

# The Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association Newsletter

January 2003 Vol. 9, No. 1

President: Charles Kemberling

Editor: Bob Zellner

Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association 2003 Dues are due.

Single Membership - \$35.00

Family Membership - \$40.00

The price for a key to the Indoor Archery and .22 Ranges has been increased from \$7.00 to \$10.00

Please send in your dues as soon as possible. Use the application form at the back of this newsletter. The gate combination will be changed on February 15, 2003.

Note: Vince Grenkevich has resigned as the Membership Secretary (gone fishing at his new home in Lewes, DE). Leonard Burg has been elected to this position. His address and phone number is:

Leonard Burg  
6358 Bennington Rd.  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050  
717-796-9366

## President's Remarks

*by Charlie Kemberling*

Holiday Greetings to all MSA members and their families. Thanks to you all from me and all the officers and directors for working with me to improve our club and move ahead to satisfy our old members and welcome our new members.

To report everything that was done this year would take up too much space in our newsletter. One thing I am going to report on, which I was disappointed in, is the Jamboree held in September. 101 members bought tickets which brought in a gross revenue of a little more than \$3200. These 101 members represented less than 10% of our total membership. Since this was the first such outing, the committee realizes that more activities must be planned for children and other family members who don't take part in shooting events, to make it a more enjoyable day for the whole family. These things will be publicized in the newsletters due out 3/15, 6/15 and 9/15. Put this event on your calendar for 2003. We had a lot of fun, plenty of good food and netted \$532.47 for the club.

Joseph J. Scherrer of Camp Hill held ticket no. 80 for the Jamboree Raffle and won the \$200 cash prize. When he was contacted he immediately **donated** the money to the club. Thank you Mr. Scherrer from the President, Officers, Directors and Members of the MSA.

Looking to 2003, we have some new officers to welcome, Mrs. Theresa Burg as Treasurer and her husband, Leonard A. Burg as Membership Secretary. Their address and phone number are on the front of the newsletter. I'm counting on the cooperation of everyone for this change, and I thank Bob Dunn and Vince Grenkovich for doing a fine job over the past 10 years or more. They did an excellent job in these offices, serving voluntarily with integrity and dedication.

The directors have a lot to do over the next month or two to get the club off and running for the year 2003.

Here's wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year, and to all hunters, please hunt safely, we want you back next year.

### **To Jeff**

Thanks for your contribution. We hope we'll see you around the club.

### **Block Shoot**

*by Dave Eakin*

The block shoots for 2002 ended on 11/25. We had great turnouts for most of the shoots, but the turkey shoot attendance which was held on 11/18 was down from last year. The block shoots start up again on 1/6/03. We hope to see every body back and hope to see lots of new faces. The cost is \$1.00 per shot, four rounds of shooting, 12 gauge only. Shooting starts between 7:00 and 7:30 PM on Monday nights. Prizes are all meat from Karn's Food. We could use some volunteers to help in the block house. Anyone interested give me a call. Following is a schedule of shoots for January through April, 2003

January 6,13,20 and 27  
February 3,10,17 and 24  
March 3,10,17,24 and 31  
April 7,14,21 and 28

### **Fish Nursery**

*by Dave Eakin*

The fish are growing nicely. Our last inspection showed an average size of over 7". We stocked the pond in October and will stock in again several times over the winter months. Dates will depend on the weather and available help. Look for signs on the gate and updates on the website for when the pond gets stocked again.

### **Archery**

*by Phil Mentzer*

To start out, the archers want to thank everybody who helped at the NFAA shoot in June, and both of the PSAA shoots in July and August. Without your help the MSA archers would not be able to shoot in these events. If that were the case, we would not host the events and the club would lose between \$7000 and \$8000 of yearly income.

Our active shooter numbers were down for the year. We need people who want to try competitive archery to come out on Tuesday nights and meet the people who keep the archery ranges in such great shape. Men, women, boys and girls all help out. For new shooters, there are divisions and classes for all ages and ability levels.

Even with our low numbers this past year we still managed to represent the club very well at the State Shoots. At State Indoors the team of Phil Mentzer, Donnie Price, Bob Weaver, Vern Vandevender, Jim Starner and Mike Rider placed second in the Bowhunter Unlimited division. Phil Mentzer finished first in Bowhunter Unlimited AA and Donnie Price took third. The women's team of Julia Mentzer, Nancy Vandevender, Megan Price and Pam Starner placed third in the Women's Unlimited division.

