



# Cedar Rod and Gun Club

Purveyors of the Shooting Sports

## NEWS

Spring 2024

visit us on the web at: [www.crgc.org](http://www.crgc.org)

### CONCEALED PISTOL LICENSE COURSES

By Mark Stephens

I have now formally retired from my Electrician day job and am available to hold CPL Classes more days and times than the former weekend format I used while working M-F. If you have a group of 4 or more I can be available for weekday classes and training I may be reach at 231-342-0375.

### CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS AND THOSE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING

Hello All!

We are in desperate need of Volunteers at CRGC. Last year we had over 700 Memberships at CRGC. This includes singles and families and adds up to more than 700 people. We currently have about 40 members who volunteer their time and talents at the Club on a consistent basis.

Many members show up for the Spring Clean-Up Day and this is wonderful and greatly appreciated. However, **we need more help with the day-to-day running of events and special events, such as Ladies Day and the six scheduled shoots scheduled throughout the summer months.** Please check our calendar for these event dates.

If you are interested in volunteering, some opportunities include manning sign-up/check-in tables, assisting with lunches, manning the check-in desk at the Rifle range building, misc cleaning and painting projects that pop up over the summer months.

Please reach out to me if you would be interested in assisting, I may be reached @ 231-620-6902 or [shariprevost71@gmail.com](mailto:shariprevost71@gmail.com)

Thank you, Shari

### TWO BOARD DIRECTORS RETIRE

*Cedar Rod and Gun Club had two long-time Board of Directors retire. Shari Prevost recently interviewed long time CRGC Member Jim Balesh about his years of CRGC involvement.*

This year's St. Patty's Day Shoot on Saturday March 16th was a huge success for the Cedar Rod and Gun Club. March 16th was also long time **CRGC member Jim Balesh's 84th birthday.** He chose to celebrate with his lifelong friends at the St. Patty's Day Shoot and 2024 Opening Day for the Club. It was here that I surprised him with an interview about his 68 years of membership at the Cedar Rod and Gun Club.

For over 60 years Jim has enjoyed the Cedar area and has always been an avid sportsman. He told me stories of his favorite dogs – a springer spaniel named Cody and a small beagle named Lady. Together, they spent hours in the woods and around the house hunting birds and cottontails. Jim also hunts whitetails deer. His biggest trophy from his homestead on French Road is a 10-point buck. Adventures did not end in the back yard. In the early 70s, one of Jim's most memorable hunts was a self-guided trip to Rifle, Colorado where he bagged a 5x5 Elk and a Mule Deer with a two-foot spread.

One of Jim's earliest memories of the club is when he was asked to pick up the new clubhouse. That is exactly what he did. He drove his truck to Traverse City and picked up a shack up off the beach. The old resort was called Owatakwa on East

Bay. His father played in a jazz band at the dancehall onsite. He loaded up the shed and towed it down a dirt road now called Sullivan, to its current location at the club.

In 1988 Jim started his business, Centurian Machine and Tool. He ran this business successfully until he decided to retire when Covid hit. When not at work, Jim kept busy traveling across the country competing in trap shoots. He traveled all over, from Arizona to the East Coast. He



Jim Balesh

won many awards but in 2016, he was proud to have won the State of Michigan Handicap Trap Competition. When asked about his favorite gun, he named quite a few, Ljutik, Silver Seitz, and currently a Kolar Combo with an interchangeable barrel.

All of this is extremely interesting, however, what makes Jim Balesh most famous at the club is not his many years of membership, leadership as a board member, or his 5 years of being president,

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### CRGC SPRING CLEAN UP

**This year's Clean Up date will be the SECOND SATURDAY of May – May 11 and will begin at 8:00 AM.**

The Clean Up Day is an excellent opportunity to meet other CRGC Members, work together for the common good and spruce up the club and grounds for a busy summer shooting season.

**What to bring:** Leaf blowers, rakes, shovels are all very helpful for cleaning up all the broken clay targets and spreading mulch and gravel.

