



Winter 2008

OUTDOORS BUCKS

Newsletter of Bucks County Fish & Game Association

www.bcfg.org

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays with their family and loved ones. Once again that time of year is upon us where some of us will be getting ill due to cabin fever. The cure is to get out, take someone with you, especially a youngster and enjoy the Great Outdoors.

Now that maybe I cheered you up, I want every member to know the club is doing fine. Our treasurer reported to the board even though we spent money we stayed within our budget. The next big project is the fifty yard range to have the steel backstop installed. Right now we are experimenting around with a different type steel and once the experiment is complete we will know how to proceed with that project.

We have installed new signs in different areas so everyone will know what holidays we are closed and what holidays have limited shooting hours. Please take the time to read and obey them. It makes the range officer and boards job a lot easier.

The biggest problem I see facing the club in the future is people not wanting to get involved and get on the board. We did not have an election because no one ran for the job. We still need to fill a few seats to complete the board. If you have the time and would like to get on the board go onto www.bcfg.org and submit your info. I will contact you or stop by the membership meeting and see one of the board members or myself. Some of us would like to retire from the board knowing the club is in good hands. If the board fails to maintain twenty five board members there could be a real problem if other members start dropping out and we can't fill the seats. Think about it! We all paid our dues over the years, but still found time to run the club.

The biggest event that we had this year was Youth Field Day. The event was a huge success thanks to Senator Chuck McIlheny and the vendors that supplied the food and beverages. Penn Color, Taste of Philly, Water Wheel and B&B Beverage were the contributors. The kids really enjoyed it and at the end of the program we raffled off donated prizes. Rather than me tell you about it I am going to sign off and let Tommy Porter tell you all about his special, and I mean special day. Tommy was the winner of the Game Commission's deer print that was framed by Lynn Sine. You talk about a youngster that was all smiles, Tommy said it was the best day he ever had and will be back again next year. Now here's Tommy and his story.

A bowstring twang, smoke coming from a muzzle loader, clay targets breaking into a thousand pieces and rifle blasts ringing through the air. Those were just a few of the sights and sounds that could be experienced at Bucks County Fish and Game on Youth Field Day. Outdoor sports have been passed down from generation to generation. However, without the sport of youth, these traditions may be left forgotten. Youth Field Day is a great way for these traditions to be continued because it gives kids the chance to try all different types of outdoor activities and hopefully spark an interest. In fact, I found more opportunities for me to enjoy the outdoors through my experiences at Youth field Day.

The day began with the organization of all the youths into groups that were lead by one of the volunteer boy scouts. These groups would travel around the grounds of Bucks County Fish and Game to participate in various stations. The first station that my group stopped at was the fly tying and casting station. Here, I learned the fundamentals behind the casting in fly-fishing by instructors that are masters of the art. Also at this station, I learned to tie a woolly worm fly on one of the many vises that the instructor had set out for the participants to use. What I liked most about this station was that the instructors were

always ready to help and answer questions. In the end, I walked away with a lesson in fly-fishing, woolly worm fly (that I had tied), and information on meetings at BCFG for those interested in fly-fishing.

Another station that I participated in was the Game Commission's provided Laser shoot. This was run by the Game Commission officers and is a great tool for teaching hunters if the shot during a hunt is safe to take. This laser shoot consisted of a projection screen that had many different scenes with deer and antelope on varied backgrounds. The hunter had to decide if the shot could be taken safely by looking at the animals surroundings for possible conflicts. These conflicts ranged from a nearby house to other animals that could be possibly injured in a mistake kill. If the hunter takes the shot, then the hunter must hit the animal in the kill zone.

Trap was the next station that was visited. With a little instruction from some of the trap shooting instructors, all of the kids in my group had a chance to blast some clay targets. At this station, I found out about the Scholastic Team that is forming and became very interested. I can never forget the smiles that appeared on the other kids faces as they broke their first clay target.

After a walk down to the rifle range, my group and I got ready to shoot the .22 rifles. First we received safety instruction along with hearing protection and safety glasses from the instructors. We all got down in the prone position and fired at our first targets. I shoot regularly at the Youth Friday night shoots, so this was not new to me. Nevertheless, I still had a bunch of fun. All of the kids around me seemed to really enjoy themselves. When I told them about the Friday night shoots, they were very interested. Many rounds were shot by kids with smiling faces at the rifle range that day.

