



BEAVER COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CONSERVATION LEAGUE



June 6, 2024, Minutes
Meeting Location – Hopewell VFW

MEMBER CLUBS & AGENCIES

P = Present, A = Absent

P	Aliquippa	Guy Cable	P	Five Points	Jim Farland	A	N. Boroughs	Robert Zeman
	(Alt)	Rick Caton		(Alt)	Dan Losco		(Alt)	Dave Herko
P	Ambridge	Tim Watson	P	FOAC	Craig Holdren		NWTF 2 nd Chance Toms	Tim Reichl
	(Alt)	Tim Reichl		(Alt)	Frank Kelly	P	(Alt)	Jeff Ruckert
P	Beaver Falls	Larry White	A	Forest Grove	Mike Karkalla	P	North Side	Al Straub
	(Alt)	Frank Eder		(Alt)	Tim Hartzell		(Alt)	Jason Hominsky
P	B.V. Archers	Walt Ketterer	P	Green Valley	Mike Sabat	P	Pine Run	Rob Smith
	(Alt)	John Suroweic		(Alt)	Joe McMullen		(Alt)	Jeff Ruckert
P	B.V Rifle & Pistol	Rich Wall	P	Hopewell VFW	Gary Grey	A	Rochester	George Sullivan
	(Alt)	Lee Gower		(Alt)	Sue Tranter		(Alt)	Jerry Hooks
A	Conway	Ray Eppinger	P	Marion Hill	Daniel Freed	P	Sewickley	Mark Crevar
	(Alt)			(Alt)	Keith Radcliff		(Alt)	Laurie Bush
P	Ellwood Rod & Gun	Frank McCowin	P	Midland	Jerry Wamsley			
	(Alt)			(Alt)	Mark Benzio	A	PFBC	Jeremy Allen
						P	PGC	Mike Yeck

OFFICERS

P = Present, A = Absent

P	President	A	Vice President	A	Treasurer	P	Secretary
	Rich Kerlin		Dan Householder		Mark Benzio		Tonya Cable

Call to Order – 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance & Sportsmen's Pledge & Moment of Silence

Host Club Welcome – Gary Grey & Sue Tranter, Hopewell VFW Delegates

Guests

- Jesse Shepler
- North Side Sportsmen Club has joined the BCSC. WELCOME!

Last month's minutes

- Motion to accept for audit. Green Valley / Five Points. Passed.

Treasurer's Report – Mark Benzio – *absent*

- Report to be given later.
- Camp Account Report provided & reviewed.
 - \$7,000 in Deposits for camp sponsorships.
 - Checks written for camp supplies in the amount totaling \$3,453.22
 - Details can be made available. See Tonya Cable
 - Tim Watson is looking to donate some guns to raffle for camp fundraising & a gun for the field day.

Elections

- Nominating Committee to be appointed at next month's meeting.
 - October Elections for BCSCCL President & BCSCCL Treasurer

Communications

- No report
 - ALL League correspondence to the Post Office Box address listed below.
 - BCSCCL – PO Box 276, Beaver, PA 15009

State Agencies

PA Game Commission (PGC) – Mike Yeck – [report](#)

www.pgc.pa.gov

- CWD Program Presentation.
- 2024 – 25 Migratory Bird Season Set – The regular season length for Canada geese in the Atlantic Population Zone has decreased from 45 to 30 days but the daily bag limit remains **three**.
- Junior Warden Camps – One day camp structured toward learning about the career of a PA State Game Warden.
 - July 31, 2024, begins 8 am and ends at 3 pm. Southwest Region.
 - Registration can be completed on-line. Limited to those who have not attended a camp held previously.
- Springtime Alert – Leave Young Wildlife Alone – see attached report for more detail.
 - It is illegal to take or possess wildlife from the wild. Up to \$1,500 penalty per animal.
- Game Commission Updates
 - CWD Surveillance Dashboard is available online at <https://pgcdatacollection.pa.gov/CWDResultsLookup>
- Update on the Smith family presented with great appreciation.
- Hunter Trapper Education Archery Class. If your club is interested in hosting, contact Rich Kerlin as soon as possible so the class can get set up and posted on-line before archery season begins in the fall.

