

Check out the SKSC web site for news and info about the club. The web address is: www.sksc.org or email us at info@sksc.org

MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Membership meetings are the 2nd Monday of the month at 7 PM. The BOD meeting will follow the membership meeting. You'll be able to make your voice heard by putting your request on the membership meeting new business agenda. If you wish to make a motion, please have it written out so we can enter it into the minutes. Join us to help guide SKSC through the coming months. Your input helps us move your club forward.

ANNUAL SKSC ELECTIONS MONDAY DEC. 9TH:

The annual SKSC elections will be held during the December 9th membership meeting. To obtain a ballot you must have your membership card and some form of ID. Remember, one vote per membership. Please obtain your ballot before the meeting. There will be an opportunity for candidates to speak and for those not currently listed on the ballot to let it be known they would like to run for an office.

This year we have the following positions up for election:

President (Chris Kettler, incumbent, currently unopposed).
Recording Secretary (Ralph Hammond, not running, candidates needed)
BoD Seat (Randy Hammond, incumbent, running)
BoD Seat (Billy Jo Demerest, incumbent, running)
BoD Seat (Jim Klugiewicz, not running, see candidate list)
BoD Seat (Robert Commans, not running, see candidate list)

The following members are currently running for the 4 Board of Directors seats:

Randy Hammond, Billy Jo Demerest, Steve Moore, Mark Walma, David Washburn, & LouAnn Vanderzee. You will vote for the 4 you want to serve.

Please plan to attend and vote. These volunteers are who will help keep SKSC a great place to shoot for the next three years.

We want to thank Ralph Hammond for his great service to SKSC as the recording Secretary. He has been a steady presence on the board and added his talent to the working of the board. His effort to record the sometimes tumultuous proceedings of the BoD meeting have been a god send. Ralph, we want you to know that you have done a great job and we will miss your presence on the board.

We also thank Jim Klugiewicz for his long and dedicated service to SKSC as a BoD member. He has helped the shooting sports put together many matches, state tournaments, and equipment. He gathers much needed data from the matches and prepares it for the Board. He has also been responsible for running our annual sight in days each November. Jim, you sure are leaving some very big shoes to fill.

And last, but not least, we want to thank Bob Commans for his latest contribution to SKSC. Bob is a very long time member of SKSC and has served on the BoD several times and for many years. He has been a key person in the building and remodeling of the clubhouse. He has also been the originator and manager of the swap meets that have been held at SKSC. Bob is a quiet person who works behind the scenes but is always there helping. He is one of the most dedicated club members Southkent has ever had. He gives constantly and generously of his time, talent, and expertise. Bob, we can't thank you enough for all you have done. We hope you will be back again soon. Your work for SKSC is greatly appreciated.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS:

Again this year we are offering the opportunity for members to vote by absentee ballot. You may pick up a ballot at the managers desk anytime the club is open for trap & skeet. You must have your membership card and some form of ID. Remember that there is only one vote per membership. You will fill the ballot out (including any write in candidates you wish to vote for), place it in the envelope provided and seal the envelope. Those ballots will be opened and counted along with the regular ballots during the membership meeting.

BYLAW CHANGE:

The Bylaws need to have a dissolution clause added so that we can continue to obtain raffle licenses from the state gaming commission. The change must be passed by a majority vote at the annual meeting. The new clause basically states that the club must become the property of MUCC should the club be dissolved.

SILENT AUCTION:

We are going to conduct a silent auction during the December membership meeting. Wayne Moore will be spearheading the effort and will be at the clubhouse accepting donations Sunday, December 8th noon-3:00 and from 6-7 pm before the meeting on Monday. Shooting related donations are very much appreciated.

DOOR PRIZES & MEMBER AWARDS:

Don't forget that we also have door prizes during the December membership meeting. We will have a drawing from the red tickets that everyone fills out at every meeting during the year for two free memberships. We will also take time to hand out some very special awards to some very deserving members who have given Southkent an extra serving of their help. Join us as we honor those who have helped SKSC.

TRAP & SKEET CLOSINGS:

Trap & skeet will not be open on Thursday, November 28th; Tuesday, December 24th; Thursday, December 26th; and Tuesday, December 31st. The ranges will be open to members but there will not be a manager on duty during these days. Please adjust your schedule accordingly.

Membership Dues Structure (effective 2020):

The Board of Directors has unanimously approved some changes to our dues & fees structure. The new dues will go into effect for the 2020 renewal. This gives members all of 2019 to get work credits if they want to take advantage of the discount.

2020 Renewal for ALL memberships will be \$160. Seniors included. Discounts provided for work credits. Work credit is \$15/hr. up to 4 hours (\$60).

2020 New Memberships will be \$170 (\$160 + \$10 gate card deposit)

The fees break down like this:

\$60 Annual Membership (no change)

\$40 Land & Legal Fund (made permanent)

\$60 Work Fee assessment (valued at \$15 per hour)

\$10 Electronic Gate Card Deposit (if applicable)

EXCEPTIONS- There are two exceptions to the new dues structure- 1) Honorary Life Members. 2) Individuals who get exemption to waive the \$60 work credit through an appeal to the board of directors.

