



BEAVER COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CONSERVATION LEAGUE



September 11, 2025, Minutes Meeting Location – Ambridge District Sportsmen's Association

MEMBER CLUBS & AGENCIES

P = Present, A = Absent

P	Aliquippa (Alt)	Rick Caton Guy Cable	P	FOAC (Alt)	Craig Holdren Frank Kelly	A	Northside (Alt)	Al Straub Jason Hominsky
P	Ambridge (Alt)	Tim Watson Tim Reichl	A	Forest Grove (Alt)	Mike Karkalla Tim Hartzell	P	NWTF 2 nd Chance Toms (Alt)	Jeff Ruckert
P	Beaver Falls (Alt)	Larry White Frank Eder	P	Green Valley (Alt)	Mike Sabat Joe McMullen	P	Pine Run (Alt)	Rob Smith Jeff Ruckert
A	B.V. Archers (Alt)	George Klinger	A	Hopewell VFW (Alt)	Gary Grey Sue Tranter	P	Rochester (Alt)	Jerry Hooks Amy Swartzlander
P	B.V Rifle & Pistol (Alt)	Rick Wall Lee Gower	P	Koppel / Big Beaver (Alt)	Lee Gower Jerry Tillia	P	Sewickley (Alt)	Mark Crevar Laurie Bush
A	Conway (Alt)	Ray Eppinger	A	Marion Hill (Alt)	Daniel Freed Larry Radcliff	P	Western PA Youth Outdoorsmen (Alt)	Lee Heeter Delaney Hogue
P	Ellwood - Wampum (Alt)	Tim Kelly Dick Bayer	P	Midland (Alt)	Jerry Wamsley Mark Benzio	A	PFBC	Jeremy Allen
P	Five Points (Alt)	Jim Farland Dan Losco	A	North Boroughs (Alt)	Robert Zeman Tim Reichle	P	PGC	Madison Pugh

OFFICERS

P = Present, A = Absent

P	President	A	Vice President	P	Treasurer	P	Secretary
	Rich Kerlin		Dan Householder		Mark Benzio		Tonya Cable

Call to Order – 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance & Sportsmen's Pledge & Moment of Silence

- Keeping in our thoughts & prayers
 - Dan Householder, Jerry Hooks, Ellen Rich, Nolan Rawlings, Tim Watson Family

Host Club Welcome – Joel, President of the Ambridge District Sportsmen's Association

Guests

- none

Last month's minutes

Last month State Agency PA Game Commission (Mike Yeck – absent)
Motion to accept for audit. Ellwood Wampum / BVRP. Passed.

Treasurer's Report – Mark Benzio (see Mark for details)

- no changes since last month's meeting.

Motion to accept for audit. Pine Run / Ambridge. Passed.

Elections

- Nominating committee for October elections (vice-president & secretary).
 - Craig Holdren
 - Jim Farland
- No nominations at present for vice-president or secretary.

Communications

ALL League correspondence to the Post Office Box address listed below.

- BCSCCL – PO Box 276, Beaver, PA 15009

State Agencies

PA Game Commission (PGC) – Madison Pugh – [Report](#)

ELK CAM FIRES BACK UP

With the September peak of Pennsylvania's elk rut right around the corner, you can get a jumpstart on viewing some of those bugling bulls through the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Elk Cam, which launched today. The cam is in the heart of Pennsylvania's elk range, an area totaling over 220,000 acres including State Game Lands 311 and Elk State Forest.

The Elk Cam is slated to run until the end of the bugling season, likely sometime in mid-October. The top time to see elk on camera is late in the afternoon.

The stream can be accessed on the Game Commission website at

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pgc/wildlife/wildlife-viewing/wildlife-cams>.

VISITORS ENCOURAGED TO BE 'ELK SMART'

While those viewing the Elk Cam need not worry about getting too close to elk or potentially compromising their wild qualities, things are different when viewing elk in person.

Wildlife is best appreciated from a comfortable distance, and those enjoying Pennsylvania's elk country should do their part to preserve the wild nature of the herd.

"ELK SMART" provides four simple, effective ways to ensure a wild elk herd for generations to come.

- Give elk space – Keep a distance of at least 100 yards between you and the elk. Never approach them. Elk are wild animals that are unpredictable and sometimes aggressive, especially during the fall breeding season. Cows are also known to defend their young when they feel threatened.
- Never feed elk – Not only is it illegal to feed elk in Pennsylvania, but it teaches them to associate people, cars, and/or homes with food. This could cause them to approach people looking for more. Feeding also promotes the spread of infectious diseases by having them unnaturally congregate into small areas.

