



# *The Naperville Trapshooter*

*The Official Newsletter of the Naperville Sportsman's Club*     *March 2026*

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## *The Fred Section*

### **Members' Meeting and Board Meeting**

We will have a members' meeting and the board meeting on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at the clubhouse. The meeting starts at 7:30; doors open at 7:00. All members are invited and urged to attend.

### **Time to renew your membership for 2026.**

It's time to renew your membership for 2026. The renewal for regular members is \$55. (\$25 for associate members) Please pay by check to the PO box (mail to Naperville Sportsman's Club, PO Box 27, Naperville, IL 60566) or by cash or check at the counter during shooting hours or at the monthly meeting. **If you pay by cash, you must be given and retain a receipt.**

If you would like any family member badges, they are available for a reduced price of \$1 each if ordered with your renewal. (vs. \$2 if ordered separately) To order them, include the extra \$1 each, say what you want, and for each person, include the name, call name, and relationship to you.

*....Fred Turek*  
*Secretary*



## *President's Message*

### **Wanted: Range Manager**

The NSC is looking for a couple more Range Managers. One Sunday, one Thursday every other month.

### **CCL Renewal Class**

Contact Dave Paulinski: davidpaulinski@gmail.com

### **Membership**

As many of you are aware, we recently lost our most Senior Member, a fixture and Icon at NSC. The passing of Don Hiltz, a great shooter and friend to all has saddened and diminished us. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family and friends. We will miss him and cherish the memories.

### **Upcoming Events**

Range Safety Officer Class: Saturday, Feb. 28th

Hunter Safety Class: Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

Irish Open: Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

Singles League: Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>

Trapshooting Fundamentals: Sunday, March 22nd

### **New Member Orientation**

The next New Member Orientation (informal history and workings of the club) will be held in the spring.

*.... Art Jablonski*  
*President*

*It is with sad and heavy hearts that we share the news that Don Hiltz passed away on Monday, February 23 at the age of 91. We are grateful and fortunate to have known Don and to have had him as a member of the Club for over 78 years.*

*Happy Hunting, Don*

## *Firearm Safety Corner*

A very interesting and rewarding month. With our first Hunter Safety "Field Day," Class being a great success, I need to open with this. I had the privilege to work with several of our training team for the first class this year. I believe in calling it what it is. Russ Dixon delivered over and above to this effort. He worked diligently to keep the flow and cover as many topics as possible. His delivery was absolutely "Spot-On," in detail. His planning, presentations, and outline held the students' interests.

Our training team is growing in knowledge and skills. It is refreshing to stand back and watch the dedication and spirit. Our club is one of the best at providing this ability to foster these events and moving firearm safety forward in a responsible, entertaining manner.

Working with the members at the Newark Sportsman's Club, I have been honored to bridge this effort and knowledge to them also. Thus "spreading the word," on firearm safety to different opportunities and regions in our state.

The Trigger Lock Program, I mentioned last month is moving forward and is very well received. To date I have distributed over 270 units between two clubs and some other platforms I have been working on. With some of the great folks we have here and other opportunities, I hope to make it grow even bigger moving forward.

Our club will be hosting our bi-annual NRA RSO Class this Saturday which will add more safety tools to the safe operation of our club, our community and its members

As They say on "Duck Dynasty," - When the gun is not in my hand it is secured somewhere.

Be Safe and Remain Vigilant,

*Dave Paulinski*

IDNR Master Hunter Safety Instructor (Region II)



# The Training Corner

## Upcoming Training Classes

CCL renewal class – Contact Dave Paulinski for registration

02/28/2026 Range Safety Officer Training– Contact Dave Paulinski for registration

03/14/2026 IDNR Hunter Safety Education Field Day at NSC – Class is Full

03/22/2026 Trap Fundamental Class – Registration Open- Park District Website

04/26/2026 Trap Fundamental Class – Registration Opens Soon- Park District Website

## Recap for February

Our first IDNR Hunter Safety Education class for 2026 was held on Saturday Feb 14th. We had 24 youth and their parents attended and all 24 passed the test to receive their Hunter Safety Card. Your NSC Training Team continues to receive high marks and recognition for putting on a well-attended and comprehensive Field Day Class.

