



BEAVER COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CONSERVATION LEAGUE



January 2, 2025, Minutes Meeting Location – Aliquippa Bucktails MEMBER CLUBS & AGENCIES

P = Present, A = Absent

P	Aliquippa	Rick Caton	P	FOAC	Craig Holdren	A	NWTF 2 nd Chance Toms	Jeff Ruckert
	(Alt)	Guy Cable		(Alt)	Frank Kelly		(Alt)	
P	Ambridge	Tim Watson	A	Forest Grove	Mike Karkalla	A	Pine Run	Rob Smith
	(Alt)	Tim Reichl		(Alt)	Tim Hartzell		(Alt)	Jeff Ruckert
A	Beaver Falls	Larry White	P	Green Valley	Mike Sabat	A	Rochester	George Sullivan
	(Alt)	Frank Eder		(Alt)	Joe McMullen		(Alt)	Jerry Hooks
A	B.V. Archers	Walt Ketterer	A	Hopewell VFW	Gary Grey	P	Sewickley	Mark Crevar
	(Alt)	John Suroweic		(Alt)	Sue Tranter		(Alt)	Laurie Bush
P	B.V Rifle & Pistol	Lee Gower	A	Marion Hill	Daniel Freed	A	Western PA Youth Outdoorsmen	Lee Heeter
	(Alt)	Rick Wall		(Alt)	Keith Radcliff		(Alt)	Ron Neff
P	Conway	Ray Eppinger	P	Midland	Jerry Wamsley			
	(Alt)			(Alt)	Mark Benzio			
P	Ellwood - Wampum	Tim Kelly	P	North Boroughs	Robert Zeman			
	(Alt)	Dick Bayer		(Alt)	Tim Reichle	P	PFBC	Jeremy Allen
P	Five Points	Jim Farland	A	Northside	Al Straub			
	(Alt)	Dan Losco		(Alt)	Jason Hominsky	P	PGC	Madison Pugh

OFFICERS

P = Present, A = Absent

P	President	A	Vice President	P	Treasurer	P	Secretary
	Rich Kerlin		Dan Householder		Mark Benzio		Tonya Cable

Call to Order – 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance & Sportsmen's Pledge & Moment of Silence

- Thoughts and prayers for the recent loss of our fellow sportsmen.

Host Club Welcome – Scott Snider, Membership Secretary of Aliquippa Bucktails

Guests

- Life Scout, CJ, his mom, and assistant Scout Leader of Troop 496.
- Multiple members of the Aliquippa Bucktails

Last month's minutes

- Correction
 - Strike "Green Valley – 2nd Saturday of month and the 4th Saturday of the month small bore. For youth. Free."
 - Replace with "More detailed information on Green Valley Sportsman's "Youth program's" Shooting and Archery. "All free"!!! All are welcome, must be accompanied by a mature adult. "Rifle". 22 is in the fall, September through December, first Saturday and the third Saturday of the month at 6pm to 8pm. Archery is in the winter, January through April. The second Saturday and the fourth Saturday of the month are from 6 to 8pm. We have different size bows and rifles. In Right and Left-handed. We supply Targets and safety equipment. RSO Instructors will be there for safety and to help. Also please see are google calendar/Youth Activities for any updates. Address: 101 Fishpot Road, Aliquippa PA 15001. Any questions can be asked using the club email: gvsc101@gmail.com Thank you very much, Michael A Sabat III

Motion to accept for audit. BVRP / Ellwood-Wampum. Passed.

Treasurer's Report – Mark Benzio (see Mark for details)

- \$37.74 pd for 2025 Booklet sample & \$500 Beaver HS Archery Sponsorship
- Membership deposit of \$1250
- Submit 2025 Credential Sheets & Dues, ASAP (mail it in or bring it to the February Meeting at Rochester[2025 Credential Sheet](#)

Motion to accept for audit. Five Points / Ambridge. Passed.

Elections

- No report.

Communications

- No report.
 - ALL League correspondence to the Post Office Box address listed below.
 - BCSCCL – PO Box 276, Beaver, PA 15009

State Agencies

PA Game Commission (PGC) – Madison Pugh

The Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners' Wildlife Management Committee today held a virtual meeting to discuss and recommend proposals for the 2025-26 hunting and trapping seasons.

