

STOCKBRIDGE SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

Club News

Club Upgrades – Thanks to numerous and exceptional volunteers who have helped make tremendous upgrades to the pistol house and range, the rifle range, skeet house and banquet hall. We encourage all members to come see and take advantage of our significant improvements. Special thanks to Jim Balfanz who oversaw this work. Jim leveraged the roughly \$19K of donations to the capital improvement fund to far more than DOUBLE that amount. While there is still more to be done, the renovations have made such a fantastic impact on the club facilities that it cannot be overstated.

Dues and Fee Increases – As most of you know, the board voted to increase dues and fees to enable us to keep pace with these inflationary times. We have always felt that we wanted to keep our dues as low as possible, and we have lagged other area clubs in this regard. However, the reality of the current economic conditions requires us to make these increases if we are to maintain the high quality of the SSC. Our membership chairman Wayne Myers informed us at the last board meeting on 12/20 that we still have 135 members outstanding in their dues. As a result of that, we have extended the expiration of 2022 memberships until January 31st, 2023. At that time members who have not paid will be dropped from the roster or required to pay the \$50 reinstatement fee along with the 2023 dues. We need you, and hopefully each of you agree that the club and everything it does will continue to have your support.

MEMBERSHIP – As a reminder, September marked the beginning of Dues Renewal. Please use the form below for payment. If you are uncertain of the status of your membership you can email Wayne Myers through the club membership link on the website.

A membership to the club also makes for a thoughtful gift for friends and family!

2023 Membership Renewal Form – Mail To: PO Box 6, Stockbridge, MA, 01262

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Amount 1 Year \$100 5 Year \$450 10 Year \$900 Junior \$20

Additional donation in lieu of work bee participation Amount _____

Archery – As always, our wonderful Buckhorn Archers are scheduling their winter leagues. January 1st will be a work party to polish up the indoor ranges for the leagues. Starting with the Freestyle (300) League on January 6th at 7pm and followed by the January 11th start of the Animal League, the archers will be shooting in full force. We are hoping to once again host the Youth archery on Saturday mornings. After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, we are hopeful that this impactful youth program will resume and should run January through March. There is a DESPERATE need for new and former instructors to volunteer (archery expertise is not required to volunteer) – please reach out to Mike Buffoni at 413-626-4552

Pistol – Following extensive improvements, the pistol range is now fully functional and ready for shooting! The electrical upgrades should be completed soon, with the final piece of the puzzle, a new epoxy floor to be installed in the spring at no cost to the club by another generous donor.

Rifle – Substantial work has been completed to rectify issues with the range. New drainage has had an enormous impact on the ease of getting to the target areas from the building. Further improvements are anticipated in the coming dry season. Thanks to Bill Williams for his work on this project.

Special Appreciation – Goes out to board member Bill Cahill who has taken it upon himself to separate weekly the shell casings at both the rifle and pistol ranges. The recycled casings bring the club more in value when they are separated rather than mixed together (brass/steel/aluminum). All members are requested to assist by putting their spent casings in the **appropriate** and **clearly labeled** buckets.

Heartfelt Thanks – Goes out to one of our newest board members, Jeremy Bigelow and 53 Plumbing, for the donation of a hot water system for the skeet house, that has been severely lacking since the house was built. It should be noted that this \$3K donation is not included in the previous mention of capital improvement gifting.

New Website – The new club website is up and running! If you have not had a chance to visit it, please do. The address is www.stockbridgesportsmensclub.org. We need every member's email address, to get newsletters out in a more timely and consistent fashion.

For the Good of the Order – The SSC is hosting the annual Bay State Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation on Saturday February 18th, 2023, at 5pm. All members are welcome to attend to support both the club and this worthwhile conservation organization and enjoy a wonderful evening. Always a highlight is the prime rib that our club manager and chef, Peter Delgrande prepares that has always received RAVE reviews.