I again want to thank our NSC Training Team – Dave A, Dave K, Dave P, Liberty, Jeanne, and Mary for their dedication to the youth here in Illinois along with visiting Instructor Candidate Ron H. and Jim Chelsvig that helped with this class and expanded our Archery instruction portion to include specific techniques and tips for success regarding the upcoming youth Turkey season.

Our next class will be held on Saturday March 14th; this class is full and has a waitlist.

Our final IDNR Hunter Safety class at NSC will be Saturday, August 8th, registration open June 1st so if you know of a youth or adult that is interested, please have them register through the IDNR website.

Registration is now open for the March 22nd Trap Fundamentals class on the Naperville Park Districts website, only a few slots remaining- if you know of someone interested, please encourage them to register. Additional Trap Fundamentals dates for 2026 are April 26th, July 26th, August 23rd, September 27th, and October 25th

A final note, I wanted to express my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Don Hiltz. Over the last several years that I have been a part of the club and on the training team, Don has been a fixture at the range, his trademark advice to me while shooting or teaching the students was simple – “just shoot the thing” and “why did you miss that one”, always delivered with a smile and great open heart and if you were lucky an interesting story. Don truly loved seeing new shooters and youth introduced to the sport. He will be missed. See you on the Range!

## **Russell Dixon**

Training Committee Chair

[training@napervillesportsmansclub.org](mailto:training@napervillesportsmansclub.org)



## Tech tip – Custom Leather

by Tom Clark

Why do we shoot trap? While personally challenging, it's not a financially responsible thing to do. Firearms, ammunition, target fees, club dues... everything costs money, and as my friend Scott Calhoun used to say, "you have yet to shoot your worst round". Everyone has their reasons, but few if any can actually support their trap habit through prize money and endorsements (none would be my guess). It's the people you meet, and the friends you make.

Throughout my 20+ years of doing this, I've been fortunate to meet a lot of great people and make some good friends. One example among hundreds is the call I got in June 2019. I'd been shooting the Illinois State Shoot. It was the last day, and after shoot more than a thousand targets I was starting to think I might leave prior to the last event. I got a call from a couple of Naperville guys I know, suggesting that I needed to shoot the final handicap (historically my least favorite event). They'd been following scores and told me that I had a shot at the HOA in my class. I took their advice and won. My first real trophy at a major event. Wouldn't have happened without their unsolicited help. Thanks guys. I remember...

Most of us shoot trap because of the people. Others with like interests. Others who have interesting stories to tell, interesting experiences to share, and friendly support for whatever is important to us. You can't know everything you'd like to, but you're surrounded by people who might. Here's a chance for me to share for those interested.

Some years ago, I purchased a giant black powder pistol for deer hunting. I love black powder hunting because, until recently, using a centerfire rifle for deer in Illinois was prohibited. Black powder provides roughly the same range, power and accuracy as many rifle cartridges. I've taken dozens with my TC Encore 209x50. The problem with the pistol is its size. I couldn't identify a proper holster for it, so I'd carry inside my hunting pack. Not a good way to quickly access it when the opportunity arose. I shared my problem with a gentleman I met on vacation a year ago, one who'd taken up leather work as a hobby, and now has his own small business. He wasn't certain he could make me a proper holster but wanted to give it a shot. Last week he sent me a text – I'm sending you something.

The pistol is a 50 caliber CVA Optima with a 14" barrel, a red dot sight, and the essential ramrod. I'd sent him pictures and measurements, but not the firearm itself. My full custom holster arrived the other day, and it's amazing. If you have need leather, I have your guy. He's on Etsy (guys, ask your wife), his name is Paul Beckman, and his business is Beckman Leather Works. I can provide full contact info. Yes, I received his permission to share this with you. With his help, I expect to be (actually) using this pistol next Fall. You just never know what you can learn from the people around you. Thanks to all my trap buddies. Hoping to pay it forward.



