



Elk Rapids Sportsman's Club

your community shooting sports resource

NEWSLETTER

October 2005

on the web at: www.ersc.org

ERSC to Host Builders Exchange

by Brian Kroll

Thursday October 6, the Elk Rapids Sportsman's Club will host the Builders Exchange of Northwest Michigan for an exciting day of Five Stand Sporting Clays, Skeet, and Trap.

The Builders Exchange of Northwest Michigan was incorporated in 1959 and is a member owned organization. It is a non-profit organization supported by annual dues and service fees and is overseen by a nine member Board of Directors.

continued on page 4

ERSC BOARD NOMINATIONS OPEN

Four seats on the Board of Directors expire at the end of this year. Any current ERSC member in good standing is eligible to run for a seat on the Board. Directors are expected to perform their duties in the best interests of the club and accept their assigned responsibilities.

The ideal candidate is highly motivated and has the time available to make such a commitment. If there are more than four candidates for the Board, an election will take place in December.

If you wish to have your name placed in nomination for a seat on the Board, or if you wish to nominate another ERSC member, please contact Brian Kroll at (231) 267-9422, or E mail at bsk1@torchlake.com

ERSC 2005 events

October 8: Five Stand Extravaganza

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 CASE HEARD BY APPEALS COURT

by Brian Kroll

Wednesday, September 14, 2005, the appeals by the Club and Elk Rapids Township were heard by a 3-judge panel of the Court of Appeals in Lansing. The arguments lasted an hour, the maximum time allowed by the court.

The lawyers for the Club and the Township emphasized the broad and unconditional property rights that were granted to the Township in 1948 by the deed of the property by Mina Wilcox. Although Mina Wilcox stated several suggestions in her will, including her wish that the land be used for "recreation," she left the Township the discretion to determine the exact uses that would be allowed on the property.

Wilcox, herself a 10-year member of the Club, expressed her wish that the Township continue to lease the site of the shooting range to the Club and suggested that the Club be given "permanent access" to the property.

The Wilcox heirs first expressed their objection to the Club in 2002. At the court hearing, their attorneys again argued that the property should revert to the heirs because the Township somehow violated the public trust by allowing the Club to remain on the property as it had for 10 years during Mina Wilcox's lifetime and for 44 years following her death. When asked

by the Court to cite a case precedent for this so-called "public trust," the heirs' attorneys were unable to name even *one*.

The heirs' attorneys also persisted in their argument that the Club is somehow "exclusive" and "private," rather than the open and inclusive public service organization that local residents know it to be. Hopefully, the Court will see that the heirs' hyperbole and personal attacks are not supported by the facts.

The questions asked by the judges indicate that they are examining:

- whether the deed should be interpreted to give the Township broad discretion in the use of the property;
- whether Mina Wilcox's wishes for a "recreational" use would reasonably include the Club that she leased the property to for 10 years before her death;
- whether there is any basis to require the Township to allow other uses on the property;
- and whether there is any basis to require the property to revert to the Wilcox heirs.

Traditionally, the court issues its opinions within approximately 4 to 8 weeks after the oral arguments. We will, of course, report the court's opinion to our members and other interested members of the public as soon as we know its outcome.

Five Stand Extravaganza!

by Brian Kroll

Remember last winter's immensely popular five stand clays program? Mark your calendar for **Saturday, October 8.**

By special arrangement, the club will offer members – and the public – an opportunity to shoot Five Stand Sporting Clays utilizing eight computer controlled traps on the South Skeet field.

Presentations will include Springing Teal, Chondels, Rabbits, Midis, and Minis. Skeet and Trap will also be available on the North

Field. Shooting starts at 10:00 AM and will last until approximately 5 PM. Ammunition will be available at the desk in the clubhouse. Costs are \$5.00 for current ERSC members, and \$7.00 for non members, per round of 25 birds. Skill levels are adjustable according to each squad's preference, and are easily accommodated by the computer that runs the traps.

For further information contact: Brian Kroll (231) 267-9422 or by E-mail: bsk1@torchlake.com

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FALL CLEANUP OCTOBER 29!

Attention Club Members! Annual Fall Clean up is **Saturday October 29** at the Club. Do your part as a member and help keep the club grounds and ranges neat and well maintained. Bring a lawn rake and show up to help out. Work includes range maintenance, and hull and clays cleanup on the shotgun ranges. Come out and meet your fellow Club members. Work starts at 8:00 AM, and usually is over with by 2:00 PM. **ALL RANGES ARE CLOSED UNTIL THE WORK IS DONE!** Questions? Call Russ Debolt at (231) 258-4320, or E-mail Russ at srdom@torchlake.com

ADVERTISE in this monthly newsletter: reach more than 600 discerning and loyal customers -- your neighbors, friends and shooting buddies -- *and* you'll have the satisfaction of supporting your club in a very important way. It's cost-effective -- starting at only \$25 per month. Do it while there's still space! Contact Brian Kroll at (231) 267-9422, or e-mail: bsk1@torchlake.com.

