

# The Sportsman

The Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association  
Newsletter

April 2004  
Volume 10, Number 2



## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE**

Did you forget to renew your membership for 2004?  
Membership Application/Renewal form enclosed.

493 Sample Bridge Road  
P.O. Box 2303  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

(717) 691-9323  
[www.msa-pa.org](http://www.msa-pa.org)

President: Charles Kemberling - 737-3326  
Secretary: Steve Wetzler - 730-8634

Editor: Ron Keslar  
[ronald@keslar.net](mailto:ronald@keslar.net)

***Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association  
2004 Officers and Board of Directors***

**Officers**

President	Charles Kemberling	737-3326
Recording Secretary	Steve Wetzler	730-8634
Membership Secretary	Leonard Burg	796-9366
1st Vice President	Dave Eakin	245-9664
2nd Vice President	Ron Keslar	432-9039
Treasurer	Theresa Burg	796-9366

**Directors**

Archery	Phil Mentzer	766-8001
Fish Nursery & Block Shoots	Dave Eakin	245-9664
Assistant at Nursery	Rusty Garner	795-1170
Firearm Safety	Ron Keslar	432-9039
Game Legislation & Habitat	Don Heckman	761-5925
	Dave Still	730-7373
Indoor .22 Range	Glenn Zimmerman	766-3308
South Central Outdoors for Youth	Linda Tucker	766-7011
Trap	Dick Roth	732-0154
Fish Pond	Vince Grenkevich	732-1920
Youth Archery	Mike Rider	766-8906
Advisors to the Board	Jerry Coleman	766-2250
	Bill Bates	697-3085
Buildings & Grounds	Rich Barr	691-5856
Finance & Fund Raisers	Bob Dunn	766-0770

**Committee Chairpersons**

Kids' Fishing Derby	Bob Dunn	766-0770
	Jim Szabo	
Hunter Education	Dave Still	730-7373
Newsletter	Ron Keslar	432-9039
Range Officer	Wayne Conger	792-4068
Jubilee Day	Bill Bates	697-3085
.22 Rifle Team/Range Officer	John Gingrich	789-4689
Public Relations	Jerry Coleman	766-2250
Kitchen (Old Clubhouse)	Dick Kramer	732-1762
Rifle Range Maintenance	Wayne Conger	792-4068

**Jubilee Day Letter – 2004**

*By Bill Bates*

I would like to apologize for not having a report on Jubilee Day in the last news letter, due to hunting season and an unexpected illness on my part. Now as I am writing this, its cold enough to freeze your nose off and the ground is covered with ice and snow, but it is time to start thinking about Spring and our club's summer fund raisers.

As you know, membership dues do not cover all the expenses of the club. So we need to have fund raisers, such as archery shoots, the fishing derby and Jubilee Day. Right now we are in the process of lining up great prizes for our ticket sales. These tickets will be sent to you in a special mailing. As usual our price is \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Please fill out the stubs; mail stubs with check made payable to Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association. Send to William Bates, 10 Peacock Drive, Carlisle, Pa 17013.

We will need help to load up on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June (the night before Jubilee Day), to set up in the morning of Jubilee Day and tear down in the evening. Also, anyone available to work at the stand during the day and evening, even for a few hours, would be a big help.

Anyone needing information or more tickets can call me at (717) 697-3085.

## President's Message

*By Charles Kemberling*

Hello to all members!! Welcome to the Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association for the year 2004!! It is your club, so come out for the outdoors pleasures that your club has to offer.

I wish to apologize on behalf of the officers and directors for the December 15<sup>th</sup> newsletter not getting to you until late January. Sorry—we tried to do something that would have saved the club the printing costs, which is a considerable amount over the course of the year. Unfortunately, this project ran into unforeseen problems and delays in the different stages of getting it printed and mailed. Needless to say, it did not work out in a timely manner. The officers and directors have agreed to have the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (Ron Keslar) take over the duties of doing the necessary work to get the newsletter compiled and mailed on schedule, with this being March 15<sup>th</sup>, June 15<sup>th</sup>, September 15<sup>th</sup>, and December 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.

There is an issue which I do not know how familiar you are with, if at all. There is a resolution sponsored by Representative Bruce Smith of the Dillsburg area in the committee he chairs. My knowledge of this proposal and the reports coming back to the club officers and directors does not sound good for Pennsylvania sportsmen. This proposal, known as the merger bill, would most likely call for the Game Commission and the Fish and Boat Commission to come under the DCNR. I am asking you to contact your state legislator any way you can and ask them to vote NO on this piece of legislation. If it goes through, your state game lands may be used for a lot of other things not conducive for the use that they were acquired for. Game lands were bought and paid for by your hunting license fees and donations by conservation groups. Not one cent of taxpayer dollars has paid for the state game lands. Please contact your state elected people and ask them to vote NO on this bill if it comes to the floor for a vote. I have already spoken to Representative Pat Vance to indicate how I feel about this. One of the articles in this newsletter will give you more details and identify the central Pennsylvania legislators for you to contact.

