

BLACK ASH SPORTSMAN, INC.

8410 Clark Rd.

Guys Mills, Pa. 16327

General membership meetings, open to the public, are held on the second Thursday of each month, at 7:30 P.M.

Winter Newsletter 2012-13
Black Ash Sportsman, Inc.

BIG TREE SKEET MATCH

The annual skeet competition with the Big Tree Sportsman Club was held on September 30, 2012, at the Corry skeet field. The match was expanded this year to include a team from Corry. The team from Black Ash claimed the traveling trophy for the second year in a row and it is now in its proper place in the clubhouse trophy case. Team scores were; Black Ash – 389, Big Tree – 369, Corry – 359. The high individual score for the match was posted by Bill Baker (Black Ash) with a perfect run of 50 birds.

The possession of "arms discourages and keeps the invader and plunderer in awe, and preserves order in the world as well as property...Horrid mischief would ensue were the law abiding deprived the use of them."

Thomas Paine

CHOKIN' CHICKEN STAYS AT BLACK ASH

The Black Ash VIPL (Very Informal Pistol League) Team was successful in claiming the famed Chokin' Chicken Traveling Trophy for the second year in a row and it is now roosting in the Black Ash Clubhouse. Don Smock led the Black Ash team with a high centerfire score of 150-11X. Team scores were; Black Ash 1458-58X, Albion 1393-42X, Springs Rod & Gun 1376-27X, Saegertown 1345-23X, Walnut Creek 537-20X

Membership on the team is open to any member of Black Ash Sportsman, including ladies and juniors. Modified rules for NRA Bullseye shooting are used. Shooters can shoot in either the rimfire or centerfire class or both. Shoots are held once each month from April to September.

"Criminals obey "gun control" laws in the same manner politicians follow their oaths of office."

Anonymous

PGC CHANGES HUNTER ED ---AGAIN

In an unexpected move the PGC (Penna. Game Commission) has announced a reduction in the classroom hours of the basic Hunter Trapper Education course of instruction. After years of improvement and expansion of the course curriculum, the PGC has reduced the class from a

ten hour format to five hours followed by a forty five minute written exam. The PGC expects students to complete an "on line" or "home study" segment prior to taking the actual course. The PGC states that this will replace the portion of the course that has been deleted from the previous classroom curriculum. The changes, according to the PGC, will allow instructors to present more classes throughout the state and will "allow prospective students to fit classes into their busy schedules." No claims of actual improvement of the course content are being made by the PGC other than becoming "more customer friendly."

Hunter Education at Black Ash has always included one day of "hands on" instruction in which all students participate. This includes shooting, safe firearms handling, target identification and shot placement, etc. The PGC claims this activity can still be included in a one day program, but it takes a "little more than eight hours." It has not been determined if the skills stations will be included in future courses at Black Ash.

A definite down side of the revised program is the heavy reliance on computers and the internet. Many Pennsylvanians, especially the Amish community, do not have easy access to the internet. Students must locate and register for classes at the PGC website. After registering, students will be instructed to complete the on line course of study entitled "Today's Hunter and Trapper in Pennsylvania."

"Minds are like parachutes – they only function when open."

Thomas Dewey

WINTER SKEET CLASSIC

The annual Winter Skeet Classic began on January 5, 2013. Shoot dates are January 19th, February 2nd and 16th, and March 2nd & 16th. The post season shoot and banquet will be on March 30th. The cost is \$10. per 50 targets. Junior shooters pay \$7.00 for 50 targets. Practice targets are \$3.50 for 25 targets. This includes the cost of the banquet. You can shoot ahead or back so you don't have to

attend each shoot. For additional information call Tom Mattis at (814) 720-5045.

*"The perils of duck hunting are great – especially for the duck."
Walter Cronkite*

HANDGUN ADVENTURE TRAIL

For those of you who have never done this it is about as much fun as you can have (legally) with a gun! Events are open for .22 rimfire rifle and handgun and for centerfire handgun with either open sights or scopes. There is also a Golf Course for .22 rimfire rifle. Events through the summer are usually on the 4th Sunday of the month and start at 9:00 A. M. Scheduled shoots for 2013 are March 24th or April 7th (still deciding because of conflicts with Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday), April 28th, May 26th, June 23rd, July 28th, August 25th, September 22nd, and October 27th. After March 25th all of the courses will be open for practice rounds by members and accompanying guests except for the week immediately before a scheduled shoot. Practice rounds are \$1 each. All competition rounds are open to members and the public.

We can always use member support as range officers, target painters, and at the registration table. If you can help, contact John Scheuer (814) 476-1189 or Carl Pelino (814) 333-6533 or at silhouette@blackashsportsman.org. You can also just let someone know at the registration table.

"Gun Control? It's the best thing you can do for crooks and gangsters. I want you to have nothing. If I'm a bad guy, I'm always gonna have a gun. Safety locks? You will pull the trigger with a lock on, and I'll pull the trigger. We'll see who wins!"

