



May 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
rlfortier@coslink.net 231-929-0553

Tom Deasy: Treasurer/ Vice-Chairman
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
srdom@torchlake.com

Ray Pollister: Range Master
rpskeet@aol.com

Bill Ackerman: Assistant Range Master
231-938-2256

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

Howard Yamaguchi: Membership Director
hayamaguchi@members.asce.org; 231-264-6747

APRIL 2, 2003 GENERAL MEETING

Conservation Resource Alliance wildlife biologist Sarah Hazzard gave an interesting slide presentation on establishing and preserving wildlife corridors. The Alliance is a private not-for-profit corporation staffed by wildlife biologists, fisheries biologists, engineers and field technicians. For more information contact CRA at 231-946-6817.

APRIL 9, 2003 BOARD MEETING

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

Present: Ron Fortier, Tom Deasy, Gary Sutter, Russ DeBolt, Howard Yamaguchi, Patty Sutter, Ray Pollister. Absent: Bill Ackerman, Rock Wilson.

Deasy made a motion to accept the minutes as published. Yamaguchi second. Unanimous carried.

Secretary announced that Boy Scout Troop 46 has arranged to use the clubhouse and short range on April 15 and April 22, with no special range closings.

Membership: 512 annual members.

The June 4th membership meeting will be a family Pot-Luck picnic at 6:30 p.m. Bring the whole gang.

Spring cleanup work bee is April 26, 8:00 a.m. until finished. Coffee /donuts and a sloppy-Joe lunch will be provided. All ranges are CLOSED until work is complete.

The front gate will be locked starting April 26, 2003.

The Annual Raffle date is set for September 27, 2003.

The Winter Skeet League boosted the participation in off-season skeet. In January 204 rounds were shot, February 252 rounds, March 343 rounds.

G. Sutter made a motion to adjourn. Deasy second. Adjourned 7:35 p.m.

MEETINGS

Meetings of the general membership are held on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 P.M. Board meetings are held at 7:00 P.M. on the second Wednesday of the month. The ERSC April Calendar was in error. My apologies.

Ron Fortier

DONATIONS ARE NEEDED TO HELP FUND

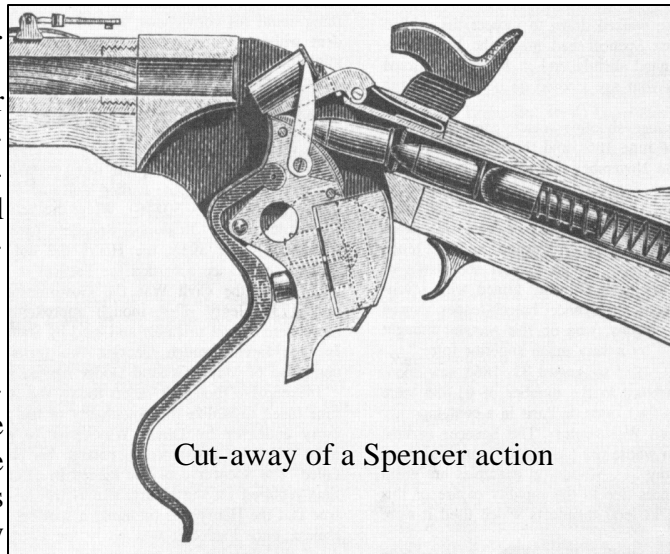
THE ANNUAL KIDS' FISH POND.

Contact: Mike Hamilton 231-264-6757 or Phil Pomber 231-264-5604.

The Spencer Rim-Fire Repeating Rifle

Unlike the early Hollywood westerns, where Civil War soldiers were armed with Colt Peace Makers, and the U.S. 7th Calvary with Model 92 and 94 Winchesters, in a series of recent Tom Selleck westerns, heroes and villains alike are armed with weapons appropriate for the movie's era. Two rifles of historical significance were used in *Sel-River*, a post-Civil War the Spencer carbine. Christopher Spencer's Seven-Shot Repeater (1860) is especially interesting because it was the first successful repeater made possible only by the introduction of the metallic cartridge case.

J. O. Buckeridge, author of the documentary *Lincoln's Choice* describes the Spencer's action: "...The circle of steel with a groove frame by a screw at its lower front corner. When the block was lowered by



a heavy coil spring in the magazine pushed a cartridge onto the groove. The groove served as a cartridge carrier or track. The single motion of raising the lever (which also served as a trigger guard) eased the cartridge into the rear of the barrel and closed the breech. All that remained was to cock the hammer and pull the trigger. A flick of the lever opened the breech, ejected the empty and lined up a fresh cartridge." The Spencer's magazine was protected from damage because it was within the stock. Quick loading was achieved by the familiar metal tubes closed at one end used in shooting galleries today to quick-fill magazines.