- Do not name elk – Characterizing elk, or any wildlife, by naming them degrades their wild essence. The very reason people are drawn to the elk is their unaltered independence from humans. Personifying elk as humans takes away from their truly wild nature.
- Do your part – The welfare of the elk herd is a shared responsibility. If you see someone being disruptive or careless, whether intentional or not, kindly ask them to stop or report it to the Pennsylvania Game Commission by calling 1-833-PGC-WILD. We all have a duty to ensure the safety of people and the long-term welfare of the elk.

Board of Commissioners Meeting 7/28/2025

SUNDAY HUNTING DAYS SET FOR 2025

The Pennsylvania Game Commission today announced that beginning Sept. 14, and through the second Sunday in firearms deer season Dec. 7, all Sundays that fall within established hunting seasons will be included as part of those seasons and open to hunting.

Migratory game bird seasons are the lone exception. No Sundays will be added to the 2025-26 migratory game bird seasons because those seasons are set through federal frameworks and adding any Sundays at this time would result in a loss of hunting days in 2025-26.

For other species with open seasons, the Sundays authorized for hunting in 2025 are: Sept. 14, Sept. 21, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, Oct. 12, Oct. 19, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, Nov. 9, Nov. 16, Nov. 23, Nov. 30, and Dec. 7.

Please note the firearms deer season will still end on Saturday, Dec. 13. Many established hunting seasons will continue to close as scheduled on a Saturday. Sundays must fall between the established opening and closing days of a season to be open to hunting.

In addition to these new Sunday hunting dates, the previously approved Sundays for foxes, coyotes and crows remain in place for the 2025-26 seasons.

The Sundays to be added to the 2025-26 seasons follow the passage House Bill 1431, which was signed into law July 9 as Act 36 of 2025. The new law, which takes effect Sept. 7, repeals Pennsylvania's longstanding prohibition on Sunday hunting, allowing the Game Commission to fully regulate Sunday hunting.

After thoroughly discussing and deliberating additional Sunday hunting opportunities for the 2025-26 license year, the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners unanimously adopted a resolution directing Game Commission Executive Director Steve Smith to add the new Sunday hunting days by executive order, as authorized by regulation. The order will be made to take effect Sept. 7 when the new law is in place. While the Board unanimously supported the list of Sundays to be implemented, Commissioners noted that an executive order was necessary. Adjusting seasons through Board action would have required affirmative votes at two consecutive meetings and could not have taken effect until sometime in November – after most fall hunting seasons had already occurred.

- For each new Sunday to be implemented, the Board considered potential impacts on game species, and Game Commission staff assured Commissioners no negative impacts would be expected from opening the approved Sundays within seasons. Allowing expanded Sunday hunting only through the firearms deer season will help to ensure the new opportunities align with wildlife-management goals, as well.
- When the Board begins the process of setting the 2026-27 hunting seasons in January, with the benefit of including Sundays when establishing seasons instead of adding Sundays to already-established seasons, the slate of opportunities might look different.

AG TAGS, SNOW GOOSE PERMITS FOR MENTORED HUNTERS

Mentored hunters ages 7 and older soon will be able to purchase snow goose conservation permits, as well as Ag Tags for antlerless deer.

After giving preliminary approval in April, the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners today adopted a measure that, once finalized, will further increase the slate of opportunities available to mentored hunters. As

with all hunters, there will be no limit on the number of Ag Tags a mentored hunter 7 or older can receive, so long as tags remain available.

These changes will take effect when they are published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*, which usually takes about six weeks.

Allowing mentored hunters 7 or older to receive snow goose permits and Ag Tags provides additional opportunities for mentored hunters while enabling them to take part in important management initiatives.

LAND DEALS TO ADD 57 ACRES TO GAME LANDS

The Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners today addressed four land deals: one purchase in Luzerne County, one exchange in Cambria County, one acquisition through interagency transfer in Luzerne County, and one boundary settlement in Elk County through a notational vote on June 11, 2025. The total acreage to be added to existing state game lands through these deals is 57 acres.

Hunters and other users of the game lands system should be aware that none of these additions are yet final. Some are contingent upon third parties receiving funding through grants or other means. What is more, the Board of Commissioners' approval of the agreements is but one step in the land transfer process.

When that process is completed, and the properties are officially game lands, the Game Commission will post signs to that effect, stating that they are now available for public use.

