



Wealthwood Rod & Gun Club

23573 420th Place

Aitkin, MN 56431

Newsletter - Winter 2019-2020

January 15, 2020



Although we had a year dealing with crazy weather, floods, snow, and winds, the club managed to survive 2019. It looks like 2020 is starting out with more crazy weather and more equipment repairs. Funds remain tight and emergency repairs become *bad news*. We need to order a semi load of clay targets for delivery this Spring. Trap #1 was completely overhauled so it would be in tip top shape for 2020. But, for some reason, it now has a hydraulic leak that needs to be fixed by March before our high school youth start their trap league. We pulled through last year with some generous donations from members. We are hoping that some of you can find a way to help out again this year. If you can, please remit a donation with your membership. Thank you.

2019 "A YEAR IN REVIEW"

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE: After a short request to the club members, we got the funds to do some long-needed repairs on the Trap and Skeet machines. A volunteer crew did some repair on most of the Sporting Clays Machine Houses. The final work on the new Pistol Range is to be completed next spring (Grading). The John Deer tractor needed some repair of the front wheel bearing that has finally been completed.

VOLUNTEERS: A major portion of this maintenance work is done by volunteers. When the word went out, they came up to the job and really helped out to keep costs down. Many thanks to all of them.

CLUB OVERALL REVENUE: The number of shooters participating has decreased for various reasons and we need more effort to find new shooters. If you have ideas about ways to increase our shooting revenue, let a board member know or bring it up at the next member's meeting (Monthly).

WEATHER: Yes, last Winter and Spring were costly due to snow and in general, the weather. This Winter is shaping up to be a repeat performance. The word is "snow!" Some volunteers have already set the pace by showing up with a shovel in hand or a snow blower ready to go to work. We need more volunteers to do the work needed to get the ranges ready for action. Please consider volunteering when you see that we need help. Here is a list of areas that could use some volunteers to help and bring ideas to the club as well.

- Board of Directors (Room for two more)
- Hunter Safety class instructors
- Painting Crew
- Lawn Mowing
- Snow Shoveling
- Cooks, wait staff, and clean up for Pancake Breakfasts

My wife and I would like to wish everyone a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. Although I am retiring as President of the Board, I still plan to spend time at the club. I hope to see you there.

-- *Bill Feyo, President 'Retired'*

Comments from the Secretary: Bill Feyo has energy like I wish I had.

He has done a great job for the gun club over his years as President. He can motivate others with ease. I know he will keep coming to the club and volunteering when he can. On behalf of the club, I want to wish him well as he spends a little more time with family and things on his 'other' list. Thank you!



The new Pistol Range; ready for use.

Another Big 'Thank you!' to all the members and tradesmen that have volunteered their skills, time, and money to keep things working and ready to go for all the members and public that visit the gun club every year. The volunteers are usually the same faces that are always ready and willing to help. Unfortunately, we can also see it is getting harder to get enough volunteers on projects. As the majority of club members are 60 and older in age. Many are having to say no; once the years start catching up with them and their back or knees or shoulders stop working as well as they used to. New younger members are needed to help out to make our club a great place for all. One can make some new friends and share stories at the Thursday morning coffee clutch. If you want to have a little fun, hear some jokes, and drink some coffee; come to the club on a Thursday morning. While you are there, shoot a round or two. You may just find some friends and a new place to hang out.

Volunteer Opportunities can always be found somewhere at the club. Here are a few:

1. A Leader to conduct highway cleanup in the spring and fall.
2. The club house floor hasn't had a scrub and wax for about 10 years. The linoleum tiles are showing great wear. If someone could chair this project and gather some help, this could be accomplished in a day or two.



3. The clubhouse has areas and rooms that are in dire need to be cleaned out. Lots of old paper and stuff from days long gone. A committee chair could get this ball rolling also. Doesn't all have to be done in a day. Maybe one spot one day, and another spot on another day. If you think you could tackle this, please email the Club Secretary, or call the club.
4. Help plan a 'Family Fun Day', a Fun Shoot, or a Pot Luck picnic and enjoying some shooting sports. Other events where we can get together and get to know some new people. How about holding a class on Conservation topics, beginner shooter? A lot of possibilities are there to promote and introduce our club to the public.

Other Club Activities and News:

- **The Website has a Fresh NEW look.** Check it out! It's responsive so you can see the screen on your phone without having to squint. The new 2020 Club Calendar will be posted by next week. More information will be added to the website as plans are made for the upcoming spring and summer seasons. Check it often to see what's happening. If you have suggestions to make it better, please call or email the webmaster: info@wealthwoodgunclub.org.
- **Crosby-Ironton High School Trap Team**
Crosby-Ironton HS Trap League is growing more each year as more youth explore the sport. We are expecting about 27 youth to participate in the HS Spring League starting in late March.
- **Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast** - The Garrison Fire Dept will be waiting tables to share the net proceeds.
- **Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast** with a group TBD – Volunteers needed to wait tables and help in kitchen.
- **Firearm Safety Training** begins in June. Dates for **Firearm Safety Range Days** are set for the 3rd Saturday of each month, June through September, plus two classrooms sessions that are a week long and designed for local youth. Firearm Safety programs (local students) are also in the plan for June and August. Check the 'Firearm Safety' link on the website for more details and registration: <https://www.wealthwoodgunclub.org>.
- **WRGC Spring Leagues** start in early April. The Club needs more shooters to form league teams. Summer leagues start in June. Check the calendar on-line at the Wealthwood Gun Club website.

League Teams:

The number of league teams has been growing smaller over the past several years. This is partly due to a lack of young shooters. The current membership is mostly seniors, and as they age, they can no longer compete. The Club's Board of Directors would like to see more young adults forming teams to compete in shooting sports. Another source of gaining active members would be to see more families come out to shoot some trap, or even sign up as a team to shoot in the leagues. Sports shooting has been a lifelong tradition to many Minnesotans. The club is a safe environment for these sports and prepares youth to become responsible hunters, whether mammal or fowl, in the tradition of their parents and grandparents.

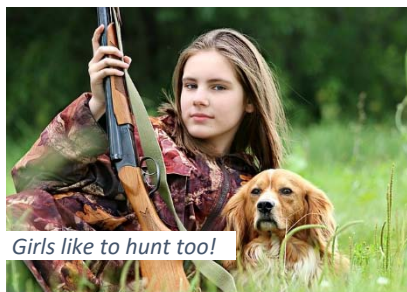
Family Fun Nights: Watch the Calendar on the website or the Facebook page.

Pistol Range: Just some grading left. Pistol stands are coming along; Members are working on an easy to use design.

Out of State Volunteers did a great job at the November Pancake Breakfast. Once again, our members from Chicago, Illinois, were in the area for hunting. The ladies volunteered to wait tables (several years in a row now). The Thanksgiving Pancake Breakfast is the only fundraiser where all the proceeds are used for the Gun Club. The ladies that helped us out are pictured to the right.

New Board Members have started this month, replacing several of the departing board members that finished their term of service.

Kent Croatt, Ed Searle Jr, Zach Spicer, and returning again, Jim Borek. If you need to contact someone at the club or find some information, the website has



Girls like to hunt too!

contact info for all the board and staff members. More can be found there also: history of the club; calendar of events; classes and programs, and more. If you would like to see something added, please let the Secretary or Webmaster know.

NOTE: 2020 Membership Cards will not be available until mid to late March due to our 'printer' being out of the area for a while.



Chicago members: Tracey Gumiela, Grace Gumiela, and Sharon Hamburg

Club Contact information:

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