The committee advanced the following proposals to the agenda for January 2025 Board of Commissioners meeting:

- Expanding "Ag Tag" seasons and making the application process easier
- Increasing the number of antlerless licenses that an individual can be in possession of in Wildlife Management Units 5C and 5D.
- Limiting the number of elk licenses that can be drawn by nonresidents annually.

- And requiring hunters to purchase a qualifying Pennsylvania hunting license before applying for an elk license.

While these proposals, as part of the January 2025 meeting agenda, will be considered by the full Board of Commissioners, no change would be adopted unless a majority of the board votes twice to approve it – first preliminarily, then finally, in January and April.

The full Board of Commissioners is scheduled to meet Jan. 24 and 25 at the Game Commission's headquarters, 2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. The agenda for that meeting will be posted online prior to the meeting.

Avian influenza (AI) is suspected to have caused the deaths of about 200 snow geese found Monday in the greater Allentown area.

Dead birds were recovered from two sites, one in Lower Nazareth Township in Northampton County and another in Upper Macungie Township in Lehigh County. Preliminary in-state testing indicated the presence of highly pathogenic AI (HPAI).

Because avian influenza viruses are naturally occurring and ever-present in wild birds, preventing or controlling HPAI in wild populations is not feasible. However, safeguards can be taken to protect domestic birds or wild birds held in captivity. Owners should always prevent contact between their birds and wild birds to prevent the spread of disease. Pennsylvanians who care for captive wild birds, domestic backyard poultry, or are involved in commercial poultry operations should review their biosecurity plans to protect their flocks.

Waterfowl hunters are encouraged to continue participating in the remaining season but should take precautions while handling and dressing birds. These include wearing nitrile gloves, protective eye wear, and a mask. Following any hunt make a point to practice good hygiene, including washing hands and any clothing used in the process of dressing game that may contain blood or feces.

Ambridge Sportsman's Club has offered to host the Bow Ed and Cable Restraint class. At the meeting, it was discussed that Ambridge would host Cable Restraint while Five Points would host Bow Ed. Interested instructors are encouraged to discuss availability and/or possible dates amongst themselves and the respective club and then contact Mike Zon to finalize scheduling.

Madison Pugh | State Game Warden
Pennsylvania Game Commission | Southwest Region Office
4820 Route 711 | Bolivar, PA 15923
Phone: 1.833.742.4868/9453 | Fax: 724.238.5127
www.pgc.pa.gov

[PA Hunting and Trapping Digest](#)

PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) – Jeremy Allen

Who Needs a Fishing License/Permit

A valid Pennsylvania fishing license is required of persons age 16 and over. Anglers do not need to display licenses but must be able to provide them either in print or on their digital device upon the request of an officer.

Fishing License Options

Whether you are a Pennsylvania resident or visit Pennsylvania to fish, there are lots of license options to choose from. Buy an annual or multi-year license. Senior citizens enjoy discounted licenses and are eligible for a lifetime license. In addition, special licenses are available for disabled veterans.

Trout Fishing Permit

A current Pennsylvania trout permit is required to fish for trout in Pennsylvania waters.

An angler “fishes for trout” when the angler:

- Takes, kills, or possesses, while in the act of fishing, a trout from any Pennsylvania or boundary waters.
- Fishes in waters under [special trout regulations\(opens in a new tab\)](#)
- Fishes in any [Class A Wild Trout Waters or Wilderness Trout Streams\(opens in a new tab\)](#) or their tributaries.
- Fishes in streams and rivers designated as [stocked trout waters\(opens in a new tab\)](#) on February 19 through May 31.

Lake Erie permit required for fishing in Lake Erie and its tributaries.

The current cadet class has completed the police academy portion of their training and will be starting fish and boat training at H.R. Stackhouse in State College PA. I have heard that we will soon be advertising for the upcoming class that will start later this year.

I am in the process of reviewing the 2025 Trout stocking schedule. We must have corrections made soon. Looking at it, there does not seem to be any changes from last year as far as the number of trout and trout stocked waters. The final draft should be available online next month.

