



January 2003 Newsletter

Elk Rapids Sportsman's Club

P.O. Box 536
Elk Rapids, MI 49629-0536



DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION AND PERPETUATION OF THE SHOOTING SPORTS

(Newsletter on line at: www.ersc.org)

ELK RAPIDS SPORTSMAN'S CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2003

Ron Fortier: Chairman/Membership
rlfortier@coslink.net 231-929-0553

Tom Deasy: Treasurer
tdeasy@freeway.net; 231-941-1012

Patty Sutter: Secretary
gsutter@traverse.com; 231-264-8444

Gary Sutter: Programs & Promotions
gsutter@traverse.com; 231-264-8444

Russ DeBolt: Building & Grounds
srdm@torchlake.com

Ray Pollister: Range Master
rpskeet@aol.com

Bill Ackerman: Assistant Range Master
231-938-2256

Rock Wilson: Newsletter Editor
rock@traverse.net; 231-947-2481

Howard Yamaguchi: Director
hayamaguchi@members.asce.org

General Meeting, December 4, 2002

A very nice party, lots of good eats! We are very sorry if you missed it. Have a happy holiday season.!

Board Meeting, December 11, 2002

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Ron Fortier, Ray Pollister, Gary Sutter, Tom Deasy, Bill Ackerman, Russ DeBolt, Patty Sutter.

Absent: Rock Wilson

Also present: Phil Pomber, Art Guthaus, Frank Sarasin, Voss Guntzviller, Pat Guntzviller, Rich Hoadley, Howard Yamaguchi.

DeBolt made a motion to accept the minutes as published. G. Sutter second. Unanimous. Carried.

Over 70 club members were present at the meeting of the Elk Rapids Township board on December 10, 2002 in a show of silent support.

Treasurer's report accepted as given.

P. Sutter made a motion that ERSC make a donation of \$100.00 to the Grass River Natural Area as our annual donation for this year. DeBolt second. Unanimous. Carried.

Membership as of December 11, 2002 is 605; 321 members have renewed for 2003, leaving 284 pending.

The January General Meeting will be on January 8 as the first Wednesday is New Year's Day. The meeting will be "Big Buck Night." Bring trophies, photos and big stories. The February meeting will be a swap meet.

Deasy made a motion that we appoint Howard Yamaguchi to fill the vacancy on the board. G. Sutter second. Unanimous. Carried.

Range repairs were being discussed.

The board members voted unanimously to appoint Tom Deasy, Gary Sutter, Ray Pollister, Rock Wilson and Howard Yamaguchi to the board for the 2003/2004 term.

Deasy made a motion to adjourn. G. Sutter second. Meeting adjourned, 7:30 p.m.

Timothy Murphy Frontier Rifleman

Little is known of Timothy Murphy's early life. Born in 1751 near the Delaware Water Gap to parents who had only recently immigrated from County Donegal, Ireland. When he was eight his family moved to Shamokin Flats (now Sunbury) in Pennsylvania. Some years after that he was apprenticed to the Van Campen family, and with them relocated to the Wyoming Valley frontier.

On 29 June 1775, Murphy and his brother John enlisted in Captain John Lowdon's Company of Northumberland County Riflemen, and subsequently served in the Siege of Boston, the Battle of Long Island, and skirmishes in Westchester. Later, he became a Sergeant in the 12th Regiment of the Pennsylvania Line and served at Trenton, Princeton, and New Brunswick. An expert marksman (able to hit a seven inch target at 250 yards), Murphy qualified for Morgan's Rifle Corps, and was transferred to that elite organization in July 1777, shortly after its inception. In August of the same year, Murphy was one of 500 hand-picked riflemen sent north to reinforce the Continental forces opposing General Sir John Burgoyne's invasion of Northern New York.

It was at the Battle of Bemis Heights (Second Battle of Saratoga), 7 October 1777, that Murphy is reputed to have fired the shots that killed Sir Francis Clerke and General Simon Fraser, throwing the British command of the battle into disarray.

Returning to the main army, Murphy suffered through Valley Forge and was involved in harassing the British withdrawal from Philadelphia before General Washington again ordered the northern dispatch of three companies of riflemen in July 1778, in response to attacks on the New York frontier. Murphy and his fellow riflemen garrisoned the Schoharie Valley forts and conducted long-range patrols of Indian lands to the south and west.

In Late September, 1780, Colonel Sir John Johnson departed Niagara with a mixed force of British Regulars, Provincial troops, Hessians, and Indians. His objective: a major supplier of wheat to the Continental Army, the Schoharie Valley. By the night of 16 October, Johnson's forces increased in transit by additional Tories and Indians to between 750 to 1000 men, he stood poised to sweep down on the valley.

In the fourth year of the Revolution, nowhere was its most vicious aspect of civil and guerrilla war more apparent than on the New York frontier. After several years of raids, the settlers lived under the constant threat of attack and had prepared three forts (Upper, Middle, and Lower) along the Schoharie Creek to defend themselves. There being an inadequate number of Continental troops and New York State Levies to man these forts and those along the Mohawk, a major portion of the defense fell to the local militia.

