



Stoney Creek Fishing & Hunting Club

www.scfhclub.org

September 2019



From The Club President

With Ray being away this month, I get the opportunity to cover a few of his normal comments in our monthly newsletter.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Wounded Warrior event this year, but we will start planning and coordinating the 2020 W.W. event so that we can continue this worthy club tradition.

Our 2020 club calendars are in. You can get yours for \$3 at the next few general meetings. Remember that these were fast selling items last year, so make sure to get one soon before they are sold out.

As hunting season is upon us, I would like to extend a heartfelt message to our entire club membership. I wish you good luck, good weather, and be safe.

This club is very important to me as well as many others. How we represent this club is important. Please be aware of your conduct when wearing something with our clubs name on it. There is no particular reason for me saying this just thought it is good advice in today's society.

This club belongs to you and how it is represented reflects you as well. So be a part of the club, wear your SCFHC gear with pride, participate in our club functions, and help out when you can.

I look forward to seeing you at our general meeting.

Scott Baumgardner
Club Vice President

Club Dinner & General Meeting:

September 13th & 27th

Dinner service begins at 6:30p

Meeting begins at 8:00p

Events



Our 2018 W.W. volunteers

2019 Wounded Warrior Event

Cancelled

Sadly our annual event is cancelled this year due to reasons out of our control.

We hope to continue this traditional day of shooting with our American warriors next year.

First proclaimed by President Richard Nixon in 1972, our National Hunting & Fishing Day is celebrated each year on the fourth Saturday of September. This year, that correlates to September 28th.

Its purpose is to increase public awareness of the importance of the sustainable use of natural resources, promoting wildlife conservation, and outdoor sports. On this day, local, state, regional, and national organizations hold fishing and hunting related events providing participants with an opportunity to experience traditional outdoor sports.

A great Saturday to take a child or grandchild squirrel hunting or fishing for white perch!



September 28th

Club Shoot Moved

The club membership voted to move the annual Side x Side and 20-Gauge Challenge in order to accommodate our Wounded Warrior event.

This club shoot will now be held on **October 27th** from 10a-2p.

Corporate Trap Shooting Event

September 26th

Noon - 4p

Email Clay-Target-Officer@scfhclub.org if you can volunteer as a range safety for this event.

Only the trap ranges will be closed during the event.

Monarch Butterfly Migration Begins



September is the time that large group of Monarch Butterflies begin their long migration to Mexico. They travel thousands of miles from as far north as Maine.

You can help these pollinators by providing them much need food during their journey by planting goldenrod, milkweed, or late-blooming asters.

Gambrill State Park has a large patch of swamp milkweed that offers a great place to watch these magnificent butterflies. 2

<https://www.monarchwatch.org/tagmig/>

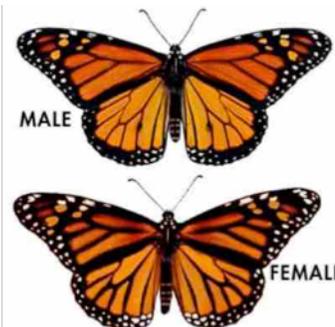


Photo courtesy of monarchwatch.org

News

New Range Pathway Installed

Club members using the 75-yard to 300-yard ranges will notice that a new pathway was recently installed. The pathway winds its way past each target house out to 300-yds.

The new surface will keep the golf cart clean and safe from off-road damage.

Please continue to follow all range rules and directions on using the golf cart while keeping the golf cart on the new pathway and not off-roading with the cart anymore. That means **when you pull up to a target house, please keep the cart on the pathway** and walk your targets over to the target house.

Thank you to our caretaker George for coordinating this range improvement and for tolerating all the over-night construction trucks! This is another fantastic addition to our shooting ranges.



Trap House Improvements

A group of club members recently volunteered to make some erosion prevention improvements to trap house #2. This is the trap that club members who become certified in trap operations are allowed to use daily.



News

Patterning Your Hunting Shotgun at SCFHC

September is a perfect time to get ready for the upcoming hunting season by patterning *Ol' Blue*.

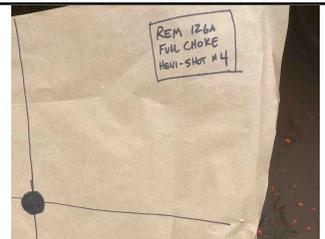
Not all shotgun shells strike alike. Ammunition companies use different shot and wad materials that have different results when exiting your particular shotgun thus affecting your pattern kill-zone. An hour spent patterning your shotgun at SCFHC can help you to identify the best brand, choke, and shot size for your particular hunting shotgun thereby increasing your bag percentage.