I hope everyone will look at our schedule of events for the year and find time to come often to enjoy the activities. Read all of the reports in the newsletter.

Have a Safe and Healthy Spring!!

## Membership Secretary

*by Leonard Burg*

Did you forget to renew your MSA membership for 2004? Use the Membership Application/Renewal form in this newsletter. Renewal forms are also available on the website ([www.msa-pa.org](http://www.msa-pa.org)). It is important to send your renewal as soon as possible to continue to use the club's facilities. The gate combination and clubhouse locks were changed on February 15, 2004. Don't let this be your last newsletter--RENEW TODAY!

Attention all Active Duty Members. To renew you must send verification of your active duty status along with your renewal application. Don't delay, renew today!

A reminder: the dues for Family Membership changed to \$50.00 as of January 1, 2004.

If you have any questions about club membership, contact Len Burg at 796-9366

## Merger of the PA Game Commission and the PA Fish and Boat Commission

*by Dave Still*

There are multiple versions of this merger being studied as various House Resolutions. One is to merge the two independent Commissions into one entity, another is to extract the law enforcement components of each agency and place them under the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources while others involve various combinations of these and other actions.

One fact that many PA Sportsmen are not aware of is that the PGC and the PFBC are NOT funded through tax payer revenues. As such they have been able to operate independently of many of the constraints imposed on tax payer funded agencies such as the PA DCNR. Also, as an independent agency, the Game Commission retains ownership the State Game Lands. This is VERY important to hunters and trappers if we want to preserve the opportunities for access we now enjoy.

In the case of the PGC, their revenues are managed through the Game Fund which is replenished each year by license revenues and revenues obtained through the sales and management of renewable natural resources within the boundaries of the game lands. There are no PA Taxpayer revenues.

Recently the game lands have been targeted by recreational vehicle owners (ATV's, snow mobiles and other 'off road' vehicles) as well as equestrians (horseback riders) for use as their 'playground'. They claim as PA Taxpayers they have a right to use the game lands for these activities. But remember, there are NO taxpayer revenues involved in the acquisition, management and operation of the game lands, therefore these groups have no legitimate claim to their use. By comparison, these activities ARE already allowed on PA State Forest lands that are managed by the PA DCNR.

The issue of horses, snow mobiles, ATV's and other off-road motor vehicles on game lands should be of great concern to the general health and safety of hunters and trappers. These activities are devastating to habitat. We believe it is in our best interest to support the PGC's position on banning these activities within the game land boundaries.

Another claim of those supporting the merger is that it will save money. The real question is "Save money for whom?" Since the taxpayers aren't affected, and the sportsmen aren't complaining about license fees, who exactly is going to benefit from the 'savings'? So far no one we've contacted seems able to answer this question.

We believe very strongly that both the PA Game and Fish and Boat Commissions should remain as independent agencies; isolated in their entirety from the influence of tax dollars. Because if there is a merger that combines these agencies, and the legislation that created the agencies is voided, who is going to own, manage and fund the Game Lands? The State through DCNR with taxpayer revenues? Once we begin down that slippery slope, there is no return. We shudder to think what may happen to those resources if the revenues from Game Lands were to be vulnerable to 'plundering' in the general fund through a taxpayer-funded Commission under DCNR.

The future of the Game Lands may be at great risk. While we applaud Chairman Smith's position on the sanctity of the game lands and his opposition to casino gambling anywhere in the Commonwealth, we should ask that the Committee remain vigilant to potential 'end runs' on the merger issues by others who may not share our passion for the preservation of our heritage as sportsmen and women of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Please indicate your OPPOSITION TO THE MERGER in any of its forms by calling and writing the Governor's Office and your elected representatives (especially Representative Bruce Smith, the Chairman of the Committee studying these proposals). Your input to our elected officials is vital to preserving our hunting and fishing heritage for future generations in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania!

If you live in: Camp Hill Borough, East Pennsboro Twp., Hampden Twp., Silver Spring Twp., or Wormleysburg Borough please contact PA State Representatives Patricia H. Vance and Bruce Smith, Chairman, House Game and Fisheries Committee.