The Archery station was the next activity. Here, the archery instructors had set up backstops with two 3-D targets in front. Bows of varied weight draws and colors were set out for the youth's choice. I have been practicing with my re curve bow to get prepared for hunting season, so I shot that during this session. The instructors began by teaching us such things as drawing back to the proper anchor point and how to remove an arrow safely. Once all the kids were ready to shoot and the line was clear, arrows were fired at the two 3-D targets. Everyone around me was laughing and having a great time, especially when balloons were placed at the targets.

My group then proceeded to the muzzle loader station. Here, the instructors first talked about the history of muzzle loading firearms and showed us the guns of different time periods.(From the musket to the in-line.) Then the instructors went through the extensive task of loading the muzzle loaders and let all of the kids have a chance to shoot. I had never shot a muzzle loaded firearm before and the experience was unforgettable. I can still see all the smoke from the shot in my mind.

The day ended back at the clubhouse. Raffle tickets had been given to each of the youth participants at the beginning of the day. Now was the time to draw winners for some prizes. There was a table that had prizes ranging from hats to shirts and to even a large framed painting (of three whitetails running across a beautiful Pennsylvania field.) donated by the game commission. When it was time to draw the number for the painting all of the kids were on their toes. (I know I was). I jumped for joy as I heard my number called and couldn't believe my luck. I would like to thank a few people for their hard work to make this Field day a success. I would like to thank the Bucks County Fish and Game for hosting the Field day and for all that were involved. Charles Mcilhinney of the 10th Senatorial district made many contributions to the Field day and I would like to thank him for all his generosity. This day flew by due to all the fun that I had and I can't wait for next year's Youth Field Day.



WASHINGTON

Law & Legislative Paul Try

THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT COURT has upheld the decision of a three-judge panel of that Court, which ruled the Washington D.C. prohibition on the possession of a handgun and keeping any gun assembled and loaded in the home, (the condition required for self-defense), was in violation of the Constitution. The city appealed the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court, which on November 20, 2007, agreed to accept the case. The outcome of this case will be the first Supreme Court decision that ruled, in unmistakable terms, the individual right to keep and bear arms.

H.R. 2764 FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS BILL: An amendment to this Bill was introduced by Senator David Vitter (R-LA) and was passed by an overwhelming 91-10 vote. The amendment would prevent any funding to foreign organizations that infringe upon the Second Amendment rights of lawful American citizens. Any organization that adopts a policy anathema to the U.S. Constitution's Second Amendment would no longer be eligible for U.S. financial assistance- including the U.N. This Bill currently is awaiting reconciliation in the House.

Please be sure to contact your U.S. Senator and Representative and urge him/her or her to support H.R. 2764.

The NRA held its first "Celebration of American Values" Conference on September 21 & 22, 2007, providing NRA members the opportunity to hear some of our nation's most important leaders address Second Amendment issues. I, along with hundreds attended and the event which was broadcast nationally by C-SPAN. The most anticipated speakers, however, were a number of 2008 Presidential candidates. The two-day conference, held at the downtown Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C., included speeches by leading Republican Presidential candidates and other prominent Washington dignitaries. Speakers presented their views for the long-term future of America and what they believed to be the most significant challenges facing the nation, including Second Amendment issues, and the best course of action to return the Republic to the values established by the Founders.

PENNSYLVANIA

H.B 18 MUNICIPAL PREEMPTION: This Bill was introduced by State Representative Dwight Evans (D-203) and would further provide for limitations on the regulation of firearms and ammunition by local municipalities. State preemption regulating firearms was enacted by the legislature to avoid the possibility of thousands of separate firearm laws across the Commonwealth. Without preemption there would be a myriad of local firearms laws making compliance impossible for law-abiding gun owners. In addition, this proposed legislation may also be in conflict with Article 1, Section 21 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which states "The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the state shall not be questioned." [Defeated by 19-10 vote in the Judiciary Committee 11-20-07]

H. B 22 ONE GUN A MONTH: This Bill was introduced by State Representative John Myers (D-201), and would prohibit law-abiding citizens from purchasing more than one handgun at a time, and impose a 30-day waiting period between single handgun purchases. [Defeated by 17-12 vote in The Judiciary Committee 11-20-07]

