



# Southern Chester County

# Sportsmen's & Farmers' Association

*Kennett Square, Pennsylvania*

## Top Stories

### News about the Club

We have made a number of important changes to our dues structure, new member intake process and guest policy. Read all about it on page 2.

### The Military Channel Visits the 75-Yard Range

Club member Ed Weitzman, TV host Will Willis and Teddy Roosevelt all have something in common: the effective use of an 1895 Gatling gun. See page 3 for the whole story.

### Important Second Amendment Update

Articles in our Newsletter usually concern themselves with happenings at the Club. This quarter - and maybe throughout this year - the most important story we'll carry is about what's happening outside the Club. Read about how you can help guarantee your civil rights on page 5.

### Treasurer's Report and Committee Comments

For news about the areas of special interest see page 6.

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## News About the Club

At the February general meeting, the Association's membership approved a number of important changes to our dues structure, new member intake practices and guest policies. These changes are designed to work together to keep our Club attractive and welcoming to newcomers, affordable and accessible to current members, and above all to ensure a safe and secure experience for everyone who uses the facility. The implementation of these new policies and practices is taking place now. **Here is a short summary of what is changing:**

### Cap on Membership Count

The keen interest expressed in gun-ownership and proficiency across the country since the 2008 election has certainly been reflected at our Club. Over the last five years, we had been adding new members at such a pace that it was appropriate for us to take stock of capacity issues and safety considerations.

With an eye toward how busy the Club has become at peak periods and in order to ensure that we offer range access without excess waits, the members have decided to cap our membership roll at 1,500.

The current member count is at roundly 1,340 (including prospective members already in the queue), so there is room for about 160 new members, right now. After we reach our 1,500 ceiling, we will admit new members only when and as old members leave. If our normal, historical attrition holds, it will create about 200 slots for new members each year.

### New Member Intake Process & Mentor Program

New members will be admitted to the Club under a new vetting and review process, revised to maximize safety and minimize liability. **The new intake process is as follows:**

- A new member must come as a guest at least three times. The third time must be with a mentor. (More about that below)
- They must show "gun safety" proficiency each time they come as a guest and if they fail gun safety proficiency, must take an NRA gun safety course (and pass) before reapplying for membership.
- They must complete the new member orientation.
- They must sign and date the club's legal agreement.

- All new members' names and information will be brought to the mentor committee to make sure all are in agreement to accept a person as a new member.
- The club's legal agreement must be signed and dated for any children under the age of 18 before partaking of any activity on club property. Legal agreements for children under the age of 18 must be signed by a parent or legal guardian. Legal agreements for minor children must be notarized or witnessed by a club member except when a member is signing for their own child.

Our website has a "[How To Join](#)" overview page that covers the details of the intake process. Prospective members can also find a "Membership Information Sheet" to use in the application process there. Any questions should be directed to the Membership Committee at [membership@scsfa.org](mailto:membership@scsfa.org)

As part of our new intake process, we're implementing a mentoring program for prospective and new members. Mentors – members who have volunteered to serve as liaisons and guides for newcomers - will have the opportunity to meet candidates for membership and verify that they know club rules and follow standard safety practices while on the range. Mentors will also facilitate the membership process for unsponsored members. If you'd like to serve as a Mentor, contact the Membership Committee at the link above.

### Revised Membership Dues Structure

Our dues structure has been simplified for 2013. We have eliminated our old member categories of Adult, Junior and Family, substituting the arrangement below. **Fees for members shall be as follows:**

- \$100 for Members
- \$75 for Members 62 and over
- \$25 for Spouses of all Members, no matter of age plus \$5 for a gate card (no proration)
- The first year dues will be based on past fee schedule for "Adult \$75" and Family \$100 for all members.
- Children under 18 can come with any dues paying member or spouse as long as we have a signed and dated club legal agreement. Legal agreements for children under the age of 18 must be signed by a parent or legal guardian. Legal agreements for minor children must be notarized or witnessed by a club member except when a member is signing for their own child.