If you live in: Carlisle, Cooke Twp., Dickenson Twp., Lower Frankford Twp., Lower Mifflin Twp., Middlesex Twp., Newburg Twp., Newville Borough, North Middleton Twp., North Newton Twp., Penn Twp., South Newton Twp., Upper Frankford Twp., Upper Mifflin Twp., or West Pennsboro Twp. please contact PA State Representatives William I. Gabig and Bruce Smith (House Game and Fisheries Committee).

If you live in: Shippensburg Borough, Shippensburg Twp., or Southhampton Twp., please contact PA State Representatives Jeffrey W. Coy and Bruce Smith (House Game and Fisheries Committee).

If you live in: Mount Holly Springs Borough, or South Middleton Twp., please contact PA State Representative Bruce Smith (House Game and Fisheries Committee).

If you live in: Lemoyne Borough, Lower Allen Twp., Mechanicsburg Borough, Monroe Twp., New Cumberland Borough, Shiremanstown Borough, Upper Allen Twp., or Wormleysburg Borough please contact PA State Representatives Jerry L. Nailor and Bruce Smith (House Game and Fisheries Committee).

If you live outside Cumberland County you may contact your local PA State Representative by going online to [www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us) and entering your zip code or county in the 'Find Members By' dialog box in the upper right hand corner of the web page.

PA State Representative Bruce Smith, Majority Chairman  
House Game and Fisheries Committee

Fairview Industrial Park  
540B Industrial Drive  
Lewisberry, PA 17339

Room 41A  
East Wing  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

PA State Representative Patricia H. Vance  
3806 Market Street  
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Room B16  
Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

PA State Representative Jerry L. Nailor  
2929 Gettysburg Road, Suite 6  
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Room 18 East Wing  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

PA State Representative William I. Gabig  
101 North Hanover Street  
Carlisle, PA 17013

428 Irvis Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

PA State Senator Harold F. Mowery Jr.  
1023 Mumma Road  
Lemoyne, PA 17043

Room 169  
Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Governor Edward G. Rendell  
225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

*Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association will be reviewing the merger issues at our monthly club meetings, which all members are encouraged to attend. For further information, contact the club's Directors of Game Legislation & Habitat, Don Heckman (761-5925) or Dave Still (730-7373).*

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

*By Ron Keslar*

Current key holders may renew their range privileges by sending a check in the amount of \$10 (made payable to Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Assn) to Ron Keslar, 47 Barrens Church Road, Dillsburg, PA 17019.

Members interested in obtaining a first-time key to the range may contact Ron Keslar, Chief Range Safety Officer, to schedule a range safety briefing. Call 432-9039 or e-mail [ronald@keslar.net](mailto:ronald@keslar.net). Briefings are generally held immediately following the monthly membership meeting.

## 4-H Club Election Results

*by Katie Chastain*

The annual Mechanicsburg 4-H Shooting Sports Club election was held on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003. After many contentious minutes of voting, the outcome was as follows: Alex Egan with his second term for President, Lara Gingrich as Vice President, Josiah Taylor as Secretary, Jayson Bomberger as Historian and Katie Chastain as Reporter. The club meets and practices at MSA every Thursday from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Members of the club shoot regularly in competitions at MSA, Palmyra Sportsmen's and



at Harrisburg Hunters' and Anglers'. We have about thirteen new shooters who have earned the NRA certification for Basic Rifle. After learning how to shoot safely, the kids who are interested in continuing to shoot air rifle will have the opportunity to shoot in competitions at Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association and the other clubs. We wish luck to all and have a great year.

## NRA Annual Meeting

*By Ron Keslar*

The 133<sup>rd</sup> National Rifle Association Annual Meeting will be held April 16-18, 2004 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA. The opening celebration will be at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 16. The exhibit hall is open until 6:00 p.m. On Friday evening, a special Friends of the NRA dinner and auction will take place to benefit the NRA Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Our club participates in the FONRA fund-raisers and has been the recipient of NRA Foundation grants which helped build our new clubhouse and indoor pistol range, upgrade our rifle ranges, and acquire air rifles for our junior shooting programs.

Saturday morning will begin with a Sportsmen's Prayer Breakfast. Exhibit hall hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. All NRA members are welcome to attend the annual meeting. The evening will see the 133<sup>rd</sup> NRA Members Banquet—family and guests are welcome.

Sunday hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Introduce your kids to Eddie Eagle! Test your skills on the air gun range! Talk turkey at the Game Calling Contest! Attend special sessions on firearms laws, legislation, grassroots activism and more.