The rationale: First, the Land & Legal fund will be made permanent. The funds will be earmarked and not commingled with other accounts. In addition to paying off the new land purchase, it gives us the option to purchase key pieces of land as they come available in the future- hopefully before they become residential home sites. It will also serve as a rainy day fund in the event we need legal assistance. Second, the only rate increase over our current fee structure is the work credits. The value of work credits will change from \$10 to \$15 per hour and be made applicable to all members regardless of age. This is a fee that everyone can avoid with 4 hours of volunteer service per year... and not all volunteer work is physical labor. There will be several options available for people who can't or don't want to do physical labor- such as scoring Trap, helping with group sign ups, and monitoring ranges. Additionally, work credits can be obtained one hour at a time. There are individuals who are genuinely not able to volunteer 4 hours per year for good reason. Those individuals may appeal directly to the Board of Directors at any regular Board meeting to request an exemption.

SKSC is a volunteer run, non-profit organization. Our club membership and our activities are growing. Our trash cans seem to be perpetually full, club activities are in need of support, buildings, grounds, & ranges need continuous maintenance, the list goes on... It takes all of the member-owners to pitch in to keep it a viable & enjoyable place to shoot –or- it has to be hired out. Letting the club degrade or become unsafe is simply not an option.

A quick (editorial) summary- If you currently volunteer 4 hours a year, what you pay out of pocket will remain the same as you're paying now. If you choose to pass on volunteer hours your \$60 will help us hire jobs out when our volunteer force is not able to keep up.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2020:

You may renew your membership beginning on Monday, December 9th. See the article above for the correct fees. To renew at the club, go to the managers desk on any Tuesday or Thursday from 7 to 9 PM or Sundays from 10 AM to 2 PM. You will fill out a new liability waiver and the renewal slip. You must present your proof of work credit if you want the discount. You'll receive your new membership card from the manager.

To renew by mail please go to the www.sksc.org web page and follow the link to the membership renewal page. You'll need to download the liability waiver and renewal form and print them. Fill both out and put them in an envelope with your check and proof of work credit and a self addressed, stamped envelope. Mail the renewal to:

RENEWAL

3581 92nd St.

Caledonia, MI, 49316

Your new membership card will be mailed to you in two to three weeks.

WINTER TRAP & SKEET LEAGUE:

SKSC is pleased to announce the return of the winter trap and skeet league. This year we will have trap, handicap trap, skeet, and pee wee (.410) skeet. The cost and rules will be the same as last year except that the night manager will no longer pull and score trap rounds. League shooters will need to perform these chores. Just like we do for skeet, trap will be scored by a volunteer. Shooters are expected to reload the machine as required. This is a great event and a fun way to get outdoors and keep your shooting skills sharp over the winter. League starts Tuesday December 10th and runs until March. You must register your 1st four lines by Sunday, February 9th. More information is available at the managers desk in the clubhouse.

THURSDAY TRAP & SKEET MANAGER NEEDED:

Our regular trap and skeet Thursday night manager had to step down. We are in need of someone who can do this job. There is some compensation and the possibility of working as a team or trading days with the Tuesday manager. Please contact Chris Kettler or Rich Corey if you want to discuss this further.

Chris Kettler
president@sksc.org
(616) 822-2444

or

Rich Corey
VicePres@sksc.org
(616) 457-9111

RRR:

This is the **Range Refuse Removal** work detail. Members can sign up to collect and empty the refuse barrels on the ranges at their convenience and earn work credit. This project is being managed by David Washburn (Volunteer!). You can volunteer to work any day and time you choose.

Give David a call at 616 893 1427 to get your name on the schedule

Monday thru Friday 4pm to 8:30 pm

Saturday from 12 noon to 8:30 pm

I'm sure most of you have noticed how often those barrels are full and need emptying. Here is how you can help keep the place neat and clean and earn those valuable work credit hours and still keep your Saturdays free for those other important activities. We are working on more projects like this to give members opportunities to earn work credit during times other than the scheduled Saturday work days (see next). Snow blowing the skeet and trap ranges comes to mind as does scoring/pulling trap lines.

WORK LISTS:

Didn't make any of the scheduled work days? We have located a box on the front of the club house that has various work tasks that need to be done. These tasks can be completed during any time of the week. Look through the list of tasks and take the one you want to do. Perform the task and fill out the sheet then drop it in the return box. **IMPORTANT:** you must bring your membership card to one of the managers during normal skeet and trap hours to get your work credit. A manager will verify that your work was completed and give you credit on your membership card. Some of the tasks do not require physical labor such as being a manager helper during skeet and trap, or riding around and monitoring the ranges. An easy way to get work credit is to pull lines of trap during winter league. The manager will no longer be doing this task so there will be lots of opportunities for you.

