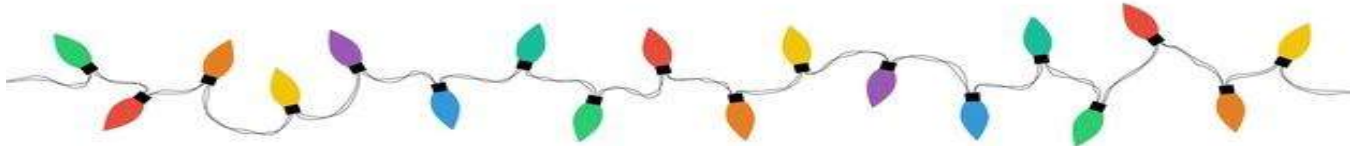


Stoney Creek Fishing & Hunting Club



Dec. 2023



Greetings All Members,

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and I hope the New Year brings all of you great things. Speaking of the New Year, I'm also hopeful that 2024 brings all of the Second Amendment (2A) supporters across our country a continuation of court victories in 2024.

The year 2023 was a good year for 2A rights and supporters. There were numerous substantial victories for 2A rights and supporters across America. In fact, the 2A community here in Maryland, with the efforts of the NRA and Maryland Shall Issue organizations were able to win a significant victory in the Fourth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals recently. I believe 2024 will be even better.

I ask that each of you if you can to support the organizations that support us. If you can, please make a small donation to any one of the following groups, Maryland Shall Issue (MSI), National Rifle Association (NRA), Second Amendment Foundation (SAF), Gun Owners of America (GOA), Firearms Policy Coalition (FPC) or any other 2A organization you choose.

With Deer hunting season winding down and Waterfowl season gearing up, I hope that all who went Deer hunting had a safe and successful season. For the Waterfowl hunters, I wish you all good luck and safe hunting this season. For those who don't Waterfowl hunt, just a reminder that Tuesday Night Trap will be running thru the winter months of January and February. Tuesday Night Trap is a good way to break up the slower months of January and February. Dress warm....lol.

In closing, I'd like to remind everyone that the Calendar of events for 2024 is posted on the Clubs website for viewing. Also, starting in January we go back to two General Membership meetings a month which are held on the second and last Friday of each month.

Thank you,
David J Bathras, SR.
President
Stoney Creek Fishing & Hunting Club, Inc.



Upcoming Events

Sniper Rifle Feb 11
 Air Gun League Jan 3
 Trap League March 17

Upcoming General Meeting Dates

January 12
 January 26
 February 9
 February 23

January

General Meetings 12,26
 Air Gun League 3,10,17,24,31
 Board Meeting 8(7pm)
 Bench Rest 28

February

General Meetings 9,23
 Air Gun League 7,14,21,28
 ** Sniper Rifle 11
 **Bench Rest 18
 Hunter Education Workshop 29 (5PM)

March

General Meetings 8,29
 Air Gun League 6,13,20,27
 Pistol League Mtg 14(7pm)
 **Bench Rest 17
 Trap League 17,24,30
 M1/AR Meeting 21(7pm)
 Hunter Education Training 23(8AM)

April

General Meetings 12,26
 **Pistol League 6,21
 Egg Roll 7
 Board Meeting 8(7PM)
 **Bench Rest 14
 Trap League 14,20,28

May

General Meetings 10,31
 **Pistol League 4,18
 Trap League 4,11,19,26
 Flea Market 5
 Air Gun Banquet 18 (6pm)
 **Bench Rest 19
 **Lever Action Shoot 26

June

General Meetings 14,28
 Trap League 1
 **Pistol League 2,15,30
 **Bench Rest M/U 2
 Trap League Banquet 8(6pm)
 **.22 Rifle Shoot 9
 Hunter Safety 17,20,22

July

General Meetings 12,26
 **Pistol Shoot 7
 Board Meeting 8(7PM)
 **Pistol League 14,28

August

General Meetings 9,30
****Trap Shoot 3**
****Military Rifle & Pistol Shoot 3**
 Hunter Qual 4,18,31
 **Pistol League 10,24
 Trap League 11,18,24,31
 Hunter Safety 12,15,17
 Internet H. Safety 25

September

General Meetings 13,27
 Hunter Qual 1
 Trap League 7,15,21,29
 **Pistol League 8
 Internet H. Safety 14
 M1/AR Banquet 14(6pm)
 **All Gun Shoot 22
 Pistol Banquet 28(5pm)