Exhibition hall admission is free to NRA members; bring your membership card for admission. This is a great opportunity to attend the event held this year in our own state—only 3½ hours away from Mechanicsburg! Show your support for gun rights and enjoy being with other firearms supporters in a congenial atmosphere. Register now to attend. Call 1-877-NRA-2004 or visit [nrahq.org](http://nrahq.org) for more information. Mail registrations to 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030.

Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association  
P.O. Box 2303, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

## Membership Application

### To submit this application:

Bring this application with a check or money order to the General Membership Meeting  
(1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.).

**OR**

Mail this application to with a check or money order to:

Leonard A. Burg  
6358 Bennington Road  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

### **Make Check or Money Order Payable to Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association.**

New applications are voted on at the General Membership Meeting. Membership credentials are sent out after the meeting. Membership begins when you receive your credentials. Please check your application before submitting. Incomplete or missing information may delay processing your membership.

**For additional information, call Leonard Burg (717) 796-9366 or  
(717) 766-9323 for club information.**

### **MSA NEEDS YOU. PLEASE VOLUNTEER.**

As a member of this club, you get to use great facilities for the shooting sports, and much more. Your membership dues are only part of the funds needed to pay for the operating expenses of the club. It would be greatly appreciated for every one of our members to volunteer to help at one of our fundraising events, or help with the maintenance. You will have the opportunity to meet other members, and the satisfaction of working to improve your club.

### **Will you answer the call and volunteer to work in one or more of the following areas?**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Fishing Derby                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Block Shoots            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Maintenance                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-keeping                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunter Education Class Instructor        | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Nursery            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jubilee Day at Mechanicsburg             | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn Mowing             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen / Food Stand Help at Club Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Masonry                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Field Day                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Rifle Range Maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work Party                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Trap Shoots             |

### **CLUB ACTIVITIES:** Please check up to three activities.

- |   |                                       |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archery / Competitive          | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-D Shoots   | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior .22 Caliber Team        | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking       | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior .22 Caliber Team        | <input type="checkbox"/> Trap         | <input type="checkbox"/> Block Shoot  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Power Rifle Competition   | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Rifle    | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Nursery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor Centerfire Pistol Range | <input type="checkbox"/> Black Powder |                                       |

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Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association  
PO Box 2303 Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

NEW APPLICATION       RENEWAL APPLICATION       CHANGE OF ADDRESS

*Renewals are due by February 15 each year to avoid a \$15.00 reinstatement fee.*

**\* Required Information**

\*NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ \*BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
\*ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*CITY/TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ \*ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Check here if you want a newsletter mailed. Newsletter and club events calendar are available on the web at [www.msa-pa.org](http://www.msa-pa.org).*

**FAMILY MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

\*SPOUSE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ \*BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
*List children age 17 and younger. List additional children on separate paper.*

\*CHILDS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ \*BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
\*CHILDS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ \*BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
\*CHILDS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ \*BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
\*CHILDS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ \*BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

- \$15.00 Initiation Fee:** Required for NEW Adult or Family Membership.
- \$35.00 Adult Membership:** Age 18 and older.
- \$50.00 Family Membership:** Includes member, spouse, and children age 17 and younger
- \$5.00 Junior Membership:** Ages 12 to 17. No initiation fee.
- \$15.00 Spouse:** Life/Honorary Life members add your spouse. Annual fee.
- Active Duty Military & Life Memberships Available:** Contact Membership Secretary.
- \$10.00 Clubhouse Key:** For the indoor archery and .22 rimfire range (the old clubhouse). Not available to Junior Members. This does not include the indoor centerfire pistol range.
- \$3.00 Club Patch**
- Donation:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$35.00 Join / Renew NRA Membership:** One-year membership.  
Renewal-provide NRA ID#: \_\_\_\_\_ Choose one magazine:  
\_\_\_\_American Rifleman \_\_\_\_American Hunter \_\_\_\_America's 1<sup>st</sup> Freedom \_\_\_\_Woman's Outlook
- \$15.00 Join / Renew NRA Junior (18 years and younger):** One-year membership.  
Renewal-provide NRA ID#: \_\_\_\_\_ Junior members receive Insights Magazine.

**Make Check or Money Order Payable to Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association**

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## **Mentored Youth Pheasant Hunt a Great Success!**

*By Dave Still*

This Youth Hunt activity is sponsored by the PA Game Commission as a special 2-day youth-only pheasant hunt for young hunters between the ages of 12 and 16. MSA also received assistance and support from the Cumberland Valley Chapter of Pheasants Forever. The 2003 MSA program consisted of a morning hunt in Franklin County and an afternoon hunt in York County. Fifteen youth hunters successfully completed the MSA program and were eligible for the hunt. Of those 15, thirteen hunters actually took to the field for the event. Two youth hunters had conflicts that prevented them from being part of our event for 2003 but we look forward to having them join us again in 2004.