Jeremiah Allen | Waterways Conservation Officer
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Beaver County
236 Lake Road | Somerset, PA 15501-1644
Phone: 814.233.9115 | Fax: 814.445.8974
E-mail: jereallen@pa.gov

[PA Fish and Boat Commission](#)

Affiliated Organizations

Conservation District - Lindsey Shepler, Watershed Specialist / Environmental Educator – *absent*

[BCCD Newsletter pdf](#)

- January 4, 2025, will be our first public event of the year. We will be hosting a hiking tour of our wetland and education center with the goal of encouraging people to spend more time outdoors. We will share a history of our grounds and talk about some of the things that can be seen and observed as the trail is hiked.
- We will again be partnering with PA Master Naturalist to host a spring course in Beaver County. This will be a 12-week interactive course. As of today, we have 3 registered and 2 in the process of being registered for the class. We need 10 participants to host the course for the year. The early bird discount has been extended through Sunday January 5th. Signups will continue at full price until January 15th.
- Please see the report attached below to read our year end recap of our West Nile Virus Program

- 2025 Beaver County Envirothon is scheduled for Wednesday April 2nd. We are beginning to take volunteers for the day of the event to help with keeping score, serving lunch to students, setting up, clean up, and more. We can also use help the day before to set up the lodge with tables and chairs.
 - Contact Lindsey Shepler via email lindsey.shepler@bccdpa.us or at 724-378-1701 ext. 212 if interested helping volunteer.
- Monday January 6th, we break ground on the \$1.3 million agricultural BMP project on the Wright Brother's Dairy farm in North Sewickley Township. The funds for the project come from Growing Greener Grant money, Pennvest Grant money, and ACAP funding. The project will install a series of agricultural best management practices to reduce sediment and erosion runoff and improve not only the waterways in the area but improve the farm operation as well.
 - [Click here for printable report.](#)

BCSCL Youth Foundation – Jeff Ruckert – absent

Rick Caton – Vice president

- Youth Foundation website www.bcsclyf.com
- Thank everyone for their support!
- Will begin 2025 Youth activities plans.
- BCSCL Youth Foundation Sponsorship Applications available.
- Next meeting Thursday, January 16, 2025 @ 7 pm at Aliquippa Bucktails.
 - Camp & Field Day committee will meet @ 6 pm. All are welcome!!!

We The People of America – Amy Swartzlander

- A list of politician addresses was provided to get the handbook mailings ready to be mailed.
- Next meeting will be January 23, 2025

Committee Reports

Audit Committee – Mark Benzio

- Appoint committee in September for 2025 auditing.

Booklet – Rob Smith / Mark Crevar / Tonya Cable

Contact info (724) 407- 3945 or rasmith10@comcast.net

- Last opportunity to get all updated club bios in for the printing of the new 2025 booklets.
- Working to get the final draft ready by the February 6th meeting to be held at Rochester.
- Once booklets are complete, the website will be updated.

Game – Lindsey Shepler – *absent*

- No report

Pollution – (vacant)

- No report
 - If interested, please reach out to Rich Kerlin with questions regarding the expectations of this committee. Rich Kerlin at kerlinkanine@aol.com or 724-601-6974

- This committee will only need to report quarterly or as needed.

Fishing Derby – Mike Zon – *absent*

- Waiting for township to contact Mike for date.

Fish Committee – Mark Crevar

Neshannock Creek Fly Shop – Stream Conditions.

<https://ncflyshop.com/pages/stream-reports>

Lake Erie Fishing: Water is good; cold front coming through will be making ice.

<https://www.fisherie.com/fishing-reports>

Conservation Camp – Tonya Cable

- Application sent in for Group Camp #2 for June 2025 Camp (week of Father's Day – June 15 – June 21, 2025). Staff and counselors will check in on the Saturday prior to camp for set-up.
- \$250 camp fee per camper. Welcome sponsors for campers.
- Posters, camper applications and counselor applications are being proofread now for print.
 - Will be available on websites, Facebook, minutes, etc.
- Camp committee meeting January 16th at 6:00 pm at Aliquippa Bucktails.
- Sent in for renewing the 2025 food license.
- A detailed report on the camp account was provided to include purchase of ink and food license & the deposit that was made from the gun raffle.

