

SOUTH HAVEN ROD & GUN CLUB

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Supporters of Michigan Bow Hunters, MCRGO, NRA, and Pheasants Forever.

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MARCH 2006

CLUB REACHES 90

The South Haven Rod & Gun celebrated 90 years on February 24, 2006. On February 7, 1916 the Fishermen's Union met with other local sportsmen to discuss "combining the gunmen and nimrods of the city" into one organization. [It is interesting that, as long ago as 1916, reporters that didn't know a rod from a gun. Nimrods are hunters, not fishermen. ed.] "Devotees of line and shell" got together on Thursday February 24, 1916 to form the South Haven Rod & Gun Club and elect the following officers; President-Herbert Parker, Vice President-John Sweet, Secretary-Ed Kagel, and Treasurer-James Chandler.

Dan was doing some research at the library in preparation for a 90th anniversary celebration next year, when he discovered that the club was a year older than we all thought. We had originally thought the club was formed in 1917 based on old bank books. Since we missed the opportunity to have a party on February 24, that means we will probably have to party all year... Awww! If anyone has old pictures, clippings, stories, etc. that go back to the club's early days, we'd like to see them. We would like to scan the pictures and create a photo CD.

Meanwhile, we have lots of time to plan for the 100th anniversary. ☺

BYLAWS CHANGES

The bylaws committee met and revised the bylaws, subject to member approval. The draft bylaws were distributed to members in attendance at the February meeting. We anticipate putting the changes in a future newsletter. But only the changes, the bylaws have grown a bit. So has the club. One of the big changes we anticipate will be some renewal paper work to be filled out when renewing your membership. This paper work allows you to update your address and other data, and requires you to sign an injury waiver. The kind that any good ambulance chaser will tell you is not worth the paper it is written on. Other changes involve changing special dues to be tied closely to the regular members dues. For example a life membership in most any organization is equivalent to twenty years of dues. Our current life membership is about half that. We also have added new sections to spell out rights, privileges, and obligations of membership. Officers jobs have been more carefully defined. As the club grows bigger, we think these changes will help.

HUNTER SAFETY

The club is planning on offering a Hunter Safety course the end of April. The April newsletter should have the dates. We now have an additional state certified instructor. Our President, Laverne Hosier, is now qualified to teach Hunter Safety. Congratulations Vern!

With two instructors, we anticipate being a little more reliable in offering classes. Of course now, you can take Hunter Safety on the Internet. But, you still need to take a test with an instructor, I believe.

ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE

There was an incident at the club about a month ago. One of the members was reloading his carry-gun after a night of shooting. In the process an unexpected discharge occurred. This incident resulted in the club placing the member on probation for six months. During the probationary period the member is not to enter or leave the building with a loaded firearm.

New rules are being enforced to prevent repeats of this incident. Persons carrying loaded firearms, must proceed to the bullet trap and unload their arms while keeping the muzzle pointed at the sand. When leaving, the same process is repeated for loading. Once a loaded gun is holstered, it will not be removed for any purpose other than organized shooting events that require using holstered weapons (Action Pistol). In other words, if you are not shooting, your gun must be empty.

At some, if not all, NRA sanctioned shoots, there is a command given when a particular shoot has ended. It is as follows, "Slides back, cylinders out, magazines out, guns on the bench. Make the line safe." After this command is given your gun must be on the bench in a condition where safety officers can see that the gun is obviously unloaded. When the downrange work is completed, the next command will be, "The line is no longer safe. You may handle your guns." In between these commands, anyone found handling firearms will be asked to leave. "Make the line safe," means your hands have no guns in them.

At South Haven, we have been much less formal. We have tolerated, sight adjustments, applying gun oil, and close inspection on empty firearms while folks are down range. The club is getting too big for that now. A pretty good safety rule to

follow at any club, is to not have your gun out unless you are on the firing line. On the firing line, you should not have your gun loaded unless it is your turn to shoot, and the range is clear.

STOP IT & LET SOMEBODY KNOW

One of the things that didn't happen after the accidental discharge was that no officer was notified. On the wall, next to the telephone are the numbers of all the officers of the club. Should any incident arise where safety is being, or has been compromised, call an officer, and report the details. The club cannot fix what it doesn't know about.

