

RANGE GATE - NEW LOCK, NEW KEY

Due to a broken lock on the gate to the range, a new one has been installed. New keys available at the office, no charge this time. Toss the old one!

2018
MARCH

Meeker Sportsman Club, Inc.

Target Bard



Promoting Conservation,
Sportsmanship, Safety &
Education

Membership Changes

The term “working club” is overlooked by the majority of people when they fill out a membership application. The club only exists because of those who work. Though the club offers a ‘work fee’ at renewal, in lieu of working, it is not intended to be used every year as a pass to get out of working.

The rules state ‘Members shall work either ten hours or at two events, or incur a \$50 work fee to renew their membership.’

We’ve been lax on that requirement, generally allowing any amount of work to suffice, believing any bit of work contributes to the whole. However, we still have many that do nothing. Too many clubs deteriorate and fall by the wayside because

only 10% of the membership works to keep the club going. We don’t want to be that kind of club. It’s better to have 100 working members than to have 300 members who simply use up resources and expect someone else to clean up and do repairs.



We’ve considered raising membership fees and work fees, or requiring prospective members to have a sponsor. None of those seem to fit the bill at this time.

We strive to be a community of like minded people who want an affordable, safe, family friendly place to practice and teach outdoor sporting

activities, always with conservation in mind.

Renewals have never been guaranteed, work fee or not, but they have rarely been denied.

SOLUTION;
New and renewal applications will be more seriously reviewed at meetings. Those who choose never to contribute to the welfare, upkeep and goals of the club, without good reason, are less likely to be approved.

We realize “LIFE” happens, plans go out the window. Extra boxes of free time aren’t sitting on your shelf. But we do give you plenty of notice to plan ahead for most work days and events. You have an entire year to do something that makes you an actual part of keeping this club going.

PROJECTS

There are many things in the works, and as many kinks in the process. Three more storage containers have been purchased. Container delivery happens when stone pads are installed, pad installation happens when weather allows.

Paneling the inside of the club house could have happened over the win-

ter, if we had the lumber. Our deal to have the Richwood Fair sawmill cut lumber from our woods seems to be on their back burner, again.

Archery classes and events are on hold until we buy the equipment, which will happen as soon as we have the storage containers to put the equipment in.

Dates To Remember:

Spring Clean Up	Apr 7
Fishing Derby	Jun 2
Fall Clean Up	Sep 1
Family Day	Sep 15
Week Day Clean Up	Oct 16

PRESIDENT

Marshall Baker 740-383-4418
Rifle Team

VICE PRESIDENT

Ben Morris 740-383-4735

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Linda Tubbs 740-361-7281

TRUSTEES:

Charlie Schnitzler 740-499-2434
Trustee Chairman

Denny Tubbs 740-361-1767
Trap, S/O, 3Gun, Benchrest

Richard Kepler 740-943-2635
Hunter's Ed, Trap, Benchrest

Brian Ratliff 937-269-5438
Military

Dick Igou 740-262-4762
Pistol, 3 Gun

Mike Coutts 740-360-8570
Military, S/O, Rifle Team

Bill Scott 740-387-1796

OTHER CONTACTS

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Wayne Strunk 614-537-2262
CCW, Self Def., Hunter's Ed

Bill Wasserbeck 740-341-2612
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Steve Branam 614-562-8321
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Charles Riedmiller 740-362-2222
Archery, CCW, Self Def.

Marion Co. Wildlife Officer

Chad Grote 614-902-4217

Marion Co. Sheriff

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Indoor Rifle Practice

The North West Ohio Rifle League runs November through March. Matches are held on Tuesdays at 6pm, practice on Fridays at 8pm. Practice is open to club members. The team welcomes those new to small bore target shooting and rifles are available if you'd like to test the waters. If you'd like to practice or are interested in joining the team, simply show up on practice night!

**Indoor Pistol Practice**

Monday's and Fridays November through March at 6pm you can get a little practice in without freezing your tail off. Have a CCW? Don't let your aim get rusty. If you're new to shooting, the RSO's are knowledgeable and willing to help. No pressure, just a few shooter's getting together for practice. \$2 range fee.