## New Guest Policies

To complement our revised new member policy and facilitate our intake process and safety requirements, we have established new guest policies. **The general and area-specific rules are:**

### GENERAL RULES

1. Prohibited persons are not permitted as guests.
2. The club's legal agreement must be completed and provided for all guests before they participate in any club activities. Legal agreements for children under the age of 18 must be signed by a parent or legal guardian. Legal agreements for children under the age of 18 must be notarized or witnessed by a club member except when a member is signing for their own child.
3. All adult non-members require a guest pass with the following exception:
  - 3.1. Attendants for handicap members do not require a pass as long as they provide a legal agreement and are not using the club facilities or participating in club activities.
4. Minor Children (under 18 years old) do not require a guest pass. Only the club's legal agreement is required.
5. All minor children must be properly supervised at all times.
6. New members are prohibited from having adults and minor non-family children as guests during the first year of membership. They may bring the children or grandchildren under the age of 18 within their family as guests as long as legal agreements have been provided for those minors.

### ARCHERY AND FIREARMS RANGES

7. Members and their guests are limited to one firing lane. A second adjacent firing lane can be used if it is vacant. If a second firing lane is used, it must be offered and surrendered to any members seeking a firing lane.
8. No more than two guests can shoot at a time.
9. Members cannot shoot when more than one of their guests is shooting.
10. Guests cannot shoot Class 3 Full Auto firearms.

### LAKE

11. Adult guests cannot fish in the club lake

*Please note that our old rule limiting the number of guests a member may bring at any one time to three has been dropped.*

## The Military Channel Visits the 75-Yard Range

**Hollywood, History and SCCS&FA: The Military Channel Films at Our Club.**

Club member Ed Weitzman, TV host Will Willis and Teddy Roosevelt all have something in common - the effective use of an 1895 Gatling gun.

### Where can we get a Gatling gun?

On a warm autumn Saturday last year, Hollywood and history converged on the SCCS&FA's seventy-five yard range. One of our members, Dr. Ed Weitzman, was instrumental in putting them together. The focus of the all the attention was a one-hundred and seventeen year-old gun that changed the nature of armed combat - the Gatling gun. This was not just any Gatling gun but one that covered the charge up San Juan Hill.

The Military Channel's series, "Triggers - Weapons that Changed the World", is a wide-ranging survey of guns and gear that have had a decisive impact on the way war is waged. For this season, the producers of "Triggers" planned a show around the family of multi-barrel guns commonly known as Gatling guns. As usual, they turned to their contacts at the NRA and asked "Where can we get a Gatling gun?" Their answer: "Call Ed Weitzman".



**Dr. Ed Weitzman and friends.**

And they picked the right man, because Ed Weitzman is one of the few people in the world who could take that call and say: "How many do you want?" After a bit of discussion

about locations for shooting and which gun to employ, the producers settled on our club as their venue for filming and a full-dose of authenticity for their weapon: the gun that Ed delivered, demonstrated and supervised is one of four that anchored the Rough Riders' charge up San Juan Hill during the Spanish-American War. It is a remarkable object.

The product of Dr. Richard J. Gatling's fertile imagination and the Colt Arms Company's manufacturing prowess, the Gatling gun is a thing to behold: think of it as an eight-hundred pound Swiss watch, a precision mix of brass, bronze, iron and steel that is as beautiful as it is lethal. The size, physical presence, complexity and fluidity of the gun are truly impressive, as is its historical importance and amazing provenance. Not only did this gun help save the American expeditionary effort in Cuba, it may have saved a future President's life.

Just as intriguing, one of the young Army lieutenants deployed to Cuba who helped develop the doctrine for using the Gatling as an offensive weapon and who may have handled this very gun was John T. Thompson. Lt. Thompson would later go on to fame and full-auto glory as the inventor of the sub-machine gun that bears his name. Not a bad catch for a show that looks for historical connections.

