

January, 2023

Fall Creek Valley Conservation Club

2002 NRA Outstanding Club

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As many of you know, a By Laws committee was empaneled by President Steve Bemish that put in 10 months of very dedicated work on possible changes to our existing by-laws. Per our current By-Laws, our Board of Trustees reviewed the proposed changes as they relate to the future of the club, the attitudes of our members, and the vision our forefathers had for our club. Some suggestions can be done in steps not one huge leap. Others need more thought, while some are right to help our club take care of our members now. No one is going to find everything they want, but also no one should feel there is nothing for them. Please keep an open mind & look to the future. The Board of Trustees has approved these By Laws and asks you to be at the monthly membership meeting when we vote to adopt them! **Vote at the February 16th Membership Meeting!**

The proposed By Laws will be in your email. Please read them and come to the meeting!

IMPORTANT POINT TO NOTE:

If you wish to receive your newsletters & notices by postal mail instead of email, please add \$5.00 to your dues payment to cover mailing costs. Thank you!

Please include your CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS & your MAILING ADDRESS to update our files.

NRA BASIC RELOADING (Shotshell & Metallic) will be offered beginning Thursday, January 5, 2023, from 6p-9p. It runs 5-6 weeks based on the number of attendees, thru February 16th. Class will be held every **Thursday EXCEPT January 19th** which is our Monthly Club Membership Meeting. Cost per attendee will be \$125, which covers both equipment and components. Your spot will be reserved upon receipt of your payment. Please make your check to: FCVCC EDUCATION & TRAINING. A minimum number of attendees is required or class will be canceled. Please send your payment soon to avoid cancellation of this class! **NRA Reloading** classes teach beginning reloaders the basic knowledge, skills, and aptitude necessary to safely reload for their desired disciplines. Come join other club members and add to your understanding of what can improve your shooting experience! For questions, please contact **John Sommerkamp, 765-622-9662** [facebook.fcvcc@yahoo.com](https://www.facebook.com/fcvcc)

2023 OFFICERS

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**THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WOULD LIKE TO THANK
ALL OUR MEMBERS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

SAFETY IS #1 AT FALL CREEK VALLEY CONSERVATION CLUB

Fall Creek Valley Conservation Club, a 501-C-4 non profit, will observe its sixty-ninth year in 2023. The membership has grown from those original 40 members to our approximate current 1300. What started as a quail hunting club has grown into what we see today: handgun and rifle ranges, action pistol, trap, black powder, and archery. And let's not forget the Education & Training, its own 501-C-3 non-profit offering training in most of the NRA classes. And all done by the volunteer members. Thanks to all the past and present members for their efforts to make our club what it is today. I've been told that Fall Creek is one of the few ranges in the nation to never have had a shooting injury in all its years of existence. That's something we can all be proud of and something I wish to remind the membership of as we head into the new year - SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY! Recently, a member asked me if I was "that guy that walks around talking to people about safety". Yes, I am that guy. Handling their firearms is the majority of the safety rule infractions I talk to people about. (and accessories) and not making safe their firearms when the flashing red lights are on. I have also reminded some about muzzle control, not having an "unloaded" firearm pointing down the line or into the parking area. We would like everyone to read the range rules occasionally and to have their guest read and become familiar also. Remember, you are responsible for your guest while they are on the range. If a cold range is called, then all firearms must be made safe and chamber flags inserted before the red lights can be turned on and shooters go down range. Most have gotten away from using chamber flags but that is the only sure indication a firearm is made safe. Before coming to the range, check the calendar, especially during the summer months. Sometimes major range maintenance will be scheduled at the last minute as contractors have an opening or rental equipment becomes available. We would also encourage the membership to attend the monthly membership meetings. The board will present updates on old and new business, and this is a good time to ask questions or bring issues to the attention of the board. Let's all make 2023 a safe and enjoyable time at the range!

