



# BLACK ASH SPORTSMAN, INC

8410 Clark Rd · Guys Mills, PA · 16327 · (814) 789-2443 · blackashsportsman@gmail.com

Winter Newsletter, 2017

General membership meetings are at 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of each month at the clubhouse.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

2016 was another great year for Black Ash! I thank all of you who participated in any way and especially thank the volunteers who were there when we needed them to run our different matches and events, shovel snow, mow grass, fix things, keep the clubhouse clean, maintain shooting ranges, and all the other things that make a successful club work. The list of helpers is pretty long and that's what we need to keep things going and moving ahead.

We had very good participation in our major activities and completed several major maintenance and ground improvement projects. The number of shooters in the Winter Skeet League and Handgun Adventure Trail Matches was up from 2015. This is important since these are our two biggest fundraising activities each year. We replaced the steps and railing going up to the clubhouse with an exceptionally nice set of steps and only had to pay the cost of materials. All labor was provided by members and some friends of Black Ash. Another major drainage project was completed, this time to drain the golf course, silhouette range area and improve the drainage from two trap houses. This also made mowing and maintenance of these areas much easier – no more slogging through the mud with our mowers. We also purchased a new John Deere Zero Turn Mower to replace our 15-year-old zero turn that was beginning to have some hydraulic problems – it did serve us well though!

2017 will bring a new activity to Black Ash – we will be hosting the Maplewood High School Trap Team. This is a club team with no school financial support, only the name. They will compete as part of the Pennsylvania State High School Clay Target League. We welcome these shooters to our club and to trap shooting – most for the first time. Black Ash members will serve as coaches for this new team. They will shoot once a week starting in early April. Their season ends the last week of May. A great way to bring young shooters to our club! Anyone interested who is or has a Maplewood High Student should listen for announcements at the school – online registration opens January 15 and there is an information meeting at the high school scheduled for the week of January 9.

We also hope to complete a couple of new projects in 2017. One of them will probably be to upgrade the machine in one of our trap houses (a cost of roughly \$3000). We also need to add to the insulation in the clubhouse to help reduce the roof icing problem we have. Once that is done we can complete repairs to the gutters that have been damaged by the ice. Some other "Wish List" items are to update/remodel the restrooms, replace tops on several of the shooting benches at the rifle range, and to complete work on our "Competition Range". This is the area next to the existing rifle range that is now used only for shot-

gun patterning. Years ago, the mound was built and backstops installed but that is as far as things went. We hope to complete things by finishing the backstops and installing a cover over the shooting area. This would then become the area used for the NRA Silhouette matches (freeing the trap field that we now use for this game) and would also be able to accommodate activities such as NRA Rimfire Sporter Matches, 100-yard Service Rifle Matches, and other shooting competitions. But, all of these things will be costly. We have increased our income from dues since we went to the "Members Only" status but dues are only enough to pay our normal expenses (taxes, utilities, insurance, and building and grounds maintenance). We need the help of all of our members to keep improving our facilities. You can do this by volunteering to help at our activities that generate additional funds for the club (Winter Skeet, Handgun Adventure Trail, Summer Skeet, NRA Silhouette Matches). You can help even more by PARTICIPATING in these events and bringing others out to the club to participate. And you can also help by adding a donation to your dues to help offset the costs of these improvements. We have many annual members who do this already and we thank them. We have recently undertaken a fund drive from our Life Members to help fund major projects and money is coming in slowly from that effort. The bottom line is to help out however and whenever you can.

Thanks, and have a great 2017.

Carl Pelino, President

## CLASSIC WINTER SKEET LEAGUE

The Black Ash Classic Winter Skeet League will begin this year on January 7, 2017 and continue every other Saturday amounting to six shoots, with the post season shoot and steak cookout banquet ending it all on April 1. Shooting hours are 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

The winter skeet league will continue to utilize the handicap scoring system, which is unique to Black Ash, that gives shooters of all skill levels a chance at prizes at the post season shoot. The league scores 50 birds (two rounds) per shooting week and the shooter can shoot ahead or back any number of weeks if he or she can't make every week of shooting. Cost will continue to be \$10.00 per 50 targets. Junior shooters under age 16 qualify for special prizes and their cost is only \$7.00 per 50 targets. If you want to shoot practice rounds, the cost is \$3.50 per 25 targets.