Follow our club range rules in order to test different brands, powder loads, chokes, and shot sizes in your hunting shotgun so you are confident this coming hunting season.



Following all current club range rules, gather your shells and shotgun in a **center booth** of our 25 or 50-yard ranges. Only use booths 3 or 4 on the 25-yd range, or booths 2 or 5 on the 50-yd range. This will prevent pellet / wad damage to the target houses and barriers.

Simply write the shotgun name and specific shot shell information on the target paper to keep track of the data.



Ensure that you **raise the outer doors at a more extreme angle than what you would normally raise it** to when shooting other firearms. This extreme angle will help prevent any damage that might occur from the shotgun wad.



Place your target frame into the center stanchions. This is the same procedure for testing deer slugs, buckshot, and birdshot.

By using only the center booths of the 25-yd & 50-yd ranges for patterning, you prevent damage to the target houses and structures.

Our new rifle rests are a great tool to use in patterning your shotgun, so take advantage of these club shooting aides.

Take two shots using the same branded ammunition at the target, then go out and exchange your target paper, fire two rounds of the next brand of ammunition. Repeat until you've patterned all your different brands of ammunition and preferred chokes.



Finally, divide your target into quarters. Then using a sharpie, simply mark & count the number of strikes in each quadrant to give you an idea of how that particular brand of shell patterns in your shotgun. You may be amazed to see that the brand of shot you've been using all these years is not giving you the best "vital area" pattern.



News

Atlantic Flyway Mallard Reduced Bag Limit

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/AF-Mallard-web-brochure.pdf>

Biologists with the Atlantic Flyway Council have recommended to the US Fish & Wildlife Service that a reduced bag limit on the mallard duck be imposed within the Atlantic Flyway for the 2019-20 hunting season. The biologists determined that a 60-day hunting season with a 4-mallard per day harvest was unsustainable and have recommended the daily harvest be reduced to 2-mallard per day, only one of which may be a hen mallard.

Despite what you may see at your local park, the eastern mallard populations in the United States have declined 38% over the past 20 years while mallard populations in Canada have remained constant. Biologists estimate that the mallard breeding population just within the eastern U.S. will continue its 1% per year decline thus prompting the reduced bag limit recommendation.

To emphasize the importance of the new bag limit, the Atlantic Flyway Council's brochure (above link) states "eastern mallards are now only marginally more abundant than American black ducks in eastern North America."

The final paragraph of the Atlantic Flyway Council's brochure describes how the population of the eastern mallard duck will no longer drive the length & total bag limit of future hunting seasons due to the declining population. It goes on to explain how the Adaptive Harvest Management strategy is now used to determine the duck hunting season framework by factoring in four key duck species: green-winged teal, ring-necked, goldeneye, and wood ducks.



The reduced mallard daily bag limit coupled with the reduced daily bag limit of the Atlantic Population Canada goose (1-goose per day) will test the resolve of the most hardened waterfowler this season. There is a lot of work in setting up decoys but hopefully this effort increases the populations.

Over the years, I passed on eating waterfowl that contained "rice breast" and although it is claimed to be safe for humans, I trashed the ducks that we bagged which had the parasite. But the new

reduced bag limit may force me over the psychological hurdle and eat the sarcocystis infected mallard breast like the one pictured (right) that I shot during the 2018 waterfowl season.



The Master Naturalist

Sika deer hunting has been showing a marked increase in popularity over the past few years among Maryland hunters as well as those in our neighboring states. Information about them online is relatively limited, so here are a few facts about them that address the most common questions we receive;

- Sika deer are actually a member of the elk family.
- They were introduced to the U.S. on James Island (Dorchester County) by Clement Henry in 1916.
- Sika deer keep their spots throughout adulthood, although they may become much less prominent during the fall and winter months.
- Mature Sika males are called 'stags' and mature females are called 'hinds'. The average stag weighs about 90lbs, about the same weight as the average yearling White-tailed doe.
- Sika deer are found in the following counties: Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset & Worcester, as well as Assateague Island.



