

OFFICERS RETAINED

The general membership voted to retain the current officers for an additional term at the general membership meeting on December 8, 2011. The officers for 2012 are:

President	Ed Ferguson
Vice President	Don Graham
Secretary	Carl Pelino
Treasurer	Carolyn Zur
Board of Directors	Tom Mattis
	Tim Hunter
	Dennis Cronin

A vacancy currently exists for the position of county delegate. Please contact any officer if you are interested in serving in this position.

"The usual road to slavery is that first they take away your guns, then they take away your property, then last of all they tell you to shut up and say you are enjoying it." James A. Donald

WINTER CLASSIC SKEET

The winter skeet shoots are now being held at Black Ash. Shoots are scheduled for January 7th and 21st, February 4th and 18th, March 3rd and 17th, with the post season shoot and banquet scheduled for March 31st. You can shoot ahead or back any number of weeks, so you can make up any shoots you may have missed. The cost is \$8. per 50 targets and this includes the cost of the steak dinner on March 31st. Shooting hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Practice rounds are \$3.00 per 25 targets. For additional information, call Clyde Courtwright at (814) 827-3257.

"After a shooting spree, they always want to take guns away from the people who didn't do it. I sure as hell wouldn't want to live in a society where the only people allowed guns are the police and military."

William S. Burroughs

BIG TREE SKEET MATCH

The annual skeet match between Black Ash and the Big Tree, New York, shooters was held on October 2nd, 2011, at Black Ash.

The traveling trophy was reclaimed by Black Ash with a score of 375 to 363. Top shooters for Black Ash were Rich Gaw and Lon Fink. They each posted a score of 48 of 50 targets. The two teams will face each other again next October on the Big Tree field.

No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms."
Thomas Jefferson

DUES

It's time to renew your membership if you are an annual member. The dues structure remains unchanged for 2012. A renewal form is included with this newsletter. If you receive the newsletter by e-mail and do not have a way to print the application just send an e-mail to Carl Pelino at cpelino@windstream.net and he will see that you get an application. Members who have not furnished an e-mail address are encouraged to include that information on the renewal application. This enables us to reduce mailing costs and to provide more frequent and timely information to the membership. Your e-mail information is not released to anyone else..

"The maintenance of the right to bear arms is a most essential one to every free people and should not be whittled down by technical constructions." (State vs Kerner, 181 N. C.574, 107 S.E.222, at 224)

PISTOL LEAGUE

Black Ash participates in the VIP League (Very Informal Pistol League). The league was established to be a fun shooting activity

for new and experienced shooters. We use modified rules for NRA Bullseye shooting to keep things lightly competitive and a lot of fun. Shooters can participate in either the rimfire or centerfire class, or both. Shoots start in April and are held once a month at Black Ash. The league ends in September with all teams getting together for the only joint competition of the year. In 2011, the Black Ash VIPL team once again won the overall championship and the much coveted traveling trophy, the "hangin' chicken", was returned to reside on its proper roost at the Black Ash Clubhouse. We invite any member, including ladies and juniors, to join our team. There are no fees but all shooters must provide their own handgun(s) and ammunition. For more information contact Carl Pelino at (814) 333-6533 or by e-mail at vipl@blackashsportsman.org.

"Only one creature epitomizes the mystique of wilderness, the passion of hunting, and the success of modern conservation. That creature is the wild turkey."
Jim Slinsky

HUNTER TRAPPER ED

Plans are being made for a Hunter Trapper Education class to be held at Black Ash this summer. Right now it looks like the class will be in mid June but it could be changed to July. The actual date will depend on instructor and WCO schedules. The dates will be posted on the Hunter Education calendar at the Pa. Game Commission website. Registration will be on line at the same website. Watch the calendar for the posting which will probably happen in April. The class will be limited to 30 students and will include "hands on" instruction. Members who have supplied an e-mail address will be notified as soon as the class is scheduled.