**Nine hours of filming = nine minutes of television**

**Q: How many men does it take to film a TV show?**

**A: Lots.**

On the day of filming, Ed's morning started by unlimbering the Gatling gun (thank heaven it's on wheels) just before 8:00 AM when the first of two video crews arrived at the club's 75-yard range to film a reenactment of an engagement in Cuba. One director, three camera operators, eight re-enactors and support crew, and four hours of prep work and filming is all it takes to put about three minutes of final footage on your TV. And that was just the start. During the morning's filming, Ed's primary role was to oversee the use of the gun and make sure that the safe practices around it were always in force.

After a break for lunch, a second crew arrived with host Will Willis - an easy man to work with, according to Ed - and the work got even more intense. After target prep and video-graphic planning - the director had a blueprint of what he

wanted to film in mind but any crew has to adept to on-sight conditions - the fun began: aiming and firing the big Swiss watch.

With both Ed and Will firing, the Gatling spat out more than 2,000 rounds of ammo. At about 40 cents a round, a day like that can put a hole in your pocket as easily as it puts holes in watermelons and milk jugs. But the Military Channel got all it paid for and more.

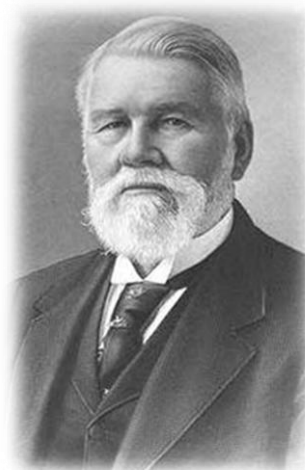
And they spent plenty of time with us, too, because lots of repetition was in order: one sequence required eight takes. Unfortunately for Will and Ed, the scene was one in which they pushed the gun up and over the crest of a hill; eight hundred pounds; eight times. Thankfully, it was the last shot of the day.

Ironically, it's the shot that opens the show's sequence on the original Gatling gun. All nine minutes of it.

Ed is no stranger to TV - he and some of his other guns have been featured on other shows - and he says that the nine-hour-to-nine-minute ratio is about par for the course. He also says that the "Triggers" crew were great to work with - courteous, professional and focused - and that they left the range and grounds they used spic-and-span when they left. Maybe we should film more shows at the club.

The Gatling Gun Episode of "Triggers" is playing on The Military Channel" every few days as we write this article. Catch it if you can.

**The Father of Full-Auto - Richard Jordan Gatling can lay claim to be the father of rapid-fire firearms.**

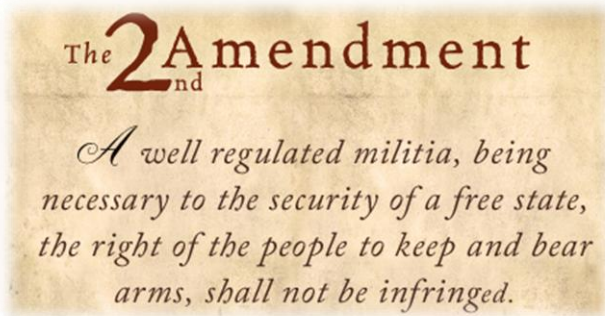


Although his gun can't be officially designated as fully-automatic - it requires the turning of a hand crank to advance both round and barrel - his spirit lives on at the SCCS&FA Full-Auto afternoon. Come and enjoy Full-Auto shooting each Wednesday between noon and 3:00 PM. and see how far the technology he inspired has come.



**The Second Amendment Is Under Assault**

Articles in our Newsletter usually concern themselves with happenings at the Club. This quarter - and maybe throughout this year - the most important story we'll carry is about what's happening outside the Club.