At the State Field shoot held here at MSA, Julia Mentzer took first place in the Women's Unlimited A class. She also won Women's Unlimited A class at the State Bowhunter/Animal shoot. Phil Mentzer took first place in Bowhunter Unlimited AA, shooting a perfect score both days. Bob Weaver finished in third place in Bowhunter Unlimited AA. Mike Rider took second place in Bowhunter Unlimited A.

Congratulations to those who placed at these shoots and to those who participated to help the teams.

Shoot dates for 2003 are as follows:

January 10, 11, 12 Team Invitational

January 24, 25, 26 CVAL

March 7, 8, 9 CVAL

June 7, 8 NFAA Mid Atlantic Sectional

July 26, 27 PSAA Field/Hunter

August 16, 17 PSAA Bowhunter

Again, anyone wanting to know more about tournament shooting, come out on Tuesday nights. Everyone's welcome, from age 8 to 80, there is a place for you.

## **2003 Indoor Center-fire Pistol Range Renewals**

*by Ron Keslar*

The indoor pistol range at Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association's new clubhouse will have its lock changed on February 15, 2003. Those members currently authorized to use the range may obtain a new key from the Chief Range Safety Officer, Ron Keslar. The renewal key fee is \$10. You need not attend a second range safety briefing. If you seek to renew by mail, send a \$10 check (made payable to Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association) to Ron Keslar, 47 Barrens Church Road, Dillsburg, PA 17019. Your new key will be sent by return mail.

For those adult/senior members who wish to qualify to use the indoor center-fire pistol range, attendance at a range safety briefing is required. The first-time range fee is \$20; \$10 for subsequent years. Briefings may be held immediately following each general membership meeting or on each Thursday at 6:00 pm. Contact Ron Keslar (432-9039, [ronald@keslar.net](mailto:ronald@keslar.net)) to arrange for a briefing or renewal key.

## Jubilee Day

*by Bill Bates*

The April newsletter will include Jubilee Day tickets. Even though Jubilee day isn't until June, we must plan now to have them ready. In order to have the tickets printed, I must put together a prize list. Therefore, I am looking for donations for prizes. I would appreciate any help in soliciting the prizes. I am also looking for people to help serve on the Jubilee Day committee. Anyone interested in helping, or having any suggestions, or can get prizes, please contact me at 697-3085 or email [ajbates@pa.net](mailto:ajbates@pa.net), All help would be greatly appreciated.

## Air Rifle Program

*by Linda Tucker*

We conducted an NRA sanctioned Four-Position Sporter Air Rifle League which included seven matches held from March through September 2002. Winners were:

Adult & Overall League Winner:	Nathaniel McDowell
Senior Youth (Ages 15 - 20)	1st Place - Gabe Waddell 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - Jimmy Hoffman
Junior Youth (Ages 12 _ 14)	1st Place - Ben Acri 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - Lara Gingrich
Sub_Junior (Under 12)	1st Place - John Mark Hoffman 2nd Place - Scott Zeigler

Our winter NRA Sanctioned Three-Position League began in October and will conclude in March.

We opened our youth program to new enrollments in September,

and we are filled to capacity with over 25 youth participating. Seven of our new participants completed their NRA Basic Rifle certification in November, which requires a minimum of 14 hours training.

Eight of our youth are participating in the Palmyra/Zerbe Air Rifle League. Congratulations to new shooters Matthew Cossick, Jonette Taylor, Katie Chastain, Josiah Taylor, and Jared Taylor who participated in their first NRA Sanctioned 60 round match in Palmyra in November. They were accompanied by returning shooters Alex Egan, Lara Gingrich, and Ben Acri

who participated in the Palmyra League for October and November.

Other activities planned for the upcoming months include participation in the American Legion and 4H Postal Matches at our home range this winter, and participation in the NRA Sectional Championships and the State Junior Olympics in the spring. Contact Linda Tucker, Air Rifle Coach, at 766-7011 or email [TuckerLHBG@aol.com](mailto:TuckerLHBG@aol.com) for additional information.

## **2002 High Power Rifle Wrap-Up**

*by Ron Keslar*

Mechanicsburg's NRA high power rifle program finished on September 1 as the last competition of the year. Twenty-seven shooters turned out for an exceptional match.

Master class Tom Wise used an AR15 service rifle to take top honors with a score of 469-9x (500 possible points). Frank Rizzuto, also a Master, took second with his AR15 (465-6x). Third was Robert McSherry from Halifax, a new shooter on Mechanicsburg's range; Bob fired off a 458-11x with his AR15.

High Expert was Bob Lehman. Bob used a venerable M1A to shoot a respectable 450-7x. Close behind was Second Expert, Mark Burkhead, shooting 450-5x with his mouse gun (AR15).

