

HOWELL SHOOTING CLUB

July 2004

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Any questions concerning the operation of the Club can be brought up at the Monthly Membership Meeting or by contacting any of the above Directors.

You can submit your ideas or articles for the newsletter to any Board member or Bob Shamasko in the following manners:

Phone (630)553-7372
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Calendars for MORE courses and events being offered by The Howell Shooting Club and The Range and Field Training Team can be viewed at:
www.howellshootingclub.com

An AWESOME year for activities and training !!!!!
HSC Events Calendar 2004

All General Membership meetings begin at 9 a.m.

August

. **August 1 General Meeting**

September

. **September 5 General Meeting**

October

. **October 3 General Meeting**

November

. **November 7 General Meeting**

December

. **December 5 General Meeting**

. **Club Fun shoots first Sunday of the month May through October**

June President's Letter

June 2004 Newsletter

From the president
6th Annual Clyde Howell Camp
David A. Lombardo

The 6th Annual Clyde Howell NRA Youth Shooting Sports Camp has come-and-gone.
We had a total of 100 campers with 80 in the traditional shooting sports rotation and 20 in the IDNR Hunter Education program. It took 129 instructors, chaperones, general volunteers and interns to staff the 2 ½ day program.

On Saturday, State Senator Chris Lauzen and his two sons visited the camp for about 90 minutes. He spent some time talking to kids and volunteers and then he and his sons tried their hands at trap and pistol shooting. Senator Lauzen stressed his total support for the camp and the right of all law abiding citizens to keep and bare arms. He asked to be invited back to the camp next year.

The statistics do the best job of telling the camp's story this year. Over 88% of the campers and 91% of the adult volunteers rated the food as good or excellent. Food was a common complaint from the adults last year, none of whom made a negative comment about it this year. Kudos go to Jim Bergeron, Hanson & Margo Pickerl, Dave Schillinger and the kitchen staff.

Ed Harrigan of archery received the most popular instructor award again this year and modern shotgun was rated most liked (33%) by the campers with archery coming in at second place with 23% of the vote.

The shooting sports campers rated the camp an average of 8.7 with ten being the highest possible rating. The Hunter Education group rated the camp at 9.1. Ninety-one percent of the Shooting Sports respondents said they would attend the camp again and 100% of the Hunter Ed kids said they'd come back next year for an advance hunting skills camp.

While there were about a half dozen very negative volunteer evaluations still espousing anger over the change in leadership and finding fault with everything from the food to the donor brochure, the most significant finding is that 83% of the adult respondents said they would return. A few said they'd been working the camp for four or five years and just needed a break. I can definitely understand needing a break. Only five individuals said specifically they would not return for reasons other than just simply needing a break.

I made some hard monetary decisions this year that did not go over well with a few people. It is my opinion that the camp exists for kids so I took a long look at where money was being spent and opted to funnel most of the funds toward things that directly benefited the campers.

When Deb Richey, the Assistant Director for Administration & Registrar, and I went to order T-shirts and caps for adults from the traditional supplier, duplicating the same T-shirts and caps as last year in the quantity necessary, the bid was over \$2000. I vetoed it on the spot.

Subsequently, in the Volunteer Evaluation form we asked how important T-Shirts, caps and the certificate of recognition were to adult volunteers. Almost everyone, with very few exceptions, said the T-shirt and caps didn't matter at all or were a low priority compared to channeling the money to the kids. Many did suggest they liked getting the certificate of appreciation.

We did give adult volunteers certificates this year and will continue to do so in the future. We deeply value our volunteers efforts and want to reward them. We've already been in contact with a number of different suppliers for 2005 and I have hopes of significantly lowering the cost of adult T-shirts and caps to the point where it makes economic sense in the future.

To expedite locating key people I used a Navy aircraft carrier system. We purchased a number of color coded caps. Individuals wearing blue caps were EMTs, those with green hats were repair crew, black caps were security, red were interns and four white caps with red bills were the four principals running the camp. It became easy to locate key individuals quickly in a sea of over 200 people.

