



Southern Chester County Sportsmen's & Farmers' Association

Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

Top Stories

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Club Officer Election Results

At our general membership meeting on Tuesday December 29th, 2015, we held the election for our all of club's officer positions and four positions on our board of directors.

The results from the elections are:

Position	Candidate	Votes
President		
	David Jahn (w)	28
Vice President		
	Jeff Deming (w)	32
	write-in:Charlie Fountain	1
	write-in:Mark Rowles	1
Secretary		
	Michael Laurence (w)	29
Treasurer		
	Steve Bunnell (w)	29
Directors		
	Patti Bubel (w)	27
	Warren Goodwin (w)	27
	Amy Jo Hutchins (w)	21
	Dominick Gattuso	16
	Charles Beatty (w)	23

(w) = winner

Many thanks to every candidate for your commitment to our club and to those who voted.

Range Etiquette

By Warren Goodwin
SCCS&FA Safety Officer



Question everything you're not absolutely sure about. If you are not familiar with the procedures on the range, consult your Member Handbook, check with the Safety Officer or a Mentor, or ask a neighboring shooter.

Most people will appreciate the fact that you care enough to ask. Pretending you know things you do not will produce the opposite response. The fastest way to draw the ire and suspicion of people at a gun range is to display unsafe behavior and gun handling.

When you get on the range be sure any guns are pointed downrange before uncasing. Unpack your gun, magazines,

and ammo – but only 1 or 2 guns at a time along with a couple boxes of ammo. Spreading several guns with lots of ammo all over your shooting bench is just asking for something to get knocked off the bench. Make each gun safe by unloading it, opening the action and inserting a chamber flag. Doing that every time you finish a string of fire is a great habit that will impress your range neighbors.



When your gun is on the bench, lock the action open and insert a **chamber flag** or, with a revolver, have the cylinder empty and open with a chamber flag inserted in the breach end of the barrel. A gun resting on a bench is an uncertainty unless it is open with a chamber flag for all to see that it is unloaded and/or disabled.

Keep your gun pointed downrange. The only exception is when you are moving with a firearm, then have it unloaded with the action open and the muzzle pointed straight up. Failing to keep the muzzle of your loaded or unloaded firearm in a safe direction is one of the surest ways to get yourself asked to leave the range.

It's useful and efficient to bring your guns and accessories to the range packed in a durable bag of some sort. This might be a small sports duffel bag or it might be one made specifically as a range bag. The style and brand of your bag doesn't matter. What matters is that your guns are protected and the bag's construction can bear the weight of your equipment.

Before going downrange to set up targets, look up and down the range and make sure all the of the guns are clear with chamber flags before proceeding downrange. Do not touch a gun or reload magazines while other shooters are downrange. You wouldn't want to be downrange while someone is fiddling with the action of their gun. Accidents happen. Stay away from the bench until everyone is back behind the firing line.

Before shooting, ask if all shooters have ear protection in place. Be courteous by making sure everyone is ready before firing. Kids are notorious for slipping muffs off or forgetting the plugs in a pocket. Take a few extra seconds to survey the line to prevent someone else from getting their bell rung. Don't shoot a gun with a muzzle brake without making others on the range aware. A muzzle brake

deflects blast to the sides and is very startling to shooters nearby.

If someone calls "Cease Fire," everyone on the range must stop shooting: Take your finger off the trigger and clear of the trigger guard. Maintain a safe muzzle direction – pointed down range. Wait for further direction. You do not need to unload, make safe or bench your firearm. If that is required it will be communicated. Look at whoever called the ceasefire (while maintaining a safe muzzle direction) and wait for further instructions.

Mind your ejected brass. Semi-auto firearms typically eject their brass to the right. This is annoying and even dangerous for a shooter next to you, so take note of where your brass is going. It is not uncommon for ejected brass to bounce into your face and can lodge between your eye protection and your face. Wearing a brimmed hat helps prevent that from happening.

Malfunctions sometimes occur. Make sure you know how to deal with various types of malfunctions calmly, sensibly, and above all safely.

Don't interrupt someone when they're in the middle of shooting. Instead, wait to talk when they are reloading or resetting targets. Also, don't touch another person's firearm or ammunition without first asking permission. If you would like to look at someone's gun, most people will oblige. They will probably be happy that you are taking interest in one of their prized possessions. If the request is granted, as always, safety check the firearm as soon as you pick it up to make sure it is unloaded.

