



Southern Chester County Sportsmen's & Farmers' Association

Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

Top Stories

Second Amendment Update

There is more than one way to stand up for our rights.

Read about why the Great American Outdoor Show is so important next year – Page 2.

How Many Pieces of Equipment Does It Take to Fill a Baffle?

The short answer is: lots. The full answer is on page 2.

News About the Club

- We had a field day at Field Day
- The Winner's Circle
- New Range Rule on the Books

Members' Survey

Your chance to tell us about how you use the club now and what you'd like to see in the future. See page 10.

Warmest Wishes for Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



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Second Amendment Update

2013 was a challenging year for freedom-loving Americans and defenders of the US Constitution. Our Second Amendment rights, in particular, came under repeated assault, as enemies of personal liberty seized upon the conduct of a few, tragically disturbed people in order to advance their anti-gun, anti-freedom agenda.

But the ranks of responsible gun-owners across the country rose to the challenge, our club members among them. And our voices were heard. In fact, Pennsylvania showed just how powerful our voices are with a spontaneous display of solidarity that stopped the show, literally.

When the managers of the Harrisburg-based Eastern Sports and Outdoor Show announced that they would not allow AR-15 style rifles to be sold or displayed at the show in 2013, sponsors and exhibitors large and small began to cancel their contracts. They decided that the principle they were being asked to compromise was more important than the commercial opportunity they would sacrifice. The movement caught fire and spread fast, resulting quickly in the cancellation of the Show and the termination of the management company's contract. Mission accomplished.

For 2014, the NRA will be proud sponsor of the newly-renamed Great American Outdoor Show. There would be no better way to show our support for the Second Amendment, the NRA and all the businesses that sent an unequivocal message about freedom this year than to attend the Show next year.



Harrisburg, February 1st - 9th, 2014.
The world's largest outdoor show.

www.GreatAmericanOutdoorShow.org

Baffle Installation Update

How many men does it take to fill a baffle? And how many machines do they need to get the job done?

It sounds like the start of a bad Aggie joke but it is a serious question. And the answer, in both cases, is: lots.

Over the last few months, a dedicated crew of Club members has been filling the new baffles on our ranges and making adjustments to the baffle structures. We are very nearly done with the effort, with only a few stiffeners to be added to the baffle troughs and the installation of caps on the top to keep the weather out. The result is a safer, more secure shooting environment for all of us.

This project required not only a very large manpower commitment over a series of weekends, but a host of specialized equipment, as well. The photos below tell the story of just how involved the work was.



The most pivotal piece of equipment was a time machine, invented by Dave Hutchins. Designed to funnel the rubber chips delivered in one-ton bags (those big, white woven nylon things you've seen by the ranges) into the nine-inch wide baffle troughs, it saved hours of labor and made the baffle filling easier and safer. Dave's labor-saving device can be seen above the baffle trough in the photo below right.



Our thanks to Derek Strine for the loan of critical pieces of equipment, to Dave Hutchins for the development of the time machine, to Charlie Beatty, Percy Reynolds and Mark Bubel for coordinating the work crews and to all the members who helped with this important effort.

We had a field day at Field Day

Field Day is the Club's high season. The full array of what the Club has to offer is on display and the crowd it attracts makes for a lively outing. The photos and summaries below show a portion of what Field Day is all about and how wide the range of interests and activities the Club can provide. From archery to trap shooting, fishing to rapid-fire antiques, there is something for every taste.

From the inside, out, we have:

Education

As part of our emphasis on safety and good citizenship, the club offers training each year by NRA and craft-certified and guest instructors as well as various other types of practical and informational training, like CPR, first aid, disaster prep and the U.S. constitution. Basic as well as instructor-level training are available in archery and NRA firearm courses

across the array of short and long firearms. Courses are open to adults and youths and in most cases, guests of members.



Education committee chairwoman Stephanie Sarosky with Legal Heat instructor Thomas Austin



Proof positive that education and training are important to our members. These certificates are evidence of our commitment to safe operations

If you have a question, or wish to suggest a course, drop a note to: education@sccsfa.org.

