



New Member Orientation Form

	Initials of Officer or Trustee
Club Bylaws	_____
Club History	_____
Club Rules	_____
Camping Rules	_____
Club Activities	_____
Meeting Date and Time (first Thursday of month-8 pm)	_____
Board Meeting Date and Time (2nd Thurs - 7:30 pm)	_____
Club Boundaries	_____
Location of all Ranges and Rules	_____
Safe Gun Handling at A.R.G.C.	_____
Pond Rules and Safety	_____

This form is to be signed by an officer or trustee of the club before the second reading of your application to the club. It is hoped that this will better allow you, as a new member, to enjoy the facilities and activities of the club. Names and phone numbers of officers and trustees are listed on the attached letterhead.

PLEASE DO NOT WAIT TO THE NEXT MONTH FOR YOUR ORIENTATION.

Applicant _____ Officer/Trustee _____

ISSUED _____ RETURNED _____

**ASHTABULA ROD AND GUN CLUB
P O BOX 164
ASHTABULA, OHIO 44005-01**

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	Dan Wyatt	440-344-0018	
V. PRESIDENT:	Paul Callender	440-992-7596	
SECRETARY:	John Kucera	440-428-9647	secretary@argconline.org
TREASURER:	William Wisnor	216-449-3899	
TRUSTEES:	Kevin Chandler	440-417-0643	
	Terry Berkey	440-275-2154	
	Joe Slocum	440-428-7816	
	Jerry Jeffers	440-536-2457	
	Skip Craine	440-466-2014	
	James Beitel	440-964-5461	

FEATURING

ARCHERY, BLACK POWDER, BOWLING PIN SHOOTING, FISHING POND, HUNTER SAFETY INSTRUCTION, JUNIOR RIFLE CLUB, TRAP, SKEET, HIGH POWER RIFLE RANGE, PISTOL RANGE, METALLIC SILHOUETTES, PICNIC AND CAMPING AREAS
DOG TRAINING

AFFILIATED WITH
NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION, ASHTABULA COUNTY WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION LEAGUE, NATIONAL MUZZLE LOADING RIFLE ASSOCIATION,
DIRECTOR OF CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP, OHIO CONSERVATION CONGRESS.

Ashtabula Rod & Gun Club

Article I: Meeting of the Members

All meetings will be held under Parliamentary Procedure as defined by Robert's' Rules of Order.

A) Annual Meeting: The annual meeting of the members of this corporation shall be held at the clubhouse on the first Thursday in November of each year at 7:00pm.

B) Membership Meetings: Monthly meetings shall be held at the clubhouse on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00pm

C) Special Meetings: Special meetings of the members may be held at any time upon the call of the President or a majority of the Trustees.

Article II: Trustees

The Board of Trustees will be composed of seven (7) members. The election of trustees shall be held at the annual meeting of the members. The election shall be by ballot. A majority of all votes cast shall constitute the choice of the members.

Each trustee shall be elected for a three year term and shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified. There will be a total of six (6) elected Trustees. The immediate past president will serve as the seventh (7th) trustee until he is replaced by the next succeeding past president. If for any reason a trustee cannot complete his term, a representative will be appointed by the President with the Boards approval.

A) Meetings of the Trustees: The trustees shall meet on the last Thursday of each month at the clubhouse at 7:30 pm. The meeting date may be altered with prior notification to the members. Special meetings may be called by the president upon request of a majority of the trustees.

B) Duties of the Trustees: The trustees and officers shall have the power to manage the affairs of the corporation on any and all questions relating in any manner whatsoever thereto and make all contracts necessary for the proper transaction of the business of the corporation as well as the doing of the other things connected therewith for its welfare which are in conformity with these regulations and the statutes of the state of Ohio.

C) The Board of Trustees is limited to expenditures of \$1000.00 without membership approval. No committee Chairman can make expenditures over \$400.00 without board approval. Exceptions to these limits are expenditures for clay targets, license fees and major emergencies.

Article III: Officers

The officers of this corporation shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The officers shall be chosen by the members by a majority written ballot vote. The vote shall take place at the annual meeting as describe in Article I. Officers will hold their positions for a period of one year and until their successors are elected and qualified. Newly elected officers and trustees will take office at the January meeting following their election. The officers chosen under this section shall serve as members of the board of Trustees during their term in office.

Article IV: Duties of Officers

A) President: The president shall preside at all meetings of the members and trustees, sign the records thereof, and perform generally all the duties usually performed by Presidents of like corporations, and such other and further duties as shall be from time to time required of him by the members or trustees. The president shall appoint two members to the nominating committee as required by Article XIII by the September membership meeting.

B) Vice-President: The Vice-President shall perform all the duties of the President in case of absence or disability of the latter. In case both President and Vice-President are absent, or unable to perform their duties, trustees, as the case may be, shall appoint a President pro-tempore. In addition the Vice-President will be the chairman for the Decathlon.