Left photo
credit MD
DNR



Right
photo
credit
Lauren
Atwood

HUNTING SIKA DEER

There are many similarities between hunting Sika deer and hunting white-tailed deer, but there are also many differences as well. Some of these differences include:

- Habitat: Sika deer live primarily in marshlands, swamps, wetlands and some thick pine forests. The largest concentration of them resides in the marshes of Dorchester County.
- The Sika rut is usually during the month of October. During this time, you'll hear the eerie bugle emitted by the stags.
- Shot placement will be similar to white-tailed deer, though the stomach of the Sika deer extends closer to their vital area and should be avoided if possible.
- Sika deer are nicknamed 'marsh ghosts' for a reason; they are extremely quiet as they move.
- They urinate in the scrapes they create, resulting in a strong, musky odor that is very distinctive.



Photo credit Lauren Atwood



Photo credit MD DNR

Hunting In Maryland

- Sika deer are plentiful at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Dorchester County, of which most allows for public hunting of Sika deer with the appropriate permit. See the link below for details:
<https://www.fws.gov/nwrs/threecolumn.aspx?id=6442454880>
- Blackwater NWR is also home to the largest population of the Delmarva Fox Squirrel. Though removed from the Endangered Species list in 2015, there is no open season for them, so squirrel hunters should be sure of their target before shooting.



- Maryland Squirrel season begins September 7th and runs until February 29th. Includes Gray, Eastern Fox, Red, and Piney Squirrels.



Lauren Atwood
Maryland Master Naturalist

Legislation

Maryland

On August 6th, the Maryland State Police (MSP) issued a new standard operating procedure (SOP) for carry permits. The MSP also announced that carry permits for business owners will no longer be issued with restrictions. The typical restriction stated carrying was permitted only “while conducting business.” The individual must still have a “good and substantial reason” to obtain a permit.

The lifting of restriction does not apply to employees of businesses, only the business owner.

It appears the lifting of restrictions on business owners will be applied to those individuals who have an appeal pending on a permit application and those already issued permits with “while conducting business” restriction. If you have an appeal pending, it is recommended you call the MSP. If you already have a permit with the restriction, it is recommended that you submit a modification request as outlined on Page 4 of the MSP announcement.

As one might expect, the *Baltimore Sun* has come out highly critical of the MSP change in policy. In an August 8th editorial, the newspaper stated that lifting the restrictions will put more guns on the street, Quoting “...**we believe a profusion of concealed carry permits is a recipe for more accidents and more frequent escalation if disputes to bloodshed...**” The editorial also attacked Governor Hogan and asked that he direct the MSP to cancel their new SOP. So we can expect quite a battle in the General Assembly come January 2020.

New Anti-gun Organizations

The ant-gunners have been very active on a number of fronts. First, there are new anti-gun groups being formed in various states by the Giffords who previously have backed a number of anti-gun organizations. The new organizations are called “**Gun Owners for Safety**” and supposedly consist of “gun owners who support commonsense gun safety laws.”

Literature from an organization in Minnesota states the mission of the organization is: “To support commonsense gun violence prevention laws while respecting the Second Amendment and promoting gun safety.” However, the organization supports Red Flag or Extreme Risk Protection Orders, Universal background checks, and Federal funding for “gun violence research.”

The “Gun Owners for Safety” organizations are nothing more than gun control groups masquerading as supporters of the Second Amendment and gun safety. If you get literature from any such groups, don’t be fooled into giving them a donation.

National Political Scene

Recent political polls suggest the Democratic front-runner, Joe Biden, is losing ground to Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts. She is a very liberal candidate in many respects. Recently, she announced a sweeping gun control plan that includes:

- Stricter background checks
- Ban on assault weapons
- Creation of a Federal licensing system
- Limiting the number of firearms a person could buy and raising the minimum age for gun purchasing to 21
- Holding gun manufacturers, and in some cases gun manufacturer CEOs personally responsible for the misuse of firearms
- Raising the taxes for gun manufacturers to 30% and taxes on ammunition from 50%
- Providing annually \$100 million of Federal funding for gun violence research.

She also wants Walmart to stop selling guns and ammunition. So if you want to kiss your firearms “good by” vote for Elizabeth Warren.

Legislation

U.S. Congress

The Congress returns from its August break next week and the pressure will be on the President of the Senate, Mitch McConnell and the other Republican members of the Senate to pass bills like House Resolution (H.R.) 8 and H.R. 1112, two anti-gun bills passed earlier this year by the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives.