Ed Cates, President, CRSO

YOUTH SHOOTING SPORTS at FALL CREEK VALLEY CONSERVATION CLUB: The Facts

There is much mis-information on youth shooting programs at Fall Creek out there. We have 2 different youth programs. Our 4-H introduction program teaches proper gun safety, gun usage, range rules, etc. 4-H has been a cornerstone organization in Indiana and is embracing shooting sports as one of their offered programs. The second is High School Trap, which is a competitive program. This discipline has a positive impact on our club and the juniors - who are our next generation shooters. One of our shooters earned a scholarship in Trap last year! That member is growing as a dedicated shooter and supporter of our 2nd amendment rights, and now represents FCVCC in the college ranks. FCVCC was also featured in several newspaper & magazine articles showcasing our youth shooting programs, as well as a recent PBS special! **Our youth shooting programs do NOT cost the club anything.** Our Club gains real benefits from our youth shooting programs. A few years ago, the presence of youth shooting sports at FCVCC was one of the factors that saved the club from paying property taxes as a not-for-profit organization. We've also gained several new members from the program. And, no, the instructors do NOT keep any money from this program. Some parents appreciate that we offer real training in sports they enjoy. We are doing our part to educate the next generation and reduce shooting accidents. This all helps secure the future of our club for generations to come. **FCVCC does NOT pay for anything that the team uses at this time.** Our club only provides the use of a trap machine and a place for the program to hold meetings. The coaches and volunteers for our youth programs are not paid in any way - they do it for the love of the sport and the kids. In fact, several club members have become instructors for the Team and 4H. Club members have seen value in our youth shooters prolonging the life of our club and learning to support our 2nd Amendment rights in the next generation. **The FNRA committee provides some financial assistance for these programs, which brings money into FCVCC.** Several members are coaches, some sit on our Boards, and some help us write grants each year for Ladies' Day events, our Education and Training classes, and our Hunters' Ed classes. With these grants the club has received both firearms and ammo to use in revenue-producing club events. This means that, new this year, our club instructors no longer need to bring their personal firearms to the club to teach their classes. This provides some safety to them! Our youth shooting programs are financially sound and run their programs with very little financial aid from FCVCC. We have obtained grants from Friends of the NRA and Midway USA Foundation. to pay for the shells and clays our junior shooters use. **The program only shoots on Monday evenings.** We begin at 6:30pm so they do NOT shut down the range at any time of the year. When we have later sunset hours in the summer, we set up a line of communication with any shooters who might be on the range that night, so they can notify us when they need to go down range and our juniors need to cease firing. This teaches our youth about safe range behavior. Our Youth Shooters intentionally do not use Trap House #1 so that shot fall is not dropping into the 100-yard range's firing line and our parking lot. The cost for youth shooters is different for each sport. Our 4H shooters pay \$55.00 for shells alone for 18 rounds in 6 weeks of shooting instruction - which doesn't include the clays. High School Trap charges \$200.00 per participant in this team event. This program runs on half the money from these fees - the other half goes into our team endowment account for Midway USA Foundation to match. We can apply for 5% of the account balance annually as a grant from Midway USA Foundation. This has created financial security for the future. The grants help out a lot, but don't cover everything. Indiana Youth Shooting Sports Foundation, a Midway USA state advisory board, has raffle tickets the youth sell - and if our youth shooters sell enough raffle tickets, there is NO cost for them to shoot for the team! Half of the revenue from the sold tickets is kept back to buy shells, clays and jerseys for our youth shooters every year. The other half goes back to IYSSF, is matched, and sent to Midway USA Foundation, so it can be doubled -or even tripled - with matching funds before going into the team's endowment fund. If you have any questions about anything youth shooting is doing here at the club, or about FNRA grants, I am always available to share information with you. Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have. In an effort to help the club offer more programs to our members, I have taken on training as a 4-H certified instructor, a High School Trap assistant coach, FNRA chair, active NRA instructor, a club RSO, Pistol and Shotgun instructor, NSCA level 1 Instructor and NRA Shotgun level 1 certified coach. I am happy to support our club and wear as many hats as are needed for the club and our youth shooting sports program. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve our club and our future 2nd Amendment supporters. **Damon Fulp** 765-620-0893 fulpdamon@yahoo.com if you have questions on our youth programs