

From the President's Desk

Spring 2024

Greetings from the Officers of the Manheim Sportsman's Association. We welcome these new officers to the lineup – Bob Devenney has taken over as Recording Secretary, Kermit Kline has stepped up as our new Treasurer, and Jim Shreiner is a new member on the Board.

We are hoping for a good and prosperous year for the club. We have accepted new members in recent months who seem to want to get involved and help with Club projects, and we look forward to working with them as well as all members. The coffers are a little less than we like due to renovations, the new garage and general upkeep, so that means fundraisers so that we can keep moving forward. We need the help and support of all members to keep the Club open and thriving. We need our members' support at these fundraisers and to get your family, friends and neighbors involved as well. We currently have less than 60% of our membership becoming involved with any of our fundraisers. We would love to see some new faces to help when we have any kind of activity.

We have some opportunities happening in March including our Sportsman's Bingo on Friday March 8, (tickets are still available) and a work party on Saturday March 23 starting at 8 am. Coffee and donuts will be provided. If you can't make it by 8 am, come when you can and leave when you must. If we have plenty of help, we usually are done by noon or sooner. This will include range work, tree work, raking stones out of the grass (a great job if you can get your kids to come), moving dirt (will need to rent large equipment for this), planting some perennials, and cleaning inside the clubhouse. Bring shovels, rakes and chain saws if you have them. All cleaning supplies will be provided.

On Monday March 11 at 8 am, we will be having our Easter Breakfast for retirees, seniors and anyone else who is able to attend. Breakfast is by donation and you can call me at 717-587-6957 for additional info. Our local Game Warden, Greg Graham, and a Game Commission Biologist will be there, so come with your questions and comments.

Back to our upcoming Bingo, this is the Club's #2 fundraiser, surpassed only by the Farm Show Steak Stand. If you have never attended, this is a fun night, whether you win or not. Of course, it's always more fun when you win one of the gun, handgun, or money prizes. We will also have raffle tickets for purchase and you can drop your tickets in the container for the prize(s) you would like to win, and new this year will be 2 – 50/50 Raffles for cash. The kitchen will open at 5:30 with burgers, franks and hot sausage sandwiches and cookies and whoopie pies for dessert. See our website for more Bingo info or to order tickets, or call 717-665-7729 to pick up tickets and pay by check or cash.

We are planning to run a few gun raffles throughout the year, plus a Chicken and Pulled Pork BBQ this spring, date yet to be determined. Then in October, we will again be at the Manheim Farm Show with our biggest fundraiser, the Steak Stand. We always need lots of help for that week, and it's a great way to get to know and work with other members.

At our recent Antler Judging and Block Shoot, the number of antlers was way down with most of them being from out of state. PA rifle had 1 entry and even archery was down considerably from previous years. I think that speaks volumes about the past deer season. An overwhelming number of hunters

responded that they wanted the season to return to Monday opening at the Game Commission Meeting recently, but they turned a deaf ear and decided to keep it as a Saturday opening. I guess those non-hunters on the Game Commission don't care about the wants and needs of those who actually hunt.

Trap will open for the regular season on Wednesday April 3 and run into the fall. Shooting will be every Wednesday from 5:30 pm until done and Saturdays from 10 am until done. This is open to the public so bring your friends. Our Trap program has been steadily increasing over the past few years and we are now ATA approved. Come join us.

2024 Events

March 8 – Bingo at the Farm & Home Center

March 12 – Buffet Breakfast 8 am w/the Game Warden and PA Biologist

March 14 – Monthly meeting at 7 pm (2nd Thursday of every month)

March 23 – Work Day starting for info0 at 8 am

April 3 –Start of Trap Season

April 6 – Opening of Trout Season State wide

April 27 – Youth Turkey Day

May 4 – 31 –Spring Turkey season

June 1 – Youth Field Day, Solanco Sportmen's Club

June 30 – Club Family Picnic

July 20 – Larry Shauer Memorial Trap Shoot

July 20-26 – Youth Conservation Camp Call Charlie at 717-951-6103)

Happy Trails and Blue Skies,

Curt Diffenderfer, President