

OAKLAND COUNTY SPORTSMAN

OCSC.Club ocsclub@sbcglobal.net Vol. 993 August 2026



Hello, August!

We hope everyone is enjoying this sizzling summer! A heartfelt thank you to our members and guests for your ongoing participation and enthusiasm at the club, as well as for attending our special events. Be sure to check our club calendar and watch for e-blasts for upcoming activities!

Upcoming Events

Friday Night Fury: Saturday, Aug. 7th 6p-10pm
MMRA Track

Archery Jamboree: Aug. 8th & 9th 9am-2pm

Outdoor Archery Range

Archery Summer Leagues Banquet: Aug. 13th 5pm-8pm
Main Clubhouse

Steel Challenge | 8 Stage Match: Aug. 22nd 10am-4pm
Outdoor 25/50/100 Yd Range

Breakfast on Saturday & Sunday from **Noon to 4pm**
Kitchen Hours Sat & Sun **12-4pm** (Bar open until 5pm)

Kitchen Hours Tue-Thurs **Noon-10pm**

Friday Bar/Kitchen open **Noon-9pm**

Every Friday Fish Fry

No Carryout after 5pm

Noon-8:45pm

(full bar menu also available)

*Hours subject to change, depending on events or holidays



OAKLAND COUNTY SPORTSMAN

OAKLAND COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

4770 Waterford Road, Clarkston, MI 48346

248-623-0444 Fax # 248-623-2498

DNR Region 10 Customer Service Center:
Detroit Customer Service Center 1801 Atwater
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10 Counties: Macomb, Oakland, Wayne.

Website: ocsc.club Club Email: ocscclub@sbcglobal.net

The "Sportsman" is published monthly by the Oakland County Sportsmen's Club

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President's Corner

Michael Graham

Happy summertime, OCSC! Enjoy it while you can... we're just now entering the backside of summer and, already, there are signs of fall... back-to-school ads and in-store displays; Halloween displays (have you been to Costco lately?). Geez!! As I said, enjoy the summer. There's still plenty of warm, sunny days to enjoy!

What did July bring to the table? Well, we survived the smoke created by the Canadian wildfires. We were (most of us, anyway) learning a game called "football," which I was raised to call "soccer." The USA did okay in FIFA competition... the USA was well represented. The Tigers are doing alright at this point in their season (4th place in the AL Central). The Lions are poised to start the 2026-2027 season (vs. Bengals on August 13). Go Lions!

Around OCSC, there's a lot going on... the archery parking lot is being paved (it may be paved by the time you read this). MMRA is hosting a summer race schedule (posted on the fence by the MMRA track). WHRRI is hosting races all summer on the last weekend of the month. The Action Pistol Range is active with scheduled meets throughout the summer. Shotgun and archery are open for business... the fishing club is happy because the dock is in and the fish are biting! Lots to do and always a lot happening. So please come out to OCSC and get involved!

Changing gears a bit... I encourage you to read Mike Stailey's "VP Corner" on volunteerism. The article is very well written and speaks to a subject that I believe in... become a volunteer and support your club! This is your club to enjoy... explore the opportunities that OCSC has to offer. After all, any experience is only as good as you make it!

As I said... enjoy these summer days. Make Oakland County Sportsmen's Club a part of your plans. There's a lot being offered... a lot to explore and experience... at OCSC! I look forward to seeing you at the club!

Michael Graham



Vice President's Corner

Mike Stailey

This month, I want to take a moment to talk about something a little different and, quite frankly, something that has been on my mind. OCSC recently lost three of our members: Gordon Garten, Joe Kapelczak, and Chuck Murphy. Losing these three members in such a short period of time has really made me stop and think. I can't think of a stronger reminder that life is short and time is fleeting. People we have seen around the club, shared conversations with, laughed with, and simply become accustomed to seeing are suddenly no longer with us.

As you read this, I ask you to take a moment of silence and remember Gordon, Joe, and Chuck, along with the friends and fellow OCSC members we have lost before them. Their passing has also made me think about the people in my own life and, maybe more importantly, the things I haven't always taken the time to say. I suspect I'm not alone.