Your ERSC Newsletter welcomes your submissions. If you have information of timely interest to Club members, send it for review (by e-mail) to:

Brian Kroll: bsk1@torchlake.com

or: Jack Fellows: jackfellows@core.com

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FIVE STAND EXTRAVAGANZA!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8TH - 10 AM UNTIL 5 PM!

"RAIN DAY" SUNDAY OCTOBER 9TH!

(FOR WEATHER RELATED CHANGES, SEE WWW.ERSC.ORG, OR WATCH FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS ON ERSC E-MAIL NOTIFICATION LIST)

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**QUESTIONS? BRIAN S. KROLL
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BUILDERS EXCHANGE

from page 1

The Builders Exchange provides area contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and manufacturers reps a planroom to review project bid documents. Project information is available to the members through its weekly project update bulletins, or on its website: www.bxtvc.com/about.html, or by visiting the Planroom.

The Planroom, located at 1373 Barlow Street, Traverse City, is one of the few in the nation that offers 24/7 keyed access for the members.

The Builders Exchange's mission is to foster the growth and progress of the Northwest Michigan area by encouraging high standards of quality workmanship, to promote trade schools and the education of artisans in the community for the interchanging of ideas.

The Builders Exchange of Northwest Michigan can be contacted by calling Shannon Kulanda, the Executive Director, or by E-mail at: shannon@bxtvc.com

BENM: 1373 Barlow Street, Suite #4,
Traverse City, MI 49686
phone: (231) 946-5531
fax: (231) 947-5344

ERSC HUNTER SAFETY PROGRAM SUCCESSFUL - AGAIN

by Brian Kroll

In ideal weather, the Club's annual Hunter Safety program was held September 10 and 11.

158 enthusiastic students from the surrounding area learned about hunting laws, safety, and ethics, and put classroom study into practical application. The outdoor portion on Sunday allowed the students to shoot pistols, rifles, shotguns, BB guns, blackpowder, and archery.

This annual event is only possible because of the generosity of both the Club's volunteers, and the businesses that contribute the many products necessary to make such an event possible.

The Club wishes to thank the following companies for their generous donations:

Rental Unlimited/Earplugs
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Lynette Kimbler, Central Lake bus driver
Mike Sizen, Bellaire

Instructors and volunteers from the club that made the event possible were:

Gary Sutter, Russ DeBolt, Officer Mike Courson, Chuck McPherson, Andy Michalski, Frank Sarasin, Jeff Schiller, Officer Gary Bradley, Randy Rhoads, Larry Leitow, Dan Krogel, Richard Hoadley, Jim School, Spencer School, Tom Otten, Art Guthaus, Curtis Guntzville, Patty Sutter, Danni Francis, Jordan Francis, Tom Deasy, Bob Bassett, Brian Kroll, Dean Pratt, Paul Whitelock, Jim Reynolds, DNR Officer Mark Pomeroy, and Randy Jorgensen.

Thanks to all who gave of their time, talent and treasure... but most of all, thanks for your devotion to our youth.

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**LAW WOULD ALLOW
HANDGUN "LOAN" WITH
CONCEALED LICENSE**

A bill offered in the Michigan House on September 8 would allow an individual to carry, possess, use, or transport a pistol belonging to another individual, if the other individual's pistol were properly licensed and inspected, and the individual carrying or transporting the pistol had obtained a license to carry a concealed pistol.

This would replace a law that only allows a CPL holder *spouse* of the handgun owner to "borrow" the handgun.

Michigan CPL holders are among the most closely-vetted citizens, passing background and fingerprint checks at the federal and state level.

Michigan's approximately 150,000 CPL holders have established a record of restraint and civic responsibility. Anti-gun critics have acknowledged a drop in street crime and an absence of the "shoot-em-ups" they prophesied when the law passed.

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Please thank these supporters who contributed to the Club legal defense fund:

Paul Whitelock #3
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Your contributions do help and they are appreciated. Please send checks to: ERSC Legal Defense Fund, P.O. Box 536, Elk Rapids, MI 49629. Do it today.

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"THANK YOU" FOR HELPING WITH HUNTER SAFETY PROGRAM

- by Brian Kroll

On September 10 and 11 the Elk Rapids Sportsman's Club hosted its annual Hunter Safety program for our area youth. This free program, taught by volunteer instructors from the Club plants the seeds of ethical sportsmanship in each student that will last them a lifetime, and one that they in turn will pass on to future generations that follow.

None of these programs would exist easily without the partnership that exists between the local business community and our club.

