



Southern Chester County Sportsmen's & Farmers' Association

Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

Top Stories

Steel Challenge Match

See the announcement on page 3.

You should know...

Pole Barn and other Projects - page 5

Range Etiquette - Again?

Yup, good info worth repeating. Details on page 4.

Volunteers - We always need your help!

New Member Orientation etc. Page 2.

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Current Initiatives



Membership intake is a major focus of SCCS&FA leadership and the Membership Committee. We have a backlog of people wanting to join our club of about 700. Last year we took on about 50 new members. In prior years, we doubled and tripled that intake but need to do better if we're

to make a dent in the current backlog. Our membership stands at about 1,300 and is capped at 2,000. About 100 members do not renew each year.

Mentors and Mentoring

The mentoring program has greatly improved the adherence to and understanding of our club rules. The safety officer reported far fewer incidents since the program went into effect. However, it takes a great deal of effort to coordinate and perform mentoring. It would be remiss not to mention the sterling contribution of **Mark & Patti Bubel** who coordinated this effort for many years.

We're expanding our pool of mentors and can't thank them enough for the time and effort they invest in our new members. A mentor requires the NRA Range Safety Officer (RSO) certification and SCCS&FA Mentor training to qualify. If you're interested in becoming a mentor the club will pay for your RSO class in lieu of your commitment to conduct some mentoring sessions. Reach out to the Education* committee if interested in RSO or any other classes.

Membership and administration

The pinch point in the process of taking on new members is the administration of all that is required from the membership committee including orientation event scheduling, day-of registration, NRA membership validation, ensuring legal waiver forms are completed and signed, invoicing, payment verification, printing and mailing of membership badges, allocating and activating gate cards, etc., etc. Leadership and the membership committee are working on improving this process and could certainly use some help. Some roles require little to no commitment or training, others could be performed remotely at home. Some activities require significant training and would require a higher level of commitment. If you're interest please reach out to the President* or Membership* committee.

Orientation Dates

So far, we have had one new member orientation meeting and have mentored & processed over 25 new members. We have further monthly sessions scheduled for Saturdays on:

- May 27th
- June 24th
- July 29th
- Aug 26th

Please note that on each of these Orientation days the club house will be used for the meeting from 9am to noon. The indoor archery range will be closed from 9am to about 11am to process registrations. The 15 & 25 yard ranges will be closed for mentoring for the whole day.

These dates are shown on the club calendar.

We could use some help on Orientation days. We'd like to be able to open the kitchen and serve coffee to prospective members at the meeting and perhaps food while they are waiting to be mentored. It would also be nice to have some regular members helping with logistics, greeting the new people, showing them around the club and generally lending a hand. This would be a low commitment opportunity to get involved. Please reach out to the President* or Membership* committee if this is of interest.



* See Contacts – Calendar – Events on the last page

Announcing

Steel Challenge at SCCS&FA

May 20th will be Southern Chester's first SCSA Steel Challenge match. The match starts at 11am, but be there around 10am to look over the stages. New shooters must be at the range and notify the match director so they can go through the safety orientation. If you aren't familiar with steel shooting, you might want to watch a match before jumping in. We recommend reading the [rules](#) before doing anything.



One important thing is to have at least 5 magazines for your gun. 22 caliber rifles and pistols are popular, but must be magazine loaded. No tube fed guns. Revolvers must have speed loaders or full moon clips. Ammo required for 22's must be 22 long rifle only. Don't bring sub-sonic as it won't be picked up by the range timers. Holsters are not required for 22's. All 22's and center fire rifles start at the ready position.

Center fire pistols require a safe holster that covers the trigger. Minimum caliber for center fire pistols is 9mm, maximum is 45 cal. No magnums or armor piercing ammo allowed. Pistol caliber ammo only. Remember magazine loaded semi auto rifles and pistols only. Revolvers must be loaded by speed loaders or full moon clips.

The match requires at least 150 rounds, 6 stages at 25 rounds per stage, and that's if you don't shoot any misses. You're going to shoot misses, so bring plenty of ammo. The suggestion is at least 250 rounds.

Check out the [rules](#). There's a lot of info to read.

To shoot the match you must sign up ahead of time. Sign up [here](#).

If you have any questions please contact Charlie Fountain via email at: fcco4444@aol.com

Committee News

Fish & Lake

Opening Day for Trout fell on April 1st as previously reported and was a great success thanks to the organization of **Mark Fenster**, the effort of all the volunteers who came a couple of days earlier to haul fish from the delivery trucks to the lake and those who assisted **Lt. Ham** in the Kitchen.



Juniors fished exclusively for the first hour followed by adult members at 9am.

Breakfast was a welcome start, the rain held off and the sun even put in a late appearance.



Truly a delicious day!

Membership

Be Ready

Do not be caught unprepared when the time to renew rolls around. Keep up-to-date, review the [Membership web page](#).

Key points to remember:

- **Ensure your email address is kept current.**
The newsletter is published quarterly. Other announcements are sent from time to time. If you have not read a club email in a few months something is wrong. Log in, check your [profile](#) and update your email address.
- **Have you uploaded your photo?**
Upload a Passport size/quality picture to your profile. Examples [here](#). To upload: edit your [profile](#) and scroll down to the Association Information section.
- **NRA membership must be good throughout the membership year** (i.e. until September 30th, 2018)
We work with the NRA to validate membership information. See the NRA Membership section at the bottom of your profile page. It can take a couple of months for updates to filter through the NRA and our system so please, please plan ahead and stay a couple of years ahead or sign up for life membership. Discounts NRA memberships and renewals are available through our link [here](#).
- **Have you signed the new electronic waiver?**
Signed it here: [liability waiver](#)

Rules/Disciplinary

First published 1Q2016 we're running this article again at the request of our Safety* officer.

Range Etiquette



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.

Officer Reports

President

We are providing notice in accordance with our governing documents that we will be seeking approval over the next four months of several expenditures totaling up to \$100,000.

Projects under consideration include:

- A 40ft x 60ft pole barn for storing our equipment
- Residing the club house
- Range improvements

The current timeline is to seek approval at the May General Membership Meeting for the engineering associated with the site work and water run off plan for the pole barn. The remainder of expenditures will be presented at the General Membership Meetings* in June or July depending upon when the budgets are fully developed. The General Membership Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 8:00 P.M. Anyone interested in learning more or planning to support or oppose these efforts should plan on attending these meetings.

Treasurer's Report

Current balances on hand, as of May 9, 2017:

Checking Account	\$ 17,335
Savings Account	\$ 235,962
Other Accounts	\$ 22,544
Total	\$ 275,842

* See Contacts – Calendar – Events on the last page

Contacts – Calendar – Events

Contacts: The contact email addresses for all club officers and committees are listed on the Contacts page found under About Us on the website. [▶▶](#)

Calendar: The club calendar may be found at the bottom of the club Home page [▶▶](#)

Events: Upcoming events are highlighted on the Home page [▶▶](#) and a complete list is available on the Events page [▶▶](#)