We had a very small number of T-shirts and caps left over from previous camps. There weren't enough to give them away without raising issues of favoritism so the suggestion was made to sell them as souvenirs. Believe it or not, they sold like hotcakes and raised over \$100.

We implemented a cost accounting system this year and closely controlled spending emphasizing the addition of necessary instructional equipment to run the camp. We purchased eleven new

rifles, four new black powder shotguns, two pump 20 gauge slug shotguns, six air rifles, a left handed bow, individual discipline light repair tool kits and first aid kit for every discipline.

I told key people that we needed to look for ways to keep expenses down and donations up for reasons which I will explain shortly. The effort was remarkable. Jim Bergeron and Hanson and Margo Pickerl gave me a \$3500 food estimate for 1500 meals over 2 1/2 days. Quite frankly I stewed over the number (no pun intended) for months and kept money in reserve because I was convinced they couldn't do it. In keeping with my no-micromanaging philosophy I let them do their thing.

I kept emphasizing that we had to serve first rate food in very, very bountiful portions. They kept saying they'd do it. Our dear friend Van at Rosati's Pizza pitched in yet again but even still I was astounded by the final cost which included renting a refrigerator trailer. It was about \$2200; under \$1.50 per person per meal and that included a whole roast hog and turkeys for Saturday night dinner!

I was asked to be a guest speaker at the Chicago Safari Club and the next morning they called and said they were so impressed with what we're doing they wanted to donate \$1000 to the camp. The NRA grant I requested came through with an additional \$1500, and Mike Hauser and Sheldon Latz raised \$2000 in donations and over \$4500 in in-kind contributions for a total donation package of over \$9000! We started the 2004 camp fiscal year with about \$3500 in funds and an educated guess is we'll end up at about \$5000 considering there are still a few minor bills yet to come in.

There are still quite a few fixed assets we need to acquire before we can actually lower the camper fee but I see it happening in the next couple of years. One of our major recurring expenses next to the food is the rental bill. Chairs, tables, tents and kitchen equipment account for over \$1000 after the

company gives us a generous in-kind contribution. While we appreciate their generosity, we need to pare down that recurring expense. We have paid many times over for some of the items we rent.

Another decision I made that was unpopular with a few people was we stopped giving campers prizes of firearms and went to gift certificates instead. I didn't like having to do that but the liability and parental consent issues of giving 10 to 16 year old kids firearms were simply unconscionable. The gift certificates were for MegaSports so they can be equally applied to firearms or other shooting sports equipment.

The reason for running a financially tighter ship, aside from good management practice, is apparently no one has ever considered what would happen if the camp had to be cancelled at the last minute.

Most of the expenses of the camp are paid in advance, such as the rental fees, so there is clearly not enough money in the account to refund \$10,000 to the 100 campers if we're forced to cancel Friday afternoon. I don't know why no one's ever addressed that issue in the past but I lost many nights of sleep knowing it was a possibility. I watched the weather forecast with one eye and the cash flow with the other for months.

While I approved necessary spending for the disciplines to do their job, I reigned in on unnecessary expenses to keep as much cash available as possible to help offset that possibility. The club would clearly have been fiscally responsible. Beginning 2005, we will have a Force Majeure clause on our camper forms to release the club from the financial responsibility of a cancellation for reasons beyond our control.

This year we also had two full time Armorers, Jack Gleason and Wayne Walters. I asked them to keep very close account of all consumables by discipline. In addition, I asked the other key personnel to carefully record everything they did in terms of contacts. We are

now putting together a very comprehensive checklist on how to run the camp. It will cut hundreds of hours of planning and preparation time in the future. No more scurrying into a file with scraps of paper to figure out what was used the previous year and where to get it. It will be in book format along with an actual cost accounting and a donor list with contact names and previous contributions making the job of getting donations much simpler.

