



SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

It's been a year since my last newsletter...I am no longer an amateur crastinator...I'm a procrastinator. It's not like there hasn't been anything going on. But I'd rather get my hands dirty working on projects at SMSC than writing about it. But the time comes to recap what's been done and let you all know what's to come...there's a lot to share so let's get started.

Your infrequent author, Michael

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Spring cleanup last year was a big success. We had a good turnout and we achieved much in the way of rebuilding and cleaning up.

We took down several dead and dying oak trees this spring and later removed a lot of volunteer trees growing up next to the pistol range. There's more lumberjacking to do yet and we hope to complete it before this summer.

Once the cleanup was done, Mark and I embarked on the process of setting up our new audio/video surveillance system. It took us several weekends to get it done. Pulled a lot of cable and both became quite proficient at making ethernet cables. Suffered a minor bit of heat stroke in the clubhouse attic. In the end we have a video and audio recording system monitoring all the parking areas, gate, areas around the ranges, all of our firing points on the ranges and all of the trap area. If anyone claims that a shot left our range at a certain time, we will have the video and audio to show if that really happened. My money is on that not being the case.

We also got to upgrade the network at SMSC and install updated routers in both clubhouses so there should be better WiFi speed as a result.

We installed a new exhaust fan on the indoor range that moves about 15 times more air than the original. This was a real group effort with help from Mark, his friend Jeff who had a saw to make the hole larger, Dale Mayer and Dean Black providing their expertise and I got to dig, mortar, install a drainage system around the fan, heft and heave the fan into the hole and make more dust with an angle grinder than anyone wants to see.

This summer Antony and I installed a number of first aid stations around the site so that you are never far from one. We added information on our website showing the locations and links to first aid information on how to use the items within. <https://www.smsclub.org/emergency-first-aid/> Anthony did a great job researching these, sourcing all of the materials and getting them put together. I brought a saw, hand plane and screwdriver to the party :-)

In the fall we (again Mark and I) installed a new fuel containment system with catchment tanks, electric fuel pumps and we even put a lid over it. This replaces the un-insurable system we previously had in place. If you are interested in the diesel tanks we had (they were like new but small and have hand pumps) they are presently for sale at Graves auctions: <https://gravesonlineauctions.com/>

Somewhere along the way, we had to find and fix an electrical fault in a buried cable that nobody can explain (looked like a perfectly professional splice on a neutral line came apart for no apparent reason). That caused the garage door opener to become a smoke machine for a short time so we got to replace that too. It's always something.

WHAT'S AHEAD?

Appleseed Events

SMSC is happy to be hosting several Appleseed events this year. If you have never attended an Appleseed event, you have been missing out. These clinics are very well organized and run by dedicated volunteers. They teach the fine points of marksmanship and sprinkle in a lot of American history along the way. Things they probably didn't teach you in school. We all know about 'The shot heard around the world' that marked the beginning of the American revolution. But do you know why the British were marching that night Paul Revere rode out to alert the minutemen?

April 20 and 21 is an Appleseed rifle marksmanship clinic - [details](#)

June 8 and 9 is our first time hosting a pistolseed event - [details](#)

September 21 and 22 is an Appleseed rifle marksmanship clinic - [details](#)

You can find out more about the Appleseed project at <https://appleseedinfo.org> You can find their local upcoming events, and register for them here: <https://appleseedinfo.org/schedule/?qstate=MN&state=Minnesota>

Instruction & Training

You can get a great deal on concealed carry classes at SMSC. Sterling and Time has a special offer for SMSC members and friends. This is one of the most comprehensive classes you can get and you cannot find a better price anywhere...Anthony is offering these at cost and volunteering his skills and considerable knowledge and experience for our membership. You can find details on our club calendar (<https://www.smsclub.org/calendar/>) and the training page (<https://www.smsclub.org/training/>).

2 Gun Club

Rochester 2 gun club is starting its first year as of June 6th 2024.

Two gun is a form of competition in which participants complete a series of challenges using a combination of rifle and handgun skills. Challenges include firing and maneuvering around, through and underneath various obstacles such as barricades, walls, windows and doors. The competition rewards accuracy as well as speed. Participants are challenged to push themselves to be fast without sacrificing efficiency and to also fire from challenging positions.

The three stages are rifle, rifle plus pistol, and pistol only.

Additionally if shooting a handgun stage they will need a holster of either kydex or leather, no nylon. It can be IWB or OWB. Pocket or sticky holsters are not allowed as all guns must be visible to RSOs if not cleared and in a case.

A shooter will be observed as they proceed through the course by a range safety officer who is keeping time. Additional range safety officers will be available to answer questions and ensure safety while participants enjoy the competition.

Events will take place every fortnight beginning on the first Thursday of June and proceeding through the last Thursday of September. Each event will have three stages: a handgun only, rifle only and handgun plus pistol stage. Shooters may choose to participate in 1 to all 3 challenges for each event. Each challenge will come at the cost of \$15.

For rifle stages a shooter must have at least two magazines, one magazine pouch and a semi-automatic rifle ranging in a "power factor" between 223 Remington to 308 Winchester. Common examples include AR15s, AKs, or AR10s. There are no restrictions on barrel length for rifles used.

A pistol stage will require two 10+ round magazines, a magazine pouch and a semi-automatic pistol ranging from a "power factor" of 30 super-carry to 10mm. Common calibers include 9mm, 40S&W and 45 ACP.

A mandatory safety orientation meeting will be held for members on Thursday, May 30th.

Shooters who want to register may contact Chris Rice at chrisrice870@gmail.com with their name and email info with the subject line: "**Registering for Rochester 2-Gun**".

Cleanup day

Our spring cleanup/fixup day will be held on May 18th this year. As always, any help is appreciated. We will start around 8:00 AM and continue until we run out of work. We will send out an email with more details once we get closer to the day.

Board of Directors

We will be electing 4 people to the SMSC board of directors on May 18 at our all members meeting. If you are interested in serving on the board please let us know. The best way to do that is to come out to one of the next two board meetings. They are at 7:30 PM on April 11 and May 9. We welcome anyone who would like to dedicate a little time to helping the club. Fresh perspectives are welcome. Board members do not need to be members of SMSC nor do they even need to be legal adults; it would be great to see some younger people participate. Board member terms are for 3 years. Please send a note to membership@smsclub.org if you have any questions.

All Members Meeting

The annual all members meeting will be held at the SMSC clubhouse at Noon on May 18th. We welcome all of our members to attend. We will have updates from the board of directors, some Q&A time and the election of 1/3 of our board of directors.

Trap Club

Did you know that SMSC's trap club supports and coaches the area high school's trap teams. They have had many fantastic shooters come through the ranks here. Their success stories including a very positive story on NPR.

And a reminder that if you are coming out to hand throw targets be sure to check the club calendar to make sure that the trap ranges are not reserved. The league nights and trap club events are posted on the calendar. Come on out and bust some clays!

CMP Reminder

Did you know that being a member of SMSC qualifies you to participate in the CMP (Civilian Marksmanship Program)? Details and a link to the CMP can be found on the footer of [our website](#).