We live in a world of text messages, emails, and social media. Communication is instant, but somehow some of the most important things still go unsaid. So, this month, I would like to make a personal suggestion to every OCSC member: Take pen to paper. Write a handwritten letter to someone who is important in your life. Maybe it is your spouse, a family member, an old friend, or someone who has simply made a difference in your life. Tell them what they mean to you. Tell them why you appreciate them. Put into words the things we so often assume they already know.

Then put that letter in an envelope, put a stamp on it, and mail it. I'm going to do this myself. There is something special about receiving a handwritten letter in the mail. It can be held, saved, and read again years from now. In today's world, it may be one of the most personal gifts you can give someone.

Don't wait for the perfect time. Don't assume there will always be another chance to say what you want to say. Life is short, and time is fleeting. Write the letter. Mail the letter. Do it before too much time passes.

Mike Stailey
1st Vice President
Oakland County Sportsmen's Club



This Is Your Club. Your Voice Matters.

I want to take a few minutes and speak directly to you, the members of Oakland County Sportsmen's Club. For too long, some of you may have felt like your voice didn't matter. Maybe you had an idea, raised a concern, or just wondered why certain decisions were made and felt like nobody was really listening. I want you to know that we are listening. You are not voiceless. OCSC doesn't belong to a handful of officers, Club leaders, or longtime members. **This is your Club.** It belongs to every member who pays their dues, takes part in our activities, volunteers their time, and wants to see OCSC succeed.

We need to remember that as we move forward.

The current Club leadership is committed to doing things better. That means being more responsible, being more open with our members, communicating better, and making decisions based on what is best for the long-term future of OCSC. The truth is, the Club hasn't always been managed or operated as well as it should have been. Communication hasn't always been what our members deserved, and I know some members have felt disconnected from what was happening with their own Club. We can't change the past. But we can learn from it and do better moving forward. And that work has already started.

I also want to be clear about something. Club leadership can't build the future of OCSC by itself. If you want your voice to matter, we need you to use it. Even more importantly, we need you to get involved.

You don't have to run for office to make a difference. Volunteer at a match. Help with a sub-club activity. Come to a meeting. Help with a Club project. Maybe you have professional experience or a skill that could help us. Talk to one of us. Ask a question. Bring us an idea. Sometimes just giving a few hours of your time can make a big difference.

For those of you who want to have an even bigger part in shaping the future of OCSC, think about taking on a leadership position within the Club. We need members who care about OCSC. We need new ideas. We need people who are willing to ask questions, listen to other opinions, work with others, and help make good decisions for the future of the Club. You don't need to know everything about how the Club works. You need to care. You need to be willing to learn. And you need to want to leave OCSC better than you found it.

The goal isn't to keep looking back at the past. **The goal is to learn from it.** We have a real opportunity to build a Club where members get involved, people work together, and we take pride in what we have. A Club where members know their voices matter and where Club leadership understands that we have a responsibility to listen. But having a voice also means being willing to participate.

OCSC has an incredible history. Members before us gave their time, their skills, and a lot of hard work to build the Club we enjoy today. Now it's our turn. The future of OCSC won't be decided by one President, one Vice President, or a small group of Club leaders. **It will be decided by all of us.** So, I'm asking you to get involved. Volunteer. Participate. Ask questions. Bring us your ideas. And if you're ready, step forward and lead.

This is your Club. Your voice matters. And we are listening.

Looking toward a very bright future here at OCSC.

Mike Stailey
1st Vice President
Oakland County Sportsmen's Club

Executive Summary

Board of Directors Meeting 7-13-26

Full Version Emailed to Members

Club Highlights

- Successful events: MMRA Quarter Midget race (90 cars, 300–350 attendees), Hot Dogs & Handguns, full shooting matches with waitlists.
- Strong membership participation; John Borth resigned from the Board due to relocation.