Discussion from a delegate sharing an informational link regarding PA happening.

www.pennlive.com

[PA Hunting and Trapping Digest](#)

PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) – Jeremy Allen – *absent*

- No report

[PA Fish and Boat Commission](#)

Affiliated Organizations

Conservation District – (*Rick Caton waiting to receive letter of approval from County Commissioners Office*)
Lindsey Shepler, Watershed Specialist / Environmental Educator

- In April we had our annual tire collection day where we collected 1185 tires from the community. Most were very old crappy tires that were pulled from the environment, so there was a lot of clean-ups done and a lot of mosquito habitat reduced.
- In April we also held our annual tree sale where we sold 955 native trees, 80 fruit trees, 57 bags of wildflower mix, 41 bags of compost, and 113 azaleas and rhododendrons.
- Youth Conservation camp will be coming to the district on Wednesday June 19 and Thursday June 20. On Wednesday Rich Kerlin will be doing a dog demonstration on our grounds, district staff will be providing any support necessary, and we will be providing lunch for the kids and staff. On Thursday, I am planning an educational day in the wetlands, we will be doing some games, some take home projects, and some wetland education.
- We have been busy with field trips in the wetlands and education classroom, we've hosted several scout troop events, and have more in the works as the season continues
- The permitting department chapter 102/105 is receiving a lot of permits and E&S plans for review and they are busy as ever with those.

BCSCL Youth Foundation – Jeff Ruckert

- \$500 donation approved for the Smith Family.
- Tony Rich Scholarship Program – 2 winners chosen by the Tony Rich family. Winners are to be announced.
- CD investment to continue.
- Family donation of \$200 received. SCI donation \$500 received.
- Youth Foundation approved Sponsorship for the Beaver County Invitational Shoot.
- Next Youth Foundation Meeting will be held at the Annual Conservation Camp (Raccoon Creek State Park) on Thursday, June 20, 2024.
- Annual Sporting Clay Shoot – [Poster](#)

We The People of America – Jerry Hooks - *absent*

- WTPOA meetings are now being held on the 4th Thursday of every month.
- Looking into joining other groups to add growth to the group.
- Handbook still going out to politicians.
- Will have booth at the Beaver County Boom! Looking for people to man the booth.
- Next meeting to be held on June 27, 2024, at 7 pm at Rochester Sportsman's Club

Committee Reports

Audit Committee – Mark Benzio

- No report.

Booklet – Rob Smith: Contact info (724) 407- 3945 or rasmith10@comcast.net

- Booklets available & being distributed.
- \$200 refund received for the unsatisfactory print size of the booklets.

Game – Mike Harcher – *absent*

- No report

Pollution – Mike Harcher – *absent*

- No report

Fishing Derby – Mike Zon – *absent*

- Successfully held with 107 kids fishing.
- Many fish caught & 2 tagged fish caught.
- Thanks to all clubs for all the donations, making it possible to come in under the approved budget & making the event extra fun for the kids!

Fish Committee – Mark Crevar – [Report](#)

- Trout Fly Fishing
 - Most common hatches when fly fishing include Caddis, Blue Quill, Hendrickson, March Brown, Sulfur and Cahills, Green Drakes.
- U.S. Senior Fly Fishing Team
 - FIPS 43rd World Fly Fishing Championship: Pyrenees Mountains June 22 – 30.
- Walleye Fishing
- Tournament Scandals

*See attached report for more details. Many informational links included on attachment.

Conservation Camp – Tonya Cable

- Father's Day June 16, 2024, will be the check in date for next year's campers. Staff & counselors will arrive on Saturday, June 15th at 12:00 pm
- Acknowledgement of help coming out to Raccoon State Park for the week of camp.
- 42 campers & only 6 counselors to date. Need more counselors.
- Thank you to self-paid campers & each club that sponsored a child.
- Only 8 kids are not sponsored currently.
 - BCCD verbalized they will sponsor 1 of these kids.
 - Frye has agreed to sponsor 4 of these kids.
 - Motion made to sponsor 2 of these campers by BVA / Hopewell VFW. Passed.
 - North Side has agreed to sponsor 1 of these kids.
- Sams club gave \$250 gift card.
- Costco's gave \$150 gift card.
- Getting counselor information booklets ready.
- CPR will be held Sunday morning at camp for counselors & adult staff.
- Schedule ready & reviewed with all at the meeting.
- Opening Ceremony will be held at 2:00 pm on Sunday, June 16th.
- Camper, parent, staff, and alumni night will be 7 pm on Thursday. **ALL are WELCOME & ENCOURAGED to attend!**
- Bus transportation arranged with Frye.
- Need help on Tuesday at Raccoon Canoe launch / fishing 9 am – 5 pm. Need help on Wednesday at Five Points 1 pm – 5 pm. Need help on Thursday 9 am – 12 pm at Conservation District.
- Jeff Ruckert (master of armory) has made sure the league guns and flint lock supplies are ready for camp & field day.
- Will be working on establishing a camp committee! The planning of next year's camp will begin this year on the day after camp.
- Dinner at camp is served at 5 pm Monday through Friday.