Early after dawn on the 17th, the trail of Johnson's column was spotted by a local farmer out after his cows as it was secretly bypassing the Upper Fort (Near Fultonham). Immediately the alarm gun was fired from the fort and those settlers, who had not already concentrated on the forts, did so. Realizing that surprise was no longer possible, the raiders began burning buildings and destroying livestock and crops not known to belong to loyalists. The defenses of the Middle Fort (just North of Middleburgh) were made ready, and a party of skirmishers (including Timothy Murphy) sallied forth to develop a clearer picture of the situation. Encountering the lead elements of the British they were forced back into the fort under heavy fire.

Johnson next brought up his artillery to subdue the fort. Too light to breach the walls, the cannon and mortar fire accomplished nothing more effective than confounding an old Dutchman, when a shell exploded in a room full of feather bedding where he had been resting. Seeing no advantage to the shelling, Johnson then attempted another stratagem: he sent forth a party under a flag of truce to demand the fort's surrender to superior forces.

As the flag bearer, an officer of Butler's Rangers, and a fifer playing Yankee Doodle approached, the commander of the fort, a Major Woolsey of the Regulars, determined to admit the party over the objections of his officers, who felt the parlay was a ruse to learn the true state of affairs within the fort.

Although the fort's two cannons had been well served, and the garrison had even been able to mount limited forays, ammunition was critically low and the women had been preparing spears, pitchforks, and boiling water to resist the final onslaught. Woolsey reiterated his order and withdrew inside a building. It was then that Murphy, well acquainted with the horrors that often

befell frontier prisoners, fired a rifle ball over the truce party's heads. They immediately retreated.

Again the party approached, and Woolsey returned, ordering Murphy not to fire. Another round was fired and the white flag withdrew. As the parlay came forward yet another time, Woolsey threatened to shoot Murphy on the spot if he disobeyed. Murphy declared "I'll die before they have me prisoner" and fired for the last time. Woolsey, livid, ordered the fort to show the white flag. Murphy threatened to shoot anyone attempting to run the flag up. Woolsey's nerve broke, and he withdrew to the cellar of the fort's stone building where the commander of the local militia found him and convinced him to relinquish command to him.

With no apparent diminishing of the fort's resistance, Johnson abandoned the siege in mid-afternoon and continued burning his way down the valley. After a desultory attack on the by now well prepared Lower Fort (the Old Stone Fort, still standing just North of Schoharie), he continued on to the Mohawk, to effect his return to Canada. New York State forces from Albany pursued and recovered some prisoners and

plunder, but were unable to decisively engage the enemy.

Commenting from Congress on the attack, James Madison wrote: "The inroads of the enemy on the frontiers of New York have been fatal to us. They have almost totally ruined that fine wheat country. The settlement of Schoharie which alone was able to furnish, according to a letter from General Washington, eighty thousand bushels of grain for the public use, has been totally laid in ashes."

But the forts had held. And rather than being driven out of the valley, soon the populace would take up the task of rebuilding it, using grain that had been hidden and livestock that had been turned out in anticipation of the attack. And the flag of the United States, once hoisted on the frontier, would never come down.

From the web page of the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs: Murphy Biography
URL:
<http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/historic/murphy.html>

"For SALE" ads is a free service to members. Your ad can be submitted to Rock Wilson, 834 Indian Trail Blvd., Traverse City, MI 49686; 947-2481 or E-mail: rock@traverse.com. An ad will run, space permitting, until I am notified to remove it. Please let me know as soon as the item sells.

Rock Wilson

For Sale

Ruger No. 1 Single-Shot Rifle .270 Winchester, Bushnell 2X7 Scope. Excellent Condition, \$500
Art Schubert 231-946-7236

For Sale

45-70 Govt, NIB Dies, Brass and Bullets, 38 Special/ .357 dies.

Lou Cunningham 231-933-6638

For Sale

Match Rifles: Remington 30-338 Magnum Model 40-X; Remington .22 Long Rifle Model 40-X with Redfield Sights. \$600 ea. or \$1000 for both

Ron Gurdak 231-264-6581

Big Buck Night

January 8, 2003, 7:30 p.m.

Bring your trophy mounts, photos and stories. Come hear how your fellow hunters have done. Join the fun, some are impressive, some hilarious.

REMINDER

The gate is being kept open during the winter to assist the snow plowing crew. Don't forget to secure the clubhouse and the shooting house.

NRA Dues

When you pay your dues to the NRA, please include our club number:

C004689E

The NRA will send our club \$5.00 for each new member and \$5.00 for each renewal.

Send To:

**Recruiting Programs
11250 Waples Mill Rd.
Fairfax, VA 22030**

ELK RAPIDS SPORTSMAN'S CLUB
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ELK RAPIDS SPORTSMAN'S CLUB
January 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Trap & Skeet 1-4 pm	2	3	4 Black Powder 1 pm
5 Trap & Skeet 10 am-4 pm	6	7	8 General Meeting 7:30 pm Trap & Skeet 1-4 pm	9	10	11 Black Powder 1 pm
12 Trap & Skeet 10 am-4 pm	13	14	15 Board Meeting 7:00 pm Trap & Skeet 1-4 pm	16	17	18 Black Powder 1 pm
19 Trap & Skeet 10 am-4 pm	20	21	22 Trap & Skeet 1-4 pm	23	24	25 Black Powder 1 pm
26 Trap & Skeet 10 am-4 pm	27	28	29 Trap & Skeet 1-4 pm	30	31	Black Powder 1 pm