



Portage Rod & Gun Club Winter Newsletter 2023 - 2024

Board of Director's Message

Club Members:

2023 was a great year with our continued efforts to make the Club better for our members.

We have made a lot of club improvements over the past several years. Adding several programs such as 5-Stand and 22 Precision to add more variety in what the Club has to offer. We also made range improvements to help our members have a better shooting experience.

If you have improvement ideas, please contact a Board Member (listed below).

Thank you for your continued support.

Please stop out and get involved, this club needs members to continue to offer a great place to gather and shoot.

Thank you,

Portage Board of Directors

Claybusters

The Portage High School Claybusters have finished the fall season. We finished fourth out of eight teams. To understand how close the conference was, we scored a total of 4,672 points this fall. The third-place team (Crivitz) Scored 4,676.5 points. The second-place team (Weston) scored 4,720 points. We were 4.5 points from third and 48 points from second. This is out of about 4700 total. Very close. Very good shooting. On the individual side Deagen Krueger was third place for the male division. Also in the top 25 boys...Bennett Schaller 6th, Camron Uhing was T14th. On the girls' side, Carly Nyholm was 5th, Bailey Schaller was T7th. Amiyha Muenta was 21st, and Solayna Daniels was 22nd. A very fine season overall. Registration will open in February for the spring season. If you get a chance, express how proud we are of these student athletes. Our shooting schedule will be posted in the spring. Stop by and watch some day.

Hollow Point Defensive Shooters

HPDS will be starting their 2024 season on April 6th. We have a practice/training day every month. We also host an International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA) match every month all summer long. We will have an organizational meeting at the club at 9 am on February 24th. This year practice/trainings will be held on April 6th, May 4th, June 1st, July 6th, August 3rd, September 7th, and October 5th. IDPA Matches will be held on April 20th, May 18th, June 15th, July 20th, August 17th, September 21st, and October 19th. We have lots of new events scheduled for this year including the Annual Andy Garwell Memorial Match on August 17th where proceeds are donated in Andy's name.

At last year's August Andy match, we were able to raise and donate \$5075 to the Badger Honor Flight for veteran trips to the monuments in Washington DC.

If you are interested in improving your handgun skills, joining HPDS is an excellent way to accomplish that. We teach from the basic beginner skills all the way up to advanced handgun shooting and competition tactics. One yearly fee of \$20 to join HPDS includes all the practice/training and 50% discounts on match fee's. Details are available at www.hollowpointshooters.org or contact me at shane@sandenwood.com

Shane Marquardt

HPDS Badger Honor Flight donation



Range Improvements

SHOOTING RANGES

We are continuing to upgrade the ranges at the club. The rifle building has been insulated for sound and the land has been landscaped around the building. Cameras have been installed both inside and outside of the clubhouse.

We have also built and installed new shooting benches along with 14 steel target stands on the pistol range. The steel target stands are NOT to be relocated as they are installed to line up with the shooting benches. If you wish to shoot closer than 25 yards, please move the shooting line toward the stands as this keeps the line of fire directed into the berm. The stands can be rotated 90 degrees if you feel they are in the way. All shots must impact the shooting berm.

The walls, cones, benches, barrels, and wall caps are not built to be shot. Stands and benches are not to be relocated. If you witness this happening, please report the details to a board member.

Damage to the premises will result in your membership being revoked and dues will not be refunded.

The target stands accept a 30" x 30" piece of cardboard which can be taped to the stands and paper targets attached to that.

Some cardboard squares are provided in a holder that is in Bay 4. Please remove and place cardboard back into the holder once you are done shooting to keep the ranges clean and allow others to use the cardboard.

Brass should be picked up and put into the brass containers or taken with you.

Garbage should be picked up and taken home with you and not left on the range for others to deal with. If you pack it in, you should pack it out.

Thank you,

Portage Rod and Gun Club Board of Directors

This is how we found the range a few weeks ago. This is unacceptable.



There are red and white signs installed that read "DO NOT RELOCATE TARGET STANDS".

