

# Blue Hills Sportsmen's Club

## Member Handbook

THE PURPOSE OF THE BLUE HILLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB IS TO PROMOTE SPORTSMANSHIP, THE WISE USE OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES, PROMOTE THE SPORT OF SHOOTING IN A SAFE WAY, AND TO ENGAGE IN PROGRAMS OF EDUCATIONAL AND CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES OF ANY NATURE.

## **Introduction**

Welcome to Blue Hills Sportsmen's Club!

The club was established as a 501(7)(c) non-profit organization founded in 1954. The club exists to promote ethical sportsmanship, family values, conservation of natural resources, safe handling of firearms and propagation of wild life. The members promote the shooting sports, and engage in educational/charitable activities within the local community. These events are published on the club's Website and Calendar of Events available to the membership on line.

Whenever the grounds are being used for official events the club is open to the public, and you are a guest of the Club. You are encouraged to participate in these events for a fee and join the organization. When the club is not being used it is closed to the public; however, the outdoor facilities may still be utilized by active club members.

The club grounds is located approximately 9 miles south-east of Rice Lake (see directions, page 7) at 1604 23<sup>rd</sup>/24 ½ St. Rice Lake, WI 54868. The club house is equipped with indoor restrooms, hot food and snacks, beverages, television, socializing area and great view of the surrounding woods. If you would like to obtain additional information, please visit our website at [www.bluehillssportsmens.club](http://www.bluehillssportsmens.club).

## **Board of Directors**

The club's business is managed by a six person non-paid Board of Directors elected from the active membership. All club functions are governed by a set of written and approved organizational By-Laws. The Board meets on the third Monday of each month. All members are encouraged to attend these meetings.

<b>Chairman</b>	<i>Tim Chaussee 715-933-0125</i>
<b>Secretary</b>	<i>Greg Wilcox 715-828-1182</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<i>Dominic Emole 715-410-3391</i>
<b>Board Member</b>	<i>Mark Zimmer 715-651-0811</i>
<b>Board Member</b>	<i>Mike Gott 715-642-3344</i>
<b>Board Member</b>	<i>Dan Siewert 715-859-6178</i>
<b>Trustee</b>	<i>Mike Swick 715-296-9043</i>
<b>Trustee</b>	<i>Jack Harrison 715-642-3340</i>
<b>Trustee</b>	<i>Tanya Gott 715-642-3246</i>

### Special Committees

	<u>Contacts</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
TRAP	Mike Swick	715-296-9043
	Lucas Stevens	605-461-1248
SKEET	Sherm Bell	715-924-2189
	Mike Gott	715-642-3344
5 STAND	Lucas Stevens	605-461-1248
	Tim Chaussee	715-933-0125
ACTION PISTOL	Tim Chaussee	715-933-0125
	Doc Emole	715-410-3391
WINTER GUN BANQUET	Greg Wilcox	715-828-1182
	Tim Chaussee	715-933-0125
CAST BULLET SHOOT	Jack Harrison	715-642-3340
	Lloyd Fredrickson	715-651-5806
BATTLE/300 YARD/TACTICAL RIFLE	Dan Siewert	715-859-6178
	Doc Emole	715-410-3391
NRA PROGRAMS	Tim Chaussee	715-933-0125
ARCHERY	Mark Shore	715-491-1163
HUNTER SAFETY	Mark Shore	715-491-1163
HUNTING COORDINATOR	Greg Wilcox	715-828-1182

### Club Activities

Our paid members have limited hunting access to the 160 acres of land owned by the Club. The 40 acres directly behind the rifle/pistol range is **restricted** for safety and liability reasons.

Special committees exist to plan and coordinate shooting sport activities such as rifle, pistol, shotgun, NRA activities and events, SCTP and SASP sanctioned youth programs such as our SHOOTING STARS YOUTH TRAP & PISTOL TEAMS.

To generate operating revenue the club may conduct several raffles per year also a Winter Gun Banquet, Boy Scout Annual Fundraiser also several special Trap Shoots. The club also obtains donations from local supporting business owners. All of the funds generated are directed back into the organization for maintenance, improvements or sponsoring on premises charitable activities.

The club also supports the local community by offering support for local tragedies, offering hunter safety education Boy Scouts of America, Kid's Day shoots, Firearms Training, etc.

The club is always open to new ideas for organized events, revenue generation, membership drives, etc. Club members who would like to sponsor a club activity or have a program recommendation should present the idea to the Board of Directors for approval.

The club proudly supports other outdoor organizations such as:

- Friends of the NRA
- Amateur Trap Shooting Association
- Cast Bullet Association
- Civilian Marksmanship Program
- Blue Hills Shooting Stars “110”
- Boy Scouts of America
- Wisconsin Rifle & Pistol Association

During the year, groups of members get together to do various repair or improvement projects. Special projects and work dates are announced in the calendar of events & emails.