## Stories from the Field

By Tom Clark

Hunting isn't for everyone, but for those who enjoy sitting for long hours in the cold and watching the forest there can be rewards. Here are my notes from this year's deer hunting season. Even after 25+ years, I still marvel at what you can see.

Like most hunters, I started as a "meat hunter". I like deer and am happy to help the DNR keep a few animals off our roads, and out of the farmers' crops. As I've gotten older my approach has changed. I no longer exercise the adage "if it's brown, it's down". This year I saw and passed on several more deer than I took. Some of what I saw I'd never seen before. I did get two nice mature does, and a 10-point buck. I gave the does to friends of mine. Nothing goes to waste.

I was challenged by a 50lb. doe while bow hunting. She didn't see me right away. When she did, I just froze and watched. She spent several minutes staring at me and pounding her little hooves before getting bored and walking away. She was beautiful, and spunky!

A half hour after taking my first doe, a good-sized three-point yearling buck wandered by. He had her scent. He walked her path right to where she was laying, sniffing the whole way. Puzzled that she wasn't moving, he eventually walked past her, laid down 15 yards from my stand, and took a 20-minute nap. Upon waking, he walked directly underneath my position, looked directly at me, and slowly walked off into the woods.

I'm a fan of grunt calls, used sparingly. Five minutes after one call a doe snuck in from behind me looking for love. She walked past my stand 10 yards and left her calling card (urine) before wandering off. A few minutes later, a 10-point buck followed exactly her path from behind me, stopped to sniff her deposited scent, and now he's in my freezer. I'd never seen a doe come into a grunt call before.

Apparently, I've been lucky in years passed. You shoot a deer, it expires, and you drag it 10 yards to a spot where you can dress it and load it into an ATV. This year every deer I took chose to find an almost inaccessible location to pass. The last doe I took found a drainage gully 50 yards down a steep embankment. It took me an hour to get her out. The shot is when the work begins. Still a whole lot easier than hauling moose meat across Alaskan tundra. Maybe we'll tell that story later.



## *From Trap #4...*

Hey Naperville Members...

Out here in the desert, off on Trap #4, keeping busy, making sure the Pat Trap is filled and targets are good... firearm safety is only one risk to consider.

It's been a rough Winter here in Vegas (sarcasm note)... I've got snow on the mountains while it's 60s on the trap field with plenty of green and flowering cactus... the Roadrunners and Wylie Coyotes are running all over...

I make sure I'm wearing a cap and slathering on the sunscreen... as I had a bout of skin cancer cut off recently, while me and a bottle of liquid nitrogen continue to get too friendly and it got me to thinking... we need a PSA.

Make sure to WEAR A HAT, USE A GOOD SPF SUNSCREEN and be vigilant when you're outside... the sun in Illinois can be just as damaging as it is out here in the Mojave...

If you haven't seen a dermatologist or seen one in a while, make an appointment for a SKIN CHECK... AKs, SKs, Basal Cell, Squamous as well as the most concerning Melanoma are real risks, not to be ignored...

Wishing you a great, safe year of shooting in 2026...Jay Spitz  
Life Member





# Irish Open



**Sunday, March 15, 2026**

2 Rounds of 25

It's that time of year when the Leprechauns appear at Sportsman's Park.

Club members shoot one round from 16 yards and then a handicap round from either 23, 24 or 25 yards based on their first score.

There will be 6 squads shooting for the 'Pots of Gold'

Come on out and try your luck or cheer for your favorite Leprechaun.

\$5 fee required, does not include the cost of targets or shells.

(Sign-up in advance at the desk, payment required to hold your spot.)