H.B. 29 LOST OR STOLEN FIREARMS: This Bill was introduced by State Representative Jewell Williams (D-197) and would make it a crime to fail to report the loss or theft of a firearm to police within 24 hours of discovering the firearm missing. The Bill was referred to the Committee on Judiciary on January 30, 2007. This proposal would create a registry of all identifying information and would criminalise victims of crime and would be ineffective. [Tabled by 17=12 vote in The Judiciary Committee 11-20-07]

H.B. 2060 OFFENSES COMMITTED AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: This Bill was introduced by State Representative Dennis O'Brien (R-169) and would make it a felony in the first degree for attempting to cause injury to a law enforcement officer, with a minimum penalty of not less than 20 years in prison. [Passed by a 27-2 vote in The Judiciary Committee 11-20-07]

GOVERNOR RENDELL continues to campaign for a firearms preemption law, one gun a month law and a lost/stolen law that would create a database of firearm owners affected. The Governor has promised to continue his quest to have Gun Control legislation enacted into law. The Governor will most assuredly make gun control an issue in the 2008 Legislative elections.

Please contact your State Representative and request that they oppose additional gun control legislation such as HB 18, HB 22 and HB 29 and to support HB 2060.



Basic Rifle

Basic Rifle will be holding a Basic Rifle class on February 2 and February 3.

This class will be approximately 14-16 hours. Saturday, Feb 2 will be classroom work. This will go over safe gun handling, different types of ammunition, the making of it and how it works, and we will break down the rifle parts and the cleaning of it. Sunday, Feb 3 we will go over all four shooting positions. There will be live fire, so you will need eye and ear protection. The cost of this class is 10.00 per child. They will get a basic rifle handbook, and other literature. Please respond by January 16, 2008 to Brian Heebner @ 215-629-6719 or Kevin Reilly @ 215-343 2703 or on the club web site. We also shoot every Friday night from 7 pm to 9 pm. Cost is 3.00 per child or 5.00 per family.

JANUARY 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 New Years Day.	2 Indoor Pistol	3 Trap	4 Trap, Basic Rifle	5 ATA Trap, CMP
6	7 Youth Archery	8 Trap, Indoor archery	9 Indoor Pistol	10 Trap	11 Trap, Basic Rifle	12 ATA Trap
13 Outdoor 3-D shoot (start at 8am), Indoor 600 round (9am/12pm lines)	14 Youth Archery	15 Trap, Indoor archery	16 Indoor Pistol	17	18 Trap, Basic Rifle	19
20 ATA Trap	21 Youth Archery	22 Trap, Indoor archery	23 Indoor Pistol	24 Trap, Membership meeting 8pm	25 Trap, Basic Rifle	26
27 ATA Trap, Silhouette Shoot	28 Youth Archery	29 Trap, Indoor archery	30 Indoor Pistol	31		

FEBRUARY 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Trap, Basic Rifle	2 ATA Trap, CMP, Basic Rifle
3 Basic Rifle	4 Youth Archery	5 Trap, Indoor archery	6 Indoor Pistol	7 Trap	8 Trap, Basic Rifle	9 ATA Trap
10 Outdoor 3-D shoot (start at 8am), Indoor 600 round (9am/12pm lines)	11 Youth Archery	12 Trap, Indoor archery	13 Indoor Pistol	14 Trap	15 Trap, Basic Rifle	16
17 ATA Trap	18 Youth Archery	19 Trap, Indoor archery	20 Indoor Pistol	21 Trap	22 Trap, Basic Rifle	23
24 ATA Trap, Silhouette Shoot	25 Youth Archery	26 Trap, Indoor archery	27 Indoor Pistol	28 Trap, Membership meeting 8pm	29 Trap, Basic Rifle	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 ATA Trap, CMP
2	3 Youth Archery	4 Trap, Indoor archery	5 Indoor Pistol	6 Trap	7 Trap, Basic Rifle	8 ATA Trap
9 Outdoor 3-D shoot (start at 8am), Indoor 600 round (9am/12pm lines)	10 Youth Archery	11 Trap, Indoor archery	12 Indoor Pistol	13 Trap	14 Trap, Basic Rifle	15
16 ATA Trap	17 Youth Archery	18 Trap, Indoor archery	19 Indoor Pistol	20 Trap	21 Trap, Basic Rifle	22
23 ATA Trap, Silhouette Shoot	24 Youth Archery	25 Trap, Indoor archery	26 Indoor Pistol	27 Trap, Mem- bership meet- ing 8pm	28 Trap, Basic Rifle	29
30	31 Youth Archery					