Sammy "the Bull" Gravano, whose testimony convicted Mafia leader John Gotti.

NRA SILHOUETTE SHOOTING

We are hosting monthly NRA Rimfire Rifle Silhouette Matches at Black Ash. We plan to keep this event simple, safe, and fun. Steel targets are shot offhand at 40, 60, 77, and 100 meters. Ten targets are shot at each distance. The 40 meter targets are chickens, 60 meter targets are pigs, 77 meter targets are turkeys, and the 100 meter targets are rams. The 40 meter targets are the smallest and the targets get larger as distance increases. In case you're wondering, none are life size! Targets must be knocked off the stand to score a hit. We shoot four classes – an open class which allows heavy barrel rifles up to 10 pounds, 2

ounces, a hunter rifle class for hunting style rifles weighing less than 8 pounds 8 ounces, a cowboy class for open sight hunting style rifles, and a rimfire handgun class. We do not have a schedule yet, so watch for announcements in your e-mail and in the Meadville and Titusville newspapers.

"Without rabbit and pheasant habitat, we have lost the stage upon which we teach our young hunters how to act."

Jim Slinsky

SEND US YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

We are trying to do more contacts through e-mail instead of through regular mail. This enables us to reduce costs and lets us send out more frequent information. Please use the line on your membership application and CLEARLY PRINT your e-mail address. If you are a life member or have already paid your 2013 dues, please e-mail your address to Carl Pelino at cpelino@windstream.net. Remember, the only announcement of club activities you will receive by regular mail are contained in the newsletters. Members who have an e-mail address on file receive frequent notifications of club activities and special events. Black Ash does not give or sell membership information, including e-mail addresses, to any other entity.

"Government exists to protect us from each other. Where government has gone beyond its limits is in deciding to protect us from ourselves."

Ronald Reagan

DUES ARE DUE

The dues structure remains unchanged for 2013. A renewal application, including dues amounts, can be found on the last page of this newsletter. Dues should be paid by March 1st to continue active membership. The changes being made in shooting range access (explained in a separate article) increases the importance of timely payment of membership dues. The application may be copied if you have multiple club members in your family.

"Better to die on one's feet than to live on one's knees."

Jean-Paul Sartre

OFFICERS FOR 2013

Officers for the year 2013 were elected at the regular membership meeting held on December 13th, 2012. Elected officers are;

President	Ed Ferguson
Vice President	Tom Mattis
Secretary	Carl Pelino

Treasurer
Board of Directors

Carolyn Zur
Mark Maillard
Gary Glunt
Bob Schoenefeldt

"A well crafted pepperoni pizza, being necessary to the preservation of a diverse menu, the right of the people to keep and cook tomatoes, shall not be infringed. I would ask you to try and argue that this statement says that only peperoni pizzas can keep and cook tomatoes, and only well crafted ones at that. This is basically what the so-called states rights people argue with respect to the well-regulated militia, vs the right to keep and bear arms."

Bruce Tiemann

MEMBERS ONLY

At the General Membership Meeting on November 8th, 2012, the members present voted unanimously to close all shooting facilities at Black Ash to non-members effective March 1st, 2013. This policy applies to the rifle range, practice rounds on the Handgun Adventure Trail, and other shooting on the club grounds except when we have activities open to the general public. As has always been the club policy, members are permitted to bring non member guests with them to participate in member only activities as long as the member is with them. Guests are expected to pay the \$1. range fee when using shooting facilities. This policy does not affect hunting on club grounds during PGC regulated seasons. The grounds will continue to be open to public hunting, but hunters will be expected to abide by all Pa. Game Commission regulations.

Many local hunters have come to rely on the Black Ash Rifle Range to provide a suitable place to sight in rifles for the firearms deer season. In order to meet this need, we will schedule at least two weekends of supervised "sight in" days for non-members prior to the firearms deer season. In addition to "sight in days", all competition shoots, except the VIPL competition, are open to the general public. This includes scheduled activities such as skeet and trap shooting and the Handgun Adventure Trail monthly matches.

This action was not taken without considerable thought and discussion. It was prompted by discussions and advice from our insurance carrier concerning coverage if there are problems or accidents caused by non-members. In addition to minor vandalism, we have also been encountering problems with non- members ignoring the range safety rules. There have been at least two known

"accidental" discharges of firearms by non-members at the rifle range during the past year. Fortunately, no injuries have occurred. Our insurance carrier has advised us that a member should be present whenever shooting activities are taking place. We are not trying to make Black Ash exclusive, but we are trying to make it safe and a place that you can bring your family without feeling endangered or having your children exposed to crude and obnoxious behavior.

