

Southern Chester County

Sportsmen's & Farmers' Association

October – December 2010



President's Report To Members

Charlie Fountain

We have completed another year without a Safety incident. In a club where we have a wide range of weapons from a Gatling Gun to a fishing rod, it is indeed a matter of pride.

Our club continues to seek new ways to continue this record. This year we added overhead baffles to the 100 yard range and will continue to rebuild the other ranges with baffles. This complies with the safety standard of "no blue sky", meaning it is difficult to misfire a weapon and have the projectile leave the property since no sky is visible. This project was costly and a lot of work, but if it prevents one incident it was worth it

Later in the year we also changed the range rules for rifle and pistol to include a chamber flag or empty chamber indicator be used. The "Flag" is inserted in the chamber before going down range, so that all participants on the range know that the firearms on the bench are safe. Shooting benches are being standardized with a design by Dave Hutchins, with the goal to replace all benches on the ranges.

We instituted a policy of using only NRA instructors for both our programs and member instruction. It is planned to have at least eight training courses held at the club during the next year. The NRA courses have the latest information on training, with the emphasis on Safety.

Next year's project is to build a Multi-purpose range to be used for junior sports, air rifle and training. This will be built to the latest safety standards and will relieve some of the use conflicts on the other ranges during the fall season. A committee headed by Derek Strine will make a recommendation to the membership at the December meeting.

Our IT committee has continued to upgrade our web site, to where it is the equal of any clubs. The use of electronic mail for the newsletter is a huge saving in work and postage every year. Extra copies are still available in the clubhouse. Take a few minutes and read about the accomplishments and the work done by our fellow club members. The newsletter is also available on the web site.

Black Powder Activities at the Club

Drew Gregg, Chairman

Activities throughout the year include firing by the Brandywine Long Rifles and various exhibits of skill, such as the last bowling pin match shot on the 15 yard range on November 6, 2010. Check the online Club calendar for upcoming events or contact me at simillus2@msn.com A black powder shoot is where the 19th Century



meets the 21st Century, using Cap n' Ball revolvers in a timed shoot. 6 chambers loaded and 5 Nu-bold bowling pin shape targets to knock down. Nu-bold targets are made from a semi soft, rubber like material that is self-healing and comes in a variety of

shapes. Come on out, get a free lunch and have some fun blanketing the range with clouds of gray sulfur smoke. Don't tell me you'd rather stay home and do chores!



Ray Poniatowski, a Club member demonstrates his skill with a "Long Rifle" during Field days. A selection of Black Powder equipment was on display.



Junior Shooting Sports are club sponsored NRA training programs which stress firearms safety as well as competitive shooting. For information on rifle, archery, pistol, and shotgun programs contact Charles Sutton at junior@sccsfa.org



Membership Committee

Amy Jo Hutchins and staff processed the dues payment in the usual efficient manner. Members can now pay by credit card as well as cash & check. New membership cards and gate passes are issued at this time. There are no more keys; all our systems are electronic which is a considerable cost savings each year. The membership office is also open on Sunday from 12 noon to 4 pm. If you have a membership questions call Amy Jo at 302.998.5450 or email: membership@sccsfa.org

Field Day 2010

Dave Hutchins, Chairman

This is the annual gathering of members old and new to view the activities at the club, participate in various demonstrations and pay the annual dues. It's also a time to socialize and chat with old friends, and see what's new at the club. Many of the events were set up in the club house.

The instruction in fly tying drew the younger crowd with expert advice on "how to" followed by a test of casting skill on the outdoor range.



The "Blue Devil" works well in our lake





Our indoor heated archery range is open year round, and with the addition of the new walkway entrance is accessible from the parking lot. Shown is Ray Caba providing expert instruction. Leagues start in January, contact Ray at www.rcarcheryschool@rcn.com for information.



New Member Orientation

Warren Goodwin and Rich Debracco are shown with a class of prospective new members explaining the club rules. This class is held the last Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm and on Field day.



The club member information booklet is available on line to keep up with recent changes, if you have a question, check first. We have to abide closely by the range hours which were allocated under West Marlborough Township Ordinance No. 94.03. These change with the seasons and are posted on the ranges. Specific questions to our safety officer, Warren Goodwin, who you can contact at safety@sccsfa.org

A Bit of History



"Doc" is shown firing his Hotchkiss Mountain gun next to an original Gatling gun which was recently documented as being in Cuba during the Spanish American war. The Colt Gatling fires a 30-40 Krag cartridge and changed warfare with its inception at the end of the Civil war. It fires as fast as the operator can turn the crank.