CHANGES TO CROP-DAMAGE PROGRAM ADOPTED

The Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners adopted two changes to the Agricultural Damage Depredation Permit program, which allows farmers to take wildlife for crop damage.

The Board voted to remove requirements that affected agricultural lands be enrolled in a two-year public access program and that applicants supply a deed for enrolled lands, allowing them to certify their authority instead. These changes will take effect when they are published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*, which usually takes about six weeks.

Board of Commissioners Meeting 9/5/2025

MENTORED HUNTERS UNDER 7 COULD RECEIVE TAGS

All mentored hunters – including those under 7 years old – would get big-game harvest tags with their permits if a proposal before the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners is given final approval.

The Board voted to preliminarily approve the measure, which is meant to improve access to the mentored hunting program and expand hunting opportunities within it.

The mentored hunting program allows young and inexperienced hunters to hunt under the guidance and supervision of a mentor if they obtain a permit and follow all program requirements.

Under the present system, most mentored hunters receive antlered deer, fall turkey and spring turkey harvest tags with their permits, but mentored hunters who are younger than 7 when they obtain their permits do not. If a mentored hunter under 7 harvests an antlered deer or turkey, they must receive the appropriate big-game harvest tag from their mentor, meaning the mentor needs a valid tag to take them hunting.

This creates challenges for mentors who accompany more than one child throughout the big-game hunting seasons. Furthermore, mentors who transfer their harvest tags to a successful mentored youth sacrifice their own ability to lawfully hunt for and harvest the species for which the tag was issued. Some believe this is unfair to mentors, who play a vital role in recruiting new hunters to carry on the hunting tradition and continue the important work of managing wildlife populations.

Providing all mentored hunters with antlered deer and turkey tags would align the program across all age groups.

The measure, which passed by a 6-3 vote, will be brought back to the January meeting for a final vote.

If adopted, mentored hunters under 7 would be able to obtain their own bear licenses, antlerless deer licenses, Deer Management Assistance Program permits and special spring turkey licenses.

MORE AG TAGS COULD BE HELD AT A TIME

Hunters participating in the Agricultural Deer Control Program, or Ag Tag program, can receive as many permits as they obtain coupons for.

But presently, Ag Tag hunters can hold no more than four permits at a time.

That would change based on a measure the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners preliminarily approved today. The proposal would remove the limit on the number of Ag Tags a hunter can hold at a time. It will be brought back to the January meeting for a final vote.

PHILLY GAME LANDS COULD SEE SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Many state game lands are special in their own ways. Few are unique for the same reasons that make 17.88-acre State Game Lands 339 in Philadelphia different, though.

That might lead to a name change and some special regulations.

The Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners today gave preliminary approval to a measure renaming State Game Lands 339 as Poquessing Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The change, if given final approval at a subsequent meeting, would make the parcel the Game Commission's third official wildlife management area, joining Middle Creek WMA in Lancaster and Lebanon counties and Pymatuning WMA in Crawford County.

The plan at Poquessing Creek WMA is to allow public archery deer hunting, but by permit only. Those will be awarded by drawing each August. Hunters awarded a permit will be allowed to hunt the WMA and portions of nearby Benjamin Rush State Park from elevated stands during designated one- to two-week periods between the onset of archery season in September and its close in January. Five permits would be awarded per segment. Poquessing Creek WMA would give all hunting license buyers the chance to apply to hunt within Philadelphia. Managing that by permit will provide a better-quality experience, said Peter Sussenbach, the Game Commission's Southeast Region Director.

MORE THAN 500 ACRES TO BE ADDED TO GAME LANDS

The Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners today approved five land acquisitions – a donation, a new purchase, and three land exchanges – that would add 572 surface acres to state game lands, as well as 1,340 acres of subsurface oil, gas, and mineral rights.

The donation of about 390 acres in Penn Lake Park Borough, Luzerne County, adjacent to State Game Lands 119, was offered by The Nature Conservancy. This property would provide critical access to the existing state game lands and open 2,400 acres of previously inaccessible land. The donation is subject to approval by the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources due to applicable grant funding requirements.

The Board approved the purchase of roughly 1,340 acres of subsurface oil, gas and mineral rights located in and under State Game Lands 143. This game lands contains quality habitat for ruffed grouse as well as Blue Eye Run, a stocked trout stream. By acquiring the subsurface rights for this property, the Game Commission will have greater control over future development efforts that could impact the unique habitat on this game lands.