There have been many questions on how we will enforce the non-member rule. The bottom line is that it is up to each member using the facilities to verify that users are members or guests with a member. Each member is a part owner of the club and we all need to make sure we take care of our property and encourage others to do the same. We are not policemen and we do not want anyone to get into an altercation over this. We will provide more information to all members as policies are further developed and we have a chance to further discuss things. If you have any thoughts we would certainly like to hear them. We will be posting more permanent signs that state that Black Ash is a member's only facility. Please remember that it has ALWAYS been Black Ash Policy that members have their membership card with them when using club facilities. This will now be of more importance. Range officers do not want to "hassle" anyone, but with over 300 members it is impossible for them to know everyone. It is a common occurrence for people to claim they are members when they are not. Please try to be understanding of the position range officers are in if they ask you for proof of membership. They are doing a difficult and sometimes frightening job. Some members are now wearing their card in a fishing license holder on their hats. This is not required, but it is a helpful idea. An active member is a member with current dues paid – this year we have a grace period until March 1st. After this year the deadline for dues payment will be December 31st. If dues are not paid by then a person is not considered an active member until current year dues are paid.

"The greatest danger to American freedom is a government that ignores the Constitution."

Thomas Jefferson

THOUGHTS ON NEWTOWN AND THE NRA

On December 14th, 2012, Adam Lanza, age 20, forcefully entered the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, and fatally shot 20 elementary school students and 6 adult staff members. Before going to the school he had shot and killed Nancy Lanza, his mother. Adam Lanza shot and killed himself when emergency personnel began arriving at the school. Within 24 hours the National Rifle Association (NRA) found itself being blamed for the shootings and ridiculed for its support of the Second Amendment and the right of U.S. citizens to keep and bear arms. It is a natural reaction for people to try and find someone or something to blame after a tragedy of this magnitude. Unfortunately, it appears the NRA has been chosen as the scapegoat in this instance by anti-gun groups and a liberal media. This incident has provided a launching pad for gun control groups to renew their attack on firearms ownership and the Second Amendment.

Much of the information about this mass shooting is vague or has not been released by authorities as of this writing (12/26/12). That includes Lanza's motive for the killings. However, we do have access to some information about the shooter, his access to firearms, and a possible motivating factor.

Adam Lanza had been diagnosed with an unidentified "mental illness" and his mother had been making plans to have him "institutionalized". She had told many people of this fact, including Adam. One mental health professional appeared on a major television network and stated the type of illness he had would not cause him to engage in this type of behavior. Apparently, she believed his access to firearms was the cause of the behavior.

The Sandy Hook Elementary School had recently upgraded its security protocol. Doors to the school were locked at 9:30 A.M. each day after students had arrived. Visitors were admitted after a visual and identification review by video monitor. Nancy Lanza was either a current or former employee of the school. Adam Lanza went to the school armed with two 9 MM semi-auto pistols and a Bushmaster XM-15 rifle. He gained access by shooting his way through a locked glass door at the front of the school. He was wearing black clothing, a mask, and a bulletproof vest. Principal Dawn Hochsprung and

a guidance counselor, Mary Sherlach, heard the shots and confronted Lanza. He shot them and continued on into the school.

Adam Lanza did not purchase or own the guns he used. They had been legally purchased by his mother who taught Adam how to use them.

The attack on the NRA commenced on December 15th with criticism of the NRA for not making an immediate statement regarding the shootings. In our opinion the staff at NRA exercised good judgement in maintaining a quiet and respectful silence in the immediate aftermath of the shootings. The wisdom of this decision was proven by the continuing criticism when the NRA did make a statement. Wayne Lapiere, Executive Vice President of the NRA, held a news conference at which he advocated placing police officers in schools to protect our children. His proposal, rather than stimulating the hoped for discussion of the idea, was met with instant ridicule by the media. The following reprint of a New York Daily News editorial is an example;

"Wayne LaPierre of the NRA will forever now be known as America's maddest gunman. In style and substance his performance...in response to the Newtown massacre revealed the obsessive, lunatic paranoia behind its worship of firearms. A week after a gunman armed with an assault rifle murdered 20 children and 6 adults at Sandy Hook...LaPierre lashed out at everyone and everything but the weapons that were used to kill...Exhibiting a level of insanity that qualifies people for commitment as a danger to themselves or others, he called for stationing armed cops at every school in the United States."

We can't help but wonder what the response would have been if the proposal had been made by the National Association of Chiefs of Police. Remember Columbine? The shooters were stopped by armed school police!

The attack on the NRA presages an attack on gun rights. It is apparent that the next congress will be presented with numerous gun control bills including a ban on "assault rifles" and high capacity magazines. President Obama has already stated he will sign those bills and has indicated he will give consideration to other bills controlling firearms. The NRA is the only organization standing between the government and the confiscation of your firearms. If you aren't a member, it's time to join.

"We protect our gold with guns, and our children with good intentions. The gold is safe."

David Mcnabb