Not to be outdone, the Brandywine Long Rifles presented a demonstration of Revolutionary War Firearms on the adjacent range.



Club Kitchen

Tom Henson, Chairman

The kitchen staff operates the food service during major events such as field day. To schedule food service contact Tom at kitchen@sccsfa.org

“We Also Serve”



Shown are Marybeth, Shane, Tom, Isaiah, Carol

Safety Rules on Our Ranges

Warren Goodwin- Safety Officer

Check the club website (www.sccsfa.org) for any rule changes on the ranges. They will be published in the monthly news briefs and the rules and booklet will be updated. Our last change was to make the use of Chamber Flags (ECI) mandatory on the pistol/rifle ranges. We also changed the rules to permit certain targets other than paper. See the November news update for a complete list. Targets are not to be posted on the baffle supports on the ranges.



Training at the Club

Shown above is the popular Hunter Safety Course which is held every September. Training is the key to Safety and the club provides a variety of programs by NRA instructors throughout the year. A list of instructors is on the club house wall and in the newsletter and listed on the web site under "Training".



Planned courses for 2011 are: Eddie Eagle –Firearms safety for youngsters to age 10, Muzzle Loading, Range Safety Officer, Shotgun Safety, Delaware Concealed Carry Course, Archery and the Junior Rifle which starts in April. Shown at left is Mark Garfinkel, NRA training counselor presenting the Utah Concealed Carry Course which with your resident permit allows you to carry in 33 states. The course will be given 3 times a year. Check your monthly news updates for dates and sign up information, or contact Mark directly.

Safety First, Last and Always. Bring your firearm, bow, fishing rod to the area in a case. Always use an empty chamber indicator/flag when on the firearm ranges.

Proposed Multi-Use Range Facility

Derek Strine

At the October general meeting, the club formed a Feasibility Committee, consisting of myself, Charlie Sutton, Dave Hutchins, Gordon Hendry, Mark Garfinkel and Lt. Ham, to investigate the constructing of additional special purpose ranges at the club. These will include Youth Air-Gun, NRA Youth (.22 rim fire) and Law Enforcement. Upon completion, these additional ranges would reduce/eliminate scheduling conflicts with our general membership, on Wednesdays and on weekends, especially leading up to deer season. Funding would come from the general fund, and we would also seek cost sharing from the NRA Range Fund, and Law Enforcement Departments. When approved the construction would be in phases as funds allow, with a start date of January 2011. These ranges would be built with baffles and berms for the highest safety standard and be handicap accessible (ADA). The Committee will also suggest a reservation and restricted use protocol to keep these ranges from conflicting with local ordinances and general membership activities. We plan on having a draft proposal at the December meeting for member review.

Camp Perry National Matches

Hank Maier

The "World Series of Shooting" is held every July & August in Camp Perry Ohio. Frequently we hear "I'm not good enough to go to Camp Perry". **Wrong** - We shoot in our classification. If you are unclassified, we recommend that you shoot at least 2 outdoor 2700 matches in the spring. There are many choices in our area. If you have young shooters, Camp Perry is a great place to introduce them to the world of Conventional Pistol Shooting. There is formal and lots of informal training that goes on. It will make anyone a better shooter. If you need any gear, bring \$\$\$ or your credit cards for vendors row and the CMP warehouse. I've included an outline of the pistol week. Rifle matches follow the Pistol matches in July and August.

A typical pistol week starts with attendance at the CMPs Small Arms Firing School on Monday and Tuesday AM. Tuesday PM the Harry Reeves Memorial Revolver Match and the Distinguished Revolver Matches are held. Wednesday begins the NRA matched with the 3 gun National Match Course (NMC) practice round. Thursday we shoot 22 Rim Fire, Friday – Center Fire and Saturday – 45ACP. All shooters are squaded by NRA classification. Sunday we shoot the hardball matches with either 1811 45 ACP or Beretta M9 in the CMP President's 100 and National Individual Trophy matches. Many choices of housing are found on or near Camp Perry. Many of us stay on post in the famous "Camp Perry Huts". These are 15 x 15 foot restored huts that housed WW II German POWs. With your 5000btu AC unit and sheet of plywood under the bunk, they are very

comfortable, convenient and affordable at \$43/hut in 2010. The central latrines reminds us of our health club facilities without all the tile. Plenty of hot water and privacy for showers was available to refresh the body after a hot day in the sun. To learn more about the Huts, just Google Camp Perry Huts and follow the links. Breakfast was in the mess hall - Good modern Army chow. If interested in joining a local group that is going to Camp Perry this year, contact Hank Maier at 302.239.6552 or cs_stuff@maierassociates.com

