



# Elk Rapids Sportsman's Club

# **NEWSLETTER**

## February 2005

on the web at: [www.ersc.org](http://www.ersc.org)

## **CHEERS & JEERS**

**CHEERS** to the arrival of an internet "web log" ("blog"), an on-line critic for Traverse City's only newspaper: [www.truthintcpress.blogspot.com](http://www.truthintcpress.blogspot.com)

This site tells it like it is. Check it out.

**JEERS** to the Traverse City Record Eagle. Their inaccurate and misleading story about our legal challenge (Wednesday, Jan.19) stated the Club had a scant 30 days to vacate. After demands by your Club Chairman and attorneys, an article two days later had an acceptably accurate version, without, of course, any apology to the Club and it's members.

Damage is minimal, however; when Club members were told about the "Wretched Beagle" trespass on journalistic accuracy the common reply was: "What newspaper?" Exactly.

Your newsletter team suggests Club members not buy advertising in the Record Eagle. They have a shameful bias against your Second Amendment rights while abusing *their* First Amendment rights — for profit.

"Those who would seek temporary security at the price of freedom deserve neither." - *Benjamin Franklin*

## **2005 ACTIVITIES**

**April 16:** Spring Clean Up. All ranges closed until work is complete.

**April 30 – May 1:** Cherry Blossom Open. All Ranges Closed.

**June 8:** Family Potluck in lieu of general meeting

**June 11 & 12:** Kids Fishpond

**July 2:** Birch Lake Property Owners annual meeting. All ranges closed until Noon.

**October 29:** Fall Clean Up. All ranges closed until work is complete.

**November 5 – 14:** Sight in Days

**December 14:** Christmas Potluck in lieu of general meeting

## **ERSC FACES LEGAL CHALLENGE**

### ready for "round 2"

In a decision that shocked northern Michigan sportsmen, 13th Circuit Court Judge Philip Rodgers ruled the Elk Rapids Sportsman's Club must vacate their premises 30 days following submission to the court of a township-approved park plan.

The Club is taking the case to the Michigan Court of Appeals — with, we are certain, valid grounds for overturning the ruling.

The club property is leased from Elk Rapids Township. The land was a bequest to the Township from Mina Wilcox in 1948. Rodgers ruled that the Township neglected Wilcox's wishes to have a recreational park on the site alongside the Sportsman's Club.

Wilcox's grandchildren, led by plaintiff Carolyn Shah, sued the Township for a return of the land, claiming Township abandonment.

On Wednesday evening, January 19th, the ERSC Board of Directors reviewed the Club's options based on the opinions of the Club attorneys.

It was the unanimous decision of your Board, based upon those opinions, to authorize our legal counsel to proceed with an appeal in an effort to save your Club.

As intensely as we (and our attorneys) are working in this endeavor, we ask every member for their support, especially their financial support.

In recent months, members, non-members, organizations, and companies have stepped forward with their checks to help save the Club. This need is now even more acute. The alternative is to abandon everything that we, and many others before us, worked so hard to build in these past sixty-five years.

It is the carefully considered opinion of your Board and our attorneys that

there are specific issues of law relative to the court's ruling which should be reviewed at the appellate level. Therefore the expenses continue, and it is necessary that your monetary support also continue.

The decision to appeal was not taken lightly, nor was it simply a knee-jerk reaction to an adverse result. The matter was considered in depth, and only after thorough scrutiny of all the facts and findings in the court's ruling was a unanimous decision made to proceed with an appeal.

The loss of the Club would be a devastating blow to not just every recreational shooter, and hunter/sportsperson who uses the Club now, but to the entire community.

Without the Club, there will be no Hunter Safety program for our youth in the immediate area. The "Kid's Fish Pond" will cease to be a huge event every June where hundreds of kids enjoy the pleasure of catching their first trout.

Nearby homeowner groups will lose the facility for their annual meetings, and local law enforcement (including the U.S.Coast Guard) will lose the ability to conduct training so essential for public safety.

We are undeterred in our commitment to the membership and the community that has supported us so much in the past.

We realize the road ahead is one with many hazards, but we must pursue the path that we feel is right.

The ruling by the court can be read in its entirety by linking to the ERSC website: [www.ersc.org](http://www.ersc.org)

Donations can be sent to: Elk Rapids Sportsman's Club, Legal Defense Fund, P.O. Box 536, Elk Rapids, MI 49629

## FIVE STAND Saturdays 10 - 2

Five Stand is very similar to Sporting Clays — a wide variety of targets are thrown. There are five “stands” or stations to shoot from. There are 6 traps that throw targets. Participants shoot in turn at each of the 5 stands and various combinations of targets are thrown from the traps. There is a menu card that will advise the shooter of the sequence of targets.