Even more importantly, it is **every** members duty to stop unsafe acts. Often people do not know they are being unsafe. Sometimes they take questionable short cuts. Altercations are not required. If the person refuses to stop, an officer should be called. Anyone who is asked to leave by an officer, or range captain, and refuses to do so will have his membership terminated. Plus have restraining orders applied, if necessary.

The club exists as a place for people to enjoy shooting sports. They must be able to do it safely.

NEXT MEETING **March 13 7:00 PM**

We would like some feedback on the bylaws. If there are no significant changes we may have the changes listed in the next newsletter. Yeah, I know, it's really exciting reading.

We need to set the schedule for the summer. Are there any new events that you would like to see? Dan is firming up the details on the 3 gun shoot. I do not recall a single comment about the lack of sporting clays last year. Is this as dead (at South Haven) as 3D archery?

ROD & GUN CLUB BANQUET

The fall banquet for the Club will be held at the Moose again. The date is October 21. We are looking for chair person to head up the planning.

TRAP & BREAKFAST

It's a good year for shooting. The weather has been nice. The menu has expanded. We have raffled off two guns so far. This is already March, so don't put it off any longer. March 26 should be the last breakfast. After that it's back to pop tarts, or toaster waffles.

WILD GAME DINNER

The wild game dinner was canceled at the February meeting. The response was underwhelming. It seems that few members were successful enough to have game to share. Or, they don't care to participate. Either way, the number of folks showing interest was not enough to continue with the planning.



Lake Michigan Chapter Membership Information

Interested in joining? [e-mail Bob Linderman](mailto:Bob.Linderman@yaho.com) rwlinderman@yahoo.com or call him at 269-637-0534.

MICHIANA ARCHERY SHOOT

South Haven will host the last Michiana archery tournament held in South Haven on March 18. Contact Dave Overhiser, 637-5005, for further details.

CPL CLASS

April 29-30

There will be a class on personal protection suitable for applying for a concealed pistols license. This will be held April 29-30. The fee is \$100. This class has been scheduled in response to a number of folks who were trying to find another class after the February one filled.

DONATIONS

We thank folks like Greg Bodfish and Dave Rainey who added a little extra while paying their dues.

SCOPE RINGS - Part 2

So after my super deal on scope rings through Amazon.com, I happened to be in On Target in Kalamazoo. What do you think I found? My \$6.25 scope rings for \$5.95. Ouch! Who would have ever thought that On Target would... Oh well, it would have cost me more in gasoline to drive to On Target than the shipping and handling from Amazon cost me. So, I didn't kick myself too hard. It looks like retailers are finding ways to respond to Internet competition.

SWAP MEET

We are still thinking of holding a swap meet. The date is still to be determined. Would you, and/or a friend, rent a table to get rid of (sell) some of your old stuff? We have 16 six foot tables at \$10 each. And 6 four foot tables at \$5 each. If you have a lot, we have a couple of eight foot tables at \$13 each. The items should be related to fishing, hunting, shooting, reloading, etc. No knick-knacks, clothes, or other typical yard sale stuff.

Call Dan Hosier at 637-1718, or his cell phone 269-214-6727.

Club Calendar for March 2006

New items on the Calendar are usually covered elsewhere in the newsletter.

26 Trap & Breakfast	27 4H	28 Archery	1 Action Pistol	2 Action Pistol	3	4 Youth Bow/Rifle
5 Trap & Breakfast	6	7 Pistol	8 Action Pistol	9 Action Pistol	10	11
12 Trap & Breakfast	13 Meeting 7:00	14 Archery	15 Action Pistol	16 Action Pistol	17	18 Michiana Shoot
19 Trap & Breakfast	20 4H	21 Pistol	22 Action Pistol	23 Club Night AP	24	25
26 Trap & Breakfast	27 4H	28 Archery	29 Action Pistol	30 Action Pistol	31	1 Youth Bow/Rifle

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Detach, or don't, and return to the Club, or any officer, with the appropriate remittance.

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ SPORTING INTEREST _____

e-mail _____ NRA # _____ (or an application)

Dues enclosed \$50.00

Next Meeting – March 13, 2005 7:00 PM

Gun Show – Grand Rapids – Delta Plex – March 4-5

SOUTH HAVEN ROD & GUN CLUB
68611 8TH Avenue
South Haven, MI 49090-8162

FREE