H.R. 8 would require universal background checks thereby extending background checks to private sales or transfers of firearms. It would also make loaning a firearm to a friend a Federal crime.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/8/text>

H.R. 1112 would extend from three days to 10 days, and possibly another 10-day period that the FBI would have to respond to a NICS background check before a dealer could release a firearm to a purchaser. The Bill is an attempt to delay firearm sales indefinitely.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1112/text>

In addition, the House Judiciary Committee Chairman called his committee back early from the August recess to consider yet additional gun control bills.

It is going to be fight we have never seen before, and there will be requests to call our Senators and Representatives as well.

It will be an “all hands on deck” fight.

Ted Mathison
Legislation Chairman

HELP WANTED!!

Please join the Legislative Committee!

This is a great way to work of your mandatory club hours as part of a team while keeping the club abreast of second amendment issues.

Legislation@scfhc.org



Club Shoots

The club held its annual Trap Shoot on August 4th. Twenty-five club members braved the scorching heat and shot in this years match. The overall top gun for the match was Rob Tracey but many others won certificates within their designated class. Thank you to our Clay Targets Officer for a great shoot!

Congratulations to all of the club members who participated in this shoot!

Karl, Chuck (last year's winner), and Ken finish a round at 16yds



Lauren shows Chris how to hit them



The A-Team didn't miss many



Matt and Ed breaking birds at 16yds



Rick was consistent at missing



Gary smashes them from 21yds



Chris S. and Chris C. at the 16yd line



Sloane - sun's out, guns out



Ron, Rob, and observer Frank discuss the sweltering temperature

The two blind mice! (scorers)



Wayne and Harold complete their round from 19yds



Club Shoots

Archery Shoot

The club will be holding an archery shoot on **September 22nd** from 9a to 1p. This event is open to all club members in good standing and family members per bylaws.

There will be bows available to use and instructors on-site if you are a new archer!

Bullet or field tips only
Targets will be "bullseye" style

Categories:

Longbow & Recurve
Compound
Crossbow



Club certificates will be awarded to top archers.

Email Archery@scfhclub.org for any questions concerning this club shoot.

All Gun Shoot

The club will be holding its annual All Gun Shoot on **September 30th** from 10a to 2p. This match is open to all club members in good standing and requires the shooter to fire in all three categories: Pistol, Rifle, & Shotgun.

Pistol- 20 shots at 25-yards. Any caliber is eligible. All shots will be taken in the offhand (standing) position.

Rifle- 20 shots with any Maryland legal deer rifle. No shooting equipment is allowed except a scope & sling. Seven shots will be taken offhand (standing) at 100-yards, seven shots from the kneeling position at 150-yards. And six shots will be taken in the prone position at 200-yards.

Shotgun- Shooters will complete one round of 16-yard trap using any trap range eligible shotgun.

Club certificates will be awarded to the top three shooters.

Refer to your club booklet for more information or email Range-Officer@scfhclub.org for any additional information concerning this no-fee club shoot.

Side x Side Shoot & 20-Gauge Shoot

Our annual combined Club SxS Shoot and 20-Gauge Shoot on **October 27th** from 10a to 2p. The match is open to all club members in good standing and their immediate family members per our bylaws.

This event is actually two separate shoots. You do not need to participate in both shoots.

The same shotgun cannot be used in both shoots.

Each is a 50 shot match for all SxS and 20-gauge shotguns that meet our trap range requirements.

Courses of fire are similar for each of the two shoots.

50 rounds, shot as follows:

25 targets at 16 yards

25 targets at your determined handicap yardage

Email Clay-Target-Officer@scfhclub.org for any questions concerning this club shoot.

Club Shoots

Buffalo Shoot held on 01/13/19

High overall – John Grainger

	<u>Smokeless</u>	<u>Black Powder</u>
1 st	Ron Showacre	Ron Showacre
2 nd	Sloane Franklin	Mike Miller

Sniper Rifle Shoot held on 02/10/19

	<u>Open Prone</u>	<u>Vintage Prone</u>	<u>Unlimited Prone</u>
1 st	John Grainger	John Grainger	John Grainger
2 nd	Mike Miller		Sloane Franklin
3 rd			Ron Showacre

	<u>Unlimited Chair</u>	<u>Open Chair</u>	<u>Open Chair Jr.</u>
1 st	Fred Fischer	George McCauley	Liam Miller

Lever Action Rifle Shoot held on 05/05/19

	<u>Iron Sight</u>	<u>Scope</u>
1 st	John Grainger	Tim Holbrook
2 nd	Tim Holbrook	John Fendley
3 rd	Fred Fischer	John Russo

.22LR Rifle Shoot held on 06/16/19

	<u>Optics</u>	<u>Open Sights</u>
1 st	John Grainger	John Grainger
2 nd	Chris Stewart	Chris Stewart
3 rd	Joseph Donley	Frank Moran Jr.