The prototype Spencer models were first tested by the United States military in June and August 1861, only two months after the outbreak of the Civil War. As a result of the tests, the Navy placed a small order of 700 rifles. The Union Army, attempting to standardize weapons, considered the Spencer expensive and a needless complication to an already complicated supply system and would not place an order until December 1861 when General Ripley, Chief of Ordnance ordered the Army to buy 10,000. Slow deliveries caused the Army to reduce the contract to 7,500 guns.

The rapid fire repeaters created quite a stir when they were finally used in combat and the Spencer eventually gained the notice of President Abraham Lincoln who invited Spencer to bring one of his rifles to the White House and personally test fired it. Lincoln was greatly impressed by the rifle, and as a result, Spencer received more orders from the Army and Navy. Many authors have the chronology reversed, with Lincoln using the Spencer first and then the Army placing an order. About 106,667 Spencer rifles and carbines were purchased by the United States during the Civil War. The first issue of Spencer carbines went to the 6th Michigan Calvary in January-February 1863, and were used in combat the same year by that unit.

During the Civil War the Spencer was chambered for two .50 caliber rounds (actually .54), the .56-50 and the .56-56, neither of which were very powerful. The .56-50 was said to be capable of piercing twelve inches of soft pine at fifteen feet. After the Civil War, because of the economy and the inability of the Spencer, like other lever actions of the period, to handle a more powerful round, no more Spencers were ordered.

The Spencer Repeating Rifle Company continued in business until 1869 when it was purchased by Winchester. In 1902 surplus Spencers and twenty-five rounds of ammunition could be purchased from Sear and Roebuck for \$3.65. Ammunition for the Spencer was listed in many ammuni-

ERSC Events

May 3 & 4: Registered Skeet (No open shooting)

May 7, 2003 7:30 p.m. General Meeting, Discussion of Civil War Enactments

May 24: Civil War Muster (Rifle range closed 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

June 4: Family Potluck Picnic 6:30 p.m. Plates, cups, flatware. Coffee and lemonade will be provided. Bring the whole gang.



Support Our Troops



"Classified" ads are a free service to members. Ads can be submitted to Rock Wilson, 834 Indian Trail Blvd., Traverse City, MI 49686; 947-2481 or E-mail: rock@chartermi.net 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

OCCASIONALLY, DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS, THE CLUBHOUSE SKEET DESK WILL NOT BE STAFFED.

In case of questionable weather call: Bill Emerson (231-271-3789) or Ron Fortier (231-929-0553)

For Sale: One equity membership available in "Canada Acres Hunt Club" located outside of Lake, Michigan. 500 acres of prime hunting property. For more information contact Gary Cramer, Home. (810) 659-5366, Cell, (586) 536-5636, week-ends (231)-267-9561.