**Tractor operators** please confirm with Rick Nelson your availability on the 11th. Some of the other tasks are painting, repairing target holders, basic club house cleaning duties, window washing, stocking the supplies, and deep cleaning bathrooms. I know I've left out some of the tasks and more items are added to the list each day.

A lunch is also provided for all volunteers.

## RETIREMENTS

*continued from page 1*

but his heart attack that he had on what is now affectionately called Heart Attack Hill. Yup, it was Jim who in 1996, walked up the hill on the sporting clay course, suffered a heart attack and didn't even go to the hospital. Yes, Jim lived to tell everyone that he would now have to have a triple bypass.

As we all know, Jim is quite a jolly fellow and in good weather can be found, driving his side by side, picking mulberries at his neighbors, or sitting in a chair in his own driveway, watching his beautiful wife of 61 years, Arlene, water her flowers. Jim is as much a part of the Cedar Rod and Gun Club as the club is a part of him. We honor you Jim, as a lifetime member. Your many years as a volunteer can never be replaced. If it were the old days, we would dip into that Coke-a-Cola Cooler and grab you an ice-cold beer and Cheers to you. Thank you for all your time and stories you've told with that bashful sideways grin. Cheers to you, Jim and thank you.

**Fritz Barritt** also retired from the CRGC Board of Directors and is still active volunteering at shoots and providing coaching and instruction to the Youth Trap League. Many folks probably aren't aware Fritz also volunteers hours at the Sleeping Bear National



*Fritz Barritt and Rick Nelson*

Lakeshore each year maintaining 1000 Acres of farmland fields that need to be mowed each summer to keep invasive species of plants at bay.

**Thank you Jim and Fritz for the years of dedication, commitment and financial support you have provided to Cedar Rod and Gun Club over the years I'm sure we'll still be seeing the two of you around assisting and shooting for years to come.**

**All newsletter submissions are due by 6/6/2024**  
**Debi Stephens:**  
**crgcmembership@gmail.com**  
**or by mail at CRGC,**  
**PO Box 244 Cedar, MI 49621**

## CRGC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>President</b>	Rick Nelson	492-2222	cneduks@gmail.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Andrew Frank	248-229-6726	emt0608@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jess Reed	326-0039	jessjr@centurytel.net
<b>Secretary</b>	Micah Deegan	620-6552	huntingmicah@aol.com
<b>Directors:</b>	Shari Prevost	929-9292	shariprevost71@gmail.com
	Lance Verman	313-4625	
	Josh Chandler	633-2990	chandler00057@gmail.com
	Mark Sierzputowski	649-2449	marksbuilder@gmail.com
	Mike Newman	218-1527	miken@rusdrill.us
Membership	Debi Stephens	922-0258	crgcmembership@gmail.com
Legal Counsel	Dave Bieganowski	947-6073	dbiegan@charter.net
Sporting Clays	Rick Nelson	492-2222	cneduks@gmail.com
5-Stand/Skeet	Con Belfour	271-3429	conbelfour@gmail.com
Rifle Range	Jeff Grimshaw	275-2230	2jgrims@gmail.com
Pistol Range	Joel Baillie	929-7057	baillie@charter.net
CPL Training	Mark Stephens	922-0258	mark.n.chip@gmail.com
Trap	Rick Nelson	492-2222	cneduks@gmail.com
Newsletter	Debi Stephens	922-0258	crgcmembership@gmail.com
Defensive Pistol	Micah Deegan	620-6552	huntingmicah@aol.com
MUCC Representative	Greg Nicolaou	943-1477	nicgregolaou@gmail.com
New Member Orientation	Ron Hoth		hothro@gmail.com