Pistol Shoot held on 07/14/19

High overall – John Grainger

	<u>Center Fire</u>	<u>Rim Fire</u>
1 st	Bobby Dill	Bobby Dill
2 nd	Sloane Franklin	Jon Schweitzer
3 rd	Chuck Ledley	Robert Larsen

Trap Shoot held on 08/04/19

High overall – Rob Tracey

	<u>Class A</u>	<u>Class B</u>	<u>Class C</u>	<u>Class D</u>
1 st	Chris Colvin	Sloane Franklin	Karl Sovik	Bobby Dill
2 nd	Ray Ten Kate	John Grainger	Ryan Grubb	Wayne Teter
3 rd	Harris Howland	Gary Townsend	Chuck Powers	Rich Brooks

Club Shoots

Military Rifle & Pistol Shoot held on 08/11/19

High Overall -

1st
2nd
3rd

Rifle

Pistol

RESULTS PENDING

All-Gun Shoot upcoming on 09/29/19

High Overall-

1st
2nd
3rd

Rifle

Pistol

Shotgun

Side X Side Trap Shoot & 20 Gauge Challenge upcoming on 10/27/19

Side x Side Trap Shoot Results

High Gun –

1st
2nd
3rd

Class B

Class C

Class D

20 Gauge Challenge Results

High Gun –

1st
2nd
3rd

Class B

Class C

Class D

Rifle Shoot upcoming on 11/03/19

High Overall –

1st
2nd
3rd

Open Sights

Scope

Our club shoots are a great way to spend an hour or two at the club on a Sunday. There is no charge to participate in these matches and club certificates are awarded for the top three shooters in each category.

There is no need to pre-register for a club shoot, simply show up between 9a and 2p on the match day with your range badge, qualifying gun/ammunition, and personal protection gear.

President
Ray Ten Kate

Vice President
Scott Baumgardner

Secretary
Frank Burger

Treasurer
Sloane Franklin

Financial Secretary
Karl Sovik

Sergeant at Arms
Joseph Donley

Range Officer
Lee Moran

Clay Targets Officer
Chris Colvin

Kitchen Officer
Jon Schweitzer

Board of Directors

Club President

Club Vice President

Sloane Franklin (Chairman)

Richard Brooks

Frank Burger

John Grainger

Ted Mathison

George McCauley

Jon Schweitzer

Karl Sovik

Gary Townsend

Membership
Brian Loher

Public Relations
Robert Larsen

Newsletter Editor
Rick Murphy

Range Status Hotline
(410) 255-2119

Hunter Qualification Dates

<http://www.scfhclub.org/HunterQuals.aspx>

September 8th & 15th

Please remember that our ranges are closed from 9a to 1p during these events.



Hunter Safety Internet Field Day

<http://www.scfhclub.org/HunterSafety.aspx>

September 14th

Ranges are closed until 3p during these hunter safety events.

Tuesday Night Trap

<http://www.scfhclub.org/TrapRange.aspx>

Our weekly Tuesday Night Trap shooting continues as the weather changes and hunting season approaches.

Open to the Public!

Gates open at 4:30p and we continue shooting under the lights until 8p.

Prices per person, per squad: **\$5** club member **\$6** non member

Shooting trap at our club ranges is a fun and challenging way to increase your marksmanship skills.

Come out on Tuesday and have a great evening!

Please review our trap range rules for shotgun/shot shell requirements.

Monthly Trap Numbers:

There were over **230 shooters** who shot during our Tuesday Night Trap throughout August!



NRA

Life Time Memberships: \$1,000
5-Year Memberships: \$125
3-Year Memberships: \$85
1-Year Membership: \$35

Renew using our club link to update your membership at these prices.

<http://www.scfhclub.org/Join.aspx>