



BEAVER COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CONSERVATION LEAGUE



April 3, 2025, Minutes
Meeting Location – Beaver Valley Archers

MEMBER CLUBS & AGENCIES

P = Present, A = Absent

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

OFFICERS

P = Present, A = Absent

A	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 Rich Kerlin, Bob Miller Family, Dave Knight

Host Club Welcome – Pete Vorderbrueggen, BV Archers President

Guests

- Josh Wolfe, Beaver Falls Sportsman Club / WPAYO / Blackhawk Archery

Last month's minutes

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

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

- Check written for \$900 (NWTF banquet), \$1,119.95 & \$169.21 (President Meeting Dinner)
- \$800 deposit (dues and camp fees)
- 2024 taxes to be filed on-line.
- For 2025 dues[2025 Credential Sheet](#)

Motion to accept for audit. FOAC / Northside. Passed.

Elections

- No report.

Communications

“Attention, local sportsmen's organizations: The Pennsylvania Game Commission's Shooting Range Improvement Program is accepting applications for shooting range projects, beginning April 1, 2025. The program seeks to provide funding to sportsmen clubs to develop new or unique projects that will positively impact Pennsylvania's hunters and recreational shooters.

A maximum of \$50,000 will be awarded per project. Eligible projects could include Training, storage, and clubhouse facilities; new construction, renovation, relocation; construction of backstops and safety berms; signage; lead remediation; and more.

Submissions are due to the Game Commission by June 1, 2025. Projects are expected to be selected by July 1, 2025.

[Click here](#) for all program information.”

Roman Kozak

State Representative

14th Legislative District

ALL League correspondence to the Post Office Box address listed below.

- BCSCCL – PO Box 276, Beaver, PA 15009

State Agencies

PA Game Commission (PGC) – SGW Michael D. Yeck – District 2-04-1– [report](#)

www.pgc.pa.gov

GAME COMMISSION APPLAUDS SUNDAY HUNTING BILL

- Sen. Dan Laughlin, R-Erie, this week reintroduced Senate Bill 67, which would end the state's prohibition on Sunday hunting and allow the Game Commission to include Sundays when establishing hunting seasons annually.
- Many sportsmen's groups back the initiative, as does the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

GAME COMMISSION DELIVERS ANNUAL REPORT

- Executive Director Steve Smith today testified before the House Game and Fisheries Committee and presented the agency's annual report to the General Assembly.

- To view a copy of the agency's [annual legislative report](#), please visit www.pa.gov/pgc and click "About Us," then, "Reports and Surveys."

GAME COMMISSION RELEASES DEER HARVEST REPORTS

- Pennsylvania hunters harvested about 11% more deer in the 2024-25 hunting seasons than they did the year before. The statewide 2024-25 harvest is estimated at 476,880 deer, 175,280 of them antlered deer and 301,600 antlerless. By comparison, the statewide 2023-24 harvest was estimated at 430,010 deer.
- WMU 1A: 8,900 antlered (8,000), 16,600 antlerless (13,800).
WMU 2A: 8,800 antlered (10,000), and 13,800 antlerless (13,300).
WMU 2B: 8,000 antlered (7,000), and 14,300 antlerless (16,000).

BEAVER COUNTY HUNTER TRAPPER EDUCATION CLASSES

- May 10, 9am-4pm @ Rochester Sportsmen's Club
- May 31, 9am-4pm @ Aliquippa Bucktails
- June 7, 9am-4pm @ Pine Run Sportsmen's Club
- August 8, 9am-4pm @ Midland Sportsmen's Club
- September 6, 9am-4pm @ Aliquippa Bucktails

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

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

[PA Hunting and Trapping Digest](#)

PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) – Jeremy Allen – [Report](#)

Introduction of Waterways Conservation Officer Cadet Michael Mielnicki

Trout Season:

- April 5th (Saturday) opener at 8AM until September 1st
 - 7 inch minimum size, 5 combined species
- Extended Season September 2nd until December 31st and January 1st through February 16th
 - 7 inch minimum size, 3 combined species

Mentored Youth:

- Huge turnout
- Traverse Creek in Raccoon was packed bank to bank
- Could be one of the largest turnouts we have seen in Beaver County
- Great experience for youth anglers to get out in nice weather and recreate
- Awesome interacting with the kids and their parents
- Very few issues arose throughout the day

Get to know Waterways Conservation Officer Cadet Michael Mielnicki

- Born and raised in Imperial just outside of Pittsburgh and the airport
- Currently engaged

- Went to Slippery Rock University for a major in Homeland Security with a minor in Emergency Management
- Worked locally until I found the job offer through a friend for the PFBC

Academy:

- Started August 4th after months of tests and interviews
- Went for a month until September when we transferred to the Mansfield Municipal Police Academy for a modified Act 120 course
- Attended the academy for 4 months and graduated in December
- Came back to the PFBC academy in January and qualified with firearms and did Ice Rescue training
- Worked on Title 30/58 and scenarios and continued numerous topics through March
- Arrived at field training

Extra Information:

- Linesville State Fish Hatchery open house on April 12
- 11AM to 3PM
- Free admission
 - Building turtle platforms
 - Live reptiles and amphibians
 - Walleye spawning demonstration
 - Fish sampling and fileting demonstration

Questions?