## **Shooting Sports**

### **Archery**

The archery range is set up with varying distance targets to engage, with excelsior bail targets to help sight-in your bow. There are no established leagues or organized shoots planned at this time (see Calendar of Events).

### **Action Pistol Shoots**

The club sponsors several Action Pistol Shoots, such as The 3 Gun Challenge, Tactical Pistol, Summer Pistol League and Scholastic Action Shooting Program. The Club has a 25 yard pistol range with 5 shooting bays that have covered shooting positions and is open when a Range Safety Officer is present and a 50 yard pistol range that is open to members anytime. (See Calendar of Events.)

### **Trap**

There are three standard trap houses and one wobble trap house on the grounds. A squad of shooters fires in rotation from five positions arranged in a 16 yard arc behind the trap house. A round of trap consists of 25 single targets. The club accommodates several trap teams that compete annually during the 16 week trap season (see Calendar of Events).

### **Five Stand**

There is five station heated trap house (12ft x 24ft) that is used during the winter. A round consists of 25 shots fired at clay targets from 6-8 throwers. The target sequence is single birds followed by two pairs of doubles. Targets may come from left to right, right to left or overhead (see Calendar of Events).

## **Skeet**

The skeet range has a high house & low house. A round of skeet consists of 25 targets in a set sequence of singles and simultaneous doubles. A squad of five shooters rotates from eight different shooting locations (see Calendar of Events).

## **Rifle Ranges**

There is a rifle range with a maximum shooting distance of 300 yards. The 300 yard range will be closed on Wednesdays during Skeet shooting from 2pm to close. The range is equipped with several shooting benches for sighting in rifles. There are several long range shoots Battle Rifle, 300 Yard Challenge and Tactical Rifle these shoots that paper and steel targets are used. Loads may not exceed original factory specifications. There is also a 100 yard range for paper or steel targets set from 50 to 100 yards. Muzzle loaders are welcome (see Calendar of Events).

## **Club Safety Rules**

### **Transporting Firearms**

All firearms must be unloaded and action open when moving between the shooter's car and the firing line or when moving between ranges except for holstered handguns (Concealed Carry or Open Carry).

Muzzles must be pointed down-range at all times, (except when placed in a gun rack) including when you are un-casing and re-casing your firearms. Racked and tabled guns must have their actions open.

### **General Range Safety Rules**

Alcoholic beverages are NOT allowed on the ranges. They must be consumed in the club house or designated areas, after shooting.

All persons on or near the firing line must wear hearing protection, even if they are not shooting. In addition, the use of eye protection is required.

Firearms must be pointed down range at all times or racked with action open. Except holstered handguns (Concealed Carry or Open Carry).

Firearms must be handled in such a manner that a fired shot will not travel over the berm or embankment at the back or sides of the range. Shooters firing over the embankment will be asked to cease firing immediately. They may also be subject to disciplinary action according to the club's By-Laws.

Absolutely no horseplay of any kind is permitted on or near the firing lines. Persons under the age of eighteen must be supervised by an adult at all times.

No handling of firearms is permitted when people are downrange. This includes making sight adjustments, removing slings, repositioning sand bags, etc.

A muzzle-loading firearm is considered “safe” only when there is no powder, ball, or percussion cap in or on the firearm. Smoking is not permitted when handling black powder or within 25 feet of another shooter.

Children under the age of 18 may shoot while under member adult supervision. For complete practices and procedure information, please refer to the Club's STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES MANUAL (SOP) These are available in the Club House and posted on the clubs web site. [www.bluehillssportsmens.club](http://www.bluehillssportsmens.club)

### **Acceptable Targets Policy**

1. Paper targets are preferred; glass, CD and non-organic targets are forbidden on all ranges.
2. Swinging targets may be used. To minimize the risk of skips and ricochets, targets must be placed such that bullets will strike the range backstop, not flat ground.
3. On 300 yard range, targets must be placed in a manner that projectiles will strike the range berms and not the range deck allowing the projectile to ricochet out of the range boundaries. When possible targets should be placed immediately in front of the berms provided.
4. Do not place targets on top of the safety berms. This is an unsafe act as bullets will leave the club property.
5. ABSOLUTELY NO EXPLODING TARGETS OF ANY KIND!! This will be cause for immediate expulsion from the club.

### **Archery Course Safety Rules.**

Before your group moves down-range to score a target the shooting lanes on either side must be clear.

Do NOT look for missed arrows. If you should miss a target, mark your scorecard and return after the shoot is over to retrieve your arrow.

