



# Cedar Rod and Gun Club

Purveyors of the Shooting Sports

## NEWS

Winter 2025

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

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

By Rick Nelson, CRGC President

Due to increase cost of club operations are membership dues will be raised from \$100 to \$125 starting with 2025 Renewals. We have kept the dues at \$100 for many years. The clubs cost for grounds maintenance, snow removal, Porta Johns, utilities, etc. have all increased considerably. Renewal info will be on the way shortly thanks for your understanding and cooperation.

### NEW CRGC WEBSITE!

By Bill Blaida, CRGC Education Foundation member

As many of you know, when trying to determine what times certain ranges are open you have been directed to the calendar on our website. Well, the calendar has been a challenge to keep accurate, and recently has been missing from our website. Oops! We apologize for the frustration/confusion this has caused many of you.

While trying to "fix" the problem it was determined that the 20+ year old technology to run the website needed to be upgraded. A new vendor was chosen and we are currently going through a building/review process. The goal is to increase the content accuracy, have more of it (think event content like fun pictures!) and make it easier to view from mobile devices.

The goal is to have it launched by February 2025. The url will be the same [www.crgc.org](http://www.crgc.org). We will send out an email when it goes live! Thank you for your patience.

"A free people ought not only to be armed, but disciplined."

– George Washington

### ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

By Micah Deegan, CRGC Secretary

We have an Annual Meeting on Jan 10th at 6pm for fellowship and finger foods. Then the actual meeting at 7pm.

**The election this year is for Vice-President and Treasurer, 3 Director Seats.** We have Andrew Frank (incumbent) running for VP. We have Jess Reed (incumbent) running for Treasurer. Then we have Shari Prevost, Mark Sierzputowski, Mike Newman, and Doug Boitz running for 3 spots and the first three being the incumbents. I need these ballots to me by Jan 9th, otherwise they will need to be brought to the Annual meeting to be

counted. There is 3 methods to vote. You can fill out a ballot correctly and scan then email to me at [huntingmicah@aol.com](mailto:huntingmicah@aol.com) with the subject line CRGC Election. Or you can snail mail the ballot to me Micah Deegan 10725 S Lacore Rd, Empire, MI 49630 both of these ways must be in my hand by Jan 9th at 5pm. The third method of voting is to bring your ballot to the Annual meeting on Jan 10th by 7pm. the Annual meeting will be held at the Clubhouse at CRGC on Sullivan road.

May you all have a Merry Christmas and I hope to see you on Jan 10th.

### WHO LOVES THE HUNT MORE?

By Shari M. Prevost, CRGC Board of Directors member

Who loves the hunt more, the dog or the hunter? Well, I have never met a hunting dog that chose the game or an icy cold beer over the hunt, so I would have to say the Dog. **I mean just look at these proud pup faces!**

Here are a couple of pictures of our members favorite four legged friends after a successful run in the field.



Landon Foster's Murphy



Andy Frank's Trigger



Joe, Caleb and Scout Swankey with Scout's first wild bird

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

*By Debi Stephens, Membership Coordinator*

It seems like I was just stuffing envelopes with 2024 renewal notices and this week I'm stuffing envelopes with 2025 renewals. CRGC's Membership is at 686 as I type this and I have three new Memberships processed for folks looking forward to attending their Orientation in January. As Rick mentioned the cost has increased to \$125 for 2025 CRGC Memberships. Remember CRGC Memberships are from Jan 1-December 31 of each year.

**For some of you who purchased the Year Plus Membership from Sept-Dec 2023 this will be the first time you will be receiving a renewal form.** The mailing will be sent to you in a plain white envelope with a forever stamp. I realize some snowbird mail doesn't forward for some uncanny reason. If you have not received your renewal form by January 1 please use the attached form. Or if you do not have access to a printer I can always mail another form to your winter address.

## A NOTE TO MEMBERS

*By Debi Stephens, Membership Coordinator*

CRGC Supports Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) and a few days ago I received this message from Justin Tomei at MUCC, as an Item he wanted to bring to the attention of Club

Members across the State of Michigan. I am sending you this information for your informational purposes.