Financial Update

- Financially healthy; caution advised with spending due to typical second-half deficits.
- Sub-clubs performing well; new Treasurer and Executive Secretary to be confirmed at the next meeting.

Major Board Actions

- Approved seasonal Indoor Range closures for PPC League and Junior Rifle Program.
- 2027 Hunter's Banquet approved with budget for prizes (\$1,500) and food (\$3,500).
- Approved sale of surplus archery targets; deferred \$26,000 shotgun range concrete replacement.
- Approved: \$2,500 for a replacement trap machine, purchase of Kubota SVL75 Track Loader (\$85,700), and \$6,000 for archery target wall materials.
- Junior Rifle consolidated into D.R. Wilson Sub-Club.

Facilities

- Main clubhouse roof leak repaired; indoor range ventilation and lead management monitored.

Sub-Club Updates

- Archery: Summer league ending, Fall Broadhead League starting, successful ASA shoot, Bowhunter Jamboree on August 8–9.
- D.R. Wilson: State Championship expected to earn \$6,700; growing participation and revenue.
- Fishing: Ladies Fishing Derby and kayaking/fishing event scheduled.
- Junior Rifle: Equipment and ammunition secured for next season.
- Quarter Midget: Strong attendance and upcoming events in July/August.
- Shotgun: Men's Club Championship completed; Junior Shotgun Meat Shoot fundraiser scheduled.
- WHRRI: Vintage race weekend on July 25–26.

Membership & Closing

- 15 new members approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.



Executive Summary

General Membership Meeting Minutes 6-24-26

Full Version Emailed to Members

Club Business

- Approved May General Membership Meeting Minutes.
- Approved June Board of Directors Meeting Minutes.
- No Old Business.

Leadership Updates

- Treasurer Dave Rath resigned; search underway for a replacement.
- Nominating Committee interviewed candidates for:
 - Treasurer: Chris Collins
 - Executive Secretary: Carol Kowalewski
- Membership approved both nominations pending Board confirmation.

Volunteer Recognition & Club Needs

- Leadership emphasized the club's reliance on volunteers.
- Special recognition given to volunteers for maintaining club operations.
- Members encouraged to volunteer for events, leagues, and club maintenance.
- Major events—including Magic Bus, Ladies Adventure Day, and the Michigan State Steel Championship—were successful because of volunteer support.
-

Conservation Advocacy

- New Director of Conservation Advocacy position introduced.
- Members encouraged to support fisheries funding legislation and remain engaged in conservation issues.

Membership

- Welcomed 28 new members.
- Club continues averaging 30+ new members per month.

Sub-Club Updates

- Archery: Leagues continue; ASA 3D Shoot scheduled for July 11–12; paving project underway.
- Other sub-clubs reported no significant updates.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.
- 5-Gun Raffle Winner: Scott Skaarud (Colt Python).



The Conservation Corner

August, 2026

Greetings fellow club members,

Invasive species are among the primary threats to our Great Lakes environment. There are many existing threats right now that could get worse or could improve, often depending on whether or not people act. I want to write this month a little bit about invasive species and why we should care. In general, the definition of an “invasive” species is one that satisfies two criteria – it is not native to the area and it causes harm. That “causes harm” part is the reason we should care. Let’s take, for example, phragmites (frag-MY-teez). If you don’t know what I’m talking about, trust me, you’ve seen them. They are the tall reeds that line roadways, ditches, shorelines, marshes, and even racetracks. That last reference is, of course, about our own club property, where phragmites management has now become required for safety. The state of Michigan website says phragmites can grow to be 15 feet tall, and many other references say they can grow to 20 feet tall. They will overtake a cattail marsh in just a few years. This causes a reduction in fish and wildlife populations. The native critters have essentially lost their habitat. A marsh dense with phragmites is very homogeneous. There is little else in the marsh except these towering reeds. They also disrupt picturesque views and are a fire hazard. I like to call them “those phrag dagmites.”