In 2016, there were just over 70 shooters. This includes men, women and youth. So come this year and bring a new shooter with you! Club membership is not necessary. You really won't find a group of friendlier and more welcoming sportsmen than what shows up for the winter skeet league.

We will continue to offer lunch at the shoots. We have some dedicated scorekeepers and pullers, but we can always use more. You can shoot in the league and pull or come and just pull, keep score or help out.

For more information or to volunteer, call Tom Mattis at (814) 720-5045 or email [winterskeet@blackashsportsman.org](mailto:winterskeet@blackashsportsman.org).

### RANGE NOTES

Things have gone well at both of our ranges since we have adopted the "Members Only" policy. We have had little or no serious damage of our property, less litter, and lower maintenance costs. We thank all of our members for pitching in!

Just a reminder about our guest policy at the ranges and for Handgun Adventure Trail Practice Rounds. ANY member may bring a guest or guests to use these facilities. There is a \$3 Guest Fee for using the ranges and a \$1 fee for ALL shooters for practice rounds on the Handgun Adventure Trail. Fees must be paid before shooting begins.

Please follow all range rules, especially safety rules and rules for target placement. We have had some problems with shooters hanging targets on upright posts and crossbars and shooting the cables at the pistol range.

### JUNIOR CONSERVATION CAMP

By Tom Mattis, Vice President

*I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country—its soil, air, minerals, forests, water and wildlife.*

So goes the conservation pledge, the basis for the Junior Conservation Camp that was offered by the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsman's Clubs throughout the 1950s, 60s and 70s. The camps were held at the Penn State Civil Engineering Camp at Stone Lake near State College. Housing was in semi-permanent canvas tents with a dining hall and shower house. Clubs from across the state would sponsor a boy in 9th or 10th grade to attend the two week school. In 1956, the cost per boy to attend was \$36.

I was lucky enough to be sponsored by the Black Ash Sportsmen in the summer of 1969, at age 14. Most memorable to me were the first couple of days when an ex-Air Force officer taught us about survival; how to find food and water and make fire. Map orientation and compass reading culminated in a solo hike through new territory to test your skills. Later, we studied first aid, fire extinguishing, archery, boating, camping, trapping and hunter safety at the camp.

Not all studies were done at the camp. Craig Oakes, who went to the camp in about 1974, remembers going out to the fish hatchery at Bellfonte, climbing fire towers, a trip to Greenwood Furnace and doing stream improvement. We went to a nursery to see how seedlings were started then to Nittany Mountain to plant the seedlings. The Game Commission and Fish Commission told us about wildlife management and possible careers (a

game protector's salary was \$6100 a year in 1969). Likewise, we had classes about forestry, mining and agriculture.

Club members put great thought into sending a boy they thought really had some interest in conservation and the outdoors. Although I don't know of a Black Ash camper that went on to a conservation career, I'm pretty sure they are still active in the outdoors. Steve Armburger, who was a camper in about 1967, bagged the second heaviest elk in PA this year, an 8x7.

The statewide two week camp eventually ended. After that, the individual counties organized their own camps or one day events like the Crawford County Youth Field Days. The goal is still the same: to encourage youth to learn about and become involved in conservation in their own backyards and worldwide.

### YOUTH PHEASANT HUNT

By Rob Schriener, YPH Coordinator

The Black Ash Sportsman's Club hosted our 4th annual Youth Pheasant Hunt program on Saturday, October 15. Our program kicked off with a practice and informational session at the clubhouse Friday evening. Each of the youth hunters in attendance were able to meet their mentor/dog handler for the next day and received t-shirts commemorating the event compliments of the Black Ash Sportsman's Club.