10 of the 14 target stands were pulled out and left lying on the range. Stands are not to be pulled out the ground and moved.

This club belongs to our members, it is everyone's responsibility to maintain the ranges.

Gun Show

The spring gun show will be March 16th and 17th with \$5 admission per person.

Doors are open Saturday from 9 to 5 and Sunday from 9 to 3.

Contact Bob Corning (608) 617-8388 if you would like to reserve a table.

Precision Rimfire League

Rimfire Match Update – Ben Halverson

The second season of holding monthly 22LR Rimfire matches is in the books. The objective is to offer our membership additional shooting sports to participate in. We provide a family friendly casual environment to improve our skills behind a rifle. The matches we hold are not associated with a larger organization. That provides us the flexibility to tailor the experience for each shooter. We can accommodate new shooters looking to learn and have a good experience, by allowing coaching, removing time limits, or altering firing positions. We will accommodate those with physical limitations. We can do this while those of us who are looking for competition still have that challenge.

The cost of entry into the sport is also low. Any reasonably accurate magazine fed 22LR with a magnified optic, zeroed at 50 yards that may be hiding in the back of the closet is a perfect starting point. The gear rabbit hole you can go down is deep especially if you do some research on You Tube. There are certain things that will help to be more competitive but are not necessary to participate or even compete. Things like bi-pods, rear bags are good items that can be borrowed before you make an investment. We will be holding another Introduction and Sight In day the first Saturday in April. This is a no cost opportunity for members to come out, see what it's about and give it a try. Keep an eye on the calendar for match dates and events. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at halversonb@yahoo.com or call 608-732-0353.

5 Stand

We had a good summer season shooting 5 Stand. There were 78 shooters in the 25 bird rounds and 206 shooters shot 50 bird rounds. We loaded 91 cases of targets in the 8 machines we use. We were open Tuesday evenings from 5 to 7 and Saturdays from 10 to 2. We had more shooters on Tuesday evenings than we did on Saturdays. With that in mind, I will be shortening the Saturday hours to 10 to noon in 2024 for both the Heated Trailer and Outdoor seasons. As always, if there are people waiting to shoot, I will stay open until everybody has had a chance to shoot.

Our Winter shooting starts Tuesday, Jan. 2 at 5 pm in the heated trailer. We have great lights so shooting at night is always a treat, the targets look almost like fireworks when you break them. Saturday, 10-noon is also a good time to shoot in the daylight. While my goal in setting up the targets is to set them to a level that will allow the majority of the shooters to break more than half the targets, they

still present a challenge to even experienced Sporting Clays shooters. Nobody has shot a perfect score yet.

We had 11 shooters in our Sporting Clays Travelling League this year. This involves shooting 50 targets per month, June, July and August, at Portage, Montello and Rio. All scores must be shot by the end of September. That amounts to 150 targets per month, 450 total targets. The entry fee is only \$10 and there is a Lewis Class payout at the end of the season, with all money returned to the two top shooters in each class. In 2023 the top shooter broke 378 of 450 targets and the Class B top shooter broke 332 targets. If we get more shooters interested, we will add a third class for payouts in 2024.

We were able to make some nice improvements to the 5 Stand area over the summer. John Simonson and his kids formed and poured a sidewalk to the trailer from the Clubhouse for just the cost of the concrete. Thank you very much to the crew from Simonson Concrete Construction. Mike Gress donated a 5-gallon bucket of paint and Dale Roisum donated primer, screws, patching material, and labor along with spraying equipment, Ryan Beich also joined us on painting day, so the trailer has a new coat of paint, a great improvement.

What is 5 Stand? This is a Sporting Clays game where the participants shoot at targets from 5 individual stations. All the shooters rotate through all 5 stations in the course of either 25 or 50 targets being thrown for them. Shooters take turns just like in Trap. You shoot your pair of targets, then the person at the next station shoots theirs and on down the line and repeat that sequence until each participant has completed the menu for their station. At that time shooters 1-4 move one station to their right and shooter on station 5 moves to station 1 and the process starts again.