Ever since the shooting at Sandy Hook elementary school in Newtown, CT, the drum-beat for gun-control has been deafening. At every level of government and throughout the media, there has been a concerted effort to use the dead bodies of children killed by a single madman as the fulcrum for separating law-abiding citizens from our guns. Anti-gun operatives have been waiting for just such an event, so that they might use the emotion generated by the pathos of dead children and the grief of their parents to further their long-held belief that no private citizen should have access to guns. The actual circumstances of the Newtown tragedy are incidental to the objective of limiting our Second Amendment rights. The fact that abridging the Constitutional guarantees of law-abiding citizens can in no way redress the damage done in Connecticut is immaterial. What matters is that those who think that Americans cannot be trusted with guns have a forum from which to shout their "solutions".

And shout they have. At the federal, state and local level, there is a tireless effort to curtail our right to keep and bear arms. That effort manifests itself in ways, both obvious and subtle, from laws to reduce the capacity of magazines and forbid whole classes and "styles" of guns, to proposals for background checks for and confiscatory taxes on the purchase of ammunition. There is even evidence that the federal government is increasing its already massive purchase of ammunition (450 million rounds under contract this fiscal year) in order to starve the market for private buyers. Resisting those efforts will require our concerted attention, efforts and voices.

**It's time to shout back.**

And, there is a great deal that each of us can do to make sure our message is heard.

If, in response to our special Newsletter in early February, you contacted your US senator or representative and reminded him of his oath of office to protect and defend our Constitution, we thank you. Your grandchildren will thank you. If you have not yet done so, please do that now, by phone, letter or email. The contact information for the US Senators from Pennsylvania and Delaware is below.

**Christopher A Coons** U.S. Senator for Delaware  
 1105 N. Market Street  
 Suite 100  
 Wilmington, DE 19801-1233  
 (302) 573-6345  
<http://www.coons.senate.gov>

**Thomas R Carper** U.S. Senator for Delaware  
 301 North Walnut Street  
 Suite 102L  
 Wilmington, DE 19801-3974  
 (302) 573-6291  
<http://www.carper.senate.gov>

**Robert P Casey, Jr.** U.S. Senator for Pennsylvania  
 2000 Market Street  
 Suite 1870  
 Philadelphia, PA 19103  
 (215) 405-9660  
<http://www.casey.senate.gov>

**Patrick J Toomey** U.S. Senator for Pennsylvania  
 8 Penn Center  
 1628 John F. Kennedy Blvd.  
 Suite 1702  
 Philadelphia, PA 19103  
 (215) 241-1090  
<http://www.toomey.senate.gov>

We focus on the senate because right now, that's where the federal action is. And at the time this article was written, it looks like our voices are being heard. The frenzied, emotional push to curtail our most essential civil right seems to be losing steam. Now is the time to add your voice to the opposition and stop it entirely. We urge you to do so. The facts are on our side and the ultimate law of the land - the Constitution - is, as well.

Senators Casey, Carper and Coons have pledged to support the gun-grabbing legislation proposed by Diane Feinstein. They need to be reminded that they took an oath to protect and defend the Constitution, not to abridge or abuse it. We ask that you be polite but firm and focused: these men are bargaining with something that is not theirs to give and it is not the proper role of government to determine what a citizen "needs" to defend himself, his family, home or property.

Senator Toomey has stated that he opposes new gun control legislation. He deserves our thanks and support. Please don't hesitate to express both to him.

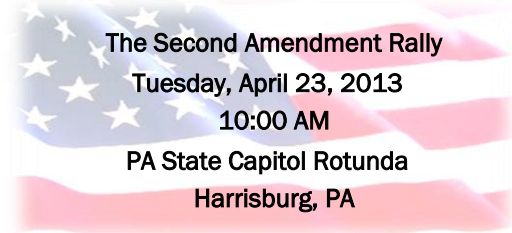
But the struggle is not limited to Washington. Several states - New York and, amazingly, Colorado - have passed highly-restrictive new gun laws. Others, like New Jersey and Maryland - hardly friends of the Second Amendment to start with - are lining-up to follow suit. It might seem from our little corner of Pennsylvania that those measures are not our concern. But consider the hard truth that each one of them limits the rights of any American traveling within their jurisdiction, not just their own residents. Many of us travel around the country for business or pleasure. Should we have to leave our Second Amendment guarantees at a state border?