Finally, it is most important that some key individuals be recognized for their enormous, year-long effort. The individual discipline leaders performed splendidly as always, providing the kids with a memorable camp. The behind the scenes personnel that worked all year in preparation, giving hundreds and hundreds of hours of their time, include Deb Richey (Assistant Director Administration & Registrar), Bruce Hamp (Assistant Director Support), Chuck Mansfield (Assistant Director Programs), Kerry Krickeberg (Howell Board Member-At-Large & work coordinator), Jim Bergeron, Hanson & Margo Pickerl (Food services), Mike Sipes (Safety/Security), Tim Gburek (Buildings & Grounds), Bob Goepf (Medical coordinator), Mike Hauser and Sheldon Latz (Fund Raising), Greg Begel (chaperone coordinator) and of course, Clyde and Yvonne Howell. Without these very key people, and too many more to name, there would have been no camp.

Thanks for all your support too and we're already planning a stronger 2005 camp based on suggestions received from this years kids and volunteers.

Best wishes and safe shooting.

From Tom Yackley : **ARTICLE**

A big THANKS to all club members that volunteered their valuable time and efforts to making the 6th Annual Clyde Howell NRA Youth Shooting Sports Camp a successful experience for all the girls and boys that were in attendance. Also, please extend my thanks to your

families and employers for their sacrifice and understanding in assisting in providing this valuable activity.

Without your input, there would be no such activity in this part of the state. However, your efforts have helped shape the future of the State of Illinois. In addition to continuing activity in this area of the state, my efforts will also be directed at establishing new events in other parts of the state.

When a confirmed new activity is scheduled, you will be notified of the events and their locations. Some of these will be one day sessions. Others are for adults, families, competitors, as well as girls and boys of various ages.

I look forward to working with all of you in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Yackley

Volunteer State Coordinator for NRA Shooting Sports Camp Programs

From Keith Tomes

Rifle Shoots

July- Breaking clay pigeons! No not while in mid air (except Clyde maybe)

The birds will be in holders or suspended. Distance 50y. Scopes of course and artificial supports are allowed. Bipods, shooting sticks, bags etc. This is a speed contest that will involve a reload.

August- Pure accuracy. Bench Rest (Picnic tables) Distance 75y

Alert from the ISRA 07/06/04

URGENT ALERT

YOUR IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

Environmentalists and gun grabbers are joining forces to close Naperville Sportsmens Club. A very important meeting of the Naperville Park District Board will be held at 7:00 PM on Thursday, July 8th at the District Headquarters, 320 W. Jackson, Naperville. At that meeting, the board

will be hearing arguments to close the club. The environmentalists will be making bogus claims that he club is polluting the environment despite the fact that the EPA has blessed the clubs operations. Local gun grabbers, including the League of Women Voters, are sure to testify that the trap shooting club is a danger to the community and inspires gang membership. **THIS IS NOT JUST A NAPERVILLE PROBLEM** During a previous lawsuit against the Naperville club, the environmentalists expressed their hope that the suit would result in more suits filed against other clubs, with the intent being to shut down every outdoor range in Illinois. They are at it again. If the environmentalists win in Naperville, your favorite club or range will be next on their target list. **WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO PROTECT YOUR GUN RIGHTS**

1. Call the Naperville Park District TODAY at 630.848.5000 and politely tell the operator to leave a message for the board members telling them that you are a law-abiding gun owner and that you oppose the closing of Naperville Sportsmens Club.
2. Plan on attending the Park District Board meeting on Thursday, 8 July 2004 at the Park District Headquarters, 320 West Jackson, Naperville at 7:00 PM. They will set aside time for members of the public to speak bring a prepared statement expressing your support for the club and the right to keep and bear arms.
3. Please pass this alert on to all of your gun owning friends and tell them to take action now!
4. Please post this alert on any and all Internet bulletin boards to which you belong.