RANGE INCIDENTS AND ACTIONS:

The following is excerpted from the presidents' email message to the membership. Your editor placed it here because it is important that every member read this message. It is important enough to bear repeating. Thanks Chris.

Shenanigans & Safety

Everyone has heard me talk about the "shenanigans" we have had in the past. People breaking the rules and disrespecting our ranges will ultimately be the thing that gets Southkent shut down for all of us. The Board of Directors chose to implement an instructor led safety orientation for every member two years ago. I can say that we have seen a decrease in violations but we haven't seen a big enough decrease. Recently a turkey was found shot on the 200 yard range. This is utterly unacceptable and is an embarrassment for every member of our club. If you hear someone talking about doing something like this, please report them. We still see misplaced targets, inappropriate targets, and people shooting from outside the general purpose bunkers. I'm personally asking every single member- if you see someone seriously breaking our rules- PLEASE STOP THEM and fill out an incident report! My personal cell phone number is (616) 822-2444, if you have the need, get me involved. We need every member to help police our ranges or we risk the need to implement extreme measures to protect the club from closure. None of us want to see range closures,

supervised ranges, dues increases, or any further restrictions on our privileges at SKSC. We need your help to prevent it!

WEBSITE:

Watch for our new website to be launched soon. It will bring an updated look and easier navigation while retaining the wealth of information that our members rely on.

FREE CLASS FOR SKSC MEMBERS:

The following announcement was furnished by the organization presenting the class. You will be offered the chance to purchase after the class. There is no obligation and SKSC does not encourage, nor discourage you to do so.

Our Board of Directors accepted a request from **Michigan Firearms ETS** to host a Law Seminar with **US Law Shield**, on Wednesday, January 15th, from 6pm to 8pm, in our clubhouse. This class will include a \$300 gun give away. Look for details in the email.

This Law Seminar is **FREE** to all SKSC Members. If a member wishes to take a friend along, it is only \$10.00 for your friend.

This seminar will be taught by an experienced attorney that will be providing a wealth of knowledge on topics such as:

- The Castle Doctrine
- Stand Your Grounds Laws
- The Justified Use of Deadly Force
- Where You Can Legally Carry in Michigan
- What to Expect When Law Enforcement Arrives
- and much more



This event will have a dedicated question and answer segment to ensure all attendees are able to get the information they want to know from a credible source they can trust.

Be On the Look Out for an e-mail, when the registration link is 'live' on the US Law Shield website.

The e-mail that you will be looking for, will have additional information and a link to get registered. **Remember** to get it on your calendar, Wednesday, January 15th, from 6 to 8pm, in our clubhouse.

METALLIC SILHOUETTE SEMINAR:

Plans are underway to conduct a seminar on metallic silhouette shooting. This seminar will cover the topics of equipment, targets, what to bring to a match, when matches are conducted, how matches are conducted, what you can do to prepare to shoot a match, and other appropriate topics. The seminar will be conducted by experienced leaders from each of the three silhouette disciplines here at SKSC. They are; IHMSA handgun silhouette, bench rest silhouette, and NRA big bore and small bore rifle silhouette. This seminar will take place late winter or early spring and will be announced by email, newsletter, and bulletin board. Look for this in 2020.

PROJECT APPLESEED:

Rifle Instruction 2020:

Project Appleseed is finishing up a successful second year at SKSC! We are looking to double the instruction weekends next year and are currently planning 2020. If you have a group that is interested in rifle instruction with Project Appleseed, please contact Amy at amysksc@gmail.com to set up future dates. We are also looking for any youth groups (like scouts, 4H, etc.) that would be interested in a youth (.22 only) instruction weekend. If you are part of a youth group that has interested participants please contact Amy at amysksc@gmail.com

HUNTER SAFETY CLASSES AT SKSC:

If you'd like to learn more about becoming a certified instructor, please contact: Jimmy Jamieson -- 616 328-1942 or Lynn Siebers--616 457-1723. The next classes are April and May of 2020. Check the web site calendar for dates and times. Pre-register no more than 30 days before the first class session. Each class is limited to 50 students age 10 and older. Parents must accompany students 10 and under and are encouraged to do so for older students as well. Don't forget to pack a lunch for the long Saturday session.

TRAINING AT SKSC:

Training for rifle, handgun, or shotgun shooting is available at SKSC. These classes are listed on the training page on the club web site. They are taught by Bill Lyons who is NRA certified. These classes are offered to members and nonmembers who wish to learn how to properly use a firearm. They are very nominal in cost and provide an excellent way to learn how to properly shoot any type of firearm. This is also an excellent way to initiate a youngster into the shooting sports. Bill is also available for specialized training. You may contact him at 616-862-0141 or bill@dtswestmi.com

CPL CLASSES AT SKSC:

Jay Rankin is currently conducting CPL classes at SKSC. For class information please contact Jay at 616-890-5940. His email is: jayrankin357@gmail.com

The SKSC Board of Directors extends their greetings, salutations, and wishes that each and everyone of you enjoy a wonderful holiday season.