The three land exchanges are:

- In Howard Township, Centre County, the Game Commission would receive roughly 6 acres adjoining State Game Lands 92 in exchange for roughly 2 acres of the game land. This exchange would improve the integrity and manageability of State Game Lands 92, and the Game Commission will retain an administrative right-of-way across the property.
- In Washington, Penn and Union townships, Snyder County, the Game Commission would receive roughly 140 acres of Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission land adjoining State Game Lands 212 in exchange for roughly 16 acres in Brush Creek and Belfast townships, Fulton County, adjoining State Game Lands 65, which would go to Flickerville Cross of Fulton County Foundation. The exchange does not cover the entire purchase price; therefore, the Game Commission would pay the remaining balance – \$243,800 – for the 140 acres. Access would be from Hidden Valley Road. The Fish and Boat Commission has already approved the purchase at its July Board of Commissioners meeting.

- In Hanover Township, Luzerne County, the Game Commission would receive roughly 36 acres adjoining State Game Lands 207 in exchange for a roughly 2.88-acre, non-exclusive right-of-way on State Game Lands 207 for PPL to better access their electric infrastructure. This exchange would improve property integrity and manageability of State Game Lands 207 by resolving numerous boundary line issues.

Hunters and other users of the game lands system should be aware that none of these additions are yet final. Some are contingent upon third parties receiving funding through grants or other means. What is more, the Board of Commissioners' approval of the agreements is but one step in the land transfer process.

When that process is completed, and the properties are officially game lands, the Game Commission will post signs to that effect, stating that they are now available for public use.

PUBLIC PLAYS IMPORTANT ROLE IN MONITORING EHD

EHD, a viral disease that is often fatal to white-tailed deer, has hit some parts of the country extremely hard this year.

In Pennsylvania, EHD has been confirmed in a handful of counties in the northwestern part of the state. But the Game Commission also has investigated reports of dead deer in southwestern and southeastern Pennsylvania, where test results are pending.

The public is encouraged to report sick or dead deer, especially if several are found dead in the same area and the cause of death is not apparent. The Pennsylvania Game Commission can be contacted, round the clock, at 1-833-PGC-WILD (1-833-742-9453).

Public reports allow the Game Commission to further investigate and track EHD outbreaks.

EHD, or epizootic hemorrhagic disease, is spread to deer when infected midges bite them, small insects often called "no-see-ums." Because EHD is spread by midges, it emerges in late summer and remains a threat to deer until temperatures drop and the midges die off, usually at the first hard frost. But in local areas where EHD is present, deer mortality can be severe.

So far this year, EHD has been detected in:

- Butler County, Muddy Creek Township
- Erie County, Mill Creek Township
- Lawrence County, Slippery Rock Township
- Mercer County, Liberty, and Shenango townships

EHD is one of two viruses spread by biting midges that cause hemorrhagic disease in Pennsylvania deer. The related bluetongue virus (BT), which historically has been less common in Pennsylvania, has similar impacts. Infected deer often develop clinical signs about seven days after infection and die soon after. Signs include swelling of the face or neck, loss of appetite, lethargy, weakness, lameness, respiratory distress, fever, and excessive salivation. Some deer survive the initial infection and can develop chronic signs like hoof cracks or overgrowth.

There is currently no treatment for EHD or BT infections in wild deer, and for diseases spread by insects, wildlife management options are limited. However, local deer populations often rebound within two to three years following an outbreak.

Neither EHD or BT have been detected in Pennsylvania elk, and elk are considered less susceptible to infection. Both EHD and BT virus can infect domestic livestock. Reports of sick livestock should be directed to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture at 717-772-2852

Shapiro Administration Announces Plans for Sunday Hunting in State Parks and Forests, Phased Approach for 2025-26 Season on Public Lands

For the **2025-26 season, Sunday hunting in state parks** will be limited to three dates: **November 16, 23, and 30** — while **state forests**, which cover 2.2 million acres and generally have larger, less crowded hunting areas, **will continue to permit hunting on all Sundays** [approved](#) by the **Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC)**.

The Game Commission-approved Sunday dates for 2025 are:

- September 14, 21, and 28
- October 5, 12, 19, and 26
- November 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30
- December 7

Beginning next year, most state parks that allow hunting will expand Sunday opportunities through a park-by-park review.

Raccoon Creek State Park- will operate with only three Sundays.

Hillman- will operate with all the Sundays due to their previous agreement with the PGC.

SGL 203 Addition

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for 266 acres for SGL 203 Indiana Twp Allegheny County was held on August 22nd, 2025.