"The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese."
Unknown

HANDGUN ADVENTURE TRAIL

The Handgun Adventure Trail competition will begin with a shoot on Sunday, March 25th, at 9:00 A.M. For those of you who have never done this, it is about as much fun as you can have (legally) with a gun. Events include .22 rifle and handgun and centerfire pistol. There are classes for open and telescope sights. We even have a Golf Course for .22 rifles. Events during the summer are usually on the 4th Sunday of the month. Shoots are scheduled for March 25th, April 22nd, May 27th, June 24th, July 22nd, August 26th, September 23rd and October 28th. All courses will be open for practice rounds except for the week before the shoots and during special events at the club. Practice rounds cost \$1.00 each. Events are open to both members and non members.

As with other events at the club, we can use member support as range officers, target painters, and at the registration table. Contact John Scheuer (814) 476-1189, or Carl Pelino (814) 333-6533 or at silhouette@blackashsportsman.org if you are interested in helping. You can also volunteer at the registration table on shoot days.

"Money will buy a fine dog, but only kindness will make him wag his tail."
Unknown

NRA SILHOUETTE SHOOTING

In the fall of 2011 we began shooting NRA Rimfire Rifle Silhouettes at Black Ash. The plans are to keep this simple, fun, and safe. For those of you who may not be familiar with this sport, steel targets are shot offhand at 40, 60, 77 and 100 meters. Ten targets at each distance with a .22 rimfire rifle. Forty meter targets are chickens (pretty small ones), pigs at sixty meters (not too small), turkeys at seventy seven meters (pretty

tough targets), and rams at one hundred meters (biggest targets but they look small at that distance). Targets must be knocked off the stand to be scored. We follow NRA rules for these shoots but for now they will not be sanctioned shoots to qualify for higher levels. We will shoot at least three classes this year. The open class will allow heavy rifles up to ten pounds two ounces, and a hunter rifle class for hunting style rifles weighing less than eight pounds eight ounces, and a cowboy class for open sight hunting style rifles. We plan on having at least four matches this summer and fall. We don't have a schedule yet. Members with e-mail addresses will be sent a schedule when available and the shoot dates will be announced in the Meadville and Titusville newspapers. If you have questions please contact Carl Pelino at (814) 333-6533 or contact us by e-mail at silhouette@blackashsportsman.org.

"We have a fundamental decision to make. Should our wildlife management be subservient to our forestry practice or should our forestry practices be subservient to our wildlife management?"

Jim Slinsky

SUMMER SKEET

The 2012 summer skeet program will begin on May 29th and conclude with a shoot on August 28th. Shoots will be held each Tuesday from 6:00 P.M. to dark. Cost will be \$3.00 per round of 25 targets. This is a non competitive program and provides an excellent opportunity for those who want to learn how to shoot skeet and trap. Free instruction will be available. This is not a league shoot and there are no requirements to attend each shoot.

"When they took the 4th Amendment, I was quiet because I didn't deal drugs.

When they took the 6th Amendment, I was quiet because I am innocent.

When they took the 2nd Amendment, I was quiet because I don't own a gun.

Now they have taken the 1st Amendment, and I can only be quiet."

Lyle Muir

SWAP MEET

There will be an outdoor sportsman swap meet for used hunting and fishing equipment during the March 17th skeet shoot. Tables will be available in the pavilion for a donation of \$10. Tables are 10 ft by 3 ft and are on a first come basis. This is a good chance to sell or swap items you no longer use and pick up some gear you really need or can't do without. Hours for the meet are from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Call Chuck Shank at (814) 337-3220 for further info or to reserve a table.

"Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed there are many rewards. If you disgrace yourself you can always write a book."

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Meetings of the general membership are held at 7:30 P.M. on the second Thursday of each month at the Black Ash Clubhouse.

We would like to see a few more members at the meetings. This is where the business of the corporation is conducted and plans for future events are made. Input from the membership is needed and new ideas are always considered.

"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance."

Thomas Jefferson

COOKS CORNER

Reports are that several of our members were successful in their quest for venison during the recent hunting season. Here's a new twist on venison hamburgers:

2 lbs venison burger, 1 small chopped onion, 1 egg, 1 tsp venison seasoning, 2 Tbls butter, ½ cup bread or cracker crumbs.

Mix venison, bread or cracker crumbs, and onion. Mix well. Add the slightly beaten egg and seasoning. Shape into patties and brown on both sides in butter in a heavy skillet. Cook slowly, turning 2-3 times until done.