All group members will stand clear and behind the shooter to allow for a safe shot. On any range if it begins to rain shooting is optional, if it starts lighting all shooters MUST return to the club house or any other cover.

## **Membership Information**

### **Hunting**

The club grounds are open to legal hunting by active members in good standing. New members will need to complete a 1 year membership period along with their required volunteer hours prior to utilizing club property for the privilege of hunting. Qualified members interested in hunting will need to contact the Clubs Hunting Coordinator to arrange their hunt, access to club property for hunting will be through the main gate and hunters need to leave contact information visible on the dash of their vehicle. During the 9 Day Deer Gun Season all the ranges will be closed. Special exceptions may be allowed with prior authorization from the Board of Directors. Dogs may be used when hunting; however, dogs are NOT allowed on the grounds during shooting sport events. The 40 acres directly behind the 300 yard rifle range is **restricted** for safety and liability reasons. The shooting of animals while utilizing any of the ranges is prohibited. SCREW IN STYLE CLIMBING STEPS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF PERMANT STANDS AND BAITING IS NOT ALLOWED, temporary climbing stands or ground blinds must be removed daily.

### **Member Privileges**

Members may use the 300, 100 & 50 yard shooting ranges year-round unless a given range is closed for maintenance work, match, training or designated closed by the Board of Directors. Shooting hours and match and training schedules are published in the calendar of events and posted on the website. The responsible use of ATV's on the rifle ranges is permitted.

### **Meetings**

Members are encouraged to attend monthly club meetings. Meetings (7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) and held on the third Monday of the month. Members are asked to contact the President beforehand if they plan to raise issues so that both the member's and the Board's time is used wisely.

### **Family Members and Guests**

Members of your immediate family may use the club facilities with YOU. Children must be supervised at all times. Family members must wear hearing protection while on or near the firing line. Eye protection is also required.

**Individual membership:** may bring non-member guests to utilize the club grounds and will have a single vote at the annual voters meeting. The guest must be under your direct supervision at all times, and must arrive and leave with you. All guests must wear hearing protection while on or near the firing line, whether shooting or not, and eye protection is required.

**Family memberships:** will include any immediate family members that live with the listed member and this membership will have a single vote at the annual voters meeting. Additional guests may be authorized with BOD approval.

## **Membership**

Club dues are paid annually, membership year is April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year. Dues are set by the Board of Directors with the approval of the membership and are subject to change. Each active member of Club must:

1. Observe range safety rules at all times
2. Treat other members/guests with courtesy and respect
3. Leave the club facilities as clean as you found them, OR CLEANER!
4. After using the rifle range, retrieve and discard targets, sweep up shooting house.

### **Annual Dues**

Single Membership	\$40.00
Family Membership	\$60.00

### **Shooting Fees**

Member shooting card	\$50.00 includes 10 rounds of shooting
Single round of shooting	\$5.00 Member

**Fees for special events will vary depending on the event, and will be published prior to the event.**

## **Membership Termination**

Club membership may be revoked for any of the reasons listed below. THE BOARD HAS THE RIGHT TO ESTABLISH NEW STANDARDS AS NECESSARY:

- **Unsafe or Abusive Behavior:** Unsafe or reckless gun handling, physical assault/battery, dangerous horseplay, or threatening/abusive behavior or language toward other members/event participants could result in sanctions up to and including termination of membership.
- **Illegal Weapons:** Use or possession of illegal weapons (ie. sawed-off shotguns, illegally modified automatic weapons) on club grounds could result in immediate termination of membership.
- **Illegal Ammunition:** Use of tracer, incendiary, rocket-propelled, or explosive ammunition is not permitted on club grounds.
- **Vandalism:** By a majority vote of the Board, members caught intentionally damaging or stealing club property, or has participated in any activity whether on club grounds or not that is deemed injurious or detrimental to the club face immediate termination of membership or denial of membership application and possible legal action.
- **Use of unacceptable targets:** (See “Acceptable Targets Policy”)
- **Poaching:** Shooting of birds or animals that are out of season or after legal shooting hours.
- **Failure to Pay Dues:** Failure to pay annual dues by May 1<sup>st</sup> may result in termination of membership. **It will be the decision to reject or accept a membership application for ANY REASON, by a majority vote of the BOD.**



**Directions to Club**

The club grounds are approximately 8 miles south of Rice Lake or one hour north of Eau Claire, WI. Go 3 miles east of Cameron on Hwy 8, turn left onto CTH M (north), drive another 2 miles until you cross the bridge, then turn left again. Drive 1 mile to the gated entrance on your right.

Visit website to obtain a map to the club. [www.bluehillssportsmens.club](http://www.bluehillssportsmens.club).