October

General Meetings 11
 Internet H. Safety 5
 Trap League 6,12,20
 Board Meeting 7(7PM)
****Side-X-Side and 20-Gauge Trap Shoot 13**
****Rifle Shoot 13**

November

General Meetings 8
 Trap League Banquet 2 (6pm)
 Flea Market 3
 Calendar Meeting 13 (7pm)
 Bench Rest Meeting 20 (7pm)

December

General Meetings 13
 Air Gun League Mtg 18(7pm)
 Merry Christmas 25

**** Members Only Shoot - registration 10AM to 2PM**

Hunter Qual 9AM to 1PM

TRAP EVERY TUESDAY @ 5PM
 WEB SITE INFO - www.scfhclub.org

EVENTS LINE 410-255-2119

ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE



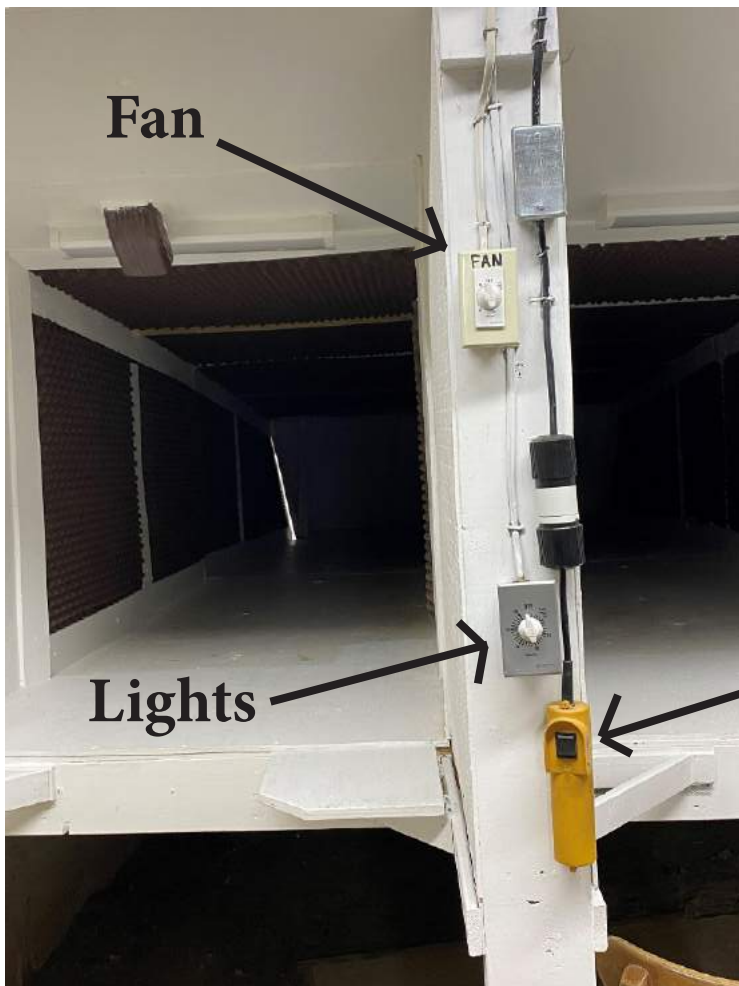
New Range Rules:

All Ranges:

Please turn on the exhaust fans that have been installed on each lane during use. **A leaf blower is also located at the 50 yard range to clear out powder.**

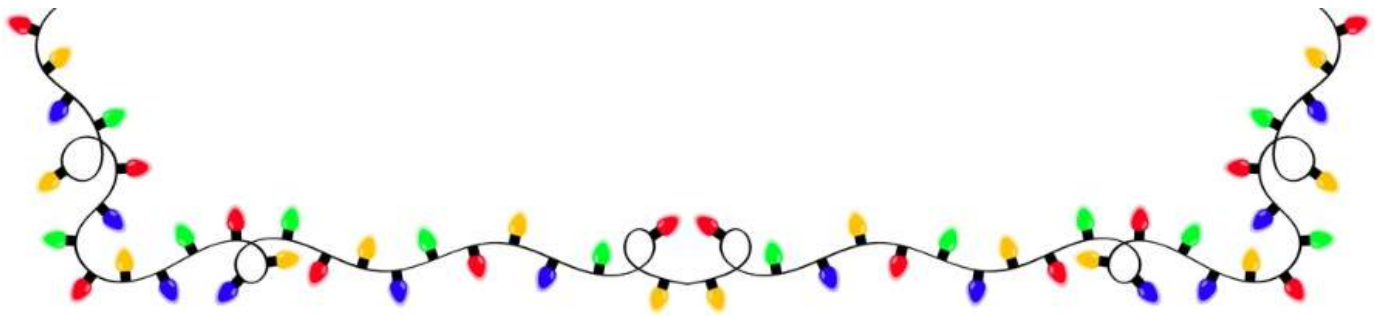
25 & 50 yard Ranges:

The eyebrows have been removed. The outer doors must be opened all the way. The old eyebrow controllers now open and shut the outer doors.