## CRGC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION BOARD

<b>President/Secretary</b>	Rick Bechtold	947-5424	r_bechtold@charter.net
<b>Vice President</b>	Bill Blaida	630-240-0735	bblaida@charter.net
<b>Treasurer</b>	Herman Radtke	909-208-2357	hjrconcrete@verizon.net
<b>Director</b>	Tim Stein	228-6984	timstein08@aol.com
<b>Director</b>	Jay Shoffner	616-308-2773	shoffnerjm@aol.com
<b>Legal Counsel</b>	Dave Bieganowski	947-6073	dbiegan@charter.net

## LADIES DAY 2024

*By Coordinator, CRGC Board Member Shari Prevost*

**We're expecting a Ladies Day even better than ever!** Please register ahead of time with Shari to make sure your spot is reserved. Spots are filling up quickly, so please call 231-620-6902 or email me at shariprevost71@gmail.com to reserve your place.

Please show up at 9 am for check in, event starts at 10 am. All ammo and equipment supplied by the Club and the Foundation. Wear comfortable clothes and dress for the weather. In case of rain, reception at Cedar Tavern with gift and raffle will still take place. \$50 includes special gift and wine and cheese reception at Cedar Tavern. Raffle prizes too!!

Last year's program was a great success and CRGC gained a number of new memberships from participants and we are hoping this event will continue to give women opportunities to experiment with new shooting styles and also forge friendships for shooting fun.



LADIES DAY  
 CEDAR ROD AND  
 GUN CLUB  
 JULY 14, 2024

PISTOL, RIFLE, SHOTGUN AND  
 FLY CASTING/TYING

231-620-6902 OR  
 SHARIPREVOST71@GMAIL.COM  
 \$50 INCLUDES ALL INSTRUCTION,  
 GIFT AND WINE AND CHEESE  
 RECEPTION

## MEMBERSHIP

By Debi Stephens, Membership Coordinator

April 1st and **595 Member families are renewed and ready to go for 2024.** And that's No April Fool's Joke! (CRGC Families include the member, their spouse/significant other and children under 18) Remember, CRGC Memberships are all Calendar year memberships and Expire on 12/31.

In the next couple of weeks I will be deactivating membership electronic key cards for memberships that have not been renewed for 2024 and moving into once a month processing and programming. What this mean to members is if your membership electronic access card is deactivated it may be a few weeks before the card is reactivated. (We do have provisions in place for members who may misplace their electronic cards and the replacement fee is \$20 per new card.)

With the warmer weather and Skeet and 5-Stand activities kicking off for the season on March 16, before you know it the other Range Master facilitated activities will soon be online for the Spring and Summer Season as well.

## SHOTGUN SPORTS

By Rick Nelson, President CRGC

The 2024 shooting season has begun at CRGC. Skeet and 5 Stand are now open for your shooting pleasure. **These venues are open on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.**

Sporting clays and trap opening dates are yet to be determined, watch the website and our Facebook page for updated info. [www.CRGC.org](http://www.CRGC.org) and Cedar Rod and Gun Club on Facebook.

The Club will host five Sporting Clay Shoots this summer, refer to the flyer on the website and the Facebook pages for times and dates of these events. The club's calendar of events will be updated shortly to show all of these upcoming events.

Many of you are use to seeing one of our long-standing members, Art Schworm at the Club. Recently Art has broken his hip while in Florida. He has had one surgery to remove the fractured hip and has another surgery in the future to replace the fractured hip. Please keep Art in your thoughts and prayers as he goes through these trying times.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the club this season for some fun shooting, camaraderie and fellowship. Thank you!

## OPENING DAY SHAMROCK SHOOT



By Rick Nelson, CRGC President

**Wow- Just Wow, we planned it and you showed up!!**

On Saturday March 16th we had our annual St Patrick's Day shoot. We had a record number of shooters participate in the annual event. The weather was very cooperative this year for this shoot. All shooters had opportunities to break green targets to win a prize.

The shooters had their choice of shooting doubles skeet, five stand and longbird.

