



BEAVER COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CONSERVATION LEAGUE

May 1, 2025, Minutes
Meeting Location – Green Valley



MEMBER CLUBS & AGENCIES

P = Present, A = Absent

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|----------------|---|---------------------|----------------|---|----------------------------------|------------------|
| P | Aliquippa | Rick Caton | A | 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) | George Klinger | | (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 |
| A | 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 | A | PFBC | Jeremy Allen |
| P | Five Points | Jim Farland | A | North Boroughs | Robert Zeman | | | |
| | (Alt) | Dan Losco | | (Alt) | Tim Reichle | P | PGC | Matt Kramer |

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 Dave Knight Family.

Host Club Welcome – Mike Sabat, Green Valley Delegate

Guests

- PFSC – Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen & Conservationists, Inc
- PFSC Club Affiliation Form / Instructions. [Affiliation Form](#) [Dues and Rate](#) [Application Page 1](#) [Page 2](#)
- The Conservation Lantern. [Click here.](#)
 - Ed Sadler, PFSC Vice President West
 - Ed.sadler@comcast.net
 - Cell (724)217-7498
 - Frank Franci, PMSC Vice President
 - Cell (412)803-1852
 - Dave Wentzel
 - davidwentzel@yahoo.com
- Jim Marshall, Retired State Rep of the 14th District
 - jmarshall@m7.agency
- Janet, Mike Sabat's wife.

Last month's minutes

- Correction to remove the: Unfinished Business "Ambridge has approved hosting the 2-day Cable Restraint Class. Awaiting confirmation of the dates from PA Game Commission & Coordinator Mike Zon."
- The Cable restraint class is NOT a 2-day class, and no date has been confirmed yet. The class is about a 4–5-hour class.

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

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

- Checks written for Big Knob Fair table, Camp fees, D&B for new banner, Hunt of a Lifetime donation and Minuteman Press booklets.
- Deposits made for camper fees, dues, and league shirts.
- For 2025 dues[2025 Credential Sheet](#)

Motion to accept for audit. Aliquippa / Pine Run. Passed.

Elections

- No report.

Communications

- Rich thanked the league for the heartfelt "get well" card from the league.

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

- BCSCCL – PO Box 276, Beaver, PA 15009

State Agencies

PA Game Commission (PGC) – SGT. Matt Kramer – [PA Game Commission Report](#)

2025-26 hunting and trapping seasons and bag limits

The adopted seasons and bag limits contain a handful of significant changes compared to 2024-25.

There are two changes pertaining to the after-Christmas extended firearms season for antlerless deer. First, the extended firearms deer season will be open on all Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) properties statewide from Dec. 26-Jan. 24, 2026, with participating hunters needing a valid DMAP permit for the property

they are hunting. And second, an extended firearms deer season to run Jan. 2-19, 2026, will be held in Wildlife Management Unit 4C, where Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was recently detected. WMU 4C was not initially among the WMUs slated for an extended season.

Allocations by Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) are as follows, with the allocation from the previous license year appearing in parentheses. **WMU 1A – 46,000** (46,000); **WMU 2A – 44,000** (46,000); **WMU 2B – 59,000** (53,000)

All elk licenses will be awarded by lottery, and hunters must apply separately for all seasons they wish to be eligible to hunt. Each application costs \$11.97, meaning a hunter can enter all three drawings for \$35.91.

Individuals can be drawn for a maximum of one elk license per license year.

The deadline to apply is July 13.

ELK LICENSE APPLICATION PROCESS TO SEE CHANGES

A number of changes meant to update and improve Pennsylvania's elk license application system were given final approval today by the Board of Commissioners.

The changes will not take effect until published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*, which usually takes about six weeks.

First, all hunters will be required to first buy a hunting license before applying for an elk tag.

Second, hunters will no longer be required to include their Social Security numbers or hunter ID numbers on applications.

Third, no more than 10% of available elk licenses in any given year will be awarded to nonresidents.

Fourth, any hunter drawn for a bull elk license will be ineligible for another, a limit not now in place.

Fifth, the Game Commission updated the language describing how the drawing is conducted.

And finally, the agency officially eliminated the requirement that hunters who draw an elk tag participate in an orientation program.

The application period for a Pennsylvania elk license, which in recent years began in February for licenses awarded in July, is not expected to change. An applicant will need to hold a valid hunting license at the time they apply.

AGRICULTURAL DEER PROGRAM CHANGES ADOPTED

The Board of Game Commissioners today gave final approval to four changes to the agency's agricultural deer control permit program, which allows farmers to address deer damage through hunters harvesting additional antlerless deer on enrolled farms, and in longer hunting seasons.

The first of the changes will require applicants only to certify they are the owner or lessee of both the agricultural interest adversely affected by deer damage and the hunting rights to be covered by the permit.

The second change eliminates the rule limiting hunters to getting four "ag tag" permits to harvest antlerless deer for any particular property.

The third change lengthens the time period when hunters can harvest antlerless deer with an ag tag, while maintaining a brief closure during the peak of fawning season in spring and early summer.

That relates to the fourth change in dealing with sporting arms.

These changes will take effect when they are published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*, which usually takes about six weeks.

2024 Bear Season Results

In all, hunters harvested 2,642 bears during the 2024 seasons, placing the 2024 harvest in the top 25 on record.

Final county harvests by region (with 2023 figures in parentheses) are:

Southwest – 174 (141): Armstrong, 40 (41); Somerset, 34 (32); Indiana, 32 (24); Fayette, 30 (23); Westmoreland, 18 (13); Cambria, 18 (5); Greene, 2 (1); Beaver, 0 (1); and Allegheny, 0 (1).

Last year, 201,280 hunters bought bear licenses for the 2024 seasons. It was the sixth-straight year bear license sales topped 200,000.