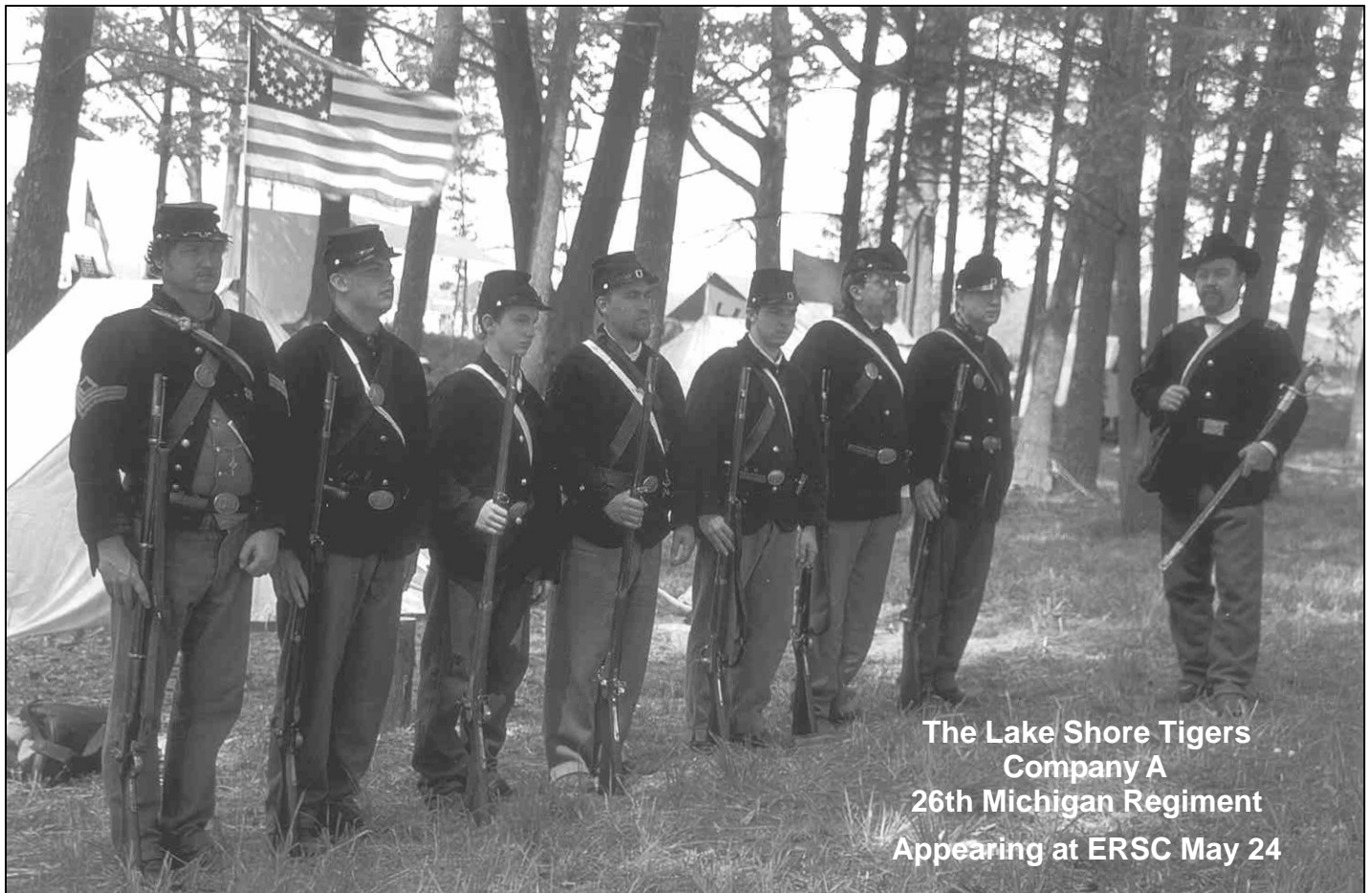
NRA Dues

When you pay your dues to the NRA, please include our club number: **C004689E**. The National Rifle Association will send ERSC \$5.00 for each new member and \$5.00 for each renewal. Send To:

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

For Sale: Remington 3200 12 gauge, skeet and skeet, 1 of 1000 wood, excellent condition. \$1095. Jerry Brandon 1-231-258-2734

For Sale: Dillon 550 Reloading Press, four caliber conversions: 44 Spl/Mag, 40-10mm, 45 ACP, 45 Win-Mag \$300. Press (one caliber) \$200. Call 231-943-8249



**The Lake Shore Tigers
Company A
26th Michigan Regiment
Appearing at ERSC May 24**

ELK RAPIDS SPORTSMAN'S CLUB
P.O. Box 536
Elk Rapids MI 49629-0536

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Elk Rapids Sportsman's Club May 2003

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--------|---------|---|----------------------------|--------|---|
| Trap/Skeet 10 AM - 4 PM | | | Trap/Skeet 1 - 4 PM | 1 Black Powder 5 PM | 2 | 3 Registered Skeet No Open Shooting |
| 4 Registered Skeet No Open Shooting | 5 | 6 | 7 Trap/Skeet 1-4 PM Gen. Meeting 7:30 PM | 8 Black Powder 5 PM | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Trap/Skeet 10 AM - 4 PM | 12 | 13 | 14 Board Meeting 7:00 PM Trap/Skeet 1-4 PM | 15 Black Powder 5 PM | 16 | 17 |
| 18 Trap/Skeet 10 AM - 4 PM | 19 | 20 | 20 Trap/Skeet 1-4 PM | 22 Black Powder 5 PM | 23 | 24 Civil War Mus- ter, Rifle Range Closed |
| 25 Trap/Skeet 10 AM - 4 PM | 26 | 27 | 28 Trap/Skeet 1-4 PM | 29 Black Powder 5 PM | 30 | 31 |