Archery – Walt Ketterer

- BV Archers – Tuesday 3D shoots 20 targets \$10
- BV Archers – 1st Sunday of the month 3D shoot 30 targets.
- Saturday, August 3rd 2024 – Beaver Valley Archers "George Osman" Memorial 2024 Team Scramble Shoot ... for details ["click here"](#)

Events Coordinator – Craig Holdren

- BCSCCL website under construction.
- **Email** club information that you want shared on the website to Craig, Frank & Tonya

- Directions for submitting information for the BCSCSCL website – [see here](#)
 - Craig - contact at Ch316@comcast.net
 - Frank - contact at frankkelly51@outlook.com
 - Tonya - contact at gtcttc@yahoo.com
- The calendar is now all on the Google calendar that is on the website.
 - Continue to get the information to us so it can be added to the calendar.
 - Notify us if things on the Google Calendar are incorrect.

Legislative – Craig Holdren

- To support the work of FOAC. It is only \$30 a year & you will be kept up to date with the ongoing and continuous work that is being done for you! [Click Here to join!](#)
- Overall average (state & federal) 329-gun bills
 - 67.3 % anti-gun bills
 - 31.2 % progun bills
 - article re: House Bill 335 & 2206 [Click Here](#)
 - Call and email contacts on attached article ASAP!
- Comment made by a club delegate: The PA Gun Law Seminar held in May at the 68 Feed Mill by USCCA and FOAC was great!
 - This club also mentioned that ½ of their clubs 50/50 each month goes to support FOAC work. Something to think about!
- Major election coming up! Get involved. Voter's Guides will be available. Much research and work go into creating these FOAC voter's guides.

FOAC-Institute is a non-partisan organization. We are neither for nor against any one particular party. However, one cannot ignore the fact that the Biden Administration, MANY of the Democrats in Washington D.C., and those that support the Biden Regime, are "ALL IN" for gun control. Every chance they get, they cry for bans, restrictions, confiscations, limitations, and red flags. All of which ONLY effect law-abiding gun owners, NOT the criminals that commit violent crime.

- Philadelphia has a violent crime rate 367% higher than the Pennsylvania average as of Feb 7, 2024
- Philadelphia murder rate up 78% since election of DA Larry Krasner about 472,000.
- In Philadelphia, Governor Shapiro, Local Leaders Highlight Proposed Budget Investments to Combat Gun Violence, Create Opportunities for Kids, and Make PA Communities Safer
- ***Governor Shapiro's proposed 2024-25 budget proposal invests \$100 million to reduce gun violence –***
- An investment is **an asset or item acquired with the goal of generating income or appreciation.**
- Appreciation refers to **an increase in the value of an asset over time**, Not spending Taxpayers Money
- Why not try a Proven Solution a real Crime Reduction Strategies.
- **[Project Exile: Still the Model for Firearms Crime Reduction Strategies](#)**
- **Now that Project Exile is nearly 15 years old, is it still a useful model for law enforcement executives to employ?**
- **Arends, Supervisory Special Agent, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; IACP Fellow**
- Project Exile was, by most accounts, one of the most successful violent crime reduction strategies in the United States. The initiative started in February 1997 and was a coordinated effort between the Richmond Commonwealth Attorney's Office, Richmond Police Department (RPD), the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), to target felons carrying firearms and prosecute them in federal court where they would receive stiffer sentences, no bail,

and no early release. As a result, at the end of 1998, firearms-related homicides had decreased almost 40 percent in Richmond, Virginia.

- The Pennsylvania Democratic Representatives and Senators have introduced 75% of all Firearms legislation which has been all anti-gun legislation, www.foac-illea.org see 3rd tab from left LEGISLATION - Proposed State House Legislation & Proposed State Senate Legislation
- Why don't they try Project Exile and support the Police by having the Judges and District Attorneys enforce the current laws on the books to the fullest extent of the law. We currently have a state with "Crime without Punishment".
- In Summary it's not about politics it's about the 2nd Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article 1 Section 21 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, and which politicians will ignore these founding documents and infringe upon our Right to Keep and Bear Arms. The Clubs should encourage their members to defend their freedom by exercising their right to vote for pro-gun candidates in all elections, join for more information www.foac-illea.org see 2nd tab from left MEMBERSHIP – Premium Membership.
- Without the freedom of our members to own, access, transport and use firearms, our Sportsmen's Clubs will have no reason to continue their operations and would soon go out of business and cease to exist.
- That would include all our junior programs that the Biden administration was trying to defund.

Hunter Education – Mike Zon – *absent*

- Rochester July 13th, 2024.
- Sylvania Hills Baptist Church August 17th, 2024
- Marion Hill September 7th, 2024
- Hopewell VFW in September (not yet posted)

REGISTRATION for classes are on-line [PGC](#)

Contact Mike @ 724-683-5880 (call or text) to host a hunter-trapper education class.