Archery – Walt Ketterer - *absent*

- Green Valley youth archery. See details above in the “corrections for last month’s minutes.”

Events Coordinator – Craig Holdren

- BCSCCL Frank Kelly will be at the next meeting previewing the new BCSCCL website.

All club credentials for the BCSCCL must be updated, checked, and submitted before Thursday February 6, 2025, in WORD format ready for booklet printing and addition to or correction for the BCSCCL website.

- Email club information that you want to share on the website to Craig, Frank & Tonya

Craig - contact at Ch316@comcast.net

Frank - contact at frankkelly51@outlook.com

Tonya - contact at gtcttc@yahoo.com

Legislative – Craig Holdren

- FOAC-Institute leadership has done a lot of things in 2024 to protect and uphold Article 1 Section 21 of the PA Constitution and the 2A.... Here is a list of select highlights:
 - 66+ seminars, appearances at gun shows and special events.
 - Sponsor of the 2024-gun makers' match
 - Booth at the 2024 Great American Outdoor Show, Harrisburg, PA

- 2 FOAC-ILLEA gun bashes
- 7 media appearances
- Published 4 white papers.
- 14 legal actions against tyrants at all levels of government
- 24 newsletters published.
- 19 blog posts
- New industry partner program
- Text campaigns
- YouTube and social media commercials.
- Consulted multiple FOAC-I members and offered guidance and support.
- [Monumental PA supreme court decision](#)
- [Harrisburg ordinances overturned](#)
- [Facilitated the PA state police change to LTCF applications](#)
- Creation of the (eastern PA) East Coast Committee
- FOAC-I president Jim Stoker continued to work closely with pro-gun legislators.
- We didn't lose ground (as predicted) in the legislature after the 2024 election.
- Worked in concert with other like-minded organizations (USCCA, NRA, NSSF, ACSL, BCSCCL, WTPOA, and USP)
- **Solidified our position as the preeminent pro-gun / anti-crime organization in Pennsylvania.**

FOAC-ILLEA Leadership humbly thanks all the members, volunteers, elected officials, host clubs, venues, like minded organizations, and industry professionals that have helped us to protect individual rights in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania! 2025 will have its own challenges and we look forward to more of our members stepping up and volunteering to advance the cause of Liberty in Pennsylvania! Happy New Year!

2025 Great American Outdoor Show Booth: CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

- Folks, we are manning a FOAC-Institute booth at the 2025 [Great American Outdoor Show](#) in Harrisburg, PA from February 1-9, 2025. This is a LONG show, and we need to schedule multiple volunteers for each day to man the booth and share with attendees what FOAC-Institute is all about!
- We need volunteers to pass out literature, sign up individual and business memberships, sell gun bash tickets, and spread the gospel of Article 1 Section 21 of the PA Constitution.
- [If you are available to help on any of the days, email by CLICKING HERE and let us know WHAT specific dates you can COMMIT to manning the booth and include your email, cell phone information.](#)
- Klint Macro, FOAC-Institute VP will be presenting seminars at GAOS on February 7, 8, and 9. The seminar schedule will be updated as we approach the show dates. [You can check the seminar schedule by clicking here.](#)

Semi auto for big game in Pennsylvania.... It *should* be a matter of choice!

Firearms Owners Against Crime has long supported removing restrictions on certain action types for hunting in Pennsylvania.

Back in November of 2016, FOAC fought hard to help HB263 get passed in both the PA house and senate AND lobbied the (then) Governor, Tom Wolf to sign it into law. It was signed into law by Wolf and became Act 168. This legislation gave the Pennsylvania Game Commission the sole discretion to authorize air rifles and semi-auto action types for use in hunting game in the Commonwealth of PA. Now it is almost 9 years later, and we have not seen the full intention of Act 168 come to fruition. The intent of the legislators, representing the people of PA, was for Pennsylvanian's to ultimately have the ability to hunt deer with semi-auto rifles... if they choose to.