Rifle

We encourage the sport of precision rifle shooting and we have a range for most all tastes and applications, from 25 to 100 yards. Below, Rifle Committee Chairman Dave Stephens sights-in on the 100 yard range. Yes, it is a long way to the target but an experienced marksman with a reliable rifle and good scope can shorten the distance considerably.



Dave Stephens takes aim



It is a long way to the target but Dave's view is better than our camera's

We also have a junior NRA rifle program, usually scheduled for Sunday afternoons. Please check the calendar. The club has target rifles, shooting equipment and ammo available for junior shooters. All are welcome to participate.

Much of the equipment for the youth program was received from the Friends of the NRA and from donations in material and work from members. Thanks to all of them for keeping rifle skills and safety front and center at SCCS&FA.

For further information, contact: rifle@scsfa.org

Archery

The archery committee, headed by Rich Debacco, holds both youth and adult training sessions, competitive matches, and sponsors a very popular, indoor winter league. The club also has an outdoor range located behind the main building, as well as a large walk-through target-practice area.



For complete information, contact: archery@scsfa.org

Black Powder

The Black Powder committee, headed by Drew Gregg, conducts both youth and adult training in the sport of black powder shooting, care of equipment, and safety. The club also holds monthly matches in conjunction with the Brandywine Long rifles. The club has several youth-size black powder rifles to learn with and the committee is keenly interested in expanding the sport at the Club.

Even for experienced center-fire and rim-fire shooters, muzzleloader shooting is a thrill.

Black Powder
Committee &
Brandywine Long
Rifles





For information contact: blackpowder@scsfa.org

Fish & Lake

At the foot of the hill below our trap range is a beautiful plot of land and water that many club members have never seen. It's worth a look.

Our lake is stocked annually in the spring with trout and has a reliable, resident population of catch and release bass. The lake is open to Club members for fishing (license required). Guests are not permitted to fish but anyone can enjoy the environs. What better way to spend an easy morning or afternoon? Both, if the fish are biting. The lake can also be used for dog training. Sonny Maddalozza is chairman of the Fish and Lake Committee.

On Field Day this year, Dan Orgen of Orvis presented a program on the sport of fly tying to interested Club members. Fly tying is the art of producing an artificial lure to be used bait by anglers to catch fish. Fly-tying is a simple process of binding various materials to a hook with thread. The objective is to produce a fly that looks as much like the real thing - to a fish - as possible.

Fly patterns represent the "recipe" required to create a fly—what hook size and type to use, what materials are to be employed, what colors, in what sequence and by what methods are they assembled on the hook. There are thousands of patterns to choose from, which keeps things interesting for fish and fisherman alike.

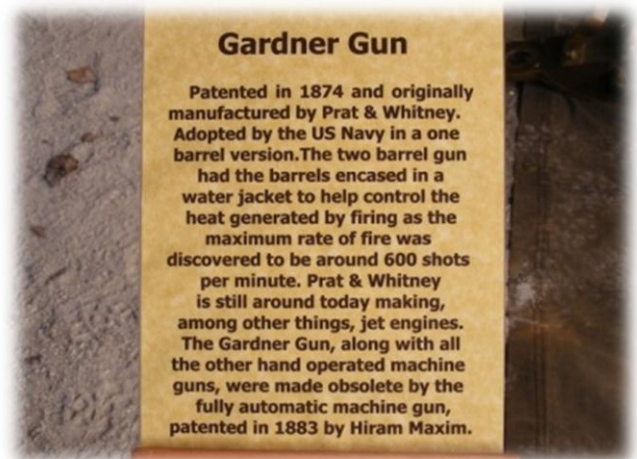
Questions about fishing and the lake should be sent to: fish-lake@scsfa.org. And keep your eyes open for our "Fish Day" announcement next spring.

Full Auto

The Full Auto demonstration always draws a crowd and this year was no exception.

For 2013, Committee chairman Doc Weitzman reached into his collection and produced a bit of history, new to the Club but familiar to knowledgeable collectors.