We had a total of 11 youth participants in attendance for the hunt the next day, 5 of whom were first time pheasant hunters. The morning started out with great promise as the weather conditions were perfect (cool, clear, and dry) and our young hunters were full of enthusiasm. Just before sunup, each of the groups (hunters, mentors, and dogs) dispersed from the clubhouse to their assigned hunting locations in the local area and all activities wrapped up shortly after noon. The youngsters had a very fun and enjoyable experience as each hunter went home with at least one ring-neck pheasant and a few even limited out. The program was a success once again as we were able to introduce a few new hunters to the sport and reinforce it with the returning youth.

As always, this program is not possible without the efforts of the volunteers and the support of the Black Ash Sportsman's Club Board of Directors and general membership. Thanks to the following volunteers for their help and support in making this year's program another success.

Landowners: Keith Smith, Gary Glunt

Dog Handlers: Bob Bush (Maggie), Gary Glunt (Pearl), Al Hudock (Marlo), Earl Smith (Nell)

Other Volunteers: Denny Lyons, Molly Smith, Mark Weber

### PISTOL LEAGUE

Black Ash participates in the multi-county VIP League (Very Informal Pistol League). The league was established to be a fun shooting experience 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 shoot in either the rimfire class or centefire class or both. We shoot once a month starting in April at Black Ash. The league ends in September with all teams getting together for the only joint competition of the year.

We invite any member including ladies and juniors to join our team. There are no fees for the league but all shooters must provide their own handgun(s) and ammunition.

For more information contact Carl Pelino (814) 333-6533 or by email at [vipl@blackashsportsman.org](mailto:vipl@blackashsportsman.org).

### SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

We are trying to do more contact with members through email instead of through the regular mail. This enables us to reduce mailing costs and also lets us send information out more frequently to let members know what's going on at Black Ash. Please use the line on your membership application and CLEARLY PRINT your email address. If you are a life member or have already paid dues, please send an email to the club address at [blackashsporstman@gmail.com](mailto:blackashsporstman@gmail.com) to provide your email. If you get this newsletter through your email and do not have a way to print out your membership application, send us an email and we will make sure you get an application.

IF YOU SENT US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS BEFORE AND ARE NOT RECEIVING EMAILS PLEASE SEND IT IN AGAIN. We were either unable to read it correctly from your application or you might have us blocked.

### LIFE MEMBERS

If you are a life member and have email, please send your email address to the club address at [blackashsportsman@gmail.com](mailto:blackashsportsman@gmail.com). This way, we can keep in close contact with you about things going on at Black Ash throughout the year.

### HANDGUN ADVENTURE TRAIL

2017 competition on the Handgun Adventure Trail will begin with a shoot on Sunday April 10, at 9:00 am. 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 rifle and handgun and for centerfire handguns all with either open sights or scopes. We even have a golf course for 22 rifles! Events through the summer are the fourth Sunday of the month. Scheduled matches for 2017 are March 26, April 23, May 28, June 25, July 23, August 27, September 24, and October 22. All competition rounds are open to members and non-members.

All of the Adventure Trail courses will be open for practice rounds for members and accompanying guests starting in late February and will remain open through the summer, except for the week before the shoots and occasionally during special events at the club. Practice rounds are \$1 each.

As with other events at the club, we can use some member support as range officers, target painters, and at the registration table. If we get a few more workers, then no one has to work all day and everyone gets to shoot a little. Contact John Scheuer (814) 476-1189 or Carl Pelino (814) 333-6533 or

[silhouette@blackashsportsman.org](mailto:silhouette@blackashsportsman.org) if interested in helping. You can also let someone at the registration table know you are interested in helping.

### NRA SILHOUETTE SHOOTING

We are hosting monthly NRA Silhouette Matches at Black Ash. The plans are to keep this relatively 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. There are classes for rimfire rifles and handguns, centerfire handguns and centerfire rifles shooting handgun cartridges.