Currently, FOAC Leadership along with leadership from Allegheny County Sportsmen's League, Beaver County Sportsmen's and Conservation League, Unified Sportsmen of PA, and other concerned citizens are meeting with PA Game Commission leadership to discuss this issue with the goal of making changes in the 2025-2026 season.

Since the new Director of the PGC, Stephen Smith, has come on board, we have had many positive discussions and believe resolution is now possible. We have another meeting with Director Smith and some of the Commissioners in early January 2025.

Pennsylvanian's can currently hunt predators with semi-auto centerfire rifles (including AR15's) and can hunt small game with rimfire semi auto rifles (including AR15 platforms).

We look forward to continuing to work in a positive direction with Game Commission Executive Director Smith and the Commissioners. We will keep you informed as details emerge.

Whether you want to hunt with an AR15, an M1A, a 1903A3, single shot bolt gun, Pappy's shotgun with a slug, bow, or flintlock; FOAC-Institute believes the government should not restrict your freedom of choice as to which tool you choose to potentially harvest game. It really is all about freedom.

Women are leading the surge in gun ownership – here's why.

By Beth Alcazar [originally published 12/28/24 on The Hill](#)

There's a quiet revolution happening in the world of gun ownership in America — and it's being led by women.

For years, firearms ownership was seen as a predominantly male activity, but recent trends show that women are driving the [surge in new gun buyers](#). A recent [Gallup poll](#) highlights this growing shift, showing that women are not only purchasing firearms at higher rates, they are rethinking what it means to protect themselves and their families in today's world.

This is no fleeting trend; it's a cultural shift. And it's changing the face of gun ownership across the country.

[Click here for FOAC Membership Application](#)

PA Outdoor News article: Rich Kerlin interviewed.

Hunter Education – Mike Zon – *absent*

Hunter Ed Classes scheduled.

- 1/18/25 – Beaver Falls Sportsmen's Association
- 2/8/25 – YMCA (Life Center)
- 3/22/25 Midland Sportsmen's Club
- 8/9/25 Midland Sportsmen's Club
- 5/3/25 Aliquippa Bucktails
- 9/6/24 Aliquippa Bucktails

Other hunter education classes coming in 2025: Cable Restraint to be held at Ambridge & Archery Class to be held at Five Points.

Please get ahold of Mike Zon to get classes scheduled!

REGISTRATION for classes are on-line [PGC](#)

Contact Mike 724-683-5880 (call or text) to host a hunter-trapper education class.

Fundraising – Guy Cable

- Nothing new currently.

Youth Mentored Hunts – Rich Kerlin

Pheasant

- No report

Goose

- No report

Youth Field Day – Tonya Cable / Amy Swartzlander

- July 19, 2025, at Midland Sportsmen's Club.
- Discussion on bringing back the BB guns for the smaller youth.
- Tim Watson offered a "Henry Mini bolt" to raffle off at the Youth Field Day.

Banquet – *vacant*.

- No report.

Big Knob Fair – Dick Bayer (Guy & Tonya)

- Ideas for additional raffles.
- Continued work on the new banner.
- Discussion on locating 350 Legend for fair raffle.

Lead Abatement / Range Management Best Practices – Dan Losco

To contact Dan: email dlosco@creswellwater.net

- Best Management Practice website at <https://www.epa.gov/lead/best-management-practices-lead-outdoor-shooting-ranges>
- **KEEP your Records!**

Firearms Training – Rich Kerlin

- Aliquippa Bucktails hosting 3 classes – [click here for details](#).
 - 1/25/25 Basic Pistol \$100
 - 2/8/25 Personal Protection in the Home \$100
 - 3/1/25 & 3/2/25 (2-day course) Personal Protection Outside the Home \$150
 - Register online: www.nrainstructors.org/search.aspx

Contact Rich Kerlin with additional details for any firearms training. kerlinkanine@aol.com

Unfinished Business

- 2025 Meeting Scheduled locations reviewed for confirmation.
- BCSCS President's Meeting to be held on March 25, 2024, at Hopewell VFW. (Address listed below in 2025 Meeting schedule). Centralized easy access location.
Confirmed by Hopewell VFW.
 - Suggested possible meeting topics of discussion.
- Dan Householder is attending a Zoom meeting tonight with the PA Game Commission Executive Director and Board of Commissioners regarding semi-automatic rifle.
- 2025 Tony Rich Scholarship Application will be sent out in a separate email.
- Lindsey will update us on Board Meeting & elections regarding the BCSCS being the nominating agency.