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*

- No report

BCSCL Youth Foundation – Jeff Ruckert

- Youth Foundation website www.bcsclfyf.com
- BCSCL Youth Foundation Sponsorship Applications available. [Click here](#).
- Next meeting Thursday, April 17, 2025 @ 7 pm at Aliquippa Bucktails.
 - Camp & Field Day committee will meet @ 6 pm. All are welcome!!!

We The People of America – Amy Swartzlander

- Next meeting will be April 24, 2025 @ 7 pm at Rochester Hotel Restaurant.
 - 218 W Washington St, Rochester, PA 15074
- Membership Application. [Click here](#).

Committee Reports

Audit Committee – Mark Benzio

- Appoint committee in September for 2025 auditing.

Booklet – Craig Holdren

- Advertisement form attached here for the 2025 booklets. [Click here for the advertisement form](#).
- Once booklets are complete, the website can be updated.
- Questions about the booklets or placing an advertisement. Contact Frank frankkelly51@outlook.com

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 – Mark Crevar

- May 3, 2025
- Posters are printed and ready to be posted. See Mark for posters. [Click here for poster](#).
- Fish are ordered. Permit obtained.
- Approx. 50 prizes purchased so far. Prizes are available for tagged fish.
- Receiving donations from clubs (Five points) and individuals (Tim W).
- Aliquippa bucktails donated \$250 for the derby & Beaver Falls donated \$100 for the derby.
- Derby budget and extra donations made by clubs discussed.
- Working with Dunham's, receiving a discount.

Fish Committee – Mark Crevar

Neshannock Creek Fly Shop – Stream Conditions.

The fishermen were out on the catch and release stretch of the stream enjoying some fishing while the water level was good, anticipating the state opener for trout season.

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

Lake Erie Fishing

The steelhead fishing season has come to an end, but early spring offers some good fishing ahead. Anglers have now focused their efforts to walleye in the western basin of the lake as spawning season picks up with temperatures rising.

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

Conservation Camp – Tonya Cable

- Raccoon Creek State Park Group Camp #2 June 15 – June 21, 2025.
- Posters – [click here](#).
- Camper application – click [here](#).
- Counselor application – click [here](#).
- Background checks will need to be filed with the camp director for all counselors and staff spending the night during the week of camp.
 - Follow the 1, 2, 3 below to complete the process. This is **FREE** for volunteers!
 1. PA State Background Check: <https://epatch.pa.gov/home>
 2. PA State Child Abuse Clearance Form:
<https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>
 3. If you have lived in Pennsylvania for the past 10 years, complete this [Volunteer Affirmation](#)
- HTE class for the campers will be held at Aliquippa Bucktails on 5/31/25.
- Counselor / Staff Meetings to be held at Aliquippa Bucktails at 6 pm on April 6, 2025 & April 27th.
- The Camper / Parent Meeting will be held at Aliquippa Bucktails at 6 pm on May 4, 2025.
- 11 campers & 3 counselors have turned in applications.
- Many clubs, organizations & individuals are sponsoring campers.
- Camp account report provided. Need to be audited at least yearly along with the League audit.
- The Sheriff's office will provide night security.
- CPR & Basic 1st aid class is set up for Saturday, June 14th for staff & counselors at the campground in the mess hall.
- Continued work on donations.
- Supplies ordered (t-shirts, backpacks, journals, lanyards, compasses)
- Finalizing schedule for the week of camp.
- Check in on Saturday, June 14th at noon.
- Need more campers, counselors, and staff!

Archery – Walt Ketterer - *absent*

- 3D archery on Tuesday night archery shooting at Beaver Valley Archers. 4pm-7pm
- 1st Sunday of the month 8am – 2pm shoots. Open to the public.

Events Coordinator – Craig Holdren

- BCSCSL Frank Kelly was at the previous meeting previewing the new BCSCSL website.
- All club credentials for the BCSCSL that need to be updated, checked, corrected, and submitted in WORD format; ready for booklet printing and for addition or correction for the BCSCSL website.

All of clubs in the BCSCCL should try to sell at least at least a ½ to a Full page of advertising to cover the cost of publishing the booklet and the updates and maintenance to the website.

Please see the forms attached. [Click here.](#)

Please send an advertisement or business card with an attached credential sheet to Frank Kelly.

- Email club information that you want to share on the website to Frank.

Frank - contact at frankkelly51@outlook.com

Craig - contact at Ch316@comcast.net

Please send any changes, corrections or contact information concerning the minutes to Tonya.

Tonya - contact at gtcttc@yahoo.com

Legislative – Craig Holdren

Pennsylvania State Legislation: PA State House is in majority of the Democrats 102 who normally VOTE anti-gun and the Republicans 101 in minority who normally VOTE pro-gun.