Bipartisan legislation has passed the Michigan Senate that would create an elective program for Michigan school districts to host hunter and firearms safety programs within their schools.

Senate Bill 664, sponsored by Sen. Jon Bumstead (R-North Muskegon), is supported by the Michigan DNR and Department of Education, as well as conservation groups across the state.

Hunters and firearms safety programs provide safe, controlled introductions to Michigan's outdoor heritage and create the next generation of conservationists.

The Michigan House has a few days of work left during the 2023-2024 legislative session. Use this tool to write your Representative and tell them to support the next generation of conservationists.

Use MUCC's Policy Action Center to send a message to your Representative and encourage them to support SB 664. Make your voice heard now!

Yours in Conservation, Justin Tomei

## 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

## CPL CLASSES

*By Mark Stephens, CRGC CPL Facilitator/Instructor*

As many of you know, I retired from my regular job last winter, after spending some time at my cottage, I'm now back in Leelanau for the winter months and am available for CPL classes I prefer to hold classes for a minimum of 4 students as the course is comprised of an 8 hour day, including the shooting component. Now that I am retired, we can have classes during weekdays also. I currently have 2 students who want to take a class so if any of you are considering a class, please reach out to me @ mark.n.chip@gmail.com or 231-342-0375.

## CRGC EDUCATION FOUNDATION UPDATE

*By Rick Bechtold, President*

The Cedar Rod and Gun Club Educational Foundation, Inc. most recent project for 2024 was cost sharing for the addition on the storage building on the club grounds. This building housed the equipment that was purchased in part from grants from the foundation. This addition will allow the safe storage of the equipment and supplies.

The foundation's investments continue to produce revenue for the potential projects that may come along. One of the programs the foundation has supported in the past is Hunter Safety.

The foundation hopes this will continue under new leadership.

**All newsletter submissions are due by 2/28/2024**  
**Debi Stephens: crgcmembership@gmail.com**  
**or by mail at CRGC, PO Box 244 Cedar, MI 49621**



## THE EMS HAVE IT!

By Shari M. Prevost, CRGC Board of Directors member

I have always been told that women are better shots than men. I always thought it was because we can multi-task and focus. However, when I looked into it, almost every article I read stated that women are better shots because we listen. We listen, we take instruction and we do not let our egos get in the way.

Interesting huh?

Congratulations to the Em's and their successful hunts!



Emilee Bellant with her huge 8 point



Emily Hansen enjoying the marsh with a beautiful Mallard

## SHOOTING SPORTS UPDATE AND RECAP

By Rick Nelson, CRGC President

Another shotgun season has come and gone at the club. All the Electronic equipment is all nestled in the pole barn for a long winters nap. It was another good year. Again we had quite a few new shooters this season with a lot of young shooters as well. We really enjoy seeing the young shooters as they are the future of our sport.

Cedar Rod and Gun Club along with the CRGC Educational Foundation will again sponsor The Youth Trap League again starting in April 2025. Youth, from the ages of 12 to 18 years old are welcome to participate. There is no charge or cost for the league as The CRGC Education Foundation covers all costs of the program.

Watch the website and our Facebook

page for more information on registration in the spring of 2025.

Skeet and five stand are still open at the time of me writing this article. We shoot on Wednesdays and Saturday mornings from 10:00 until 2:00 through January 1st and then the shotgun sports will close.

The rifle and pistol range remain open the whole year. **We will reopen for shotgun sports on March 15th 2025 for our annual St Patrick's Day shoot.** Skeet and Five Stand will remain open for the season on Wednesdays and Saturdays after the St Patty's shoot. (Weather Permitting) CRGC Officers and Board Members at CRGC want to wish all of you a Safe and Happy Holiday Season! Looking forward to gathering and seeing Club Members at our Annual Meeting, January 10th, 2025.