For the benefit of our new members and at the risk of boring old members I would like to go over our shooting programs on the rifle ranges. 1.) On the fourth Sunday of every month we hold a steel silhouette shoot. The course of fire is 30 rounds. There are three categories; round ball rifles, civil war rifled muskets and older style breech loaders. (Sharps, Rolling blocks, any lever gun, ect.) Any type of propellant is ok but only cast bullets can be used. 2.) On the first Saturday of every month there is a CMP shoot utilizing the formal NRA military match rules. 3.) About every two months we have a "specialty" shoot emphasizing some historical event with appropriate firearms. These shoots feature reactive targets and we usually set up one or two electrically operated moving targets. Details and dates are posted in advance on the 100 yd. and 50 yd. ranges.

Older military arms are popular with many of our members. (Mausers, Springfields, Enfields, Icrags, ect.). In consideration of this we are considering holding "fun" matches limited to these vintage firearms. The targets would be a variety of soft reactive types and we could probably rig up electrically operated pop up targets. Standard jacketed military ammo can be used. Information and contacts will be posted at the 100 yd. and 50 yd. ranges. PLEASE let us know if you would participate. If there is enough interest we will hold a shoot, perhaps on a regular basis. BCFG is dedicated to expanding shooting opportunities for our members. We hold these "fun" shoots for your enjoyment and to improve your marksmanship skills in a friendly and safe environment. If any of you have suggestions for a different kind of shoot please speak to one of our range officers or call one of the people listed on the contact notices for our shoots posted on the ranges and website. Our shooting costs, especially ammunition, are increasing rapidly. One way to lower costs is to hand load with cast bullets propelled with small charges of pistol powder. There is nothing mysterious about these loads and Lyman's Cast Bullet Manual will answer most of your questions and provide load data. You can cast your own bullets, but cast bullets in a multitude of calibers and weights are available commercially, some locally. This type of ammo is cheap and very, very accurate. An added bonus is that a worn, but otherwise safe, military arms slightly oversize cast bullets may provide original barrel accuracy at least out to 100 yds.

Yr obdt. svt. Earl Whitmore

Well winter is here and renewal time is running out. DUES NOT PAID BY MARCH 31 st WILL BE DROPPED FROM CLUB MEMBERSHIP AND WILL HAVE TO REJOIN THE CLUB AS A NEW MEMBER. We are charging \$25.00 on all returned checks given us. Renewal forms were in the newsletter (Summer & Fall), on our web site(starting in August) WWW.BCFG.ORG and at the club house, and 100 yd. rifle shed. We will be at the General meetings at 7pm, to take memberships. New members MUST NOW COME TO THE GENERAL MEETING TO JOIN BCF&G. When you renew your NRA membership if you would mention Bucks County Fish & Game club number B6311 the club will get a \$5.00 rebate from the NRA. This will help with our finances. We have over 900 members that belong to the NRA. When you fill out your renewal form if you have an E-Mail address, please list it as we hope to start sending the newsletter over the internet soon, and if you are an NRA member please check the NRA box yes or no.

I would like to remind all that when on the club grounds & using the ranges YOU MUST HAVE YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD WITH YOU AND IT MUST BE VISIBLE. Have it on a neck chain, pinned on a lapel or hat. The card must be visible to see. Make sure you know the RANGE RULES. NOT HAVING YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD AND NOT SIGNING IN AND OUT WHEN USING THE RANGE IS AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION. All four ranges have sign in sheets to use.

We have a new procedure when signing in. You need to write in your membership card number as well as sign your name DO NOT PRINT. We are having a problem with non club members using the club & using club member's numbers to sign in. By your signing your name we can tell if your signature does not match your membership application form.

There is a NEW MAILING ADDRESS FOR YOUR RENEWAL FORMS.
IT IS SEC'Y / BCF&G P.O. BOX 465 RICHBORO PA 18954

Have a safe winter. Jim and Dick



Bucks County Fish & Game Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 462
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Organized 1894

WINTER 2008

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