As the Chairman of the Elk Rapids Sportsman's Club, I want to thank each of you for your donation to this year's Hunter Safety program. It is truly gratifying to see such widespread support for our program – a program that puts a focus on training future generations of outdoor enthusiasts.

Your sense of community is also a sound business investment that will pay dividends for many years to come.

We hope you'll be a part of next year's program, and we sincerely appreciate your contribution this year!



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KATRINA CHAOS BOOSTS CASE FOR 2nd AMENDMENT

by Nolan Finley, Detroit News
(reprinted with permission)

As New Orleans flooded and whatever civil society the city could lay claim to disintegrated, those left behind needed two things: a powerful will to survive and a gun.

Hurricane Katrina might end up being the best friend the Second Amendment ever had.

Gun dealers across the country are reporting increased sales. People who saw on television what happens when government can't deliver on the promise of protecting its citizens are buying firearms as an insurance policy against anarchy.

That assurance of government-provided security has convinced individual Americans to gradually trade in their unrestrained constitutional right to bear arms.

But for days, there was no law in New Orleans and no government to speak of. All rules were off.

While the politically correct version of what happened is that desperate people looted stores for food and water, that's only part of the story. Bands of armed hoodlums roamed the city, smashing their way into businesses and homes, carting off jewelry, liquor, televisions and other goods that had nothing to do with survival.

People were murdered, raped, stripped of their meager provisions.

Those with the best chance of surviving were the ones who had shotguns, rifles and pistols stashed away in closets and drawers.

Homeowner John Carolan ran off a mob of young men armed with knives and machetes and intent on stealing his gener-

ator by firing a few rounds from a .357 Magnum over their heads. "They scattered," he told reporters.

After looters poured into a nursing home and carted off the food, water and medicine, administrator Peggy Hoffman told the Associated Press, "we'll have to equip our department heads with guns and teach them how to shoot."

Lots of Americans are thinking about shooting lessons today.

The tiresome question, "Why does anyone need a gun?" now has its answer.

Order can deteriorate in this country to the point where nothing stands between the law-abiding citizen and the marauding mob except blue steel. It happened in New Orleans. It can happen anywhere else in America at anytime.

It will be harder now for the anti-gun lobby to convince Americans to dismantle even more of the Second Amendment.

Of course, they'll try to spin this to say that were there no guns to begin with, the looters wouldn't have been armed and dangerous. But thieves, murderers and the rest of the rabble have always been more ingenious at procuring weapons than law-abiding citizens.

No amount of gun control laws will keep the dark side of this society from arming itself for evil purposes.

To twist the old bumper sticker, Americans will give up their guns when they can be certain all the guns have been pried out of the cold, dead fingers of all the bad guys.

Until then, they'll prefer to keep a little heat in the house.

Suit Filed to Halt New Orleans Gun Seizures

The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF), National Rifle Association (NRA) and individual gun owners in Louisiana filed a motion in U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana seeking a temporary restraining order to stop authorities in and around the City of New Orleans from seizing firearms from private citizens in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Arbitrary gun seizures, without warrant or probable cause, have been reported during the past three weeks since the Crescent City was devastated by the hurricane. In cases reported to SAF, police refused to give citizens receipts for their seized firearms. Earlier, SAF insisted that police account for all seized firearms, disclose their whereabouts, and explain how they will be returned to their rightful owners. Authorities have not responded.

Gun confiscations have been highly publicized since the New York Times quoted New Orleans Police Superintendent P. Edwin Compass III, who said, "Only law enforcement are allowed to have weapons," and ABC News quoted Deputy Police Chief Warren Riley stating, "No one will be able to be armed. We are going to take all the weapons."

For example, a San Francisco, CA camera crew from KTVU filmed one incident in which visiting California Highway Patrol officers tackled an elderly woman identified as Patricia Konie, to seize her pistol and forcibly remove her from her home. An ABC news crew accompanying an Oklahoma National Guard unit filmed another incident in which homeowners were handcuffed and disarmed, then released but without their firearms.

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ERSC CALENDAR October 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 trap-skeet 10 - 4	3	4	5 trap-skeet 1 - 4 board meeting 7 PM	6 BLACKPOWDER 5:30 PM	7	8 Five Stand Extravaganza! 10 - 5
9 trap-skeet 10 - 4	10	11	12 trap-skeet 1-4 membership meeting 7 PM	13 BLACKPOWDER 5:30 PM	14	15
16 trap-skeet 10 - 4	17	18	19 trap-skeet 1 - 4	20 BLACKPOWDER 5:30 PM	21	22
23/30 trap-skeet 10 - 4	24/31	25	26 trap-skeet 1 - 4	27 BLACKPOWDER 5:30 PM	28	29 FALL CLEAN UP ranges closed