Five Stand is a great way to get a Sporting Clays like experience in a small amount of space, with very little walking. Starts 10:00 AM Saturdays. \$4.00 per round, \$5.00 per round non-member. For information call: Brian S. Kroll 267-9422 - or - bsk1@torchlake.com.

## WINTER SKEET LEAGUE

500 birds in 10 weeks  
sign-up fee \$25.00  
starts January 22, 2005  
ends April 3, 2005  
banquet April 27  
great food & prizes  
for *everyone*

sign up at the skeet desk  
Wednesdays or Sundays before  
January 22

### FEBRUARY 9 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Voss Guntzviller talks about  
turkey hunting:  
calling techniques, scouting,  
use of camouflage etc.  
beginning at 7:30 pm.

## VOLUNTEER !

The Club needs your skills  
in building our website  
and newsletter

Contact Brian Kroll at:  
bsk1@torchLake.com  
or: (231) 267-9422.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 5, 2005

Called to order at 7:00 PM by  
Chairman Brian Kroll.

Board members present: Brian Kroll,  
Tom Deasy, Doug Fowler, Dave  
Handley, Randy Jorgensen, Matt  
Lyons, Ray Pollister, Frank Sarasin.  
Not present: Russ DeBolt.

Club members present: Rich  
Hoadley, Gary Sutter, Howard  
Yamaguchi

December minutes were approved  
unanimously.

### Election of Officers for 2005:

Matt Lyon elected Vice-chairman  
Tom Deasy re-elected Treasurer  
Doug Fowler re-elected Secretary  
Randy Jorgensen elected Range  
Master

### Committee chair appointments:

Matt Lyons, Environmental  
Dave Handley, Membership  
Frank Sarasin, Programs & Promo-  
tions  
Russ DeBolt, Building & Grounds

### Schedule of events for 2005:

**April 16:** Spring Clean Up. All  
ranges closed until work is complet-  
ed.

**April 30 – May 1:** Cherry Blossom  
Open. All Ranges Closed.

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The annual **Turkey Shoot** is usually  
in September. The Board suggests  
the event might be better in August,  
to coincide with, or near, the Elk

Rapids Harbor Days Festival. The  
shoot could be a highly advertised  
community event to include the  
Turkey Shoot, other shooting events,  
possibly a community pig roast, an  
auction, etc. Membership input is  
requested.

Discussion of requests for **donations**  
from the Club: the Club  
donates to organizations comports  
with Club philosophy and goals, but  
because of litigation brought by  
Carolyn Shah, et. al., the Board  
needs to be conservative in such  
donations. This issue was tabled for  
further discussion.

Discussion of updating and expand-  
ing the Elk Rapids Sportsman's Club  
**website:** the objective is to turn it into  
a profit maker. Tabled for further dis-  
cussion.

**Five Stand Sporting Clays** starts  
Saturday, 1/15/05, at 10:00 AM. It's  
an 11 week trial, each Saturday, to  
determine usage and desire by  
members. Everyone is encouraged  
to come and give it a try. Five Stand  
is a fast paced program with target  
presentations from six different traps  
and in three different skill levels. It is  
especially suited to winter shooting.  
Cost is \$4.00 per round per member,  
or \$5.00 per round for non-members.

Discussion of **reciprocity** between  
area clubs: this would enable mem-  
bers at each club to shoot skeet,  
trap, sporting clays or five stand at  
other clubs at the host club member  
rate. Motion to send letters to  
Charlevoix, Cedar, Benzie, and  
Northland clubs to explore their inter-  
est carried 5 to 3.

Two **trap machines** (high house on  
#1 skeet field and the trap field) are  
not functioning properly. The traps  
will be fixed.

Board of Directors meeting  
adjourned at 8:50 PM. Respectfully  
submitted, Doug Fowler.