See attached Report for detailed information to above PA Game Commission topics of discussion.

www.pgc.pa.gov

[PA Hunting and Trapping Digest](#)

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 Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) – Jeremy Allen – *absent*

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](#).
- Always looking for help with all the youth events.
- Need empty water jugs for making ice for camp.
- The Youth Foundation received 2 guns from the Friends of the NRA Grant.
- Next meeting Thursday, May 15, 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 May 22, 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 – Frank Kelly – *absent*

- New 2025 Booklets available to hand out. Take some back to your clubs.
- The Ambridge District Sportsmen's Association has paid for the 500 BCSSL booklets that were printed. THANK YOU for your GENEROUSITY!!! A check was presented to the league for the cost of the booklets.
 - Discussion on less ads in the booklet allows the focus to be on the clubs in the booklets.
 - Discussion on dividing the cost of the booklet between all clubs / organizations that are in the booklet to cover the cost of booklets in the future. Will continue further discuss.

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. Fishing starts at 8 am.
- Fish delivered to the lake. Including tagged fish.
- Approx. 50 prizes purchased. Prizes are available for tagged fish.
- Getting gift cards for tagged fish.
- Thank You to 3 Rivers Muskies for the donated fishing lures & sponsoring a camper for \$250!!!
- Registration starts at 7am. Mark will be there to set up at 6 am.

Fish Committee – Mark Crevar

Neshannock Creek Fly Shop – Stream Conditions.

Trout Season has opened across the state with good turnout in the stock lake and streams. The water temperatures are good for maintaining fish, but the water levels can be a challenge at times. The upcoming month will bring out the bug hatch for the fly fisherman to match the hatch and enjoy some time in the water. Refer to the link below for local streams conditions.

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

Lake Erie Fishing

Anglers now focus their efforts on walleye, bass, panfish, and pike in the lake region. The walleye is mostly in the western region of the lake and will migrate east as the water temperatures rise. Spring can be the best time to be in the water.

<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 Informational Training Meetings were held at Aliquippa Bucktails at 6 pm on April 6, 2025 & April 27th.
- The Camper / Parent Meeting will be at Aliquippa Bucktails at 6 pm on May 4, 2025.
- 23 campers & 14 counselors have turned in applications.
- 23 camp scholarships are available for campers thanks to the generosity of clubs, organizations, businesses, and individuals.
- Camp account report provided.
- CPR & Basic 1st aid class is set up for Saturday, June 14th for staff & counselors at the campground in the mess hall at 5 pm.
- Finalizing schedule for the week of camp. Will distribute when final.
- Staff set up Friday, June 13th in the evening.
- Staff / Counselor set up Saturday, June 14th beginning at noon.
- Check in for campers on Saturday, June 14th at noon.
- Clean up begins Friday, June 20th.
- Check out on Saturday, June 21st at noon.
- Looking for donated cookies for the kids throughout the week. (NO NUTS). Store bought packaged cookies are also acceptable.
- I need help daily. For example: Sunday for check in, Tuesday for fishing, Thursday for parent night.
- Need more campers, counselors, and staff!
- Tim W confirmed the canoe and fishing day. Permission slips will get signed by parents prior to fishing / boating day.
- Call me with questions. (724)494-6465

Archery – George Klinger

- 3D archery on Sunday at Beaver Valley Archers.

Events Coordinator – Craig Holdren – *absent*

- Questions raised about when the website will be complete.
 - www.bcscl.org under construction.
 - www.bcscl.net
 - www.bcscl.com
- 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

Legislative – Craig Holdren – *absent*

- No report.

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.
- Working on a ticket to raffle off the NWTF banquet table gun.

Youth Mentored Hunts – Rich Kerlin

Pheasant

- No report

Goose

- No report

Youth Field Day – Amy Swartzlander

- July 19, 2025, at Midland Sportsmen's Club.
- Poster. [Click here for poster.](#)
- Need donated items for the sportsmen auction table. [Donation request letter.](#)
- Registration online. 59 youth registered to date. QR code available on the poster. [Click here to register.](#)
- Guns donated by Tim W (kids' gun) & Jim S (raffled gun)
- Prizes left over from the fishing derby will come to the field day.

Banquet – (President's Meeting)

- Good meeting!

Big Knob Fair – Dick Bayer

- Gun ordered.
- Table reserved. Payment sent.
- Paper clip counting.

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 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](#)
- Large & X Large County League Shirts available for \$30

New Business

- Bucktails would like to borrow the fishing rods to take the young bucks fishing.
- Discussion on restructuring of the League dues. [2025 Credential Sheet](#)
 - Recently raised the amount of money given to the clubs for the meeting dinners.
 - Discussion on the need to raise the bottom level of dues to cover the cost of raising the money given to the clubs for the meeting dinner.
 - Will need to further discuss.

Good of the Order

- Midland Sportsman's Club Gun Bash on Sunday, May 4, 2025, at Center Stage. \$50 / ticket
- Ambridge Springfest Cash Bash on Saturday, May 17, 2025. \$50 / ticket
- Five Points 11th Annual Hunt of a Lifetime to be held on August 9th & 10th.
 - [Poster](#)
- 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.
- Lawrence County had a Youth Turkey Hunt. 47 youth participated. 11 turkeys harvested.
- Ambridge having a Kids fishing derby on May 31st (10 am – 1 pm). Sign-ups at 9 am. Open to the public.
- Green Valley Archery for Youth the next few Saturdays 6pm – 8pm. Free and open to the public.

50/50 Drawing

- None

Motion to Adjourn

- Ambridge / Hopewell Passed. 9:14 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 |
|----------|--------------------------------|--|

Tonya Cable, Secretary BCSCCL

gtcttc@yahoo.com

724-494-6465