



BLACK ASH SPORTSMAN, INC

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

Winter Newsletter, 2019

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

NEW MEMBERSHIP FORM AND DUES STRUCTURE FOR 2019—NEW MEMBERSHIP FORM ATTACHED 2019 DUES ARE DUE NOW

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

2018 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 good participation in our major activities. The number of shooters in the Winter Skeet League and Monday Night Trap League stayed pretty steady from 2017. This is important since these are two big fundraising activities each year. Unfortunately, participation was lower for the Handgun Adventure Trail Matches this past summer. This was mainly due to bad weather on almost every scheduled Sunday for a match. Tough to make up when there is only one match a month. The NRA Silhouette Matches did show a slight increase on numbers and income this year. The move to the rifle range and the addition of rope resets for the targets seemed to boost interest and participation. Hopefully the numbers here will continue to grow in 2019.

As we try to do each year, we did make some improvements to the club grounds in 2018. Lights were added to Field 2 for Trap and Skeet and to Field 3 for Trap. This will be a big help to the Maplewood Trap Team and will make it possible to increase shooter numbers in the Monday Night Trap League. For those of you who are neighbors please don't be concerned. We are not planning any all night or even late-night shooting activities. The lights will just enable shooting to continue into dusk when normally the targets become difficult to see.

Another positive thing we saw in 2018 is that our member numbers continue to grow. You are all doing a pretty good job of taking care of our facilities too. We have seen very little unnecessary damage at the rifle and pistol ranges and litter hasn't been a big problem either.

The rest of this newsletter describes all of the activities we have going on at Black Ash. 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. Please keep in mind that 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 some club activity if we are going to keep up all of them 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. 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 2019.

Carl Pelino, President

CLASSIC WINTER SKEET LEAGUE

The Black Ash Sportsman Club Classic Winter Skeet league will begin this year on January 5, 2019 and continue every other Saturday: January 19, February 2, February 16, March 2 and March 16 amounting to six shoots, with the post season shoot and Steak Cookout banquet ending it up on March 30, 2019. Shooting hours are 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM. For more information or to volunteer call Tom Mattis at 814-720-5045 or email winterskeet@blackashsportsman.org.

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:

1/13—Black Ash	3/10—Erie
1/27—Union City	3/17—Edinboro
2/11—Meadville	4/7—Black Ash Post Season Shoot
2/24—Sandy Lake	

MAPLEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL TRAP TEAM

The Maplewood High School Trap Team will be kicking off our third season this coming spring. We are looking forward to get things started around the first part of March and running through the end of May. The athletes that can participate are in grades 7 thru 12 with the grade average held to the standard at MHS. We are hoping to have around the same number of shooters as we did last year as well as all of the volunteer coaches and helpers. A big thank you goes out to Black Ash Sportsman for allowing us to use their facility for the third year in a row. —Mark Mailliard, Trap Team Coach

YOUTH PHEASANT HUNT

Saturday, October 13 marked the date of the Black Ash Sportsman's Club's 6th annual Youth Pheasant Hunt. As in past years, the Pennsylvania Game Commission helped sponsoring clubs throughout the state by providing pheasants (2 per registered hunter) as well as pre-hunt registration through their web site. We had a total of 12 hunters register this year (although only 9 turned out the morning of the hunt).

Our hunt day started early with a 7 a.m. kick-off meeting and safety talk at the clubhouse. We then adjourned out to the trap field after sunup to get each of the young hunters some practice shooting at clay targets. It was then off to the hunting fields where each group was accompanied by a guide and their dog (or dogs in some cases). While the weather conditions were not perfect—temps in the 40s and intermittent rain—it did not stop our hunt groups from spending a few hours afield at their designated hunt locations. Following the early morning hunt, all groups reported back to the clubhouse where we re-organized for the Black Ash 2nd Chance Hunt. During this hunt, we give each junior hunter who has not yet harvested a pheasant or those that are short of a limit to go back out for another change with pheasants supplied by Black Ash. When all was said and done, all nine of our hunters had very successful days with each hunter taking at least one pheasant and eight harvesting their limit of pheasants (this set a new Club record). On top of that, all hunters were safe, demonstrated ethical hunting practices and had fun. Following the hunting activities, we wrapped up the day with a lunch sponsored by the Black Ash Board of Directors. It takes many volunteers to make this event successful, and I would be remiss if I did not recognize this year's volunteer group.

Volunteers

Hunting Guides: Al Hudock, Jason Reece, Duane Koller, Gary Glunt, JD Rector, and Bob Bush.

Field Support and Hunter Check-in: Mark Weber, Joe Weber, and Melanie Gorman

Grill Masters and Food Prep: Carl Pelino, Bob Schoenfeldt, Earl Brown, and Carolyn Zur

T-Shirts: Molly Smith (printed by Timeless Creations in Guys Mills)

Land Owners: Keith Smith and Gary Glunt

YPH Coordinator: Rob Schriener

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

There is an application as part of this newsletter for renewing your membership. In order to speed up receiving your new card, **PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES TO OUR TREASURER AT THE ADDRESS SHOWN AT THE BOTTOM OF 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 stamped, self-addressed envelope with your dues. You may also renew your membership at any club activity.