We also have issues at the club with an invasive vine known as Oriental Bittersweet. You folks at the archery club are especially familiar with this one. This invasive vine can grow to 60 feet and kills trees by “girdling” or strangling trees as well as by blocking sunlight. I’ve learned that trimming these vines without treating the cut portions can make the problem worse, as it actually facilitates propagation rather than stopping it.

Eradication of these invasive plants in localized areas is possible, but it requires a great deal of effort. Physical labor must be expended over multiple seasons. Herbicides and prescribed burns may need to be employed. There are plenty of resources available to learn more about invasive species in Michigan. The Michigan DNR website has loads of info. Go to Michigan.gov/DNR and search for “invasive species.” I am in the early stages of discussions with Oakland County’s Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) coordinator (meaning, I sent an email). I intend to discuss assessing club property to determine actions we can take to eradicate these invasives.

While I’m at it, I would like to give a solid endorsement to the Michigan DNR’s “Wild Talk” podcast. It comes out very punctually on the first of every month and is always great. They cover a wide variety of topics regarding conservation, various species of wildlife that live in Michigan, and current projects being undertaken by the DNR. Search for “Michigan DNR Wild Talk podcast.”

So, what are your thoughts regarding invasive species, especially on club property? Please contact me with your thoughts. And finally, don’t forget to vote on August 4th.

Dave Budnick – Director, Conservation Advocacy, Oakland County Sportsmen’s Club
(248) 978-3454 davebudnick@comcast.net davebudnick.com

Archery Club News – August 2026

Summer is quickly winding its way towards fall, our favorite time of the year. Our 3D, Field and Hunter, and FITA leagues will be done shortly, and our Summer Banquet will take place on August 13th at 5:30 PM in the main clubhouse. Tickets to this event will be distributed to all league participants by their league secretary and will be available for sale for anyone who did not shoot a league. Contact me or a member of the Archery Board for tickets.

On July 19th, we also have another leg of the 3D BBQ shoot at Detroit Sportsmen's Congress that starts at 9 AM. The price is \$15.00, which includes your shoot fee and a BBQ lunch. Our Broadhead leagues start up on July 28th at 4 PM and are followed by the July 29th morning Broadhead league that starts at 9 AM. July 30th is Thursday night Broadhead league starting at 4 PM.

August 8th and 9th bring us to our Bowhunter Jamboree starting at 9 AM. This year should be somewhat different as Bob Ayotte has laid out a new course with multiple targets at some stations. Again, our Summer League Banquet is on August 13th at 5:30 PM in the main club. We are only a couple of months away from the opening day of archery season, so bring your bows and let's get sharpened up by shooting in the Broadhead league or the Bowhunter Jamboree.

Ron Gerchow
Archery Club President

OAKLAND COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

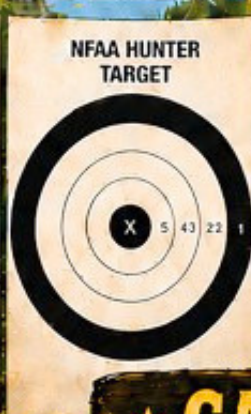
JAMBOREE

Fourteen Mixed Target Course

Thirty plus 3D Target Course

**4770 Waterford Road
Clarkston, Michigan**

August 8th & 9th



★ **CASH PRIZES!** ★

**TWO \$50 CASH
PRIZE DRAWINGS PER DAY!**

LONG SHOT!

Hit the 11 ring to
enter drawing for **\$100!**



EVENT FEATURES:

- Mixed course has 3D, World Archery, and NFAA targets
- Maximum distance is 50 yards for compound, 30 yards for traditional
- **30+ 3D** target course

SHOOT TIMES:

**Saturday, Sunday
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

- \$10 member, \$15 non-member per day
- \$15 member, \$25 non-member for weekend
- \$5, 18 years and younger

COME SHOOT WITH US!

