



BLACK ASH SPORTSMAN, INC

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

Winter Newsletter, 2022

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

RENEWAL FORM IS ATTACHED—2022 DUES ARE DUE NOW

Dear members,
Happy 2022! In spite of still having to deal with Covid, we had a pretty good year. The number of shooters in some of our activities was down, possibly because of the ammo issues we made it through. Thanks to all of our volunteers who kept things going.

Our gun raffle fundraiser was a huge success this year. We made over \$8000! That's the best we've done in the three years we've had it. We owe a lot to Mark and Carol Bellini who coordinated the effort this year. They did such a great job, we're hoping they will handle things again next year. Our members also deserve credit for this success. Seems like everyone pitched in to make it a success. We had a number of members who sold 20 or more tickets. Great job!

We have several items on the wish list for using this money. We have purchased a new PAT trap machine, and we need to do some improvements to our parking lots, repairs or replacement on the picnic pavilion roof, and some drainage at the rifle range. The Board of Directors has also been kicking around the idea of replacing our ancient skeet machines. If you think of anything you think we could do, please send your comments. We are also interested in any comments on our fundraiser in general. Should we continue doing it? If so, should we do it the same way we have in the past or go one step more and have a day with food, beverages, and more options for raffles? We are again scheduling activities as we normally would for 2022. With things being as they are, we will continue with limited clubhouse access and we will not be serving any food for most activities. If you plan to spend the day, pack a lunch and enjoy it in our picnic pavilion. As always, drinks will be available in the kitchen. Schedules and some brief descriptions are in this newsletter. If you want more details, either check our website or call the contact person for the activity. Same as last year though, things could change quickly with schedules and cancellations!

Please remember that it's time again to pay annual dues. A membership application is one of the pages of this newsletter. 2021 dues expired on December 31, 2021. Please note that there is a new mailing address for applications.

Lots of good information follows—stay safe and healthy and enjoy your time spent at Black Ash.

Black Ash Board of Directors

WINTER WORK DAY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 8AM—NOON

We will try to complete the brush clearing and tree cutting at the rifle range. We also hope to do some work in the skeet and trap houses and clubhouse cleanup if we have enough workers. Lunch will be served!

HANDGUN ADVENTURE TRAIL

Monthly matches begin at 9AM, all scorecards must be returned by 4PM. We may be adding a couple of new classes this year. OPEN TO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS
MARCH 27—APRIL 24—MAY 22—JUNE 26—JULY 24—AUG 22—SEPT 25—OCT 23

The trail will be open for practice rounds in early March. More information—check out our website or contact Carl Pelino at (814) 573-2355.

CLASSIC WINTER SKEET LEAGUE

Shooting every other Saturday beginning at 8AM and ending at 3PM. Shoot 50 skeet targets each week, and shoot ahead or back any number of weeks.
JAN 8—JAN 22—FEB 5—FEB 19—MARCH 5—MARCH 19
Post-season shoot & banquet APRIL 2.

OPEN TO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS
More information—check out our website for contact Eric Messner at (814) 827-9708 or winterskeet@blackashsportsman.org.

NRA SILHOUETTE MATCHES

Monthly matches beginning at 9AM, usually finish around 1PM or when all shooters are finished. OPEN TO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS
APRIL 30—MAY 28—JUNE 18—JULY 30—AUG 20—SEPT 17

More information—check our website or contact Carl Pelino at (814) 573-2355

PISTOL LEAGUE (VIPL)

Shoots monthly starting in April, dates and time to be determined. Check the website for updates. MUST BE A MEMBER TO PARTICIPATE—NO FEES FOR MEMBERS. Contact Fritz Brown if interested at jfritzbrown@yahoo.com

MONDAY NIGHT TRAP LEAGUE

Shooting trap weekly on Mondays from May 2 through August 29 (16 weeks) from 4-7 PM. There is no shoot on May 30 for Memorial Day or July 4th for Independence Day. There will be a picnic at the end.

OPEN TO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS
More information on the website, contact Scott Wheelock at wheelock@windstream.net with any questions.

INTRO TO HANDGUNS COURSE

We are looking for interest in a Spring 2022 pistol class. We have done three successful all-lady classes in the past year and a half. There is no date selected yet for the spring course, but they usually run from 8:30AM to 2PM.

The course includes handgun safety, becoming familiar with handling handguns, a course lecture and live firing. Shoot different types and calibers of handguns. Handguns, ammo, and eye and ear protection will be provided, or you may bring your own firearm.

Cost is \$35 for members and \$60 for non-members. There is a link to a flyer on the front page of our website with a little more information.

If you or someone you know, man or woman, would be interested in taking this course, please contact Eric Messner at elmessner226@icloud.com or (814) 827-9708. We will try to schedule this course around the interested persons.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elections for officers and members of the board were held at the December meeting. The 2022 board is:

President—Carl Pelino
Vice President—Tom Mattis
Secretary—Molly Smith
Treasurer—Kathleen Wheelock
Directors—Gary Glunt, Mark Mailliard, Eric Messner

We are looking for someone to take over as Treasurer in 2023. If you would be interested in serving in that capacity or have any questions about the position, please reach out by emailing blackashsportsman@gmail.com.

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 at (814) 573-2355 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.

SEND US YOUR EMAIL

If you received this in the mail, consider sending us your email address to blackashsportsman@gmail.com, or filling it out legibly on your 2022 application. It saves the club a lot of time stuffing envelopes, and gets you your information quicker!

SHOOTING RANGES

We have been experiencing a little more damage than usual at our ranges, especially on the rifle range. Please follow all range rules to help keep our ranges safe and in good shape for all shooters. Please remove all targets after you are finished at the rifle range. Don't leave targets hanging "for the next guy" just because you didn't shoot at them or they just have one or two holes. They blow off the target board and become litter on the range!!

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.

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 rifle and handgun 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.

YOUTH PHEASANT HUNT

The Black Ash Sportsman Club held our 9th annual Youth Pheasant Hunt on Saturday, October 9. As in past years, our hunt is done in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Game Commission's (PGC) junior pheasant hunting program. The PGC provides a framework for the individual hunts (as well as pheasants for the hunters) but it's up to the sportsman's clubs and other private organizations in the state to coordinate their own hunts.

Our mission for the hunt is to introduce the sport of upland bird hunting to the youth in our community and do so in a safe and sportsmanlike manner. To make this possible, we assembled a group of 5 experienced upland game bird hunters along with their dogs to serve as guides for the day.

The youth participants were broken down into smaller groups and assigned to a guide and specific hunting field at the Club or local landowner property. Prior to going afield, we had a pre-hunt meeting with the participants and guides and went over basic firearm safety, upland game bird hunting techniques and some fun facts about pheasants.

Even though we had 12 youth register for the hunt, only 8 were able to make it for the hunt. Nonetheless, we still had a great morning of hunting with each youth harvesting at least one pheasant each as well as some chukars which were supplied by the Club. After the morning hunt, we all met back at the Club picnic pavilion for lunch and some photos and then adjourned for the day.

All in all, it was another very successful youth pheasant hunting program. Our outstanding team of volunteers did another amazing job and helped to make this a very memorable day for all participants. Looking forward to next year and a great pheasant hunting program.

Rob Schriener
Youth Pheasant Hunt Coordinator



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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 Deanna Messner
522 Meadville Rd.
Titusville, PA 16354