100 yds+ Eyebrow, Adjust like normal
25-50 yds - Outer Door, open all the way

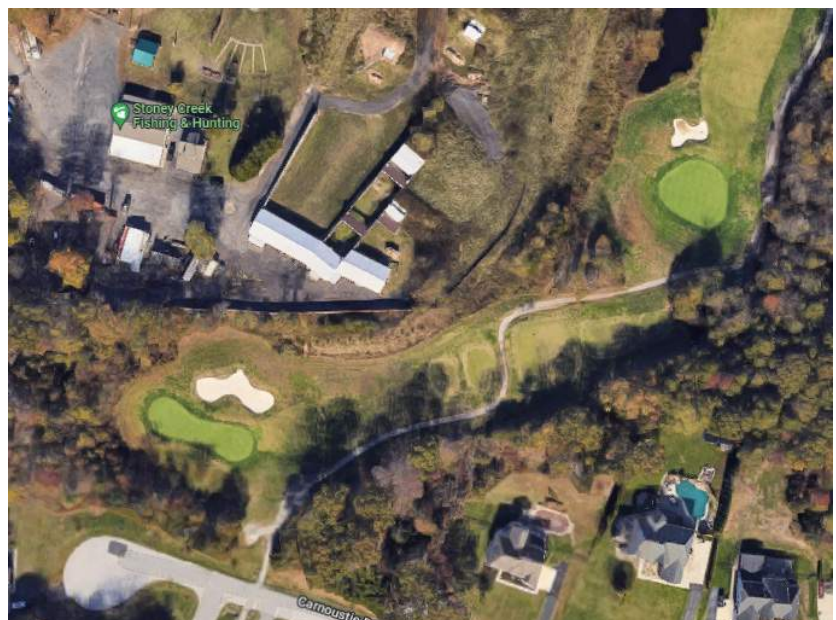
Rifle, Pistol and Archery Range hours are 09:00am to official sunset. This does not affect the existing Trap Range hours of operation.



PARKING ALERT

For those of you that don't know, our range parking area is directly next to a hole at the golf course. It is important to know where you park when visiting the range.

Stoney Creek Fishing and Hunting club is not responsible for your vehicle in the parking lot. The Golf Course is not responsible for your car getting hit.





ELECTIONS ARE COMING UP!!!

Elections are in the first quarter of 2024, with the slate drawn up for the first meeting in March.

1. The Time and attendance list is used and based on the last 21 meetings prior to the first meeting in March, and the following is generated for “members in good standing”: Those with 12 or more meetings are eligible to run for office. Those with 6 or more meetings can vote.
2. The resulting slate is presented at the first meeting in March.
3. Nominations from the floor can be accepted at the first meeting in March.
4. Elections are held on the second meeting in March. It is a closed members only meeting. Dinner is provided at no charge to members by the club.
5. Committee formations will occur again after the election, so this is an opportunity for members to get involved and volunteer if they are willing and want to get hours for time worked.



Club Printed Calendars are now available
for \$5.

Please See Ron Colvin to purchase your
Calendar!!!



Sniper Rifle Shoot

This shoot is for scoped rifles only, broken into three separate categories and two classes.

The three categories are:

Vintage – for any scoped model rifle or clone as issued by a military in 1953 or earlier

Unlimited – for any scoped model rifle or clone as issued by a military in 1954 or later

Open – for any rifle, commercial or military, that will not fall into the Vintage or Unlimited categories.

The same rifle may not be shot in more than one category!

A member may shoot once in more than one category.

Aids: A sling may be used in ANY manner. Shooting mats MAY be used. Any type of recoil reducer, internal or external to the firearm, may be used.

VINTAGE – No glass bedding, only the type of work that would have been done by an armory prior to, or including 1953 time frame. e.x. Trigger job, floating the barrel and shimming the action. No after market triggers and it must be in the as issued cartridge. Modern scopes and mounts may be used. Scope must be set at no more than 6 power, (verified by Range Officer or designee). Try to keep as close to issued sniper as you can.

