



BEAVER COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CONSERVATION League



March 2, Minutes
Meeting Location - Rochester Club
North Boroughs Hosting

MEMBER CLUBS & AGENCIES

P = Present, A = Absent

P	Aliquippa	Dan Householder	P	Five Points	Jim Farland	P	Pine Run	Rob Smith
	(Alt)	Mike Archer		(Alt)	Dan Losco		(Alt)	Dick Smith
P	Ambridge	Bob Dormanesh	P	FOAC	Craig Holdren	P	Pittsburgh Downriggers	Andy Theodore
	(Alt)	None		(Alt)	Sam Piccinini		(Alt)	David Holderny
P	Beaver Falls	Larry White	A	Green Valley	Don Spearing	P	Rochester	George Sullivan
	(Alt)	None		(Alt)	Karen Laurito		(Alt)	Ray Spolarich
P	B.V. Archers	Walt Ketterer	P	Koppel	Shawn Cox	A	Sewickley	Rod Cowan
	(Alt)	George Klinger		(Alt)	Jerry Tillia		(Alt)	None
P	B.V. Rifle & Pistol	Bob Oles	P	Midland	Mark Benzio	P	Southside	Tonya Cable
	(Alt)	Clinton DeLuca		(Alt)	Dave Knight		(Alt)	Guy Cable
A	Conway	None	P	N. Boroughs	Harry Norton	P	PGC	Matt Kramer
	(Alt)	None		(Alt)	None	A	PFBC	Jeremy Allen

OFFICERS

	President		Vice President		Treasurer		Secretary
P	Tony Rich	P	Rich Kerlin	P	Mark Benzio	P	Bob Oles

Call to Order - 7:00 p.m.

Host Club Welcome - Bob Reid, President, North Boroughs

Guests - Frank Edder, Sara Benzio, Ron & Debbie Smith, Jack Whitehead

Last Month's Minutes - Motion to approve, FOAC/Aliquippa. Passed.

Treasurer's Report - Motion to approve, Aliquippa/Rochester. Passed.

COMMUNICATIONS

- None

STATE AGENCIES

PA GAME COMMISSION - Matt Kramer

- Pennsylvania hunters harvested 3,529 bears in 2016, the fifth highest number in state history
- The PGC will begin accepting applications March 1, 2017 for it's 31st class of Wildlife Conservation Officer Cadets pending the Governor's approval to use reserve funds. [More information](#)
- PGC will host its annual waterfowl briefing Friday March 10, 2017, 1:00pm at its Northwest Regional Office 1509 Pittsburgh Road, Franklin, Pa. The public is invited. Comments can be submitted at WaterfowlComments@pa.gov
- Waterfowl art work will be on display at PGC's HQ 2001 Elmerton Ave. Harrisburg, Pa. weekdays between March 6 through March 15. from 7:45am to 4:00pm
- Pennsylvania's new Wildlife Action Plan has been approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The 2015-2025 Action Plan insures the PGC & PFBC remain eligible to receive federal funding. It offers guidance on how best to tackle the problems of Pennsylvania's 664 species of greatest conservation need and offers a vision on how people who care about wildlife can advance conservation and awareness of the problems wildlife face.
- Hunter Trapper Education Instructor Update Seminar Dinner will be at the Rochester Sportsmen's Club March 28th at 6pm. This is an annual event where all of our instructors assemble for updates that took place throughout the year and answer any questions they may have. It's also a thank you for all the work our volunteer instructors do.
 - Chase Cable is a junior instructor with us. Chase will be assisting with a class at Southside.
- Matt graduated from the WCO training school March 8, 2008. He's been with us in Beaver County for 9 years now. He thanked the league for all of its support through those years and thanked us for our continuing support for the Game Commission. [Matt's Report](#)

PA FISH & BOAT COMMISSION - Jeremy Allen

- Absent

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOOKLET - Rob Smith

- Received an update tonight from Southside. If your club's bio needs updated, you need to get that information to Rob by the May meeting. Rob's email is rasmith10@comcast.net

