



BLACK ASH SPORTSMAN, INC

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

Winter Newsletter, 2018

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

2017 was a 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. The number of shooters in the Winter Skeet League and Handgun Adventure Trail Matches stayed pretty steady from 2016. This is important since these are our two biggest fundraising activities each year. We also added a Monday Night Trap League which had very good participation for its first year. We hope numbers will increase in 2018 since everyone had such a great time last summer.

As we try to do each year we did make some improvements to the club grounds and clubhouse in 2017. There were major improvements made to Field 2 for skeet and trap and also some additions on Trap Fields 3 and 4. With some help from some dedicated members and a grant from Northwestern REC we added 12 inches of insulation to the attic of the clubhouse. This will aid in heating and cooling as well as reducing ice damage to the roof.

As I began writing this letter I started to list the number of shooting activities that we have at Black Ash. It seems that we have a lot of opportunities in different shooting sports for both members and non-members. Besides just the opportunity to shoot at our first class rifle and pistol ranges we have a Winter Skeet League (just shooting at Black Ash), host a team in the Winter Traveling Skeet League, host the Maplewood High School Trap Team, have our own Summer Trap League, summer skeet and trap practice (Tuesday Evenings), the Handgun Adventure Trail Matches and practice for members and guests, NRA Silhouette Matches, and the Very Informal Pistol League (VIPL) where we compete against other area clubs. If you as a member are not participating in at least one of these activities you should ask yourself why you are missing out on all of the fun!!! Besides having a great time shooting you will also be supporting the club so we can continue these activities and add more.

All of these activities don't just happen without a lot of work from members. We need every one of our members to take an active role in club activities if we are going to keep up all of our activities and keep the club going. The money coming in from our activities is what makes it possible for us to maintain and improve our rifle and pistol ranges and be able to make improvements to the club. Our income from dues is very good but it pretty much just covers our normal operating expenses – utilities, taxes, insurance, and routine maintenance of facilities.

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

The bottom line is to help out however and whenever you can. Please become a Black Ash Volunteer this year!

Thanks, and have a great 2018.

Carl Pelino, President

CLASSIC WINTER SKEET LEAGUE

The Black Ash Sportsman's Club Classic Winter Skeet League will **begin this year on January 6, 2018. It continues every other Saturday: January 20, February 3, February 17, March 3, and March 17, amounting to 6 shoots. The post season shoot and steak cookout banquet will end it all on March 24, 2018.**

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 2017, there were 97 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.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

There is an application as part of this newsletter for renewing your membership. In order to speed up receiving your new membership card, PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES TO OUR TREASURER AT THE ADDRESS SHOWN ON THE APPLICATION. If you mail your dues to the club address, it may be a week or two before our treasurer gets your payment. We don't have staff at the clubhouse to take care of this. Also, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your dues so that we can easily return your new card to you. You may also renew your membership at any club activity.

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 centerfire 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. **We usually shoot as a team on the 2nd Thursday of each month (meeting night) beginning at 4:30.**

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

YOUTH PHEASANT HUNT

The 5th annual Black Ash Sportsman Club junior pheasant hunt was a great success. Our event was held on Saturday, October 14 and there were 17 hunters that participated (out of 19 registered). Following a pre-hunt meeting and safety briefing in the clubhouse, the young hunters were then organized into 6 groups and led outside where they met their guides and dog handlers for the morning. An optional clay target practice was offered to all prior to heading out.

Despite some early fog, the skies eventually cleared and gave way to near perfect conditions. Hunts were held on local public and private properties (approved by the Game Commission) and lasted until late morning. Many of the hunters had shooting opportunities and harvested birds and all of the hunters learned and had fun. Following the hunts, all participants and their parents/mentors were treated to a hearty lunch in the club picnic pavilion. We even had a short visit from new area Game Commission WCO Jason Amory who had a chance to observe one of the hunts held on the club grounds and meet with a few of the junior hunters.

Thanks to our many volunteers who made this year's event possible:

Dog Handlers: Al Hudock, Earl Smith, Bill McFeely, Duane Koller, Jason Reece, and Gary Glunt. The handlers and their dogs did an awesome job working the fields and creating opportunities for the hunters.

Lunch: Earl, Raytha and Steve Smith. Thanks for a really well prepared and tasty lunch.

Landowner: Keith Smith - Granted us permission to use a few of his fields to conduct hunts on.

Field and Club Volunteers: Mark, Janet and Joe Weber

T-Shirts from Timeless Creations: Molly Smith

Also, thanks to the Black Ash board of directors for their continued support of the program.

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 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 HAVE 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.

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

ALL EMAIL ADDRESSES ARE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL. IF YOU PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS, YOU WILL GET MORE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON CLUB ACTIVITIES.