# Singles League



**Starts: Thursday, March 19, 2026**

Seven Weeks (ends Thursday, May 07, 2026)

Shoot Eight rounds in Eight Weeks

**50 Singles Targets each Week**

**400 Total Targets**

\$20 Entry Fee – Sign-up the first week of the league

ATA members can register league targets - ATA/ISTA fee required

*Out & About with Sandy Melovic*

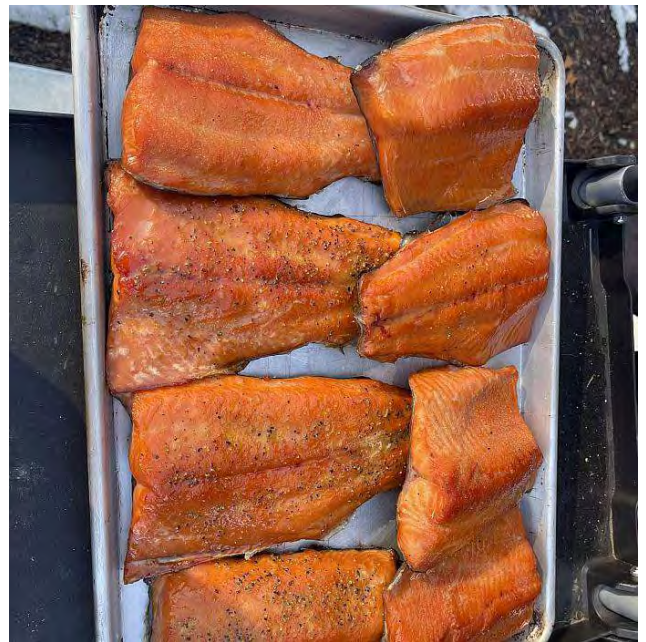


*Out & About with Sandy Melovic*



## Sportsman's Stories

**Nina & Brian fishing with Lenny Vaughan and Slipknot Charters – MI  
I would like to see a few of those filets on the Sportsman's Grill 😊**



# Naperville Sportsman's Club 2026

January 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Grand American 7/29-8/8  
 II State Shoot 6/15-21  
 WI State Shoot 7/7-12  
 Nap-ATA: 4/12,5/3,7/19,10/4  
 DG-ATA: 4/26,6/28,9/12-13,10/11  
 SC-ATA: 5/17,6/8,7/6,9/12-13,9/27  
 McHenry-ATA: 5/16,5/17,10/4

RSO Class: 2/28  
 Trap Class: 3/22,4/26,7/26,8/23,9/27,10/25  
 Hunter Safety-NSC: 2/14,3/14,8/8  
 Hunter Safety-Newark: 4/25,7/18,9/26  
 Next Stop: TBD  
 Scout Shoot: TBD

12/28/2025- NYE-Protection  
 12/27/2026- NYE-Protection

Date	Event or Holiday
01-Jan (Thu)	Closed-New Year's Day
11-Jan (Sun)	~ Doubles-1
13-Jan (Tue)	* Club Meeting
18-Jan (Sun)	~ Doubles-2
25-Jan (Sun)	~ Doubles-3
01-Feb (Sun)	~ Doubles-4
08-Feb (Sun)	~ Doubles-5
10-Feb (Tue)	* Club Meeting
14-Feb (Sat)	Valentines Day (Hunter Safety)
15-Feb (Sun)	~ Doubles-6
22-Feb (Sun)	~ Doubles-7
28-Feb (Sat)	~ RSO Class
08-Mar (Sun)	Daylight Savings
10-Mar (Tue)	* Club Meeting
14-Mar (Sat)	~ Hunter Safety
15-Mar (Sun)	~ Irish Open
17-Mar (Tue)	St. Patrick's Day
19-Mar (Thu)	~ Singles-1
22-Mar (Sun)	~ Trap Class
26-Mar (Thu)	~ Singles-2
02-Apr (Thu)	~ Singles-3
05-Apr (Sun)	Closed-Easter
09-Apr (Thu)	~ Singles-4
12-Apr (Sun)	^ ATA-NSC
14-Apr (Tue)	* Club Meeting
16-Apr (Thu)	~ Singles-5
23-Apr (Thu)	~ Singles-6
26-Apr (Sun)	~ Trap Class (ATA-DG)
30-Apr (Thu)	~ Singles-7
03-May (Sun)	^ ATA-NSC
07-May (Thu)	~ Singles-8
10-May (Sun)	Closed-Mother's Day
12-May (Tue)	* Club Meeting
17-May (Sun)	Closed-NCHS Graduation
25-May (Mon)	Memorial Day
07-Jun (Sun)	^ ATA-SC
09-Jun (Tue)	* Club Meeting
18-Jun (Thu)	^ ATA-IL St
19-Jun (Fri)	Juneteenth Day
21-Jun (Sun)	Father's Day (ATA-IL St)
27-Jun (Sat)	* Club Dinner
28-Jun (Sun)	^ ATA-DG
14-Jul (Tue)	* Club Meeting