CRGC would like to thank our sponsors for this great event, Hampel's Gun Company, CJ Batchelder Gunsmithing, Field Sport Ltd and Cedar Tavern who all

furnished prizes for the shooters to win. Hampel's Gun Company also furnished the great corned beef lunch that we had. Marion Rod and Gun Club member Larry Laxton also made and furnished and awesome pheasant soup for all to enjoy. I would like to personally thank all of the volunteers who made this event a huge success. Micah Deegan, Con Belfour, Fritz Barrett, Andy Frank, Shari Prevost, Desi Vaughn, Herman Radtke, Dean McClure, Dave Stellingworth and Mark Sierzputowski. Hopefully I did not leave anyone out. If I did, you all know who you are, so thanks to all for making this St. Patrick's Day shoot a huge success!!



Micah Deegan Successful Hunt

The LeGrand Traverse Chapter is planning a

### CHUKAR CHALLENGE

When: **Sunday, April 28, 2024**

Where: Thundering Aspen Sporting Club, Mesick MI

Cost: \$130 per dog, four birds will be provided for each dog

Additional Information:

Contact Rob Fasel 231-620-4006

## RECIPE

A couple of months ago the *Leelanau Enterprise* published an interesting article interviewing Doug Whitely, CRGC Member for almost 10 years. I reached out to Doug about some recipes since I'm usually on the lookout for recipes to use game birds. Doug kindly provided the recipe below that Joanne found and they have prepared many times over the years.

*The L.L. Bean Game & Fish Cookbook by Cameron & Jones, 1983. P. 164-165*

### QUAIL ON A BED OF LEEKS

- 8 quail — serves four
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 6-8 leeks, about 2 cups, cut into 1" slices
- 1/3 cup heavy cream
- Salt & freshly ground pepper
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley

In a large skillet or a wok sauté the quail in 1 tablespoon butter and the oil, browning quickly on all sides. Remove.

Sauté the leeks in the same pan in the remaining butter. Add just a little water to them—no more than 2 tablespoons—cover, and cook slowly for about 10 minutes until the leeks have begun to soften and have absorbed the liquid.

Place the quail on top of the leeks, salt and pepper them, then add the cream all around. Cover and cook slowly for 20 minutes. Sprinkle parsley on top when serving.

Enjoy with my compliments.  
Doug

## RIFLE RANGE UPDATE

By Jeff Grimshaw

**NOTE, AS A REMINDER TO OUR MEMBERS, AND ALL POTENTIAL MEMBERS, REGARDING LIMITED USE OF THE RIFLE RANGE:** Our skeet range and sporting clays course both extend across our rifle range. The five stand course may be off to the left of the rifle range, but it also sits ahead of the rifle firing line. Occasionally there are some special events that also inhibit the use of the rifle range. **PLEASE**, save yourself some frustration and check the events calendar for available hours of use before heading out to use the range.

Spring is right around the corner and range use will start picking up as the temperature rises. Typically during winter time the rifle range sees limited use, even though I have noticed a lack of shooters picking up after themselves. Partially because of the snow, but as the snow melts the empty cartridge cases ahead of the shooting benches, along with who knows what, will emerge. Please grab a broom and a shovel, pick it up along with any in and around the benches and place it in the appropriate buckets and trash cans provided. Always sweep up your empty cases and such, and smile while you're doing it because you are on camera. :) ~

**Please stop leaving your targets up. Used or not, remove your targets and discard accordingly when you are finished.** The targets, used or not, need to be taken down and taken care of. Moisture and wind will turn these targets into litter. Remember, we have many visitors to our club that enjoy all the different shooting sports CRGC has to offer. Many who spend time on or about

the rifle range be it rifle shooting, skeet, five stand, and/or sporting clays all cross paths with our rifle range; consequently cleanliness should be very important to all our members. **Our spring clean-up day is May 11th.** If you have participated in the past then you know how proud we are of the club and can understand why we strive to always keep it in that condition or even better throughout the year. I am also seeing some obvious carelessness happening at the range. It was not intended to replace the 25 yard retaining lumber every season. We just created the 25 yard berm last season and already the box is being punched with holes. It doesn't matter if it was caused by poorly supervised youngsters, careless new shooters, or rusty old shooters, this is not unacceptable. **PLEASE** pay attention to what you and others around you are doing and keep those shots on target!