UNLIMITED - Any power of scope. Any work of any type may be done, but the rifle must stay as close to as issued condition as possible.

OPEN – Any rifle that does not fall into the Vintage or Unlimited category or the member chooses to shoot in this category instead of either of the above categories for which it qualifies.



Maryland Deer Hunters Conclude Successful Fall Firearm Season

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced that hunters harvested 28,236 deer during the two-week firearm season from Nov. 25 through Dec. 9. The firearms season harvest was 3% lower than last year's official count of 29,160 deer.

“Firearm hunting for deer continues to be our most popular season,” Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Karina Stonesifer said. “The season enables many hunters to put much needed venison in the freezer and it helps significantly with managing the state's deer population.”

Hunters reported taking 12,002 antlered deer during the two-week season, which was similar to last year's official total of 12,018. The antlerless harvest decreased 5% from 17,142 last year to 16,234 this year. Sika deer represented 501 of the total antlered harvest and 589 of the total antlerless harvest and was up 12% overall.

More than 2,700 deer were taken on the two Sundays during the season, representing nearly 10% of the total harvest. Deer hunting on Sunday is currently permitted on select Sundays in 20 of 23 counties.

Hunters in Region A — Allegany, Garrett, and western Washington counties — reported taking 2,564 antlered and 1,414 antlerless deer (down 3% and 8%, respectively). In the remainder of the state, hunters reported taking 9,438 antlered and 14,820 antlerless deer. The antlered harvest increased 1% while the antlerless harvest decreased 5%.

Modern firearm deer season opens again on January 5, 2024, in deer management region B. Maryland's muzzleloader deer hunting season will reopen Dec. 16 and run through Dec. 30.



The 2024 General Assembly Legislative Session begins at noon on January 10th, 2024

Lets not get caught with
our pants down this
legislative session





Maryland Department of Natural Resources Presents Emergency Regulations to Increase Protections for Maryland's Striped Bass Spawning Population

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is submitting striped bass emergency regulations this week in an effort to bolster the species' spawning population. These Maryland-specific actions will complement additional actions that will be implemented coastwide in 2024 by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

"Maryland waters serve as the spawning grounds for many of the striped bass that migrate up and down the East Coast, and we take our leadership role in managing the overall population seriously," said Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary Josh Kurtz. "That's why we're putting forth new regulations to protect spawning striped bass. These management actions will complement additional fishing cuts expected to be taken by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission next year in response to the coastwide population decline in recent years."

The emergency regulations propose to extend two periods already closed to targeting striped bass in the Chesapeake Bay and on the Susquehanna Flats next year. These extensions would result in the elimination of the Maryland Striped Bass Trophy season (May 1 to May 15) and the catch-and-keep fishery on the Flats (May 16 to May 31) in 2024.

These suggested changes come after five years of below average spawning success for striped bass, also known as rockfish. The regulations are being presented to the Maryland General Assembly's Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review for its consideration. A public hearing on the draft regulations would take place if called for by a committee member.

A comprehensive striped bass stock assessment scheduled to be released in 2024 will determine how the species has responded to previous management actions made by Maryland and other coastal states during the last few years.

While recent research has suggested that environmental factors, such as warm winters and low water flows, are significant factors influencing spawning success, DNR officials believe it is critical to take measures now to protect the adult spawning stock of striped bass by reducing fishing mortality associated with harvest along with fish that die after being caught and released.

"The recent recruitment numbers of juvenile striped bass show that additional management efforts are necessary to protect the overall population," DNR Fishing and Boating Services Director Lynn Waller Fegley said. "We believe the proposed regulations will help protect the spawning stock of striped bass in Maryland. Increasing the spawning stock will enhance the odds of successful spawning when environmental conditions are right."

The Chesapeake Bay is the primary spawning and nursery area for 70% to 90% of the striped bass of the Atlantic coast. Striped bass is Maryland's state fish and the state's most important commercial and recreational fish species.



Maryland Department of Natural Resources Presents Emergency Regulations to Increase Protections for Maryland's Striped Bass Spawning Population- Cont

In Maryland, April is already closed to targeting striped bass, and under the emergency regulations this period would extend through May 15. The striped bass trophy season has taken place during the first two weeks of May in the past. This is part of the time period when large female striped bass typically make their way up the Chesapeake Bay to spawn in the same rivers where they hatched. The emergency regulation is aimed at protecting these fish before and after they spawn.

After May 15, fishing of striped bass will be allowed in portions of the Bay under updated slot limits expected to be set by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) in early 2024.