There is always one person:

Do not place targets on the 6X6 upright posts or the overhead baffles on the 100yd range nor is anyone to place targets on/over the 4X4 upright posts or 2X4 cross rails on any range target backers. Every shot that impacts these items removes material from them causing an early failure. Anyone caught shooting at these items will be brought in front of the Executive Committee to answer for their actions & may result in not only having to pay for the damage but may also result in permanent expulsion from the Association. Targets are only to be placed on the plywood surface of the backers.

Budget Overview

Steve Bunnell, Treasurer

The draft budget was presented to the members and board for review for the period January through December 2011. The membership fees exceed the estimated cost of repairs and normal expenses. The surplus will be used to improve the club facilities. The expenses, checkbooks and other financial information are available to any club member to view or question at the monthly meeting. A specific question can be directed to treasurer@sccsfa.org

Fish & Lake update

Sonny Maddalozzo, Chairman - Fish and Lake

Low water levels this summer caused a small fish kill, in order to prevent this in the future we are exploring the idea of adding a well to pump water into the lake when the water level drops. We also plan on keeping the lake aerators running year round. Other suggestions were to dig several larger and deeper holes in the lake. The Committee maintains the lake, sees to its spring trout stocking and provides for algae control. The opening day activities are among the most popular spring activities. The lake opens for the youngsters at 8:00 am. The seniors then join in at 9:00 am and everyone can fish beginning at noon. Retrievers may be trained in the lake. The fishing and lake rules are covered in the club members booklet. Questions can be directed to myself at www.Fish-lake@sccsfa.org or by contacting me at 610.312.9726.

Pistol Reports

Rob Harper, Chairman- Pistol

Southern Chester County Practical Shooters is looking for a Match Director for 2011. We run 8 matches a year, from March through October on the third Saturday of the month. Interested parties should contact Rob Harper at pistol@scsfa.org

Training Schedule

Mark Garfinkel

NRA Basic Pistol Course, January 15, 2011

Delaware State Pistol Club Indoor range (heated)

NRA Basic Instructor Training (BIT), January 29, 2011

(Required and good for All Instructor Courses, Need to attend only one within 2 years)

Delaware State Pistol Club Indoor range (heated)

Coming Soon to SCCSFA

NRA Women on Target May 15th Taught by women for women

NRA Indoor Basic & Instructor Shotgun using laser simulation

A complete list of 1st quarter training is on the NRA web site or contact me at ameritas@msn.com

Membership Committee

Amy Jo Hutchins, Committee Chair

We continue to grow with our membership reaching 1024 at the end of the last fiscal year. As of December 28^t, 903 members have renewed their membership, and 99 new members joined the club for a total of 1002. For the remaining members who did not renew – we love you but – your membership, gate access and use of the club is withdrawn, use of the old “Green Card” means you are trespassing. Current members must not let anyone in with an invalid membership card; doing so can jeopardize your membership. Remember the gate takes your photo when you use your card. Members must display the current “orange” membership card; a holder is available in the vending machine. The Membership Office is open every Sunday from 12:00 noon to 4 pm and you can always call me at 302.998.5450. All members & guests (and Sunday visitors) must sign in. Visitors must have a visitor pass with them.

Legislative Action

Ned Hogan

The most current local news is that after finally passing the PA legislature, the “Castle” doctrine, HR 1926, was quietly vetoed over the Thanksgiving weekend by Mr. Rendell, who hoped the media wouldn’t notice. Nationally, Secretary of State Hilary Clinton has overruled prior State Department and Obama Administration green lights to forbid the South Korean Government from exporting Korean War era surplus M1 Garand’s and M1 Carbines for sale to US collectors. The explanation given was that “they could potentially be exploited by individuals seeking firearms for illicit purposes”. When Fox news asked how these could pose a threat they referred them to the Dept. of Justice, who referred them back to the State Department. This prompted 24 House members to introduce the Collectable Firearms Protection Act.