Beaver County Hunter Ed

Baden - September 13th, 2025

- Last class for Beaver County in 2025

Central Valley- October 21st and 22nd

- A private class held just for students.

[PA Hunting and Trapping Digest](#)

Sunday Hunting – [click here](#).

Certified Hunter Program | Game Commission | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Link to apply. <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pgc/habitat-management/landowner-assistance/certified-hunter-program.html>

REGISTRATION for classes are on-line [PGC](#)

Contact Mike 724-683-5880 (call or text) to host a hunter-trapper education class.

PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) – Jeremy Allen – *absent*

Jeremiah Allen| Waterways Conservation Officer

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Beaver County

236 Lake Road | Somerset, PA 15501-1644

Phone: 814.233.9115 | Fax: 814.445.8974

E-mail: jereallen@pa.gov

[PA Fish and Boat Commission](#)

Affiliated Organizations

Conservation District - Lindsey Shepler, Watershed Specialist / Environmental Educator – *absent*

- No report

BCSCL Youth Foundation – Jeff Ruckert / Rick Caton

- “Letter of Appreciation” from the Conservation Camp Staff and campers presented.
- Youth Foundation website www.bcsclfyf.com
- BCSCL Youth Foundation Sponsorship Applications available. [Click here](#).
- Next meeting will be held at Aliquippa Bucktails on Thursday, September 18, 2025, beginning at 7 pm.

We The People of America – Amy Swartzlander

- Got 2nd place for Vendor Booth. Congratulations!
- Next meeting 9/25/25 at Rochester Sportsmen’s Club.
- Membership Application. [Click here](#).

Committee Reports

Audit Committee – Mark Benzio

- Appointed audit committee: Dan Losco, Craig Holdren & Mark Crevar

Booklet – Frank Kelly – *absent*

- 2025 Booklets available to hand out. Take some back to your clubs.

Game – Lindsey Shepler – *absent*.

- No report.

Pollution – (vacant)

- No report
 - If interested, please reach out to Rich Kerlin with questions regarding the expectations of this committee. Rich Kerlin at kerlinkanine@aol.com or 724-601-6974
 - This committee will only need to report quarterly or as needed.

Fishing Derby – Mark Crevar

- No report.

Fish Committee – Mark Crevar

Neshannock Creek Fly Shop – Stream Conditions

<https://ncflyshop.com/pages/stream-reports>

Lake Erie Fishing:

The walleye are going into the deep, catching walleye within 65 to 90 FOW, while season is fading away fish limits are still being caught. Fishing in the mouth of the creeks and the beach have showed some sign of steelhead starting to stage up for the fall run. Water levels and cooler temperatures are important for migration. Remember you can check the Avonia and Elk creek web cameras.

Reference link for current fishing reports. <https://www.fisherie.com>

Anglers are targeting various species like walleye, catfish, pike, and bass. This season is changing up for targeted fish going into fall months. The predator fish will soon be active to feast for the winter months.

Support your local small fishing stores!

Conservation Camp – Tonya Cable

- No report.

Archery – Josh Wolfe – [Report](#)

National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP)

- School is back and local school districts have begun recruiting for their archery teams for the school year.
Beaver County Schools that participate in NASP:
 - South Side School District (South Side Middle School)
 - Freedom Area School District (Freedom Area High School)
 - Central Valley School District
 - Beaver Area School District (Beaver Area High School; Beaver Area Middle School; Dutch Ridge Elementary School)
 - Blackhawk School District (Highland Middle School – Restarting program in 2025)
 - New Brighton Area School District (New Brighton Area School District)
 - Riverside High School
- Beaver County School Districts that have a known competitive team with coaching staff:
 - Beaver Area
 - Central Valley
 - Riverside
 - New Brighton
- Local NASP Tournaments
 - Beaver Bullseye Bownanza State Qualifier
 - Riverside State Qualifier
 - Potential: Central Valley Hosts tournament this year
- Archery Committee is contacting the local NASP coaches to inquire about volunteer opportunities.
 - Supporting local NASP programs provides an opportunity to host a team at local Sportsmen's clubs; hosting teams should lead to new members and increased attendance at local club events.
 - Long term goal: Beaver County starts Scholastic 3D Archery (S3DA) west of Harrisburg and brings the program to western PA.

Youth Foundation

- The BCSC Youth Foundation is in the planning phase of adding an archery event to our annual rotation of youth events – look for more information later this fall.