Date	Event or Holiday
18-Jul (Sat)	^ ATA-SC
19-Jul (Sun)	^ ATA-NSC
26-Jul (Sun)	~ Trap Class
30-Jul (Thu)	^ ATA-GrandAm
02-Aug (Sun)	^ ATA-GrandAm
06-Aug (Thu)	^ ATA-GrandAm
08-Aug (Sat)	~ Hunter Safety
11-Aug (Tue)	* Club Meeting
20-Aug (Thu)	~ Handicap Champ
23-Aug (Sun)	~ Trap Class
06-Sep (Sun)	^ ATA-SC
07-Sep (Mon)	Labor Day
08-Sep (Tue)	* Club Meeting
10-Sep (Thu)	~ Wobble-1
12-Sep (Sat)	^ ATA-DG N.Zone
13-Sep (Sun)	^ ATA-DG N.Zone
17-Sep (Thu)	~ Wobble-2
24-Sep (Thu)	~ Wobble-3
27-Sep (Sun)	~ Trap Class
01-Oct (Thu)	~ Wobble-4
04-Oct (Sun)	^ ATA-NSC & Cook
08-Oct (Thu)	~ Wobble-5
11-Oct (Sun)	^ ATA-DG
13-Oct (Tue)	* Club Meeting
15-Oct (Thu)	~ Wobble-6
22-Oct (Thu)	~ Wobble-7
25-Oct (Sun)	~ Trap Class
29-Oct (Thu)	~ Wobble-8
31-Oct (Sat)	Halloween
01-Nov (Sun)	Daylight Savings
10-Nov (Tue)	* Club Meeting
11-Nov (Wed)	Veterans Day
12-Nov (Thu)	~ Gobble Wobble
26-Nov (Thu)	Closed-Thanksgiving
08-Dec (Tue)	* Club Meeting
24-Dec (Thu)	Closed-Christmas Eve
25-Dec (Fri)	Christmas Day
27-Dec (Sun)	~ NYE-Protection
31-Dec (Thu)	Closed-New Year's Eve

### *Officers and Board Members*

President: Art Jablonski  
Vice President: John McGuire  
Secretary: Fred Turek  
Treasurer: Tom Jorstad  
Nenad Trichkovski: Director '26  
Steve Pfister: Director '26  
Brian Krieger: Director '27  
Dan Sterr: Director '27  
Dave Krause: Director '28  
Jim Chakour: Director '28  
Park District Liaison: David Naydenoff  
Newsletter Editor/Publisher: Jim Chakour

### *Club Information*

The Naperville Sportsman's Club  
PO Box 27 Naperville, IL 60566  
[www.NapervilleSportsmansClub.org](http://www.NapervilleSportsmansClub.org)  
Board/Member Meetings: 7:30 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday

### Range Information

Sportsman's Park Trap Range  
735 S. West Street Naperville, IL 60566  
Clubhouse phone: 630-828-6671  
**Hours of Operation:**  
Thursdays: 6:00 – 10:00 PM  
Sundays: 12:00 – 6:00 PM. Final Signup at 4:00 PM  
Hours are subject to weather and attendance,  
holidays, and community events. Open year round