**Pistol Team**

Weather permitting, team practice will start in April. Matches begin in May and are held twice monthly, shooting steel plates at Meeker and bowling pins at Richwood. Practice is every Monday that there is no match or club meeting, and the Friday prior to a match. Start time is 6pm. Range fees - \$5 practice, \$10 match.

Trap Shoots

Trap shoots were cancelled in both January and February due to the weather. March 1st we'll try and start up again, weather permitting.

Fun & practice - 1st & 3rd Thursday @ 6pm. \$4 members, \$5 non-members. Competition rounds will be available if there's interest. Club guns available to members.

Calcutta Shoots - Indefinitely suspended due to the lack of help.

Trap Classes

Current scheduled classes run through June. We'll be applying for grant money to run classes again on the first Sunday of the month, July 2018 through June 2019. We'll continue to offer both the Beginner's and Progressive Classes with two changes. The Beginner's will run two consecutive months in a row followed by a Progressive the next month. 5 Stand/Sporting Clays may be added to Progressive Classes. The changes are being made because many people are repeating the Beginner's Class instead of moving on to the Progressive. An extra class will allow more actual beginner's to participate. Adding to the Progressive will hopefully entice people who have already attended the Beginner's to move on and learn more.



Classes are totally free and include everything you need to shoot trap. Bringing your own firearm and safety gear is optional, however, we only provide 12 and 20 gauge shells.

Beginner's Class - No experience required, that includes experience with firearms.

Progressive Class - Must have already attended a Beginner's Class, NO exceptions.

Limit 20 students per class. Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by ODNR Div. of Wildlife and Sportfish & Wildlife

Military Matches

Weather permitting, matches will start in April and continue monthly on the 3rd Sunday through September. All you need is a standard issue service. Optional equipment includes coats, slings, spotting scopes, etc.. Sights may be open, peep or telescope. Match is Garand course of fire.

Rimfire Sporter Matches - With attendance steadily dropping this match is on the fence. It will immediately follow the Military match only if there are enough shooters. Fired as per CMP rulebook. \$10 ranges fees apply to both matches.

Project Appleseed

While not an actual club event, we host several of these every year. It's a superb program put on and run by volunteers of Project Appleseed, teaching marksmanship skills to young and old alike. No matter your skill level, you can improve on whatever it is you think you already know, "transform you from a person with a rifle into a principled and skilled Rifleman". You'll get a dose of history and heritage in the process. We have three Appleseeds scheduled this year, there are hundreds put on every year across the country. For all the info and pricing you can visit their website appleseedinfo.org

3 Gun

Starting up again in May, 3 Gun practice and matches will be held the 2nd Saturday of the month through September (October if weather allows). Practice is held from 2pm to 3pm immediately followed by the match. Changes - Range fee \$10 to shoot plus optional \$10 to enter competition for a chance at the payout. New format is being discussed and yet to be determined.

Bench Rest

Midwest Varmint Match Shooter's - April 28th and June 23rd dates have been scheduled. Details, fees and registration forms have yet to be received.

Ultimate Benchrest - At least one match is planned but has not yet been scheduled.

Archery

While we can't schedule any events or classes yet, we do need to get something moving. We're in need of a few more instructors and some people who would like to assist with classes or working at events. If you have any archery experience please consider helping with this. There's currently quite a bit of public interest in learning archery and people looking for archery shoots.

Hunter's Ed

Only ONE class for Hunter's Ed is planned this year. Due to the availability of online courses and testing there are less people looking for a physical, instructor led classes. August 18th and 19th will be a full two day class.. Saturday, 10am to 4pm and Sunday, 12pm to 4pm. You must attend both days. The class is free and everything is provided.