GAME - Mike Harcher

- New record for archery non typical buck set. The buck had 26 points, 13 on each side. [Article](#)
- The 2017 Elk survey is underway in Pennsylvania to determine the number of hunting licenses to be offered.
- The Pheasant Chick and Egg programs started in 1933 have come to an end due to financial reasons. [Article](#)
- Pennsylvania State Representative Dave Maloney bags outdoors triple play with bow. [Article](#)
- PGC made a preliminary decision to make the Deer Control Red Tag Program more accessible to PA hunters. It eliminated the two year waiting period for farmers to participate and remove the Public Access requirement to enrolled land.
- Rare Snowy Owl Draws Crowds in Bradford County. [Article](#)

POLLUTION - Mike Harcher

- Obama's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services lead order has been put on hold. [Article](#)
- The Susquehanna / Juniata Rivers smallmouth bass fisheries have greatly improved. Bass fishing these rivers could become a reality in 2018.
- Study says grass carp have invaded three of the Great Lakes. [Article](#)
- Trump's EPA nominee vows to enforce the Chesapeake Bay's "pollution diet." [Article](#)

FISHING DERBY- Mike Zon

- The 2017 Fishing Derby is scheduled for Saturday April 29, from 8am to 12pm at Hopewell Community Park for kids 15 and under.
- Registration begins at 6:30am.
- Fish will be delivered April 27, at 12pm. The lake will then be closed until the kids derby.
- Derby flyers were distributed to delegates
- Prizes and trophies will be picked up this month.
- If you would like to lend a hand, contact Mike. 724-683-5880. [Flyer](#)
- Tony - Pittsburgh Down Riggers has offered a Charter Fishing Day that we could use as a fund raiser and give away at the Fishing Derby, or maybe the Youth Field Da.

- Rich - Mike also runs the Adult Fishing Derby the following day at Hopewell Lake. Since we've had free use of this lake for a number of years, we might want to think about providing a prize for the Adult program.
 - Motion to authorize \$25 for Mike to purchase a prize or prizes for the Adult Derby. Midland/BVRPC. Passed.
- Tony - The Pittsburgh Down Riggers has a great Walleye Fishing School program but not enough people signed up last time so they had to cancel that class. Maybe the League could help with this program by offering a Boaters Safety Course for kids along with the Walleye School. Rich and Mike are certified instructors in this area and could do that. Andy agreed. We should form a committee for this.
- Andy - Pittsburgh Down Riggers has fishing education programs for steelhead and perch. Maybe we could get together with Mike and get other programs going.

CONSERVATION CAMP - Breanna Edmiston

- Absent

ARCHERY - Walt Ketterer

- Introductory Youth Archery every Thursday evening 6pm until whenever the archer wants to leave. No experience necessary. There is no charge for this program.
- Indoor archery Tuesday evenings until the end of March, we're open to the public if you want a nice warm place to shoot your bow. If you're a non member cost is \$7.
- First Sunday in April we'll have our first outdoor 3D shoot
- We start our weekly 3D shoots on the first Tuesday in April.
- April 8th we're having a swap meet 9am-3pm. \$10/table. Contact Walt at 724-843-3254. [Flyer](#)
- <http://www.beavervalleyarchers.com>

EVENTS COORDINATOR - Craig Holdren

- Still working on the standardized form for submitting activity information to go on the website.
- Showed the 2nd Amendment Rally flyer that is on the website and asked everyone to circulate them as much as possible. Please post on your club's websites. [Rally Flyer with transportation Info.](#)

LEGISLATIVE - Bob Oles

- 12 hours before the Obama administration became history, then U.S. Fish and Wildlife Director, Dan Ashe, ordered a new lead ammunition ban on certain federal lands. He said the order was necessary to protect wildlife from lead exposure. Fortunately the new Trump Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke reversed that ban on his first day in office. Elections do make a difference. Your involvement does make a difference. [Article](#)
- The 2017 "Make the 2nd Amendment Great Again" Harrisburg Rally is on Monday, May 22nd. We need you there to make as big an impact as possible. [Rally Flyer with transportation Info.](#)
- One of the pro-gun bills we'll be talking to our legislators about is switching from Pennsylvania's current PICS (Pennsylvania Instant Check System) to NICS (National Instant Check System). [2017 List of Pro-Gun Bills](#) Ace Sporting Goods, one of western Pennsylvania's largest gun dealers, provides one example as to why we need to get rid of PICS. This is a portion of one of their advertisements. "[Due To The Pennsylvania Background System Being Inoperative For Periods Of Time, We Have Decided To Extend Our Smith & Wesson Sale Through Wednesday March 1st.](#)" The 3rd page of this link lists the hours PICS was down. Imagine trying to make a living and having a government agency blocking your sales. [Click here for link](#)
 - State Representative Jason Ortity, representing parts of Allegheny and Washington Counties, is the prime sponsor of this legislation. [Read Jason's Co-Sponsorship Memoranda](#)
- Calls and emails from anti-gun groups are still coming into the PGC, 10 against to every 1 in favor of permitting semi-auto rifles for hunting. You still have until the next Game Commissioners Board meeting, March 27 & 28, to contact the PGC to let them know how you feel. Remember, using semi-automatic rifles for hunting is already law. That law gave the game commission the authority to determine when and how they are used. So that's why the anti-gun groups are concentrating on the game commission. Email pgccomments@pa.gov Or call 717-787-4250.
 - [Pro semi-auto sample letter.](#)