Hunting Seasons

- Archery Season – Black Bear
 - WMUs 2B, 5C, and 5D – 20 SEP 2025 – 28 NOV 2025
 - All WMUs – 18 OCT 2025 – 21 NOV 2025
- Archery Season – Whitetail
 - WMUs 2B, 5C, and 5D – 20 SEP 2025 – 28 NOV 2025

- All WMUs – 4 OCT 2025 – 21 NOV 2025
- Late Season Archery: 26 DEC 2025 – 19 JAN 2025

Club Archery Events

- Ambridge District Sportsmen’s Association hosts a 3-D Bow Shoot on Sunday, 14 September 2025
- Beaver Falls Sportsmen’s Association hosts a 3-D night shoot on Saturday, 13 September 2025 and another on Saturday, 27 September 2025
- Five Points Hunting Club hosts a 3-D archery shoot on Sunday, 14 September 2025
- Rochester Sportsmen’s Club hosts a 3-D archery shoot on Sunday, 14 September 2025

PA Good News Story

Kevin Polish Jr. (KJ), of Carmichaels, Greene County, PA, set two world records this past July at the Para Cup of the Americas: an individual qualification record previously set at the 2019 Paralympic World Championships was broken with a score of 707/720, and a team record was broken while shooting with fellow paralympic shooter Douglas Godfrey in the Compound Men’s Doubles with a score of 1382 points.

Events Coordinator – Craig Holdren

- Website has been changed. Take a look and see what you think about it!
 - www.bcscl.net

Amy Swartzlander will be taking over as Events Coordinator. Congratulations Amy & a big “Thank you!” to Craig for doing such a great job!

Legislative – Craig Holdren (Jim Stoker) [FOAC Video](#)

Concealed Carry Seminar -Tuesday 10/21/25 event time 6:00pm till 9:00pm. [Details.](#)

FOAC Institute Press Release

City of York Violation of Preemption Statute Imminent

Pittsburgh, PA – Today, the Firearms Owners Against Crime – Institute for Legal, Legislative, and Educational Action (FOAC-ILLEA) renewed its call for Mayor Michael Helfrich of the City of York to veto legislation passed by city council this week. Bill No. 23 attempts to regulate firearms by restricting the possession, use, transfer, or manufacture any “rapid-fire device.” The proposed ordinance violates Pennsylvania Title 18, Section 6120.

“We urge Mayor Helfrich to do what is right and veto this legislation as a government overreach. While a home rule charter allows broad powers of self-government, state law is also very clear that those powers are limited where such action is preempted, as it is in this case,” said Jim Stoker, FOAC-ILLEA President. “Time and time again, we have struck down these illegal ordinances that municipalities have fought and lost, costing taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars in the process.”

FOAC-ILLEA has won suits challenging laws enacted in Pittsburgh and Harrisburg, as well as several other municipalities across the state. The Courts, including the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, have repeatedly ruled against these communities that are trying to circumvent state preemption.

Specifically, the Pennsylvania Crimes Code prohibits any municipality from regulating the “lawful ownership, possession, transfer or transportation of firearms, ammunition or ammunition components when carried or transported for purposes not prohibited by the laws of this Commonwealth.” 18 Pa. C.S. § 6120(a).

This “field preemption” has been upheld repeatedly by the Courts, including the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, that explicitly declared it was the General Assembly’s “exclusive prerogative to regulate firearms in this Commonwealth.” This includes all aspects of firearms, including the devices identified as rapid-fire devices in the City of York legislation.

On Tuesday, September 2, 2025, the City of York’s Council voted by a vote of 4-1, with Councilwoman Dr. Felicia O.A. Dennis voting against, to enact Bill No. 23. The bill restricts the possession, use, transfer, or manufacture of what the bill defines as a “rapid-fire device,” which includes any binary trigger, “multi-burst trigger activator,” trigger crank, auto sear, bump stock, or forced reset trigger.

“We have called and emailed Mayor Helfrich, urging him to veto this legislation and are hopeful that he will recognize this as the government overreach that it is,” added Stoker. “There are provisions in state law that allow for the pursuit of criminal charges against any official that affirmed infringement of these rights. If this bill becomes law, we will approach District Attorney Tim Barker to ask that he pursue charges.”

Mayor Helfrich has indicated to media outlets that he intends to sign the legislation and does not believe that these items are covered by the field preemption upheld by the Courts.

Washington County Gun Show – Sept. 6th and 7th @ 9am - Washington County Fairgrounds

Big Beaver Borough – Discussion with manager led to removal of discharge and possession ordinances. Can not argue hunting ordinance. Appears closed.

