually - one for pistols and another for rifles. And, we had a lot of members who experienced a great day at the club, improving their skills and enjoying the chance to test themselves against the clock. Congratulations to all of them.

Well done.

Scores for every competitor are available on the Club's website [here](#).



Mark Rowles even let club President Dave Hutchins have a go.

Congratulations to all the shooters and to Mark Rowles and Dave Stephens for putting together an excellent event.

Let's do it again.

### Club House Office Renovation

Bursting at the seams is a good problem for a healthy, growing organization but it's a challenge nevertheless.

With an expanding membership roster, an increasing array of educational programs and activities, and range usage returning to pre-Feinstein levels, our old office space was decidedly inadequate to our growing needs.

The recent departure of our long-term tenant from the apartment adjacent to the office presented a perfect opportunity to pick-up some much-needed elbow room and make life easier for club members and the committees that serve them.

We are more than mid-way through a significant expansion and upgrading of the office designed to make our administrative work more efficient, timely and secure.

Our goal is to have all - or most - of the work done by Field Day so that you can see how the renovation will work for the Club. Stop by and have a look.

### The All-Volunteer Army

#### SCCS&FA's All-Volunteer Army Rises to the Occasion.

A club house, two archery courses, six gun ranges, a fishing pond, and forty-seven acres require a lot of care, especially over the sweep of a full-year of Pennsylvania weather.

In order to keep our club safe, secure, open and inviting, we need to apply money, labor and talent not only to upgrades and expansions, but to the normal wear and tear brought on by wind and rain, ice and snow, and the never-ending effect of gravity. Our dues address much of that need but most of the labor and talent that keeps our club healthy and growing comes straight from the efforts of our own members. And that effort can be prodigious when we organize for it.



Hardworking volunteers help-out on Clean-Up Day.

We recently upgraded our rifle and pistol ranges with the installation of safety baffles and redressing the aprons in front and back of the range-house concrete slabs. We undertook some general and deferred issues, too. Work remains to be done, but we are very nearly finished with a major improvement to the club's safety and comfort factor.



**Adjusting the grade on the 15 yard range.**

It took a lot of helping and talented hands to get that work done and we are grateful for all of it.

Involved in the baffle installation, range improvement and general clean-up projects were: Fran Riddle, Art Lee, Rich Parkin, Chris Epler, Kaitlyn Epler, James Walker, Al Wells, Mike Bolduc, Larry Rigler, Andy Pauls, Bob McCue, Phil Clark, Scott Dembeck, Graham Smith, Ron Jones, Paul Karcher, Rob Harper, Mike Scott, Greg Cellini, Glenda Cellini, Derek Strine, Charlie Fountain, Dan Burrows, Joe Romanczak, Rudy Merstetter, Dave Hutchins, Charlie Beatty, Ben Gregg, Drew Gregg, Dan Winters, Mark Bubel, Chris Wolfe, Doug Clark, Dawn Romanczak and Suzy Cousey.



**Many hands make light work - Thanks for pitching in!**

Emergency delivery services for receiving the rubber chips to fill our new baffles were provided by Dave Connors and Jim Willenbecher.

The spirit of service doesn't end there. We recently received generous donations from a number of members, such as Kevin Marcus - who has donated skilled labor to help complete the office renovation and Alexandra and John Parks - who donated a new fire ring and pit for our camping area, as well as a large tent and two fishing rods to be raffled-off at Field Day.

Glen Becker of Becker Lock Services has provided three lock backsets that we needed for our new office doors and Charlie Beatty, Jim Willenbecher, Suzie Cousey, Chris Carapalluci, Drew Gregg and Dave Hutchins have done all the work on the office overhaul so far.

Our thanks to all of them for their generosity and commitment. We'll have more work to do. We know we can rely on you for help when it's needed.

**Pitch-In and Pick-Up! Please**

In the spirit of the SCCS&FA's All-Volunteer Army, we ask that you be active in keeping your club a safe, secure, inviting venue for all our members and guests.

It only takes a minute to clean up your brass, move a branch that has fallen across a road, path or range or report a problem that needs the executive committee's attention.



**We need your help and we appreciate it.**

Our members are our best eyes and ears and we are all equal partners in maintaining and improving the Club. We have no paid-staff to clean up after ourselves, so it's up to each of us to keep the grounds, gear, structures and clubhouse squared-away.

## If You See Something, Say Something

Every SCCS&FA member that steps onto an archery course, the trap field, or a rifle or pistol range at the club is a Range Safety Officer.

Each of us has a responsibility to ensure that our own gun-handling and safety practices are our foremost consideration and that those who share the range with us are also observing the club's standards of safety and good conduct.

Don't hesitate to remind your fellow members of our club rules and of the general (and necessary) rules of safe gun-handling. These can be little things, like keeping the doors closed on the 15-yard range when shooting, or big things, like handling a firearm when others are down-range.

If you are not comfortable discussing an infraction or situation directly with someone who needs a reminder, don't hesitate to contact Warren Goodwin at: [safety@scsfa.org](mailto:safety@scsfa.org)

Get as much information as you can about the time, place, circumstances and people involved as you can. There are rules-infraction reporting sheets at every range house, which you can use to collect the important data. We'll take it from there.