The purpose of the PGC program is to introduce youth hunters to the sport of upland bird hunting while reinforcing safety, courtesy and sportsmanship. At the center of the MSA event were two mandatory field days held prior to the hunt. These field days were used to help prepare the youth hunters, many of whom had never hunted before, to take to the field for a successful, safe and memorable experience.

Each registered participant had the opportunity to shoot a round of 25 clay birds at our club's automatic trap ranges. This activity was mandatory for registered participants on at least one of the two field day events. However, all participants took advantage of BOTH opportunities to handle their sporting arms and gain valuable advice from experienced MSA trap shooters. A special thanks to Dick Roth and Dick Cekovich for their assistance in instructing the youth at the trap stations.

The field days were also used to instruct youth hunters on how to hunt over pointing and flushing dogs. Learning how to shoot over different types of hunting dogs is extremely important for a safe and successful hunt. Hunt participants had an opportunity to meet both types of dogs during field days and gain valuable instruction on how to approach the different types of hunting dogs for a safe shot.

The culmination of the field days program was a Mock Hunt. Many of the young hunters had never seen a pheasant before. On the afternoon of the October 4 field day, they had an opportunity to participate in an organized Mock Hunt on club grounds. This activity was also mandatory prior to participating in the actual hunt the following weekend. During the mock hunts, hunt supervisors took 4-5 youth hunters at a time on simulated 'hunts' complete with dogs and live pheasants. During the mock hunt, live pheasants, both male and female, were launched to simulate what hunters may see in the field. (Some of these pheasants have been seen on club grounds as recently as mid-January.) We used this opportunity to discuss 'shoot-don't shoot' scenarios, how to hunt 'in line' and how to walk up on a pointing dog.

The morning hunt with Pheasants Forever was very successful. Of the three hunters in my team, 4 pheasants were harvested with each of the hunters getting at least one pheasant. We would especially like to thank our morning hunt host, Jim Rockwell, the Cumberland Valley Chapter of Pheasants Forever, and the other handler, Ron Newell, for making this hunt so enjoyable.

The afternoon hunt was another story. This hunt was not as successful because some 'outside' hunters got into the fields ahead of our hunt; the birds provided for the MSA MYH were harvested, scattered or 'hunkered down' in very dense cover. Handler Joe Baker had some success with his team (2 birds) since he apparently got into some 'leftover' areas before the birds got harvested or scattered by the 'outside' hunters. Lesson learned. We are already making plans to see this type of mishap doesn't occur in 2004.

Since we may not deny access to PGC Game Lands, we will work with the PGC to obtain permission to hunt co-op farmlands in Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin and York Counties that are located outside the PGC game lands for the 50-60 youth hunters MSA expects to sponsor in 2004.

Thanks again to all who participated in and contributed to this outstanding youth event.

## April 2004

Thu 1	Trap Shoot, 4:00 pm-8:00 pm 4-H Air Rifle Club, 7 pm-9 pm*#	Sat 17	ATA Shoot
Sat 3	.22 Team, 10:00 am-Noon*	Mon 19	Block Shoot, 7:00 pm
Mon 5	Block Shoot, 7:00 pm	Tue 20	.22 Team, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm*
Tue 6	.22 Team, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm*	Thu 22	Trap Shoot, 4:00 pm-8:00 pm 4-H Air Rifle Club, 7 pm-9 pm*#
Wed 7	General Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm%	Sat 24	.22 Team, 10:00 am-Noon* NRA 3-P Smallbore Match, Noon-5 pm* Children's Fishing Derby
Thu 8	Trap Shoot, 4:00 pm-8:00 pm 4-H Air Rifle Club, 7 pm-9 pm*#	Mon 26	Block Shoot, 7:00 pm
Sat 10	.22 Team, 10:00 am-Noon* NRA 3-P Smallbore Match, Noon-5 pm*	Tue 27	.22 Team, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm*
Mon 12	Block Shoot, 7:00 pm	Wed 28	Directors' Meeting, 7:30 pm%
Tue 13	.22 Team, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm*	Thu 29	Trap Shoot, 4:00 pm-8:00 pm 4-H Air Rifle Club, 7 pm-9 pm*#
Thu 15	Trap Shoot, 4:00 pm-8:00 pm 4-H Air Rifle Club, 7 pm-9 pm*#		