Mind your own business and let others mind theirs. Unless someone is pointing a firearm at you, it is common courtesy not to interfere with the shooting techniques of a fellow shooter. If they are doing something dangerous, that's another story. It is particularly inappropriate for a man to offer advice or comment to a female shooter that he does not know.

Shoot at approved targets and nothing else. Don't shoot at posts, supports, or target frames and make sure your targets are not over them. Check with the Safety Officer if you have any questions about targets. Never shoot at someone else's target.

When you're done shooting, be sure to pick up your brass and anything else left behind before you leave. Be respectful and clean up.

Stay away from the range, or from any gun for that matter, if you've been drinking or using drugs.

Committee News

Fish & Lake

Opening day for Trout in Southeast PA is Saturday, April 2nd.



The two hatcheries used in the past have been contacted.

The times for fishing were updated and approved by

the Board of Directors last year and remain the same this year: Only juniors (under 18 years old) have access to fish the lake starting at 8 AM through 9 AM on opening day. Starting at 9 AM, the lake is open to all members to fish.

Delivery day for fish is scheduled for Thursday, March 31st. The times have not been set yet, but will be communicated in an email announcement closer to the date. We are looking for volunteers to get the fish into the lake. Please contact Mark Fenster, Fish and Lake Committee fish-lake@sccsfa.org if you think can help.

We're hoping to offer breakfast for a nominal fee as we did last year and will provide an update in the announcement.

Useful links:

The PA Trout Fishing Regulations may be found at:
<http://fishandboat.com/fishpub/summary/troutregs.htm>

Information about fishing licenses (which are required for those 16 and up) may be found at:
<http://fishandboat.com/faqlice.htm#1>

Club Lake & Fishing rules are posted online at:
<https://sccsfa.org/lake>

Membership

Mentoring

Another shout out for Safety Conscious Experienced Shooters. We instituted a Mentoring program over 3 years ago which was designed to ensure that new prospective members got a jump on learning the club rules as well as confirming that they were well aware of safety aspects of the shooting sports and of our club in particular.

If you are a new member who joined within the last few years you know about this first hand; if you joined before this time you may have seen "Mentors" doing this review in the clubhouse and down on the ranges.

While we do have a good number of mentors available, depending on work schedules and vacations, there has been periodic shortages - more mentors would certainly help us out; many hands make light work.

Ultimately, we would like all Mentors to become NRA certified Range Safety Officer's (RSO's) however those that may be willing to step up and volunteer to give back and don't have this certification yet will still be accepted.



An opportunity to receive **RSO training** and certification at the club and at cost (\$25) is coming up **Saturday February 27th**. To register click: [RSO Class](#).

Mentoring sessions are typically 1 hour or less and are pre-scheduled. Half the time is spent talking in the clubhouse and half of the time is on the range shooting. This has all been worked out and pre-scripted and we can provide you with more information via e-mail to provide you with more insight.

What kind of time commitment would this involve? That is entirely up to you. There are no commitments or requirements for mentoring a certain number of people per week. If your schedule allows you to come once per week, every other week or several times per week that would be appreciated and entirely your decision. On a personal note, it is a very satisfying endeavor which the Mentoring Coordinators enjoy a great deal.

If you would like to learn more or volunteer to become a Mentor please contact the Mentoring Coordinators at mentor_coordinator@scsfa.org.

Please note that this opportunity first appeared in the newsletter in the second quarter of 2015 however the e-mail address included was incorrect so the mentoring coordinator never received any e-mails from members interested in becoming mentors. We apologize for this confusion.

Secretary

Reminder: All suggestions must include the member's name and membership number to be considered.

Treasurer's Report

Current balances on hand, as of February 9, 2015:

Checking Account	\$	8,354
Savings Account	\$	255,657
Total	\$	264,011

Thanks and Thoughts

Blizzard Cleanup

Many thanks to the approximately 20 members who came out to the club on January 31st to clean up after Winter Storm Jonas and provide access to the ranges.



Additional thanks to member Rich Mercante for sharing his photographs - More pictures on the back page.

Your Thoughts

Have an idea for an article? Is there something you'd like to see covered in the newsletter? Please share your thoughts and pictures with us at: newsletter@scsfa.org

Parting shots



Blizzard Cleanup Volunteers.