PA State House: 46 Total Firearms Bills, 18 anti-gun, 26 pro-gun, 2 watched. Current PA House legislation can be accessed at this link: <https://foac-illea.org/Proposed-Pennsylvania-House-Legislation>

PA State Senate: 45 Total Firearm Bills, 29 anti-gun, 14 pro-gun, 2 watched. Current PA Senate legislation can be accessed at this link: <https://foac-illea.org/Proposed-Pennsylvania-Senate-Legislation>

US House: Total Firearm Bills, 116 total bills, 65 anti-gun, 49 pro-gun, 2 watched – See updates at <https://foac-illea.org/Proposed-Federal-House-Legislation>

US Senate: Total Firearm Bills, 54 bills to date, 29 anti-gun, 24 pro-gun, 1 watched – See updates at <https://foac-illea.org/Proposed-Federal-Senate-Legislation>

Elections have consequences: This vote for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court can change everything to support Article I Section 21 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

There are 5 democrats 3 Of them are up for retention on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, on the next election Tuesday 11/04/25. So, vote NO to retention for Donohue, Dougherty & Wecht, you will literally kick them off the bench.

Insert PDF attached for FOAC Institute endorsed Superior Court Judge: Make sure you, your friends & family get out and VOTE!

Voter Guide – [click here](#).

Fundraising – Guy Cable

- August 24, 2025, 7 pm 3-digit PA lottery. A \$1,000 gift card to Milk House Meats / \$500 gift card to Milk House Meats for reverse number. Winners verified.

- October 15, 2025, 7 pm 3-digit PA lottery. NWTF banquet gun “Savage Model 334 chambered in 6.5 Creedmoor” raffle.
- BRG 9 mm semi-auto Pistol donated by Tim R to raffle for Youth Foundation. Plan for ticket to be based on the PA lottery on Christmas Day.
- Annual Youth Foundation Sporting Clay Shoot at Rochester on 8/9/25. Thank you to Jerry & the Rochester Sportsmen’s Club for hosting.

Youth Mentored Hunts – Rich Kerlin

Pheasant

- October 11, 2025
- Hunt Site: Nichol/Doak Area of Raccoon State located off State Route 168.
- The hunt is full of 28 licensed junior hunters registered and a waitlist of 8. Register on-line [HERE!](#)
- The youth must be a licensed junior hunter and have a pheasant stamp.
- Volunteer sign-up sheet passed around. Need at least 18 volunteers.
- Will be running 2 fields. 2 youth hunters with a trained dog and guide per field.
- PA Game Commission supplies 2 birds per youth hunter. Youth Foundation purchased extra birds.
- Volunteers in the field must have hunting licenses but do not need a pheasant stamp.
- 1st Check in starts at 7 am & the 2nd starts at 9 am.
- Wear blaze-orange.
- Volunteers arrive by 7 am to help.

Goose

- October 25, 2025
- Held at Brady’s Run Park.
- 4 blinds to be set up. The set-up date tbd.
- 4 youth signed up to date. (Can take up to 16 youth.)
- 12 adults signed up to date.
- Must be a Licensed Junior Hunter.
- 15 and older must have a Federal Duck stamp.
- Looking for volunteer help from waterfowl hunters. Need experience.

Youth Field Day – Amy Swartzlander

- Reddi Bait was appreciative of the Thank you letters and pictures. They are looking forward to helping with future youth events.

Banquet – (President’s Meeting)

- No report

Big Knob Fair – Dick Bayer

Aug 26th - Aug 30th

- Deposit \$3,080
- Kids prize unclaimed.
- Fishing pole & gun were both claimed.
- 298 people bought tickets.
- Got some additional emails for our event emailing list.
- Thank you to all who helped!

Lead Abatement / Range Management Best Practices – Dan Losco

To contact Dan: email dlosco@creswellwater.net

- Best Management Practice website at <https://www.epa.gov/lead/best-management-practices-lead-outdoor-shooting-ranges>
- **KEEP your Records!**

Firearms Training – Rich Kerlin

- NRA First Steps Pistol Orientation at Beaver Valley Rifle Pistol Club

- Saturday October 25th, 2025 (8:30 AM to roughly 2:30 PM). Registration online. Cost \$139.
- Women on Target held at Beaver Valley Rifle Pistol Club
 - Saturday September 20th, 2025 (8:30 AM to roughly 2:30 PM). Registration online. Cost \$86. Recommend registering for waiting list.
- Aliquippa Bucktails
 - Basic Pistol class on September 27, 2025. 3 people signed up. If we do not have 4 signed up, it will be canceled. Register online.
 - Personal Protection in the home on October 4, 2025.
 - Personal Protection outside the home on November 1 & 2 (2-day course)
- Beaver County Concealed Carry Seminar October 21, 2025 (6 pm – 9pm). [Details here.](#)
- Pine Run NRA Basic Pistol Class on Oct 5th (day 1) & Oct 12th (day 2).