*Bring your bow, bring your friends, and enjoy a weekend
of great shooting and good food!*

QUESTIONS? CALL BOB AYOTTE, AT 248-766-5746



August 2026 Events

AUGUST

8/7/2026	FRI	Friday Night Fury 3
		Friday Night Fury Championship Night
8/8/2026	SAT	Points Race 7
8/29/2026	SAT	Points Race 8



DRIVER EXPERIENCE DAYS

Ages 5-16 can try out a quarter midget race car.

REGISTER AT MMRA25.COM

DATES:



AUGUST 29

Interested in Becoming a Sponsor?

Support youth racing in Michigan and get your brand in front of families!

Contact Us



Racing is halfway through. The season has been great. Attendance is above average, and our joint event with the SCCA went great even with the unpredictable rainy weather. The Vintage Race will be happening July 24-26. It is always a big event. It is a great place to run into your old friend that you raced with years ago. Come out and watch or volunteer. After that, there are two races in August. With five weekends, it is a long month. Our upcoming OTDs will be August 23rd. The next WHRRI general membership meeting will be August 5th, but don't forget the OCSC General Membership Meeting on the last Wednesday of every month. Read the magazine as well. There is always something interesting. Thank you to everyone who has participated in the work bees to get the track in prime condition.

2026 WHRRI Race Dates:

- Vintage July 24-26
- Race 4 August 1-2
- Race 5 August 29-30
- Race 6 September 26-27

Happy Racing!
Jerry Morlewski
WHRRI President
OCSC Trustee

www.waterfordhills.com

Jr. Rifle

August, 2026



James Radofski has achieved the rating of Expert Marksman by the National Rifle Association. He joined the Junior Rifle Club three years ago and worked extra time to reach this level of proficiency. He has finished high school and plans to work as a plumber. Congratulations and best wishes on your future endeavors, James!



TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

No. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

OAKLAND COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

5 GUN RAFFLE

All Drawings Take Place @ 8:30pm

DRAWING DATES	PRIZES
MAY 27, 2026	MOSSBERG 12GA SHOTGUN
JUNE 24, 2026	COLT PYTHON 357 REVOLVER
JULY 20, 2026	GAMMA RIVAL 9MM PISTOL
AUGUST 26, 2026	WALTER PDP 9MM PISTOL
SEPTEMBER 30, 2026	COSAINT ARMS 9MM PISTOL

4770 Waterford Rd. • Clarkston, MI 48346

\$100 PER TICKET • ONLY 150 TICKETS SOLD • LICENSE #C33076

No. _____

PURCHASE AT OCSC CLUB OFFICE

Do you want to know how
to get that extra edge...



...and increase your pistol scores?
All Sportsmen Members can call Kelli at
Advanced Eye Care of Michigan
Ask for the "Sportsman Shooter Eye Exam"
248-620-1100

5874 Dixie Hwy • Clarkston, MI • 48346

OCSC 2026 SUMMER BOWLING-PIN FUN SHOOTS

**On the New OCSC “Events Range”
(Next to the new Outdoor 100-yd range.)**

**August 9 & 16, September 13 & 20, ~3 PM to 6 PM?
Center-fire and Rim-fire pistol, revolver, and pistol caliber carbine (PCC). .22
LR to .45 ACP. No magnums.
Up to four shooters at a time; tables/stands of five pins must be cleared as
quickly as possible.**

**(Other stands may also be used.)
Range 21 feet.**

**Each set consists of shooting six tables/stands of five pins.
(Usually, as we sometimes include other fun variations.)
Pin bottoms, tops, or full pins depending on caliber and your choice.
Cost is \$5 for members, \$10 for guests for the day.**

**While the Steel Plates shoots are not currently scheduled, watch the Pins &
Plates video:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oAl9-MxxUnA>

**The Pin-Shoots will be run Sunday afternoons, up to twice a month, weather
permitting.**

**These are “Fun Shoots,” not matches, with the emphasis on improving your
skills and safety, and it is a
good place for new shooters to get started without the pressure of the other
shoots O.C.S.C. provides.**

Email questions to: Rob Bauer at: robbauer1@netscape.net

**Bring your friends, family, and coworkers, and make sure to have plenty of
ammo for the day!**