\*Indoor .22 range closed  
%Indoor pistol range closed

#Indoor archery range closed  
@ 100 Yard Range closed

## May 2004

Sat 1	.22 Team, 10:00 am-Noon*	Sat 22	.22 Team, 10:00 am-Noon* South-central Outdoors for Youth at McSherrystown
Tue 4	.22 Team, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm*	Sun 23	NRA High Power Rifle Match, 100 yd range closed from 9-2
Wed 5	General Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm%	Tue 25	.22 Team, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm*
Thu 6	Trap Shoot, 4:00 pm-8:00 pm 4-H Air Rifle Club, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm*#	Wed 26	Directors' Meeting, 7:30 pm%
Sat 8	.22 Team, 10:00 am-Noon* 3-P Smallbore Match, Noon-5:00 pm*	Thu 27	Trap Shoot, 4:00 pm-8:00 4-H Air Rifle Club, 7 pm-9 pm*#
Tue 11	.22 Team, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm*	Sat 29	Boy Scout Rifle Shooting Merit Badge, 8:00 am-4:00 pm*
Thu 13	Trap Shoot, 4:00 pm-8:00 pm 4-H Air Rifle Club, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm*#		Youth High Power Rifle Clinic, 9-3 100 yd range closed, 11 am-3 pm@
Sat 15	ATA Shoot		
Sun 16	NRA Foundation Picnic		
Tue 18	.22 Team, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm*		
Thu 20	Trap Shoot, 4:00 pm-8:00 pm 4-H Air Rifle Club, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm*#		

### Youth Trap Program

*By Dick Roth*

Every Monday evening at 6:00 pm for the next month or so (until baseball, little league, soccer, and all the other spring sports events that consume the time that the young people have to give) we will be having youth trap for 10- to 15-year old boys and girls. It consist of shooting at 25 16-yard clay birds for \$1.50. Bring your shells and a shotgun for them to use. This is another way to get the youth involved in this shooting sport.

Anyone interested in getting their son or daughter in this sport, contact Dick Roth.

## June 2004

Tue 1	.22 Team, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm*		
Wed 2	General Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm%	Thu 17	Jubilee Day
Thu 3	Trap Shoot, 4:00 pm-8:00 pm 4-H Air Rifle Club, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm*#		Trap Shoot, 4:00 pm-8:00 pm 4-H Air Rifle Club, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm*#
Fri 4	NFAA Archery Shoot--- All	Sat 19	Boy Scout Rifle Shooting Merit Badge 8:00 am-4:00 pm*
Sat 5	NFAA Archery Shoot--- Club Grounds	Tue 22	.22 Team, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm*
Sun 6	NFAA Archery Shoot--- Closed	Thu 24	Trap Shoot, 4:00 pm-8:00 pm 4-H Air Rifle Club, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm*#
Tue 8	.22 Team, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm*	Sat 26	.22 Team, 10:00 am-Noon* ATA Shoot
Wed 9	District Attorneys' Institute, 2-5 pm%	Tue 29	.22 Team, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm*
Thu 10	Trap Shoot, 4:00 pm-8:00 pm 4-H Air Rifle Club, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm*#	Wed 30	Directors' Meeting, 7:30 pm%
Sat 12	Boy Scouts South-central Outdoors for Youth at Carlisle Fish & Game		
Sun 13	NRA High Power Rifle Match, register at 8:30 am 100 yd range closed from 9:00 am-2:00 pm@		* Indoor .22 range closed # Indoor archery range closed % Indoor pistol range close @ 100-yard range closed
Tue 15	.22 Team, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm*		

### Fish Nursery

*By Dave Eakin*

It will soon be that time of year again. Our stocking truck will be making the normal rounds. See the stocking schedule below. We can always use help when we stock. We usually meet at the fish nursery at 5:30 pm. Anyone wanting to help stock can meet us at the nursery. If you need directions call or email me. I want to thank all the feeders and helpers for all the work they do around the nursery. Without their help our fish wouldn't be as big and healthy as they are.

#### Stocking schedule

(Subject to change depending on weather and available help)

Wednesday	4/14	Trindle Springs and Yellow Breeches Creek at McCormic Rd.
Thursday	4/15	Hogestown Run at Boy Scout Office and Club Pond
Friday	4/23	Club Pond for Children's Fishing Derby (Pond Closed for Fishing)
Saturday	4/24	Portable tank at Children's Fishing Derby (Call me for time)
Wednesday	4/28	Trindle Springs and Yellow Breeches
Thursday	4/29	Hogestown Run
Wednesday	5/12	Trindle Springs and Yellow Breeches
Thursday	5/13	Hogestown Run and Club Pond
Wednesday	5/26	Trindle Springs and Yellow Breeches
Thursday	5/27	Hogestown Run and Club Pond (Depending on water temp)
Wednesday	6/9	Trindle Springs and Yellow Breeches
Thursday	6/10	Hogestown Run
Thursday	6/17	Jubilee Day—We need helpers all day (Call me)

We also hold a Special Needs Fishing Derby at the club's nursery in July. Come on out and help teach our guests how to fish!! They'll enjoy the fishing and you will, too!!