2019 introduces a new FAMILY membership. We want to encourage families to spend time at the club together. The FAMI-

LY membership allows you, your spouse or partner, and all youth who share your household at any time to gain membership to Black Ash Sportsman, Inc. for an annual fee of \$40. The FAMILY membership may also be used for a couple without any youth members to receive a \$10 discount below two adult memberships. The annual fee for a single adult membership is \$25, and a single youth membership is \$5. Per our bylaws, a life membership is twenty times the annual adult membership fee, or \$500. Please complete one application per membership type.

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. Shooters showing up by 5:30 will still be able to get on a relay and post scores.

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

SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

We are trying to do more contacts to 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 or if you are a life member or have already paid dues, please send an email to the club address at web@blackashsportsman.org to provide your email. If you get this newsletter through your email and do not have a way to print out your membership application just send an email to the club 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 our email system may have marked your email as "bounced" when it shouldn't have done so. **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

2019 Competition on the Handgun Adventure Trail will begin with a shoot on Sunday March 24, at 9:00 a.m. 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 4th Sunday of the month. Scheduled matches for 2019 are: March 24, April 28, May 26, June 23, July 28, August 25, September 22, and October 27. 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. Like Black Ash Sportsman, Inc on Facebook to find out exactly when the course opens for practice this season. Practice rounds are free to members and \$1 each round for guests with a member.

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 Carl Pelino (814)333-6533 or silhouette@blackashsportsman.org if interested in helping. You can also just let someone at the registration table know you are interested in helping.

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 installing lights on the trap and skeet fields. 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 (814)333-6533 for details or if you have questions about this undertaking.

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, 50, 75 and 100 meters. There are classes for rimfire rifles and handguns, centerfire handguns and centerfire rifles shooting handgun cartridges. All classes of shooters shoot the ½ scale targets.

ALL MATCHES START AT 9 A.M. Matches for 2019 will be April 27, May 18, June 8, July 20, August 17, and September 21. If you have questions, please contact Carl Pelino at (814)333-6533 or e-mail us at silhouette@blackashsportsman.org . **THESE MATCHES ARE OPEN TO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS.** As with other activities assistance with set-up and tear down is always appreciated.

WINTER WORK DAY

We will be holding a winter work day on **Saturday, February 9** starting at 8 a.m. As usual, lunch will be provided. This will mostly involve cutting trees and brush on the club grounds. We will send an e-mail reminder and also have a reminder posted in the Meadville and Titusville Newspapers.

HELP NEEDED

All of the work done 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 fundraising 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 and 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 members, one or all of these activities may end. Please contact Carl Pelino, (814-333-6533) or the club e-mail web@blackashsportsman.org 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.

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 Adult 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 GUESTS OF A MEMBER 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.

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

ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

Please contact the activity director if you want to help out
Winter Skeet—Tom Mattis—(814) 720-5045
Summer Skeet/Skeet League—Gary Glunt—(814) 720-9899
Summer Trap League—Scott & Kathleen Wheelock—
(814) 967-4319
Maplewood Trap Team—Jared Hanna/Mark Mailliard—
(814) 789-2129
Handgun Adventure Trail—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.



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: Those who have been members within the last 3 years may renew membership. Others must apply as new members and must name a sponsor. Membership is valid from January 1 to December 31.

SELECT APPLICATION TYPE:

\$25—ADULT

\$5—YOUTH—18 years or under at beginning of membership year

\$40—FAMILY—At most 2 adults and all youth at the same address

\$500—LIFE—3 years of consecutive annual adult membership in good standing required

Our primary mode of communication is **EMAIL**. Please be sure your email address is legible. Select applicant age level, whether the applicant is new or renewing membership, and gender for each applicant. Complete one application per application type. Make copies as needed.

NAME 1 _____ ADULT YOUTH | NEW RENEWAL

EMAIL _____ PHONE (____) _____ GENDER: M F

NAME 2 _____ ADULT YOUTH | NEW RENEWAL

EMAIL _____ PHONE (____) _____ GENDER: M F

NAME 3 _____ ADULT YOUTH | NEW RENEWAL

EMAIL _____ PHONE (____) _____ GENDER: M F

NAME 4 _____ ADULT YOUTH | NEW RENEWAL

EMAIL _____ PHONE (____) _____ GENDER: M F

NAME 5 _____ ADULT YOUTH | NEW RENEWAL

EMAIL _____ PHONE (____) _____ GENDER: M F

**Add additional names for family membership on the the back or a separate sheet.

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NEW MEMBERS ONLY—NAME OF SPONSOR: _____ **PHONE:** _____

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

SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____

Signature of one applicant from this form signifies the agreement of all included applicants to abide by the rules and regulations of Black Ash Sportsman, Inc.

Make check a payable to **Black Ash Sportsman, Inc.**

Mail application, payment and a **SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE** to:

BLACK ASH SPORTSMAN, INC
C/O Carolyn Zur
13532 Walker St
Meadville, PA 16335