FISH COMMITTEE - Mike Barcaskey

- Absent

HUNTER EDUCATION - George Sullivan

- Upcoming Hunters Education Classes

4/22/17	Center Twp Fire Hall #2	9am - 4pm
5/2/17	Rochester Club	Training for 8 new instructors
5/6/17	Midland Club	9am - 4pm
6/3/17	Aliquippa Club	9am - 4pm

- Those youth who are planning on attending this year's Conservation Camp are **required** to attend a Hunters Education class prior to camp.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT - George Sullivan

- The Maple Syrup Festival is scheduled for April 1st & 2nd.

YOUTH FOUNDATION - Jerry Hooks

- BCSCLYF meeting held Feb 16th.
- Shawn is developing a Power Point presentation that we can take to the clubs to help people understand what we do.
- Handed out plaques of appreciation to Pine Run, Midland & Beaver Valley Archers, for for donations to the Youth Foundation.
- Five events the Youth Foundation organizes and sponsors. [Flyer](#)
- Dan - Senator Vogel is having a Youth Extravaganza on June 24th from 11am- 2pm at CCBC Dome. Planning on setting up a table with literature to inform the public of what we do. I would like some help.
- Dan - If you send a communication to the Youth Foundation's P.O. Box 376 address that is returned to you as undeliverable, please save that returned letter's envelope and call me immediately. I need the post office's code from that envelope which will tell them why it didn't make it to our P.O. Box. 724-728-3863
- [YF meeting minutes NF](#)

FUND RAISING - Need a Chairman

- Tony - We have a fund raiser for Restore Hereford Manor Lake. A \$20 ticket for 20 guns. 2 guns/day for 10 days. Will go off in July. To purchase tickets contact, Tony Rich at 724-561-8290 or Keith Grable at 724-728-5045

YOUTH MENTORED HUNTS - Rich Kerlin

- No Report

YOUTH FIELD DAY - Youth Foundation / Jerry Hooks

- Scheduled for Saturday, July 15th at Midland Sportsmen's Club.

BANQUET - Tony Rich

- March 4 is the League's fund raising banquet for bus transportation to the 2nd Amendment Rally. See Legislative topic for more rally information.
- I ordered 230 meals.
- The only club I haven't heard back from concerning ticket sales is Green Valley. I've tried to contact the club's President and still haven't heard anything from him. Just to reiterate something that everyone should automatically know, if you take tickets to sell, you're accountable for those tickets.
- The speakers will be, State Representatives, Daryl Metcalfe, Rick Saccone and Aaron Bernstine. And the President of the Fish and Boat Commission, Rocco Ali.
- We will have a copy of the Restore Hereford Manor Lake petitions at each table for guests to sign.

BIG KNOB FAIR - Guy, Tonya & Chayce Cable

- No Report

OLD BUSINESS

- Tony - Hereford Manor Lake (HML). I finally received the contract and permit to post the Restore Hereford Manor Lake sign on Hereford Manor Lake property. The sign is important because it illustrates to passers by, that there is movement toward bringing this lake back to life and could sponsor additional support.
- State Representatives Aaron Bernstine and Donna Oberlander wrote a letter to the Governor requesting funds for the survey, study and estimated costs for restoring HML be released. It was also signed by 8 State Representatives and 6 State Senators. That's substantial.
- Concerning the bylaws changes that were read 3 times and voted on at the Feb 2nd meeting. It was incorrectly announced at the meeting that they passed. Total votes cast were 13. 8 yeas and 5 nays. The current bylaws require a 2/3 majority vote and that was not achieved. Sorry for the confusion, we knew 2/3 majority was a requirement, but it just slipped by us. Therefore, the proposed bylaws changes did not pass.
- Larry - Would individual members have a voice at meetings?
 - Tony - Individual membership would increase income and broaden the number of people who receive the minutes. More people would have an accurate and in-depth understanding of what the league is and does. They would not have a vote. They would not have a voice at the meetings except during the "Good of the Order" when anyone can speak about anything.