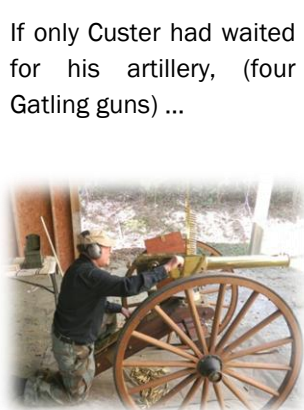
Although Doc is best known for his Gatling guns, for this outing he brought another rare old breed, an 1874 Gardner gun in .45-70 Cal. This two-barreled gun is capable of firing 600 rounds a minute and the barrels are stationary, rather than rotating like those in Gatling's design. Details of the gun's history and function are on the placard photo, below.



A look at the impressive round that goes into (and comes out of) the Gardner is here:



Evidence of the interest the gun generates is here:



If only Custer had waited for his artillery, (four Gatling guns) ...

... it would have been a different story out in the Black Hills.

If you'd like to learn more about full auto, send a note to: fullauto@sccsfa.org

Junior Shooting Sports Program

SCCS&FA has a very active Junior Shooting Program. By working closely with the NRA and NRA-qualified club members, we provide a wide selection of training classes - rifle, pistol, shotgun and general gun-safety - and hands-on shooting experiences for young firearm enthusiasts. From fun plinking to serious shooting, we have a program for the young. The Club's guns and ammo are available to juniors participating in club events and classes.



Larry Bickings is chairman of the Junior Program committee.

To learn more, contact: junior@sccsfa.org

Safety

Safety ALWAYS comes first at SCCS&FA, on Field Day and every day. Warren Goodwin, an NRA-trained safety officer, is chairman of the Safety committee. He conducts the new member orientation and helps our newest members understand their pivotal role in safe range practices.



Warren Goodwin

Below, Warren explains the use of the alternative targets that are permitted on club ranges and shows some of the options.

Safety Committee

Alternative Targets Demonstration



If you have questions about our rules and safety standards, please contact the committee at: safety@sccsfa.org

Shotgun

Steve Bunnell is chairman of the Shotgun Committee and lead instructor for our shotgun classes. Beginners are welcome at our classes and you couldn't ask for better, more effective teacher than Steve.



Steve Bunnell at the scorer's stand



Steve offers a pointer – literally – to a new trap shooter



And has some time for the Newsletter Committee, too



View of the trap field from the stand



A recent basic shotgun course



Getting the feel for the point

The Committee recently installed a new, high-capacity target thrower (photo below), bringing our trap range up to ATA specifications.



Our new target thrower. Lots of rounds between refills

We also have a number of Model 870 Youth shotguns available, which were donated by the Friends of the NRA, along with other shooting supplies. The shotguns can be used by students in our youth NRA program, which has produced some impressive results. Recently Luke Cowart, a second-year junior in the NRA youth program earned his “century” award. The committee consists of Steve, Ron Claus, Jon Cowart, Gordon Hendry, all NRA certified shotgun instructors.

The club’s trap range is open for organized shooting every Sunday from 12 noon to 4pm. The last sign-up is at 3pm. The cost to shoot trap is just \$4.00 per round and a limited amount of ammo is available at cost. Shooters with their own target throwers may use the range any time during posted hours.

Various training courses are offered throughout the year. For more information, contact: shotgunsports@scsfa.org

Field Day is as good as it is solely because of the dedication and industry of our members: in prepping the Club for its big day, for managing the various activities on offer and for putting things back in order afterwards. Our thanks go to all of them.

The Winner’s Circle

We sponsor a lot of competitions at the Club, from friendly and casual muzzleloader meets to intense IPSC matches. Each of the victors in those competitions merits our recognition and earns our praise but rare events cry out for a bit more coverage. And a perfect score is rare, indeed, especially in trap shooting.

On September 1st, Luke Cowart stood at our trap range and broke every one of the one hundred targets he shot at. Twenty-five for twenty-five was just the start for Luke, as he proceeded to collect the full set of shoulder patches most shot-gunners only dream about. Not bad would be a profound understatement.

That’s Luke below, displaying the full array of his accomplishment.