### 2025 ELECTION CANDIDATE BIO

## DOUG BOITZ - CEDAR ROD & GUN CLUB

I was first introduced to the Cedar Rod & Gun Club in 2015 through the hunter's safety program. This is where I met Tim Stein, past club president, and Rick Nelson, current club president, who mentioned the youth trap league to my mom and I. We decided to give the league a try that spring, and from that point on I was hooked. Shooting trap and sporting clays were about the only two things on my mind at that time, so when I was 12 I started volunteering at the club every chance I got. I have many fond memories of working at the club with Rick Nelson, who would pick me up every Saturday in the summer to help. Rick quickly became my mentor and one of my best friends. He taught me everything I know about sporting clays, including how to set challenging and fun targets, as well as how to load and arm them so they were ready when we opened for shooting at 10:00 am. He was a great coach and gave the best advice any time we had a chance to shoot together. After sporting clays closed for the day, we'd go to the tavern for chicken strips and a root beer.

Through my newfound love of the club and shotgun shooting I went on to shoot in the youth league and the Glen Lake Clay Target Team through my senior year of high school. I volunteered as much as I could in between school and a part-time job. Since my graduation in 2022, I have continued volunteering, helping to run the intermediate division of the youth trap league and the Glen Lake Clay Target Team. I try my best to be as good of a

coach as Rick was for me, encouraging the kids to not give up and helping them improve their form and consistency. I also volunteer for other days and events, it's not odd for me to be at the club 4 to 5 nights a week in the spring and summer. Chances are if you're a shotgun shooter, you've seen me around and shot clays with me at some point. The club is my second home, it always seems like I find a reason to get out there whether it's to volunteer, sight in a new gun, or just shoot groups with one of my rifles or handguns.

There are many reasons why I'd like to join the board of directors. I would enjoy being more involved in the planning, scheduling, and decision-making side of the club. One action I would like to propose, if elected to the board, is extending Monday nights further into the fall/winter as long as people are willing to shoot. I know many who would still show up and some people are disappointed that it ends when it does currently. Another fun thing I'd like to see is a .22 league for kids and adults in the fall/winter time. I think that this would be something people would be interested in doing individually or with their kids as .22 is affordable for everyone. Overall, I know that the improvement and preservation of the club are important, and I hope I can be someone to see its continued success. A role among the board of directors would allow this to become a reality.

Thank you for reading my bio and your consideration of my application, have a great winter.

## HUNTER SAFETY COORDINATOR UPDATE

By Rick Bechtold, Retired

**(Thank you Rick- For your dedication to CRGC and The MI Hunter Safety Education Program for so many years)**

The Cedar Rod and Gun Club and the Cedar Rod and Gun Club Educational Foundation have sponsored Hunter Safety for over 30 years, with the foundation being a supporter for the last 24 years. I retired from the Coordinator's position in 2023, it is essential that one of the members go through the training to become an instructor if not already certified and then become the coordinator. This is needed to ensure the future of hunter safety classed at the club.

The coordinator's position has increased responsibilities. You become a clearing house for questions and concerns from club members, families, and members of the community. To put on one of the hunter safety Field Days and to get the class posted and manage registrations will easily occupy 10-15 hours of your time with the class time not being included in the background preparation. The club has many talented and knowledgeable members, some are instructors and others do the background work such as set up, lunch, etc.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Division of Recreational Safety controls the program. Michigan is part of a multi state compact that use an approved curriculum for Hunter Education. The training provided is at no cost to the volunteers. Volunteers are the backbone of the hunter safety program. The training is excellent, the materials are up to date and equipment for use in the classes is top notch. This is a highly regulated program to ensure consistency and safety in the classes.

**In the coming new year my wish for the club with over 700 members is that someone or an interested dedicated group will take on the responsibility of the Hunter Education program.** It would be unfortunate to have the Hunter Education program fall by the wayside because there was no one to step forward and take on the leadership role.

I was so fortunate to have very passionate and talented volunteers work with me over the years. Through their efforts the club launched hundreds of new hunters. These hunters took to the field with safety as their companion. My sincere thanks to everyone that took part in the Hunter Safety programs. Let's keep the program going.