# LEGAL FUND DONATIONS

The ERSC thanks these supporters who have contributed to the Club legal defense fund in the last month:

Sen. Jason Allen  
Mike McGuire  
Clark Richardson  
Hon. Tom Power  
Brad Boals  
Jim Dixon  
Dave Handley  
Mitch & Brenda Rider  
Myrna & Glendon Howse

Scott Jantz  
Claire Kopkau  
Dr. Richard Hoadley  
John Iaconi  
Gary Herzler M.D.  
Dan Sylvester  
Bonnie Craig  
Stan Zenas

Send checks to ERSC Legal Fund, P.O. Box 536, Elk Rapids, MI 49629  
**Have you done your part? Can you do more? Please -- help!**

## ERSC Board of Directors

Brian Kroll, Chairman  
bsk1@torchlake.com  
(231) 267-9422

Matt Lyons, Vice Chairman  
chrryice@traverse.net  
(231) 922-2918

Doug Fowler, Secretary  
dfowler376@torchlake.com  
(231) 264-6905

Tom Deasy, Treasurer  
tdeasy@freeway.net  
(231) 941-1012

Frank Sarasin, programs  
frank@ersc.org  
(231) 264-9263

Russ DeBolt, bldg. maintenance  
srdom@torchlake.com  
(231) 258-4320

David Handley, membership  
membership@ersc.org  
(231) 264-0039

Randy Jorgensen, range master  
raj@torchlake.com  
(231) 264-5513

Ray Pollister, range master 2  
rpskeet@charter.net  
(231) 264-8267

**Buying a house?  
You need an inspection!**

call  
**David J. Handley,**  
National Property Inspections  
*bonded and insured*  
**(231) 633-4677**  
npi\_michigan@msn.com  
ERSC member

**James R. Datsko, P.C.**  
Attorney At Law

10% Discount on Estate Planning  
for Members  
Who Name the NRA in Their Will or Trust

104 Dexter, Ste. 201  
Elk Rapids, MI  
Tel. (231) 264-1040

## RENTALS

Unlimited

**Dave Gill, owner** 3100 S. U.S. 31  
ERSC member Traverse City  
NRA Life Member (231) 941-0311  
we support Elk Rapids Sportsman's Club

## Send Bros. Farm Mart

8976 E. M-72, Williamsburg  
Mon.- Fri. 8:00 - 5:30  
Sat. 8:00 - 3:00 closed Sunday  
(231) 267-9010  
spamgas@torchlake.com  
we support Elk Rapids Sportsman's Club

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803 W. Front St., Suite B • Traverse City, MI 49684  
Located at Front and Cedar, 1 block west of Division  
(231) 935-0241 • Fax (231) 935-1748 • theprintshop@traverse.net

## ACTION SHOOTING WINTER EVENTS

Saturday, February 5  
Blizzard Shoot (50 bird)

Saturday, March 5  
50 Bird fun shoot  
Five stand open on both dates.

**NSCA Registered Shoots**  
June 25, July 23

**ACTION SHOOTING**  
1872 North 41 Rd., Manton  
(231) 824-6378 - 824-3179  
Open 9 am till Dark.

## LINKS OF INTEREST

Michigan D.N.R.  
[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

National Shooting Sports  
Foundation  
[www.nssf.org/bulletpoints](http://www.nssf.org/bulletpoints)

NRA news  
[www.nranews.com/nra.html](http://www.nranews.com/nra.html)

NRA-Institute for Legislative  
Action  
[www.nraila.org](http://www.nraila.org)

Concealed Pistols Trainer  
[www.cpltrainer.com](http://www.cpltrainer.com)

## ERSC Newsletter Team

**Brian Kroll**, marketing  
& production  
bsk1@torchlake.com  
(231) 267-9422

**Jack Fellows**, editor  
jackfellows@core.com

**ADVERTISE** in this monthly newsletter  
starting at only \$25 per month. Contact Brian Kroll at  
(231) 267-9422, or bsk1@torchlake.com

**Elk Rapids Sportsman's Club**  
**P.O. Box 536**  
**Elk Rapids, MI 49629**

<p><b>PRESORTED</b>  <b>U.S. POSTAGE PAID</b>  <b>PERMIT No. 20</b>  <b>RAPID CITY, MI</b>  <b>49676</b></p>
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**ERSC CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2005**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
trap-skeet 10 - 4		1	2 trap-skeet 1 - 4 board: 7:00	3	4	5 5-stand 10-2 blackpowder 1 PM
6 trap-skeet 10 - 4	7	8	9 trap-skeet 1 - 4 membership: 7:30	10	11	12 5-stand 10-2 blackpowder 1 PM
13 trap-skeet 10 - 4	14	15	16 trap-skeet 1 - 4	17	18	19 5-stand 10-2 blackpowder 1 PM
20 trap-skeet 10 - 4	21	22	23 trap-skeet 1 - 4	24	25	26 5-stand 10-2 blackpowder 1 PM
trap-skeet 10 - 4	28					