**This club is important. Your safety is even more so.**

## Message from the President

I would like to add my voice to the discussion about the vital importance of member involvement in meeting the club's needs

As president of the SCCS&FA, I am tasked with being the chief steward of a remarkable facility. To put that stewardship into practice, we have established a contingent of standing committees, staffed with dedicated and talented members. The committees are the backbone of our organization. They make things happen here: maintain the grounds, sponsor and manage programs and take on problems as they arise. They help the fun happen and they help keep us safe - our number 1 objective - as we enjoy the Club's many attractions. But they can't do it alone.

So, this is the chief steward's challenge to you, as a club member:

- If you see something coming apart, put it back together or report the problem.
- If you see a trash can getting full, empty it into a dumpster.
- If you fall into a hole, fill it in.
- If the backer-boards are all shot-up, ask to help replace them.

Get involved with the general membership [meetings](#) (the last Tuesday of each month at 8pm). Let your voice be heard and help shape the direction the Club takes in the future.

Take a few hours each month and make time to improve your club and enhance everyone's membership experience.

In the long run you will be the recipient of the rewards that flow from your work, all the while benefiting your fellow members. Step forward and get involved. You will be glad you did.

No matter who you are, no matter your age or health, you have something to offer. I am convinced that when our membership is put to a task, we can move mountains.

Dave Hutchins, President

## Action Shooting News

By Graham Smith

### The Pistol Report

Action Shooting Continues, In Spite Of Challenges

This has been a tough year for the action shooting sports with shortages of both ammunition and reloading supplies affecting the amount of shooting people can do. Here at SCCS&FA, we also lost our March match to thunderstorms and our June match to range construction. July saw record heat and a number of people canceled at the last minute, prior to our match that month. Nevertheless, we have soldiered on and are ready for our August match.

For those not familiar with action shooting, it takes a number of forms and can be found as both informal, local matches and organized, sanctioned International matches.



SCCS&FA hosts one USPSA (United States Practical Shooting Association) match per month, conditions permitting, March thru October. USPSA is the US division of the International Practical Shooting Confederation,

which is why you often hear the matches referred to as IPSC events. USPSA matches are sanctioned by the national organization ([www.uspsa.org](http://www.uspsa.org)) and follow strict safety and scoring guidelines.

USPSA shooting involves a series of stages with paper and steel targets. Shooters must navigate through a course of fire, engaging the targets as they go. It can be pretty fast and furious sometimes, but there is an old saying in our sport that “you can’t miss fast enough to win.” This is reflected in the scoring, which is based on both speed and accuracy. A typical match will have six to seven stages and may require shooting up to 150 rounds.

USPSA is not the only action sport out there and different clubs shoot different sports. There is also IDPA, Steel Challenge, Bianchi Cup, and others. Multi-gun sports have gained a lot of popularity in the past few years with 3-gun competitions (pistol, rifle, and shotgun) dominating. In some parts of the country there is also Single Action shooting which recreates an old west atmosphere with guns applicable to the era. There’s also an extremely challenging competition called Practical Rifle, which is the long-range action shooting equivalent of our USPSA matches.

For those who are interested in action shooting, the internet is your best resource. If you want to come to one of the matches at SCCS&FA, please feel free to stop by to look and ask questions. Just bring eye and ear protection. Competitions are open to the public but do require advanced registration.

Matches are often full to the limit so it can be difficult for new shooters to get started. Just be aware that there are minimum equipment requirements and the safety rules are quite strict, so don’t plan on just showing up one day and shooting. But do some research, stop by for a visit and join us for the fun.

**The Best Summer’s Day, Ever**

**There is a ton of fun to be had at the SCCS&FA. Come out and see what you can do on just one summer’s day.**

The Miles family has this thing figured out.

On a near-perfect day in August – temperatures in the mid-70s and low humidity - member Tom Miles brought his kids Madison, Jackson and Tommy out to Kennett Square for a day at the club. Between quality time on the outdoor archery range, a bit of trap shooting and a visit to the lake for some catch-and-release bass fishing, there hardly seemed to be enough hours in the day. It’s a tough job, but somebody’s got to do it.

**The Miles kids start the best summer day ever off right:**







Tommy  
with Madison covering his six o'clock.

No photos of dad available. Perhaps he was resting.

Don't let these four have all the fun. Bring your family out for some of the same.

**New Facilities Committee**

**SCCS&FA Establishes New Facilities Committee**

At the July executive committee meeting, the Club's leadership voted to establish a new committee charged with overseeing the projects we undertake at SCCS&FA. Percy Reynolds is serving as the first chairman of the committee.

The list of projects currently underway here is significant and promises to increase in the future as the Club grows and adapts to changing needs. The Facilities Committee has taken on a number of those challenges. The objective is to ensure that the Club's money is well spent and that our facilities are safe and secure.

There is a solid a mix of talents, skills and experience on the committee as it is currently constituted but there is always room for more. We welcome your participation.

After all, the Club is only as good as our members make it.

**Treasurer's Report**

Current balances on hand, as of July 31<sup>st</sup>:

Checking account	\$	12,059
Savings Account	\$	52,261

**Thanks & Thoughts**

**Our Thanks**

To our myriad volunteers and contributors this quarter: We appreciate your time, talent and generosity. In particular, the Newsletter Committee thanks Rich Parkin, Jim Blevins, Graham Smith, Larry Bickings, Derek Strine, Dave Hutchins and the Miles family for their help with this issue.

**Your Thoughts**

If have a suggestion for an article, wish to contribute an article or share a photograph or two, please email us at [newsletter@sccsfa.org](mailto:newsletter@sccsfa.org)

**Parting Shot**

Sometimes helping hands take the form of stomping feet.

Members tamp down freshly-laid stone dust on one of our ranges.