HANDGUN ADVENTURE TRAIL

2018 competition on the Handgun Adventure Trail will begin with a shoot on Sunday April 8, at 9:00 am. For those of you who have never done this, it is about as much fun 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 2018 are April 8, April 22, May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, and October 28.** 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 if interested in helping. You can also let someone at the registration table know you are interested in helping.

WINTER WORK DAY

We will be holding a winter work day some time in late January, February, or early March. This will mostly involve cutting trees and brush on the club grounds. The date will be selected at the January meeting. We will send an email announcement and have the date and time posted in the Meadville and Titusville newspapers.

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 **THIRD 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 email us at silhouette@blackashsportsman.org. **THESE MATCHES ARE OPEN TO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS.**

SUMMER TRAP LEAGUE

The Black Ash Summer Trap League will begin on Monday, May 7 at 4:30. This is an 800 target league and shooters will have 16 weeks to get all of their targets shot (or shot at). Cost is \$8 for 50 targets and there is a separate Lewis Class for interested shooters. **WE ARE IN NEED OF A DIRECTOR FOR THIS LEAGUE AS WELL AS LOTS OF VOLUNTEER HELPERS TO FILL HOUSES AND SCORE ROUNDS.**

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 to help with all of our volunteer activities, especially in major fundraisers for the club – the Winter Skeet League, Summer Trap 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 at 814-333- 6533 or the club email blackashsportsman@gmail.com 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.

CLUBHOUSE INSULATION THANK YOU'S

We did get the insulation blown into the attic of the clubhouse this summer. Special thanks go to Rich, John, Charlie, and Zack Johnson who were the major installers, Kyle Gifford and Sean Wheelock who did the preliminary work in the summer heat, and members Doug and Heidi Morehead, Ed Wineland, Tom Mattis, and Earl Brown (sorry if we missed anyone) who helped out on the day the insulation was blown in. A very special thanks to Vice President Tom Mattis who researched and obtained a \$500 grant for the club from Northwestern REC. This grant covered most of the cost of the materials.

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

LIFE MEMBERS

Our fund drive for life members is moving along. We have received donations from a number of our life members, which helped with upgrading the trap and skeet fields. The donations were especially used for the purchase of two sets of voice releases, which were needed for the Maplewood Trap Team and Trap League. The plaque showing the names of donors will be

on the wall in the clubhouse soon. We invite all Life Members to help the club financially by participating in this drive. Donations may be earmarked for a specific use if desired. Please contact Carl Pelino at (814) 333-6533 for details or if you have questions about this undertaking.

FCV WINTER SKEET LEAGUE

Black Ash is participating in the French Creek Valley Winter Skeet League again 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:

1/14—Erie	3/11—Black Ash
1/28—Union City	4/8—Edinboro
2/11—Meadville	4/15—Erie Post Season Shoot
2/25—Sandy Lake	

BASIC PISTOL INSTRUCTION CLASS

We are planning to host another basic pistol training class this spring, probably in late April or May. We would like to have at least 12 participants in order to make it worthwhile. We are going to try this as an internal training done by our members. By doing this, we can greatly reduce the cost, probably down to \$40 or \$50 for the session instead of the \$100 that was paid in past classes. Class time and the materials reviewed would be the same as in the past. If we can fill the class with women (24) we will make it another all women's class. If not, we will open it up for men and women. It will first be open to members and then we will advertise for non-members. If interested, please send us an email at blackashsportsman@gmail.com or call Carl Pelino at (814) 333-6533.

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 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.

ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

Please contact the activity director if you would like to help out.

Winter skeet—Tom Mattis—(814) 720-5045

Summer skeet/skeet league—Gary Glunt—(814) 720-9899

Summer Trap League—Director Needed—Please Help!

Maplewood Trap Team—Jared Hanna/Mark Mailliard—

(814) 789-2129

Handgun Adventure Trail—John Scheuer/Carl Pelino—(814) 333-6533

Very Informal Pistol League (VIPL)—Carl Pelino—(814) 333-6533

NRA Silhouette—Carl Pelino—(814) 333-6533

Rangemaster—J.D. Rector—(814) 807-4777

Grounds Crew—Carl Pelino—(814) 333-6533

Please note—the above list of individuals is not the Complaint Dept.



BLACK ASH SPORTSMAN, INC.
8410 CLARK ROAD
GUYS MILLS, PA 16327
814-789-2443

www.blackashsportsman.org

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. ()

<p>NEW MEMBER APPLICATION</p> <p>___ \$20 Annual</p> <p>___ \$25* Annual*</p> <p>___ \$2 Lady</p> <p>___ \$2 Junior (18 years & Under)</p>

<p>ANNUAL RENEWAL</p> <p>___ \$20 Annual</p> <p>___ \$2 Lady</p> <p>___ \$2 Junior (18 years & Under)</p> <p>___ \$400 LIFE MEMBER **</p>
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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