## 4H Club News – 4-H Postal Match Results

*by Linda Tucker*

Annually, the National Rifle Association conducts a postal match that is open to all 4-H members throughout the U.S. The postal match is held in air rifle, smallbore rifle (.22), pistol, and sporting clays. Participants shoot on their home range with the results being sent to NRA to be combined for a nationwide competition. Twenty-three of our Mechanicsburg 4-H Shooting Sports youth participated this year.

Our club produced five national award winners:

### **Smallbore (.22 Rifle)**

Katie Chastain - 1st place Jr Division  
Joseph McDowell - 5th place Sr Division

### **Air Rifle**

Jared Taylor - 2nd place Jr Division  
Jonette Taylor - 5th place Jr Division  
Josiah Taylor - 5th place Sr Division

The NRA will be sending engraved awards to the winners. All participants received a commemorative 4-H pin. Congratulations to the winners and all the shooters who participated!



*(L-R: Katie Chastain, Joseph McDowell, Jared Taylor, Josiah Taylor, Jonette Taylor)*

## Trap News

*By Dick Roth*

The Mechanicsburg trap program is in the process of acquiring a new type of trap or shotgun shooting event. It is called WOBBLE TRAP. The birds will fly very high, very low, straight out, extreme right (or left) and very fast. This sounds like our regular birds on a windy evening!! Seriously folks, this device attaches to one of our existing traps so that it will not only oscillate to the right and left but also go up and down. We will be adding this to our current program of regular trap shooting every Thursday evening. We may start another evening for just this wobble trap if it gets as much interest as we expect. The regular trap league shoots are advertised on our web page. If you haven't visited [www.msa-pa.org](http://www.msa-pa.org), you should do so to see everything the club has to offer. Remember- even in cold, windy, snowy, rainy, and the occasional good weather we still shoot every Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.!!

## Block Shoots

*By Dave Eakin*

The block shoots run every Monday night through the end of April. We start shooting around 7:15 p.m. Come on out and try to win some great Karn's meat prizes. I want to thank all of our helpers who donate their time to make our block shoots run smoothly. This is one of the events that helps fund our club. We are always looking for new helpers, if anyone is interested please contact me. I want to give a special **"GET WELL!!"** to Bill Bates who has been involved in the block shoots for many years. Most recently he has been our prize wheel spinner. Bill, everyone at the block shoots hopes for a speedy recovery and to see you back at the wheel again!

Remaining Schedule:	3/8/04	3/15/04	3/22/04	3/29/04
	4/05/04	4/12/04	4/19/04	4/26/04

# CHILDREN'S FISHING DERBY

Sponsored by Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association

Saturday, April 24, 2004 -- open to the public

Registration opens at 7:30 a.m.

Fishing from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Heavily stocked trout pond  
Trophy-size Trout (over 20")  
Free bait and use of poles (limited)  
Free kids' raffle  
FREE awards and prizes

Children ages 2 to 14 only  
Kids under 6 can fish safely in our  
portable pond  
Three trout limit  
Refreshments & food available

(Fishing is at your own risk)

## HERE'S SOME PHOTOS FROM PAST FISHING DERBYS!!



## YOUTH AIR RIFLE NEWS

*By Linda Tucker*

This year our air rifle league was expanded to include matches at Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association and Harrisburg Hunter's and Anglers' Association. The league began in October 2003 and will end in April. To date, over 35 youth have participated.



Nine of our youth participated in the Palmyra Invitational match in the International Air Rifle category. This was a great opportunity to participate in a nationally recognized match which featured some of the top collegiate teams in the country.

We have 18 youth scheduled to participate in the NRA Sectional Championships and twelve youth scheduled to compete in the State Junior Olympic Championships in April. We will also have youth participating in the PA State Championship in May, which is the

qualifying match to select shooters for state teams to represent PA in the National NRA Air Rifle Championships in Idaho. Our last major air rifle match of the season will be the PA State American Legion Junior Sporter Rifle Tournament in May.

We appreciate the generosity of the membership of MSA who share their indoor .22 and archery ranges to support the growing youth participation. Ongoing activities dedicated to youth develop camaraderie and long term friendships which will form our future partnerships in the sportsmen's community.