For the online course and testing visit:

<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/education-and-outdoor-discovery/hunter-and-trapper-education>

Clean Up Days

SATURDAY, APRIL 7TH

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16TH

Generally, clean up days are just that, cleaning things up. Always on the list is repairing and building target stands. In the past we've had people painting, taking down trees, washing windows, edging trap lanes, burning brush, blowing off concrete pads, whacking or spraying weeds, cleaning ovens, trimming around the pond, you get the idea. So bring anything at all you think might be useful. Rain dates are the following Saturdays. For those who balk at us choosing the first weekend in September (Labor day weekend), Family Outdoor Sporting Day is the 3rd weekend. If it rains on the first weekend then we still have the second weekend to get the place in shape for the event.

Start time is always 8am with coffee and donuts. Work till ??? Lunch is provided.

Fishing Derby

SATURDAY, JUNE 2ND, RAIN DATE JUNE 9TH When you can get a youngster outside and teach them to fish, you open them up to a whole new world. The public is invited to bring kids, 15 years and under, for some non-competitive outdoor fun. Grant funds from the U.S. Sportfish Restoration fund and Department of Wildlife help us provide everything needed to fish, including lunch.

We need club members to make it happen. Fishing experience is not required. From lunch prep and registration to unhooking fish, many hands and eyes are needed. Bring a camera, we need pictures. Not only is this a totally fun day watching kids squeal at the fish and worms, it's an opportunity to get families outdoors, together!



SET UP 8AM ~ REGISTRATION 9 - 9:15 AM ~ ORIENTATION 9:15 - 9:30 AM ~ FISHING 9:45 - 11:30 AM ~ LUNCH 11:30 AM
FREE ADMISSION ~ FREE LUNCH ~ LIMITED TO 50 KIDS, UP TO 15 YRS OLD ~ MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT
LAWN CHAIRS AND SUN SCREEN SUGGESTED

Marion County Fair

JULY 2ND THROUGH JULY 7TH For the past few years we've had the privilege of sharing the Pheasant's Forever booth at the fair, at no cost to us. PF pays for the booth and invites, not only our club, but the Waldo Sportsman Club and the ODNR Division of Wildlife, to take advantage of the exposure and advertising opportunity. The club typically has fliers for our Hunter's Ed and Trap Classes, Family Day, and shooting competitions like 3 Gun and Benchrest Matches.

We work in four hour shifts with three or four other like minded folks , either noon to 4pm, or 4pm to 8pm. I's not a hard job, basically sitting around talking shop and running into people we know. This counts toward your work hours!

Family Outdoor Sporting Day

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH WE OPEN THE DOORS TO THE PUBLIC AND GIVE THEM A DOSE OF FIREARM SAFETY

Give someone a chance to shoot a bunch of guns for free, you might just get them hooked and change their opinion of firearms. Yep, we do it every year, and we enjoy the heck out of it. From pencil pushers and target runners to Range Safety Officers and cooks, we need you all. Safety is our number one priority and you can never have too many eyes watching people around firearms. Rifles, pistols, shotguns, air guns, archery, retriever demonstration, and this year we'll have a firearm display and a New Vison Fire crew! Have ideas?? We'd love to add to the program. Reloading? BB guns? Sling shots? All we need is someone to run the station and we'll buy the equipment. The more we have to do, the less people are standing around waiting. You must know at least one of those low-information voters, or uneducated, anti-gun folks. Bring them with you! Setup and meeting 8:00 am, we run till 4:00 pm and then tidy up.

FACEBOOK! Share our events and use the 'check in' feature when you're at the club.

WORK FEES AREN'T HARD TO WORK OFF

If you participate in a shooting match then help setup, run targets, put things away, or help in the kitchen if it's open. . The people running the matches and events are just like you, making things happen and they could use help. If you can't do physical labor on a work day, come to Family Day, the Derby, Trap Class, Trap Shoots, etc., you can push a pencil. If you can't do a scheduled event or work day, do something when you can. Pruning, weeding, spraying at backstops, front gate, around trap houses and the club house. Just open your eyes!

We still have big project items that need done:

Sand club house floors

Repair chimney

Install replacement windows

Build wheelchair ramp

Block one window

Install flag pole