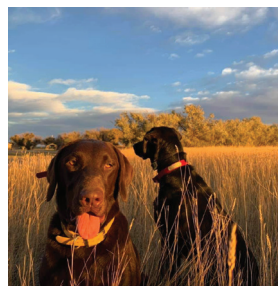
Safety first! Each and every one of us, when using the facility, should watch over others who may stray from good safety practices and **if you notice such, then for heaven's sake, speak up!** No one needs to get hurt. Unfortunately there are gun owners out there who may have never gone through a safety course of any kind or been taught what safe gun handling is. As a gun club all of us should be promoting those practices that have been drummed into our routine over the years and help those who don't know, learn them as well.

**REMINDER:** Range fee for each guest is a \$5.00 donation per gun and as your guest **YOU** are responsible for their actions. Targets are provided at \$.50 each or 3 for \$1.00 please deposit the donations in the appropriate donation box.

## PHOTOS

If you have wildlife photos, outdoor photos, do you have photos you would like to share? We're always looking for colorful photos to enhance these quarterly newsletters. Special thanks to Ben Lamb for providing some nice Fall photos of his outdoor adventures from 2023.

*Left: Tearing down a mule deer (friend in the photo). Top Right: Tent & boat in the background. Middle: Headed to the spot. Bottom Left: Packing out (friend).*



## YOUTH TRAP LEAGUE

By Rick Nelson,  
President CRGC

**Registration is now open for CRGC's youth trap League;** this will be the 15th annual League.

This is one of the highlights of the Club's shooting season. The league is open to all kids ages 12 to 18 years old. There are three divisions, Junior, Intermediate, and Senior.

This is a great opportunity for the kids to learn firearm safety and how to properly handle firearms. Very qualified instructors will be with each division instructing youth on how to shoot correctly and break clay pigeons. The league is totally funded by



CRGC's Education Foundation. There is no cost to the participants for this great event. The club furnishes all ammo, guns, eye protection and ear protection for all of the participants.

The safety orientation meeting will be held on Sunday April 21st at 1:00 p.m. The league scoring will begin on Sunday April 28th at 1:00 p.m. and continue on Sundays through May 26th. There will be a handicap scoring system so all shooters regardless of experience have a chance to compete evenly.

For registration and information call Rick Nelson@231-492-2222

Get your children signed up today and please let any young shooters in the area know about this wonderful instructional activity for area youth.

Thanks, Rick

### David A. Bieganowski, Attorney (231) 947-6073

Offering general legal services including business, estate planning, real estate and land use matters. Specializing in boundary line disputes, title and survey issues, plat and subdivision amendments, deed restrictions and covenant enforcement. Also representing clients with zoning issues and in obtaining municipal approvals.

US Marine Corps vet, a NRA certified firearms instructor, representing clients in firearm related matters such as concealed pistol license applications, firearms rights restorations, and pistol purchase permit issues. See me if you need a Gun Trust for your NFA items.



Shotguns, Premium grade shotgun shells, Quality clothing for the bird hunter & clay target shooter

1428 Trade Centre Drive, TC 49696

231-933-0767

Please visit our website too: [fieldsportltd.com](http://fieldsportltd.com)

FieldSport is pleased to announce our new e-commerce website,

• [www.FIELDSPORTPRESS.com](http://www.FIELDSPORTPRESS.com) •

is now active. You may go directly to this e-commerce website and order any of the **FIELDSPORT PRESS** wingshooting videos and book on line. They include, **WINGSHOOTING-The Art & Science** by Bryan Bilinski in both a hard-cover book and our new advanced instructional video along with **The Art of SHOOTING FLYING**, our classic instructional video. You can also call our store @231-933-0767 to order direct from us if you like.

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