*(4-H Air Rifle Competitors. L-R: Elizabeth Embeck, Katie Chastain, Jayson Bomberger)*



## Adult and Youth .22 Team News

*By John Gingrich*

Youth .22 practice is on Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and Tuesdays 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. unless other club events are scheduled on the indoor range of the old clubhouse. We move to the 50-yard outdoor range in June. Please notify John Gingrich (789-4689) if you plan to attend and need club equipment to use. Jason Chin began his .22 instruction this month, and we have had several other inquiries about our program. We hope to see more youth join us this spring.

Frank Hobausz, Frank Hobausz Jr. and Bob Okeson competed in the Palmyra Invitational on February 7, 2004. This invitational, organized by Erin Gestl, is attended by small bore and air rifle shooters from all over the US.

Our Tuesday night winter league is about over for this year. We compete with shooters from Lebanon and Central Penn. At this time, Mechanicsburg has four adult and two youth members on our team. We welcome any shooters who want to keep up their skills over the winter to join us next fall. Results will be posted in the indoor .22 range when we receive them.

## YOUTH FIELD DAYS

*By Linda Tucker*

Our club is a member of Southcentral Outdoors for Youth which holds two youth field days annually. The 2004 field days are:

Saturday, May 22, 2004 McSherrystown Fish & Game (Adams County)

Saturday, June 12, 2004 Carlisle Fish & Game (Cumberland County)

A registration form for youth participants can be printed from our website at [www.msa-pa.org](http://www.msa-pa.org). The deadline for youth registration is April 15, 2004.

## 2004 HIGH POWER RIFLE SCHEDULE

*by Ron Keslar*

Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association has scheduled five National Rifle Association-approved conventional high power rifle matches for 2004. In addition, the Annual Memorial Day Youth High Power Rifle Clinic will be held on Saturday, May 29, 2004.

50-shot matches will be May 23, June 13, July 4, August 8, and September 12, 2004. Relays are called to the 100-yard firing line at 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Pre-registration will assure competitors of a position; otherwise, register at the new clubhouse at 8:30 a.m. on the day of the match.

If you haven't fired in NRA high power rifle competition, come on out and watch! If you are new to this sport, we'll help you learn. This is the event fired at the Camp Perry National Championships each year. The rifles most commonly used in local matches are the M1 Garand, the M1A, and the AR-15. You may also bring any iron-sighted military rifle, such as an Enfield, Springfield, Mauser, SKS, etc.

This National Match Course is fired in four stages: 10 shots in ten minutes (standing), 10 shots in sixty

seconds (sitting rapid fire), 10 shots in seventy seconds (prone rapid fire), and 20 shots in 20 minutes (prone slow fire).



MSA is a Civilian Marksmanship-affiliated club; participation at a match meets one of the requirements for buying an M1 Garand from the CMP. A limited number of M1 Garands and AR-15 type rifles are avail-

able 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).

## Advertisements

If you would like to have an advertisement in the newsletter, contact Steve Wetzler (730-8634)

Full Page-\$100

Half Page-\$50

Quarter Page-\$25

Business Card-\$15

## **Training Flushing and Pointing Dogs for Upland Bird Hunting**

*By Dave Still*

Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association is offering a Beginning Level Training Class for pointing gun dogs. The class will focus on preparing pointing breeds to be a 'Gentleman's Gun Dog'. Basics will focus on socialization, developing and sustaining the pointing instinct, introduction to the electronic collar as a training tool (optional) and introduction to the gun. All ages of dog, handler and pointing breed are welcome. Young handlers accompanied by a parent are encouraged. Future training classes will build upon the basics by teaching steady to wing and shot, backing, and retrieving.

The Association will have quail available for training upland bird dogs. The quail are mature birds, strong fliers, and a must whether training flushing or pointing breeds. The cost is \$4/bird which covers the cost of the bird, the Pennsylvania Game Commission's required leg band for recall, food and shelter. Interested handlers should contact Dave Still at 730-7373 for information and register.

## **Pheasants Forever Annual Banquet**

*By Dave Still*

The Cumberland Valley Chapter 453 of Pheasants Forever (CV PF) is having their annual banquet April 2, 2004 at the Orchards Restaurant in Chambersburg, PA. There will also be a CV PF Sporting Clays Shoot at Carlisle Fish and Game on May 16, 2004. If interested see or call Dave Still at (717) 730-7373, Brian Brake at (717) 816-9184 or Tim Starr at (717) 328-9751 for information. This group of individuals is responsible for managing some of the best upland habitat in Cumberland, Franklin and Adams County. Donations are tax deductible.

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**The Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association  
P.O. Box 2303  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055**

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