Luke Cowart, with proof of perfection, in 25-target increments

Not to be outdone are the pistol and rifle competition winners from our recent Wi-Fi Steel Challenge. Pictured below are Wesley Schwarz, who showed the old-folks how to do it in the rifle competition and Joe Livingston, who proved that size is no impediment to pistol speed and marksmanship.



Joe Livingston (left) and Wesley Schwarz with their trophies

Our warmest congratulations to all the winners.

New Range Rules on Bump/Slide-Firing

At the September Executive Committee meeting, the Club adopted a new rule governing the practice of bump or slide firing. The language of the rule is below.

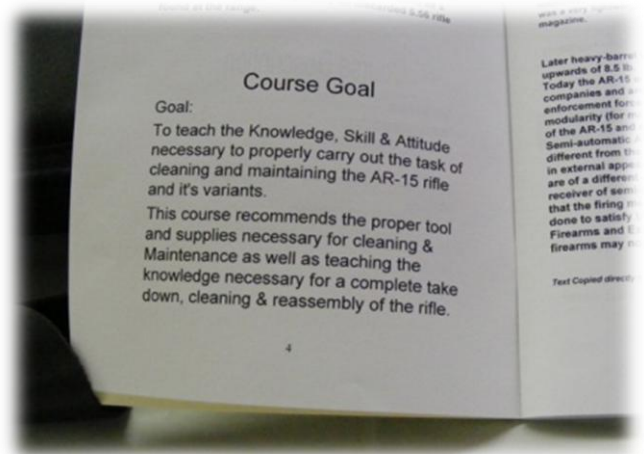
"Long guns can only be fired from the shoulder and bump and slide fire can only be shot on Wednesdays from noon to 3:00 p.m."

We decided on this action in order to ensure that only aimed and controlled firing techniques are used on our ranges. **This is an important safety measure and we appreciate your compliance with the rule.**

Do You Know How to Clean an AR-15?

I thought I did, until I took a "Cleaning the AR-15" course at the Club on August 17th. What an eye-opener that was.

I had put about a thousand rounds through my Sabre Defense Systems AR at the time of the course, cleaning it after each and every trip to the range. I thought I had been thorough and from the talk around the clubroom before the class started, so did the other twenty club members who gathered for the training session.



But course instructors Jim Willenbecher and Dave Hutchins showed us what we had been missing (a lot), how to get to it and how to make it inspection-ready. There are parts to the AR-15 that were brand-new to me and, sure enough, they get dirty when you fire the rifle. Now I know how to clean them and I'll be firing a more accurate, reliable rifle as a result.

It was actually a very fun day, and a great opportunity to meet club members and compare notes. Another great example of what the Club has to offer and how wide valuable our education effort is.

Member Survey on the Way

You will soon have an opportunity to help define the Club's future.

We are undertaking a survey of our members to examine how you are currently using the Club, what you would like to see added to it and how your skills and interests can help us move forward.

The survey will be short, sweet and web-based. And since it will be a private undertaking not managed by the federal government, this is one website that will work.

To help us test the concept we invite you to sample our tongue-in-cheek prototype: [Newsletter Survey](#).

Season Greetings and the Spirit of Giving.

Our best wishes to all our members for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope you all have a safe, healthy, prosperous and free 2014.

We are fortunate that generosity knows no season at SCCS&FA.

Over the past few months, Warren Goodwin donated an 8-inch miter box saw to the Club and an anonymous donor presented us with two Cisco wireless computer access points.

We are grateful for those gifts and we salute the spirit of giving that prompted them.

Treasurer's Report

Current balances on hand, as of October 31st:

Checking account	\$	11,934
Savings Account	\$	120,274

Thanks and Thoughts

Our Thanks

This quarter, we express our thanks to Gordon Hendry and Jim Blevins for their coverage of Field Day, to the Committee Chairmen for their help with content and photos and to Rich Parkin for his layout work. Special thanks to all the club members who helped answer the Baffling Question over the past few months.

Your Thoughts

Please share your thoughts on the Newsletter with us at: newsletter@sccsfa.org

Parting shot



Don't forget to pick up your brass.