Matches are usually held the SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH (except for June) AND START AT 9 AM. Matches for 2017 will be April 8, May 13, June 3, July 8, August 12, and September 9. If you have questions, please contact Carl Pelino at (814) 333-6533 or e-mail us at [silhouette@blackashsportsman.org](mailto:silhouette@blackashsportsman.org). THESE MATCHES ARE OPEN TO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS.

### HELP NEEDED

All of the work to get things done at our club is done by volunteers. We are currently experiencing a shortage of workers, especially in two activities that are major fundraisers for the club – the Winter Skeet League and the Handgun Adventure Trail matches. We also need additional help to keep the summer skeet shooting and NRA Silhouette Matches going. We can always use a hand with the summertime mowing and routine maintenance of the club grounds. If we do not get additional volunteers from our membership, one or all of these activities may end. Please contact Carl Pelino (814) 333-6533 or [cpelino@zoominternet.net](mailto:cpelino@zoominternet.net) if you can help out. Volunteers don't have to help at every session but we need to give some of our long-term helpers a break in all of these activities.

### ELECTION RESULTS

The election of club officers was held at the December membership meeting. All incumbent officers were re-elected for another year. Your officers are:

President: Carl Pelino

Vice President: Tom Mattis

Secretary: Molly Smith

Treasurer: Carolyn Zur

Directors: Bob Schoenfeldt, Gary Glunt, Mark Mailliard

### FRENCH CREEK VALLEY WINTER SKEET LEAGUE

Black Ash is participating in the French Creek Valley Winter Skeet League this year. It is a travelling league, and is held every other Sunday. The cost is \$8 per 50 targets. There is a one-time \$7 trophy fee. Junior shooters do not pay the trophy fee. If you have any questions, contact Gary Glunt at (814) 720-9899. The schedule is:

1/15—Meadville

1/29—Greenville

2/12—Union City

2/26—Erie

3/12—Sandy Lake

3/26—Edinboro

4/2—Black Ash

4/9—Meadville Post Shoot



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Meetings are the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: ( ) NEW MEMBER OR ( ) ANNUAL RENEWAL**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) MALE ( ) FEMALE ( ) JUNIOR

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

To cut costs, updates and notices are sent by email. Please sure that your email address is legible.  
Check here if you do not have email. ( )

**NEW MEMBER APPLICATION**

\_\_\_\_ \$20 Annual

\_\_\_\_ \$25\* Annual\*

\_\_\_\_ \$2 Lady

\_\_\_\_ \$2 Junior (18 years & Under)

**ANNUAL RENEWAL**

\_\_\_\_ \$20 Annual

\_\_\_\_ \$2 Lady

\_\_\_\_ \$2 Junior (18 years & Under)

\_\_\_\_ \$400 LIFE MEMBER \*\*

**NOTE: \* Dues paid between Sep.15 & Nov. 30, include balance of current year and following year.**

**\*\* Must be an active member for three (3) consecutive years to be eligible for life membership.**

**NEW MEMBER ONLY:**

**NAME OF SPONSOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Your sponsor must be a current member in good standing of Black Ash Sportsman, Inc.)**

**\*\*\*\*\*SURVEY: AREA OF INTEREST – Select all that apply\*\*\*\*\***

\_\_\_\_ Trap Shooting \_\_\_\_ Skeet Shooting \_\_\_\_ Handgun Shooting \_\_\_\_ VIP League \_\_\_\_ Silhouette Shooting

\_\_\_\_ Rifle Shooting \_\_\_\_ Rifle Range \_\_\_\_ Conservation \_\_\_\_ Youth

**Are you able to help with any club activities or maintenance?** \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete one application for each member. Make copies as needed.**

**Applications may be downloaded from website <http://blackashsportsman.org>.**

**Include a SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE to receive membership card(s).**

**Mail application(s) with check payable to Black Ash Sportsman Inc. to:**

**BLACK ASH SPORTSMAN INC.**  
**C/O Carolyn Zur**  
**13532 Walker Street**  
**Meadville, PA 16335**