REMEMBER " THE FIGHT TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT YOUR GUN RIGHTS NEVER ENDS " GUN CONTROL IS A DISEASE, YOU ARE THE CURE!

From the ISRA WebSite:

DuPage County Board to consider proposal for public shooting range

Your support is needed

The following is an ISRA Alert:

READ CAREFULLY: You do not have to be a DuPage County resident to take action on this Alert. Support from EVERYONE, whether they live in DuPage County or not, is needed in this effort. Please follow the directions listed below very carefully.

DON'T LET DALEY AND THE ANTIGUNNERS WIN THIS FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHT TO SHOOT!

The DuPage Forest District Board will soon consider a proposal to build a public range in the county. Chicago antigunners have been vigorously working to torpedo the range proposal.

If you support the concept of convenient access to ranges for ALL Illinois gun owners, it is important that you contact the DuPage County Forest District Board Members today, and tell them that you support building a range in DuPage County.

There are 4 things you must do:

#1....Call the Forest Preserve HQ at (630) 933-7200 and POLITELY tell the operator that you want to leave a message for the board. Tell the operator that you are in support of building a range in DuPage County and that you would like to see the forest preserve district board vote to build a range

#2....Send a POLITE email to each of the following board members, telling them that you support the building of a range in DuPage County:

Marsha Murphy
mmurphy@dupageforest.com

Joe Cantore jcantore@dupageforest.com

Wally Brown
wbrown@dupageforest.com

Gwen Henry ghenry@dupageforest.com

Carl Schultz cschultz@dupageforest.com

Roger Kotecki

rkotecki@dupageforest.com

#3...Please pass this alert on to all your gun owning friends and ask them to make calls and send emails in support of a public range in DuPage County.

Remember, you or your friends DO NOT have to be a resident of DuPage County to participate in this ACTION ALERT.

#4....Please post this Alert to any and all Internet bulletin boards to which you may belong.

Thank you.

Remember - Gun control is a disease, YOU are the cure!

Posted Fri Jun 18 07:33:23 CDT 2004

"On every question of construction (of the Constitution) let us carry ourselves back to the time when the Constitution was adopted, recollect the spirit manifested in the debates, and instead of trying what meaning may be squeezed out of the text, or invented against it, conform to the probable one in which it was passed." (Thomas Jefferson, letter to William Johnson, June 12, 1823, The Complete Jefferson, p. 322)

"The whole of the Bill (of Rights) is a declaration of the right of the people at large or considered as individuals.... It establishes some rights of the individual as unalienable and which consequently, no majority has a right to deprive them of." (Albert Gallatin of the New York Historical Society, October 7, 1789

"the ultimate authority ... resides in the people alone," (James Madison, author of the Bill of Rights, in Federalist Paper #46.)

"The Constitution shall never be construed....to prevent the people of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms" (Samuel Adams, Debates and Proceedings in the Convention of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 86-87)

Remember: **"Gun owners have nothing to**

fear from me" candidate Rod Blagojevich - Effingham, Illinois August 2002

From The Chicago Tribune, January 2004
This year, however, the governor said he would "enthusiastically" support such measures. "I'd fight for that," he said of the assault-weapons proposal

"The name of American...must always exalt the just pride of Patriotism, more than any appellation derived from local discriminations." --George Washington

Dangerous laws created by well intentioned people today can be used by dangerous people with evil intentions tomorrow." - Alan Eppers

State pamphlet for firearms transportation.
Courtesy of Champaign County Rifle Association.
<http://www.gunsavelife.com/GSLife/carrygun.pdf>

Web Pages of interest:

www.mynra.com
www.armedfemalesofamerica.com
www.gunsavelife.com
www.gunowners.org
www.jpfo.org
www.libertybelles.org
www.sas-aim.org
www.packing.org
www.womentoarms.net
www.scfirearms.org