The emergency regulations would also close the current catch-and-keep fishery for striped bass at the Susquehanna Flats region from May 16 to May 31 through an extension of the previously closed season on the Flats area from April 1 to May 15 (see maps for current regulations). This area is where many adult striped bass end their journey from the Atlantic Ocean to spawn.

“We will continue to deliberate internally and with our Bay and coastal partners to address overall mortality of striped bass for the future, however, the emergency regulations are intended to protect the fish when they are the most vulnerable during the critical spawning period,” DNR Associate Director for Tidal and Coastal Management and Science Michael Luisi said. “All sectors of the striped bass fishery will need to work together to preserve the spawning stock for the future of this important recreational and commercial fishery along the Atlantic coast and in Maryland’s portion of the Chesapeake Bay.”

DNR officials encourage anglers to pursue other fish, such as blue catfish and northern snakehead instead of striped bass. Blue catfish and snakeheads are invasive species and harvesting them contributes to a healthier ecosystem in the Bay.

If approved, the draft regulations would take effect in tandem with regulations from the ASMFC, which is considering limits to the number and size of striped bass that can be caught in the Bay and along the Atlantic Coast to reduce striped bass mortality.

Emergency regulations can take effect for 180 days, so these proposed changes would affect the spring portion of the 2024 fishing season. If the state seeks to continue these measures beyond that, it would require a rule change and a more extensive public comment process.

FishMaryland Master Angler Award Presented to Jason Paugh of Garrett County

Jason Paugh, of Red House, this month became the fourth Master Angler awarded under the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' FishMaryland program. The highest award in the program recognizes the skill and determination required to catch ten trophy-size fish species in Maryland that all meet the minimum award sizes.

Paugh reached this milestone award by catching a largemouth bass (21.25 inches), smallmouth bass (20 inches), crappie (16.75 inches), northern pike (47.25 inches), chain pickerel (25.25 inches), rock bass (10.75 inches), yellow perch (14.25 inches), carp (38 inches), bluegill (11 inches), and wild brook trout (12.25 inches).

"Angler participation in the FishMaryland program has been tremendous since its launch in January 2019," Maryland DNR Recreational Fishing Outreach Coordinator Erik Zlokovitz said. "FishMaryland showcases the array of freshwater and saltwater species available in Maryland, and we are thrilled for Mr. Paugh to be the fourth angler to receive the program's highest award. It takes a great deal of talent, drive, and perseverance to earn Master Angler status."

All but one of these fish were caught in Deep Creek Lake in Garrett County, Maryland. Paugh caught the fish on artificial lures. The brook trout was caught in a small tributary of the Savage River system. Paugh is an avid freshwater bass angler, and in 2023, he caught 39 largemouth bass in Deep Creek Lake that met the minimum award size. He fishes primarily with jerkbaits, crankbaits, plastic worms, and small jigs that he designs to use around shoreline structures such as boat docks. The biggest and most surprising catch was the 47.25-inch northern pike, which hit a small jerk bait intended for largemouth bass.

"I am extremely surprised and excited to learn that this is only the fourth Master Angler award granted in Maryland," Paugh said.

Paugh has coached high school competitive bass fishing for five years, including four years with his son. The team he coached this year, from Northern Garrett County High School, is one of two teams from Maryland competing in the National High School Bass Fishing Finals Tournament next summer. Paugh has worked as a master electrician for a private company the past eight years, and previously was an electrician in Western Maryland's coal mining industry for 18 years.





2023 Pistol League Results

Overall Combined Score

Nick D'Apice - 17806 - 1271 Xs
Bobby Dill - 17521 - 941 Xs
Scott Baumgardner - 16828 - 675 Xs



Club Officers

President

David Bathras, Sr

Vice President

Bobby Dill

Secretary

Joseph Wiley

Treasurer

Kevin Burket

Financial Secretary

Rob Clay, Sr.

Sergeant At Arms

Ed Panowicz

Chief Range Officer

Lee Moran

Clay Target Officer

Rob Peel

Kitchen Officer

Melissa Basil



Contact Stephen Moody
for club license plate details

Tuesday Night Trap

Trap is open all winter long!

Hello Everyone,

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Joe Wiley

Board of Directors

Club President

Club Vice President

Ray Ten Kate (Chairman)

Ted Mathison

Gary Townsend

Robert Tracey

Michael Goddard

Joseph Wiley

Kevin Burket

Karl Sovik

John Grainger

Membership

Brian Loher

Public Relations

Robert Larsen

Newsletter Editor

Joseph Wiley