Fundraising – Guy Cable

- NWTF Banquet gun is at Big Bucks (Barretta APX 9 mm) will be a 5 number ticket for \$5.
- Going to work on a ticket fundraiser with guns being donated by Tim Watson. **Thank you, Tim!**
- Annual Sporting Clay Shoot to be held at Rochester on Sunday, June 23rd, 2024.
 - Notify Jerry Hooks of Team and / or individual reservations. 724-601-6964 (call or text)

All proceeds benefit youth activities!!!

Sporting Clay Shoot poster.

Youth Mentored Hunts – Rich Kerlin

(The changes in the mentor hunt will not change the way we hold our youth mentor hunt)

Pheasant

- Application coming in June.

Goose

- No Report

Youth Field Day – Tonya Cable

- To be held on 7/20/24 @ Midland [Poster](#)
- Saturday, July 20th
- 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

- Check in Begins that day @ 6:30 am
- Registration is online at www.pgc.pa.gov
- 56 youth signed up to date.
- Still looking for items for the Sportsmen's auction table.
- May need a fill in for the trap and fur taking station this year.

Banquet – vacant

- No report

Big Knob Fair – Guy & Tonya Cable (Looking for someone NEW to be the chairperson of this committee)

- Tuesday, August 27th – Saturday, August 31st (5pm to 10 pm. Tue – Fri) Saturday will start about Noon.
 - Sign-ups will be necessary for the League to run the booth this year.
 - Need clubs to volunteer for a day 5pm to 9 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

Lead Abatement / Range Management Best Practices – Dan Losco

To contact Dan: email dlosco@creswellwater.net

- Best Management Practice website at <https://www.epa.gov/lead/best-management-practices-lead-outdoor-shooting-ranges>
- **KEEP your Records!**

Firearms Training – Rich Kerlin

- 6/8 – NRA RSO class Beaver Falls
- 6/14 – Pistol 101 at Green Valley
- 6/15 – NRA Basic Pistol Course – Instructor Lee Gower at White Township Hall
- 6/17 – US Law Shield Class at Green Valley “Surviving an Active Shooter Event”
- 6/22 – NRA First Steps Pistol Orientation Class by BVRP

Contact Rich Kerlin for additional details for any firearms training listed above.

kerlinkanine@aol.com

Unfinished Business

- Youth Trap Invitational to be held in August at Beaver Falls.
 - Motion to provide \$250 sponsorship to the event by Five Points / Ellwood-Wampum. Passed.

New Business

- Tim Watson has Safety glasses to donate to upcoming events.

Good of the Order

- Money Raffle tickets available for Hopewell Band Boosters. See Mike Sabat, Green Valley.
- Strip tickets available. See Mike Sabat, Green Valley.
- A \$10,000 cash award ticket supports Baseball. See Gary Grey, Hopewell VFW.
- Pine Run Gun Bash with New Brighton Football League on July 27th. See Rob Smith, Pine Run.
- Hopewell VFW gathering donations and raising funds for the giveaways they do for the kids coming to their Hunter Trapper Education class.
- See Five Points for the “10th Annual” Hunt of a Lifetime tickets to be held on 8/10 – 8/11/24. \$10 / ticket
- Donation received from Jeremy Shaffer.
- Next Meeting will be on July 11th at Hopewell VFW

Final thought.....We need HELP at camp!!!

50/50 Drawing

- \$57.50 to Mark C

Motion to Adjourn

- FOAC / BVRP Passed. 9:40 pm

2024 Meeting Schedule

January 4	Aliquippa Bucktails - Confirmed	2564 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001
February 1	Rochester – Confirmed	181 Sportsman Ln, Rochester, PA 15074
March 7	Rochester – North Boroughs Hosting – Confirmed	181 Sportsman Ln, Rochester, PA 15074
April 4	B.V. Archers – Confirmed	277 Rothhart Drive, New Brighton, PA 15066
May 2	Green Valley– Confirmed	101 Fishpot Road, Monaca, PA 15061
June 6	Hopewell VFW – Confirmed	138 Stone Quarry Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001
July 11	Hopewell VFW – Confirmed	138 Stone Quarry Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001
August 1	Midland	142 Eastwood Road, Industry, PA 15052
September 12	Ambridge	2900 Ridge Road, Ext., Baden, PA 15005
October 3	Conway	100 Magill Rd, Zelienople, PA 16063
November 7	Beaver Falls	247 Sportsman Road, Darlington, PA 16115
December 12	Five Points	285 Bocktown-Cork Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001

Tonya Cable, Secretary BCSCCL
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