Gerald Petrasic took First place Sharpshooter (431-4x). Right behind him as Second Sharpshooter was 18-year old Jason Burkhead (430-3x). Both used AR15's.

Young (age 14) Ryan Putt came in as High Marksman with his 414-5x. New to high power competition, Jodi Winter was Second Marksman, 396-2x.

Congratulations go to Joe Kuhn (441-5x); Joe began shooting high power rifle this spring and has rapidly climbed toward the top. Watch out for Joe in 2003!

NRA high power rifle is great fun! Matches are open to shooters of all ages. If you have not shot this course before, we'll help you learn. A limited number of M1 Garands and AR15s are available for use at no charge. In 2003, juniors will continue to shoot free: match fees are waived; rifles and ammunition are provided at no cost.

For more information, contact Match Director Ron Keslar at 432-9039, [ronald@keslar.net](mailto:ronald@keslar.net).

## **2003 High Power Rifle Schedule**

*by Ron Keslar*

One training clinic and four National Rifle Association-approved conventional high power rifle matches are scheduled at Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association in 2003.

The training clinic is aimed at instructing youth on how to participate in high power rifle competition; it will be held on Saturday, May 3. A limited number of openings will be available for interested adults. This clinic will meet the shooting requirement for those who are seeking to purchase a rifle from the Civilian Marksmanship Program.

Matches will be held on May 18, June 1, July 4, and August 31, 2003. Relays are called to the 100\_yard firing line at 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon.

The 50\_shot National Match Course is fired in four stages: 10 shots in ten minutes-standing position, 10 shots in sixty seconds-sitting rapid fire, 10 shots in seventy seconds-prone rapid fire, and 20 rounds prone slow fire.

A limited number of M1 Garands and AR-15 type rifles are available for use at our matches by anyone without a rifle-juniors have first preference; rifles and ammunition are furnished to juniors at no cost. Matches are co-sponsored by North Harrisburg American Legion Post 1001. See the MSA web site for more information and to register on-line, or contact Ron Keslar at 432-9039, [ronald@keslar.net](mailto:ronald@keslar.net).

## **Firearm Education**

*by Linda Tucker*

Since we began the program in 2000, we have conducted over 70 Basic NRA classes in all disciplines for approximately 570 participants. Training Counselors Ron Keslar & Linda Tucker additionally conducted 25 instructor courses which resulted in over 200 certifications at locations throughout the state. As Chief Range Safety Officers, we also trained 35 NRA Range Safety Officers at Mechanicsburg, Harrisburg, and State College this year.

In July, we provided marksmanship instruction in the safe use of the M1 Carbine for over 100 youth at the annual American Legion/State Police Youth Week held at Scotland School. In August, we provided firearm safety instruction to 100 youth at the Cumberland County Farm and Home Safety Day Camp. In September, we provided handgun training to Dickinson School of Law students; and we provided firearms training to attendees at the NWTF Women in the Outdoors program which was hosted by our club. Our events and classes are conducted by organized training teams, which serves a dual purpose of providing high quality training to participants, and providing developmental opportunities for instructors by sharing knowledge and expertise. Our cooperative efforts with other organizations and clubs allows us to efficiently reach a wide audience in our education efforts.

Our last handgun class for 2002 was conducted in November. Our classes will resume in the spring and will be posted as scheduled on our web site at [www.msa-pa.org](http://www.msa-pa.org).

## **South Central Outdoors for Youth**

*by Linda Tucker*

Two youth field days will be held next year, as follows:

May 10, 2003 Mount Holly Fish & Game (Cumberland County)

June 7, 2003 Blue Ridge Sportsmen's Association ( Adams County)

Registration forms for youth participants will be posted on the web site when the forms become available. Please contact Linda Tucker at 766\_7011 or email [TuckerLHBG@aol.com](mailto:TuckerLHBG@aol.com) if you would like to make a donation or volunteer your time for an event.

## **Advertisements**

If you would like to have an advertisement in the newsletter, contact Steve Wetzler, 730-8634. Rates for ads are:

Full Page - \$100 Half Page - \$50

Quarter Page - \$25 Business Card - \$15

## **Hunter/Trapper Education**

*by Dan McDermott*

A Hunter/Trapper education course will be given starting on Thursday, Feb. 27 at 6:00 PM and continuing on Saturday, Mar. 1, from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The course is free but limited to 50 students. This course fulfills the requirements for obtaining a hunting or trapping license. Attendance at both sessions is required for a completion certificate. The course is open to anyone who will be 11 years of age or older by Feb. 27, 2003. A light lunch will be provided on Saturday compliments of Safari Club, International. Please pre-register by calling Dan McDermott at 651-3076 or 766-9781.