Current PA House legislation can be accessed at this link: <https://foac-illea.org/Proposed-Pennsylvania-House-Legislation>

Senate Legislation: is in majority of the Republicans 27 who normally VOTE pro-gun and the Democrats 23 in minority who normally VOTE anti-gun.

Current PA Senate legislation can be accessed at this link: <https://foac-illea.org/Proposed-Pennsylvania-Senate-Legislation>

All Elections are important: There are 5 democrats on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. 3 of them are up for retention this November. So, if you vote **NO** to retention for Donohue, Dougherty, & Wecht, you will literally kick them off the bench. Your vote in Pennsylvania this November can change everything. The last important Pennsylvania Supreme Court a lot of pro-gun voters stayed home and did not get out and vote.

With a Democrat anti-gun Governor and House “We must stay Vigilant.”

Jim Stoker visited and is in communication with South Beaver Township to discuss Preemption Laws. Their planning commission revoked proposed antigun laws.

Federal Legislation:

US House: Total Firearm Bills, 34 total bills, 10 anti-gun, 22 pro-gun, 2 watched.

<https://foac-illea.org/Proposed-Federal-House-Legislation>

US Senate: Total Firearm Bills, 12 bills to date, 5 anti-gun, 7 pro-gun, 0 watched

<https://foac-illea.org/Proposed-Federal-Senate-Legislation>

Fundraising – Guy Cable

- Milk House Meats raffle tickets for the youth foundation.
 - 250 tickets, 4 #'s to a ticket. The winner will be based on the 7 pm PA evening 3-digit lottery on 8/24/25. The winner will get a \$1,000 Milk House Meats gift card. The number drawn in reverse winner will get a \$500 gift card.

- Annual Youth Foundation Sporting Clay Shoot to be held at Rochester on 8/9/25.

Youth Mentored Hunts – Rich Kerlin - *absent*

Pheasant

- No report

Goose

- No report

Youth Field Day – Amy Swartzlander

- July 19, 2025, at Midland Sportsmen's Club.
- Posters are printed. [Click here for poster.](#)
- In need of donated items for the sportsmen auction table. [Donation request letter.](#)
- Solicited Rural King, Dunham's, Cabela's, Bass Pro Shop and Tractor Supply.
- Need more help with the Muzzle loader / black powder station.
- Registration online. 45 youth registered to date. QR code available on the poster. [Click here to register.](#)

Banquet – (President's Meeting)

- Extensive meeting minutes with many attachments were sent out.
- Approx. 70 people in attendance, representing 21 clubs / organizations.

Big Knob Fair – Dick Bayer - absent (Guy & Tonya)

- Will send check in for table registration to reserve our spot.
- Working on getting the raffle gun.

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

- BVRP hosting classes. [Click here for details.](#)
- First Shots
 - Friday, June 13th, 2025 (5 PM - 8 PM)
 - Friday, July 11th, 2025 (5 PM - 8 PM)
 - Friday, August 8th, 2025 (5 PM - 8 PM)
- First Steps
 - Saturday April 5th, 2025 (8:30 AM to roughly 2:30 PM)
 - Saturday October 25th, 2025 (8:30 AM to roughly 2:30 PM)
- Women on Target
 - Saturday May 17th, 2025 (8:30 AM to roughly 2:30 PM)
 - Saturday September 20th, 2025 (8:30 AM to roughly 2:30 PM)
- Appleseed
 - June 21-22, 2025 (Event starts at 8:30. Please arrive early to allow time for setup and sign in.)

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

Unfinished Business

- 2025 Tony Rich Scholarship. [application](#)
- NWTF Banquet on April 19th. Confirm the 8 people attending.
- Ambridge has approved hosting the 2-day Cable Restraint Class. Awaiting confirmation of the dates from PA Game Commission & Coordinator Mike Zon.

New Business

- none

Good of the Order

- Midland Sportsman's Club Gun Bash on Sunday, May 4, 2025. \$50 / ticket
- Ambridge Springfest Cash Bash on Saturday, May 17, 2025. \$50 / ticket
- Rochester Sportsmen's Gun Bash on Sunday, April 27, 2025, at Big Knob Grange. \$50 / ticket
- Aliquippa Bucktails Ham Shoot on April 6, 2025. Open at 10 am. Shoot starts at 11 am.
- Five Points 11th Annual Hunt of a Lifetime to be held on August 9th & 10th. [Donation form](#)
Motion made to donate \$250 (sponsor a target). Aliquippa / FOAC. Passed. [Poster](#)
- Concealed Carry class on April 15, 2025, at Big Knob. The phone number to register for the class is 724-847-1352. [Concealed carry poster](#)
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- Youth Invitational will be held on August 16th & 17th. Expecting 400 youth.
- Austin Miller Memorial Shoot September 20, 2025.
- WPAYO Gun Bash will be held on October 11, 2025.
- Discussion on collecting hunting gear that might be needed by young hunters. Jeff offered to oversee if the league chooses to do this.

50/50 Drawing

- None

Motion to Adjourn

- Conway / Pine Run Passed. 9:01 pm

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