Even local governments are getting into the act. Recently, Oxford Township sought to pass a measure in support of Senator Feinstein's proposed legislation. Only the concerted efforts of your club's officers, members and like-minded citizens stopped that absurd abuse of authority. We can thank Dave Hutchins, Charlie Beatty and other members for being alert and getting involved.

We ask you to get involved, too. Keep an eye on your local council and raise the alarm if they undertake any action - even any discussion - in a manner that seeks to restrict the rights we were born with. If you hear of anything like that, contact Charlie Beatty at [legislativeaction@scsfa.org](mailto:legislativeaction@scsfa.org)

Whether Federal, state or local, never lose sight of the fact that while they may focus on our guns, what they really want is our obedience. If we are diligent and organized, they can have neither. And nothing displays diligence and organization quite like a large crowd of motivated patriots.

Put your beliefs on display this April at the Second Amendment Rally, in Harrisburg.



More information about the Rally and other Second Amendment news will follow.

## Treasurer's Report

1. Current balances on hand, as of February 26th:

Checking account	\$	16,787
Savings Account	\$	157,188

2. The Association's tax return for 2012 has been filed with the IRS.
3. The Executive Committee has granted the Treasurer's request to establish a stand-by credit line with our bank. This measure will give us added financial flexibility and will help us respond to opportunities in the future.

## Committee Comments

### Archery

Rich Debacco reports that the indoor league on Monday evenings is going well, with nine archers participating each week, on average.

Fifty members have signed-up to take the basic archery course. The first class was February 22nd and went very well. The basic course continues on Friday nights.

### Black Powder

The Brandywine Long Rifles meet on the 2nd Saturday of the Month, February through November, at 10:00 AM for a two-hour shoot, according to committee chairman Drew Gregg.

## Fish and Lake

Lake has been put to bed for the winter, in good shape. The well and agitators are off for the season. Fish Day will be held on Saturday, March 30 this year. Fish will be delivered on March 28th, with one load arriving at 9:00 am and the other load at 12:00, noon. **All are welcome to help stock.** Sonny Maddalozzo.

## Junior Program

The Junior Rifle Program is starting the process to establish a 50-foot, .22lr pistol course. This course will be integrated into the Winchester/NRA small-bore rifle qualification program already active on the 75yd range on Sunday afternoons.



**Good marksmanship doesn't wait for warm weather.**

The Sunday program continues to be popular with junior shooters and their parents. In spite of the cold weather, we often see five to seven shooters taking advantage of this excellent program. Thanks to Larry Bickings for this update.

## Pistol

Pistol Committee Chairman Graham Smith reports that SCCPSA held a stage design class on 16 February for shooters interested in learning how to design and setup USPSA stages. The class covered both USPSA safety rules and issues specific to SCCSFA, such as the shallow rock beneath the ranges.

The first IPSC/USPSA match of the year will be Saturday, 16 March.

If you've never seen a tactical pistol competition, you're missing some fun. Come out and see how it's done.

## Restrooms

No, we don't actually have a Restroom Committee but we do have restrooms and they have come in for a long-overdue refit. The work on both the mens' and ladies' facilities should be finished by month-end. Work is proceeding on schedule and under budget.

Thanks to members Charlie Beatty, Ron Adlesic and Amy & Dave Hutchins for surrounding this project.

## Thanks & Thoughts

### Our Thanks

Our thanks to Rich Parkin, Gordon Hendry, Jennifer Worch, Dave Jahn, Dave Hutchins, Charlie Beatty, Ed Weitzman and each of the Committee Chairman who contributed to this issue of the Newsletter.

### Your Thoughts

If you would like to suggest an article, contribute a topic or share a photograph, please email us at [newsletter@sccsfa.org](mailto:newsletter@sccsfa.org)



Parting Shots



Even on a cold and blustery winter's day, there's fun to be had at the club