- Dan Householder - Having a vote in an organization is an important element to a lot of people. Perhaps using a different term for this individual member, such as associate member might be acceptable to more people.

NEW BUSINESS

- Shawn - Are we planning on attending the the National Wild Turkey Federation Benefit banquet this year? It's on April 8th 5pm at Ambridge Sportsmen's Club.
 - Motion to approve purchasing a table of 8 for this event in support of the Turkey Federation. Approximate cost \$800. Southside/BVRPC. Passed.
 - Jerry Hooks - Any prizes won off one of the tickets the league purchases will be the property of the league.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Mike Harcher is gathering up information about HML and the league's involvement. If you have anything that would be beneficial, please see Mike.
- Tony showed a picture of the first group, 22 people that went to the 2nd Amendment Rally.
- George - Pastor Bob Singleton is a member of Rochester Club and he helps us out frequently at events like the Youth Field Day. He's also a Hunter Education instructor. Pastor Bob has bladder cancer. He's going in for chemotherapy treatment but he's probably going to have to have his bladder removed anyway. Doctor's also discovered an aortic aneurism. Please keep Pastor Bob in your prayers.
- Sara Benzio - Attended the Wildlife Leadership Academy camp this past summer. The after camp outreach is geared toward helping the next generation of wildlife ambassadors come on line which empowers and encourages high school age youth to become conservation ambassadors within their local communities and their state. Sara's goal on her wildlife journey is to raise \$500 for "Ten for the Next Gen". Part of that is to ask individuals and businesses to make a small monetary donation toward that end. It's a 501c3 group so it's tax deductible. This donation will go to the " Pennsylvania Institute of Conservation Education" which provides other kids with the conservation experience like she had. This does the same thing the league's youth hunts and youth field days do. It's all about educating the next generation. [Link to Sara's Wildlife Leadership Academy site](#)
 - Motion to donate \$100. BV Archers/Five Points. Passed.
 - Rich - Sara was named to the Governor's Youth Council for Hunting Fishing and Conservation. Throughout the state, there are only 20 youth at a time, ages 14 through 18, who have the honor of serving on this Council.
 - Governor Wolf's Executive Order 2015-13 - Governor's Advisory Councils for Hunting Fishing and Conservation. November 24, 2015 Section 6 established this Youth Council. [Link to Executive Order](#)
- Tonya - Tonya's nephew, Lucas Hrubovcak, a senior at Southside has a senior project, a Spaghetti Dinner to benefit Troop 496. Will be held at Mill Creek Presbyterian Church 5005 Route 51 Hookstown, Pa 15050. Saturday March 25th noon till 9pm. Contact Tina at tinahrubovcak@gmail.com or Tonya at 724-494-6465 or gtcttc@yahoo.com or Text Lucas at 724-987-8952. [Flyer](#)
- Tonya introduced Deb and Ron Smith, Grandparents of the Zack Attack Man.
- Tony - Rochester is raffling off 200 pounds of meat, pork, chicken, or beef. The early and late drawing on May 31st. Tickets are \$3 or a book for \$15.

50/50 DRAWING

- \$60 Rob Smith. Rob donated half of his winnings to the Youth Foundation.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

- BVRPC/Rochester. 9:35pm

BCSCL 2017 Meeting Dates & Locations

January 5th	Aliquippa Bucktails	May 4th	Southside	Sept 14th	Ambridge
February 2nd	Rochester	June 1st	Pine Run	Oct 5th	Koppel
March 2nd	Rochester, North Boroughs Hosting	July 6th	Conway	Nov 2nd	Beaver Falls
April 6th	B.V. Archers	Aug 3rd	Midland	Dec 14th	Five Points

Bob Oles, Secretary BCSCL