For interest in a Basic Pistol instructor class, contact Rich Kerlin.

Contact Rich Kerlin with additional details for any firearms training. kerlinkanine@aol.com

Unfinished Business

- 2026 Meeting schedule discussion.
 - Kopple Big Beaver is possibly hosting the November Meeting and / or Northside possibly hosting November meeting of President's meeting.
 - Be aware of SPAM emails being sent out that look like they are coming from the league and / or Rich Kerlin. **If you receive BCSCCL correspondence, it will come from the google group.** If you have any questions, call Rich before replying to any suspicious emails.

New Business

- Looking into possibility of a county wide swap meet at Brady's Run Lodge. Looking at early spring.
 - Ask your clubs if they are interested.
 - Some discussion on incorporating fundraising and pushing youth events.

Good of the Order

- Green Valley Youth .22 Rifle – 2nd Saturday September through November 2025 beginning at 6 pm.
 - Open to all children (not just club members) at least 6 years old. No experience needed. FREE
 - For more details. [Click here.](#)
- Five Points 11th Annual Hunt of a Lifetime to be held on August 9th & 10th. "Thank You" to the County League, Youth Foundation and Clubs that donated to make it successful.
- Ambridge tickets are available for a chance to win a gun safe with mystery gun on 11/1/25. \$5
- Ellwood Wampum Sportsmen show SWAP meet this Saturday. 9/13/25
- Midland Annual Gun Bash. Saturday 2/21/25 at Center Stage. \$50 / ticket
- Ambridge SWAP meet March 14th.
- Austin Miller Memorial Shoot September 20, 2025.
- FOAC Gun Bash September 27, 2025, at Washington County Fair Grounds. Dinner 2pm – 5pm. \$50 ticket. See Craig H. for tickets. Back by popular demand; the Wall of Guns!
 - Get FOAC Gun Bash ticket [HERE!](#)
- WPAYO Gun Bash will be held on October 11, 2025, at SNPJ. Gates open at noon. Drawings begin at 1 pm. \$40 tickets.
- Economy Fire Department Gun Bash October 11, 2025. \$60 / ticket
- NWTF Calendar ticket for 2026. Chance to win a gun every Wednesday. \$60 / calendar.
- Youth Foundation trailer is to be cleaned, and inventory completed on Sunday. The trailer is located at Ohioville Grange.

50/50 Drawing

- None

Motion to Adjourn

- Green Valley / FOAC Passed. 9:20 pm

2025 Meeting Schedule

Date of Meeting, Club Name & Address

January 2	Aliquippa Bucktails – Confirmed	2564 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001
February 6	Rochester- Confirmed	181 Sportsman Ln, Rochester, PA 15074
March 6	Rochester – North Boroughs Hosting- Confirmed	181 Sportsman Ln, Rochester, PA 15074
April 3	B.V. Archers- Confirmed	277 Rothhart Drive, New Brighton, PA 15066
May 1	Green Valley- Confirmed	101 Fishpot Road, Monaca, PA 15061
June 5	Beaver Falls – Hosted by Western PA Youth Outdoorsmen – Confirmed	247 Sportsman Road, Darlington, PA 16115
July 3	Hopewell VFW- Confirmed	138 Stone Quarry Rd, Aliquippa, PA 15001
August 7	Midland- Confirmed	142 Eastwood Road, Industry, PA 15052
September 11	Ambridge- Confirmed	2900 Ridge Road, Ext., Baden, PA 15005
October 2	Conway- Confirmed	100 Magill Rd, Zelienople, PA 16063
November 6	Beaver Falls- Confirmed	247 Sportsman Road, Darlington, PA 16115
December 11	Five Points- Confirmed	285 Bocktown-Cork Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001

2025 BCSCCL President’s Meeting

Date of Meeting, Club Name & Address

March 25	Hopewell VFW- Confirmed	138 Stone Quarry Rd, Aliquippa, PA 15001
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Tonya Cable, Secretary BCSCCL

gtcttc@yahoo.com

724-494-6465