New Business

- SWAP meet discussion. Get dates picked so that clubs can have the SWAP meets on different dates. Bring dates to the meeting next month.
- Laurel Conservation Club Sportsman's Night Out on Friday, February 28th, 2025 – [click here for details](#) & [Wall of Fame details](#). Hosted by Laurel Middle High School.
- PFSC is trying to rebuild. Discussion on the new southwest division reached out to ask if we are interested in rejoining. They were welcome to come to one of our league meetings.
- Friends of the NRA (the local chapter) Saturday, March 15th, 2025. At the Fez. Discussion on participation and showing them support as they have been very supportive of our youth activities. Money raised at the local chapter banquet, stays within the county. Asked who was interested in going and 7-8 people raised hands to go. Youth Foundation will discuss interests.

Good of the Order

- RCBC Lincoln Day Dinner. Friday 2/28/25. 6pm event start time - Basket raffle and petition party will begin at 5pm. Location - The Fez - 2321 Brodhead Rd, Aliquippa PA 15001. \$50 per person. Sign up on the link below. Your name will be on the list at the door. Join us for an evening of great food, drinks, and conversation with your fellow Republicans at The Fez in Hopewell Township (2321 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001) on Friday, February 28th, 2025. The event will start at 6:00 PM and will be a great opportunity to meet and network with like-minded individuals who share your passion for the conservative cause. You will have an opportunity to meet with candidates running for municipal races as they petition to have their campaigns added to the primary ballot. We will sell tickets for gift baskets provided by local area businesses that support our values. Your attendance and support will help us raise funds to support our candidates and promote conservative values in our community. Do not miss out on this exciting event! The donation for dinner is \$50 per person. No physical tickets are provided. Once you purchase the tickets, your name will be on the guest list at the door. [Click here for more information](#)
- Midland Sportsman's Club Gun Bash on Sunday, May 4, 2025. \$50 / ticket
- Ambridge Springfest Cash Bash on Saturday, May 17, 2025. \$50 / ticket
- Discussion on how Five Points Hunt Club has supported FOAC at a club level as a Life member.
- Meeting dates and locations are on the Google calendar.
- Our Life Scout guest, CJ, spoke on his thoughts on the league meeting held this evening.

50/50 Drawing

- The winner was Ray E.

Motion to Adjourn

- Conway / BVRP Passed. 9:07

2025 Meeting Schedule

Date of Meeting, Club Name & Address

January 2	Aliquippa Bucktails – Confirmed	2564 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001
February 6	Rochester- Confirmed	181 Sportsman Ln, Rochester, PA 15074
March 6	Rochester – North Boroughs Hosting- Confirmed	181 Sportsman Ln, Rochester, PA 15074
April 3	B.V. Archers- Confirmed	277 Rothhart Drive, New Brighton, PA 15066
May 1	Green Valley- Confirmed	101 Fishpot Road, Monaca, PA 15061
June 5	Beaver Falls – Hosted by Western PA Youth Outdoorsmen – Confirmed	247 Sportsman Road, Darlington, PA 16115
July 3	Hopewell VFW- Confirmed	138 Stone Quarry Rd, Aliquippa, PA 15001
August 7	Midland- Confirmed	142 Eastwood Road, Industry, PA 15052
September 11	Ambridge- Confirmed	2900 Ridge Road, Ext., Baden, PA 15005
October 2	Conway- Confirmed	100 Magill Rd, Zelienople, PA 16063
November 6	Beaver Falls- Confirmed	247 Sportsman Road, Darlington, PA 16115
December 11	Five Points- Confirmed	285 Bocktown-Cork Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001

2025 BCSCCL President’s Meeting

Date of Meeting, Club Name & Address

March 25	Hopewell VFW- Confirmed	138 Stone Quarry Rd, Aliquippa, PA 15001
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Tonya Cable, Secretary BCSCCL

gtcttc@yahoo.com

724-494-6465