Shooters call for the first target and on Report Pairs the next target is thrown when the shooter fires at the first target. When the menu calls for a True Pair both targets are thrown at the same time and the shooter has to decide which clay to break first. In a 25 bird round the shooter is given a single target, then a Report Pair followed by a True Pair. A 50-bird event consists of 3 Report Pairs and 2 True Pairs.

Come out and try our 5 Stand Sporting Clays, you don't need to have 5 people in a group to shoot. I can accommodate anywhere between 1 and 5 shooters at a time as long as every shooter has their own gun. Any repeating style of shotgun, double barrel, semi-auto or pump will work. We do have 12 and 20 ga shells for sale if you need some. Costs to have stayed the same as last year. Members pay \$8 for a 25-bird round and \$16 for a

50-bird round. Non-members pay \$10 and \$20 respectively.

If you have never tried this shooting style before, don't worry, I will explain everything and show you where all the targets are coming from before the round starts. Our goal is to stay safe and have fun. As always in case of extreme weather check the Portage Rod and Gun Club Facebook for weather related closures. We also have our full bar for you to enjoy after your shooting is done.

If you have questions, you can call me at 608-697-0289.

Dave Dwyer

Trap Leagues

The summer trap league ran from May 3, 2023 for 20 weeks with nine teams shooting. We would like to thank all the shooters for a very good season and for all their help on trap nights scoring and filling the trap machines. The Top team this year was Zinke Dray Line. A banquet was held in October at the end of the season.

We had an all but 12-gauge league from August 12th through August 28th, we had nine shooters for that this year and hope to grow it next year.

January 4, 2024 we will start our Winter Yardage League and are hoping to get a good turn-out.

This will be a 12-week league, if interested please contact Clayton Simonson @ 608 742-2334 for any information. We will be able to shoot this league Wednesday's, Thursday's and Saturday's.

The Clubhouse is open on:

Wednesdays: 9:00 am until Noon and 6:00 pm until 9:30.

Thursdays: 6:00 pm until 9:30 pm.

Saturdays: 10:00 am until 3:00 pm for shooting

Come on out and join the league and if you need to get your work hours in you can come out and score for the leagues.

APT Academy Trainings

This is the 3rd year that we have partnered with APT Academy to offer their training programs here at our club.

They offer classes across the nation as well as their home facility in Missouri.

There are over 75 different classes that they offer, and several skill levels are taught within each class to cater to any experience levels.

After taking several different classes over the past few years, I can personally guarantee that these are worth your time and investment to check them out.

Dates will be on our calendar and more information can be found on their website.

www.aptacademy.com

2023 Calendar of Events

Gun Shows – March 16 & 17, Oct. 12 & 13

Fun Day Shoots – Aug. 24

Clean up Days – Apr. 27 & Sept. 28

Adopt a Highway – Apr. 6 & Nov. 2

Hunter Safety – Apr. 2, 4, 9, 11, 16

Aug. 6, 8, 13, 15, 17, 20

Quad – Mar. 3 & Apr. 7

APT – May 25 & 26, June 22 & 23

July 13 & 14, Sept. 14 & 15

Kyle Paske Shoot – July 27

Andy Garwell Memorial Match – Aug. 17

Board Meetings – Jan. 15 Feb. 19, Mar. 18, Apr. 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18 & Dec. 16.

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*A great way to earn your four work hours is to help out with these events. Contact a Board Member to let us know when you can help.

Club Info

Club Contact Information:

Address: W10450 Hwy 16, P.O. Box 453

Portage, WI 53901

Phone: 608 742 6885

Website: portagerodandgun.org

Check out our Facebook page: [portage rod and gun club](#)

Board Member Contact Information

Charlie Kirk (President) 608-516-8305

Clayton Simonson (Vice President) 608-742-2334

Bruce Weyh (Treasurer) 608-981-2582

Bill Voigt 608-547-2578

Dan Denzer 608-697-8482

Larry Lietz 920-992-5572

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