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE COMMUTES AITKEN PRISON SENTENCE!

Please call or email Governor Christie to thank him!

Governor Chris Christie (R-NJ) has commuted the prison sentence of 27-year-old CEO Brian Aitken from 7 years to time served for the "crime" of properly transporting two legally-owned, unloaded, cased handguns in his car trunk while moving to a new home.

Brian Aitken’s story has recently made national news. He returned to New Jersey in 2009 after residing in Colorado , and was in the process of moving from one residence in New Jersey to another, with handguns he had legally purchased in Colorado , when he was stopped and his car searched by police. The handguns were unloaded and contained in a locked box inside a duffel bag in the trunk, in compliance with New Jersey law. Aitken was nevertheless arrested and prosecuted under New Jersey gun laws, for "unlawful possession" of the handguns. In New Jersey , it is generally illegal to possess a handgun without a permit to carry," but there are a handful of narrow exceptions to the requirement, and one of them explicitly allows transportation of an unloaded and cased firearm "between one place of business or residence and another when moving." Aitken refused to accept a plea bargain because he believed he had done nothing wrong and would be vindicated by the jury, but inexplicably, the judge repeatedly refused to allow the jury to consider the exceptions or the evidence that Aitken was moving after repeated requests by counsel and the jury itself – a fundamental denial of due process.

Lacking that information, the jury had no choice but to convict Aitken and his 7-year prison sentence was presumptively imposed under a law rushed through by former Governor Corzine in 2008 despite repeated warnings by ANJRPC and NRA that severe unintended consequences like those in the Aitken case would result.

Fittingly, the judge in this case was not reappointed to the bench by Governor Christie for other reasons – a determination made prior to the Aitken conviction.

Please immediately contact Governor Christie to thank him for commuting Brian Aitken’s sentence and undoing this travesty of justice!

Call 609-292-6000 or follow this link to email Governor Christie:
**<http://www.state.nj.us/governor/contact/>. Mail can be sent to P.O. Box 001 ,
Trenton , N.J. 08625**

This could be you, take a minute and send your thanks!!!!!!

Annual Club Halloween Party

Ray Caba



WOW!!! What fun we had on October 30th at the Halloween Party. From the Mad Hatter to a walking red eye zombie we danced the night away with the help of Dave Hutchins and his awesome set up of music and lights display. Oh, is that really Dave welcoming members?? With help from our members we had great food with a spaghetti dinner and hot dogs donated by Faith Goodwin. I cannot leave out all of the goodies and cakes that we all made and brought in. The theme was Alice in Wonderland and with

Dottie Berry and her daughter Brianna dressed like Alice. Trish Caba dressed as the rabbit did an awesome job on getting the party started with games and dance a contest. Amy Hutchins planned this event with the help of members and did a wonderful job of organizing. Did I mention the candy tables? There were 3 tables full of candy and it was 3 inches deep. There was a great deal of sugar rush going on.



A special thank you goes out to Charlie Fountain and Tom Moskey for helping us set up all of the decorations. Shelby Jerman helped with the music. Doc Weitzman was also there helping and supporting. Also a thank you goes out to a mystery member who made a monetary donation to defray the cost. Come “Trick or Treat” with us next year, same date and place. Check with the Rabbit for the time.

Club Information Technology

Dave Markowitz – Chairman

We constantly try to improve our website and the communications to our members. If you have a suggestion for an improvement please contact me at: davemarkowitz@gmail.com Check your SPAM folder and add SCCSFA to your accept list. If you are using a work address, we suggest changing it to a home one.

Club Elections

Thanks to those that served the past terms and to those who accepted the challenge of running our club. The new Officers and Directors elected for two year terms are:

Derich Strine President (on left)
Dave Hutchins Vice President
David Jahn Secretary
Paul Jarman Treasurer

Directors:

Edward Weitzman
Rich Debacco
Rob Harper
Ray Caba



Thanks to the crew that came out on Sunday and helped on this project, as well as the others that assisted during the year. We filled the baffles with chopped up old tires and added a weather proof cap to each one.

Thanks, Charlie