## RIFLE RANGE UPDATE

By Jeff Grimshaw

Thank you all for the great job of housekeeping during 2024. We still have a few that for whatever reasons are leaving their targets hanging (I'm sure you know who you are). Used or unused the targets need to be taken down at the end of your session. Cleanliness overall has been very good when compared to other seasons. As winter sets in the shotgun sports will be coming to a close. This generally means the rifle and handgun ranges begin to see some boost in use until it's just too darn cold to shoot. The brass begins to pile up in front of the benches as the hot empties melt their way through the snow and onto the sidewalk.

**Anything you can do to help keep the firing line and range clean each time you use it will be appreciated.**

If you are a new shooter out for target practice, or seasoned one bringing younger shooters and/or new shooters with you, please take the time to go over the safety practices with them AND be sure to supervise their shooting. Make sure they can comfortably attain the sight picture before firing the weapon, by that I mean the seats are adjustable on all but the center bench which has a stool for a seat. They swing left and right and the seat height is adjustable by rotating it counterclockwise (higher) and clockwise (lower). Taking the time to do so will help reduce stray shots. Our 25 and 50 yard target supports have really taken a beating with shots going high and low beyond the paper target. Occasional fliers are expected, but this action being repeated leads to our 2X4 supports being damaged to the point of failure. I don't know about you, but I have a much more pleasant time at the range when I have minimal difficulty hitting the mark and it always brings a smile seeing a new shooter's face light up when they're able to hit the bullseye.

Though our November 3rd public sight-in day event started out wet it turned out nice enough for us to get the job done helping those who did show up to participate. I do hope they were able to put some venison in their freezers. Due to the diminishing public turn-out at our sight-in day events, I am sorry to say we will no longer be offering this service. I would however like to thank those volunteers who helped us out that day. As always they are a great help and the comradery is great.

Just a reminder, if you are bringing guests with you to use the our range, we do ask for a \$5.00 donation per. CRGC targets are provided at \$.50 each or 3 for \$1.00 please deposit these donations in the appropriate donation box.

ALWAYS, whether you are here at the club or afield please always help promote gun safety!

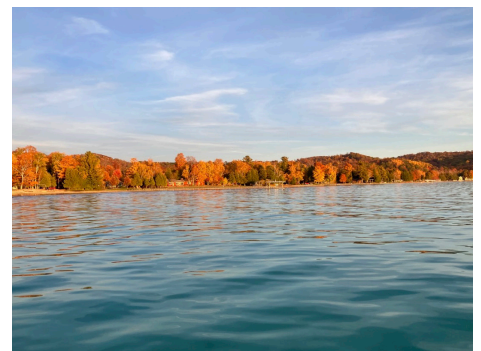
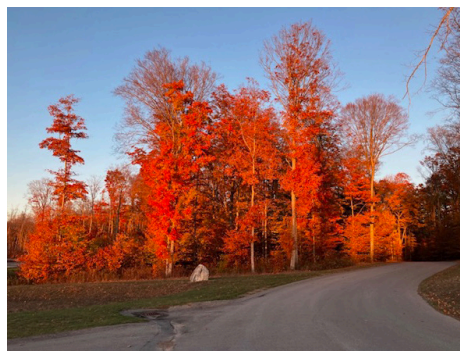
Good shooting to all and the best of holiday wishes!

When you visit CRGC to use the Pistol or Rifle Ranges, Please remember:

- The Pistol Range Key Reader is at waist height and you will need to slide your key card into the small slot
- The Rifle Range Key Reader is Up and to the Left of the gate lock

I realize sometimes this causes confusion and these are the first questions I will ask to trouble shoot when you reach out to me to say your Key Card is not working, that and what time you attempted to use the card. Remember your card will work at 9:45 AM as we respect our neighbors and shooting is not supposed to begin prior to 10 AM.

*Kip Pope captured some autumn splendor around Glen Lake, while he was enjoying the great outdoors.*





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

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