C) Secretary: The Secretary shall keep minutes of all proceedings of the members and trustees of this corporation and make a proper record of the same, which shall be attested by him and validated by the President. He shall generally perform such duties as may be required of him by the members or trustees.

D) Treasurer: The treasurer shall receive and be in charge of all monies and securities belonging to this corporation and shall disperse, or otherwise deal with the same as shall be ordered by the board of trustees. He shall keep an accurate account of all monies received and dispersed by him, and shall generally perform such duties as may be required of him by the members or trustees. On the expiration of this term of office he shall turn over to his successor, and the board of trustees, all money and property of this corporation in his hands. In the event the funds of the corporation shall at any time exceed the sum of two hundred dollars, the treasurer and President shall then be required to furnish a fidelity bond at the expense of the corporation.

Article V: Quorum

The members present shall constitute a quorum at any annual, monthly, or special meeting of the club members. A majority of the trustees and officers present shall constitute a quorum at any meeting thereof. A majority vote at any meeting of the members shall prevail on all questions arising before them. A majority vote of Officers and Trustees shall prevail within their authority.

Article VI: Qualifications of Members

Any person 18 years of age or older may become a member of this corporation upon completing all application requirements, being present at a membership meeting within three months after submitting an application to the secretary and having his application presented to the membership in his presence or in proxy by either of his Proposer. Election by a majority of the members present at the next regular meeting of the membership, and agreeing to be bound by the regulations of this corporation, and paying the annual dues within 30 days.

An application review committee may be appointed by the Board to review any questionable applications.

Failure to present oneself in person or proxy to the membership within 3 months of submitting an application will void the application and forfeit the application fee.

By nomination of the trustees, and by majority of the members present at any meeting of the members, any suitable person may be elected to **Honorary Membership** in the club. No fees or dues shall be required of such Honorary Members and he shall have no vote on questions arising before the club.

By nomination of the trustees, any member in good standing may be granted **Life Membership**. Life Members shall have full rights and privileges of membership including a voting right, but shall not be required to make annual dues payments and shall not be obligated for work time.

All members who have a Senior Membership prior to April 10, 2010 shall be grandfathered and not subject to change. After April 10, 2010 by application to the Secretary any member who has been a member in good standing for at least 5 years and is age 65 or older will be granted a Senior Citizen Membership at one half of working dues rate. He or she will not be subject to work time. Senior Citizen membership shall have full rights and privileges of membership.

The prepossess of a new member must be a member in good standing for a minimum of 1 year.

Article VII: Initiation and Dues

Each applicant for membership shall pay a non-refundable application fee by submitting a completed application form.

The annual dues shall be the current fee for **Working Membership** and the current fee for **Social Membership**. Dues are payable January 1 of each year.

Failure to pay the annual dues by the March membership meeting, unless extenuating circumstances are shown to the board, may result in forfeiture of membership at the Board of Trustees' discretion.

A Working Member must also furnish eight (8) hours of work to the club, by October 31 of each year. Members not fulfilling the work obligation within the then current calendar year will only be renewed as a Social Member for the following year, after first paying the difference between Social and Working dues for the year in which the work requirement was not met. Work time may not be carried over from any previous year.

Any member joining in the last quarter of the year will have the work time requirement waived for that year, and will not be required to pay dues again at the January meeting. Annual dues will become payable the following membership year, in January.

All past Presidents have the privilege of paying the Working Membership dues without fulfilling the work time requirement.

Members unable to complete their work time requirement within any year must petition the Board of Trustees within the current year and show just cause and reason why the work time was not completed and request Working Membership renewal. The balance of any work time completed will be forwarded to the next year if Working Membership renewal is approved by the trustees.

One Hundred Hour Club: Any member completing 100 or more documented hours within a single membership year, shall not be required to pay Working Membership dues for the following year, subject to review and approval by the Board of Trustees.

Article VIII: Suspension and Expulsion of Members

False information given on an application for membership will result in expulsion. There shall be no "statute of limitations" upon the discovery of above mentioned falsehood.

Any member will be suspended or forfeit their membership by the Board of Trustees for conduct unbecoming a member at the discretion of the Board of Trustees

Any member(s) may bring charges and / or evidence to the attention to the Board of Trustees for action. Before any member is suspended or expelled, written notice of the charges against him and the time and place of the meeting of the Board of Trustees at which the same are to be considered, shall be mailed to him at his last known address at least ten (10) days before such meeting. He shall be given the opportunity to answer charges at that meeting.

Article IX: Order of Business

Unless this article is suspended by a majority vote of the members present at any meeting of the members or trustees, the order of business at all meetings shall be as follows:

- 1) Reading of the minutes of the last members or trustees meeting
- 2) Reading of reports and statements. Treasurer's Report
- 3) Ongoing business
- 4) Election of the Trustees and Officers, if in order at the meeting in question.
- 5) New or miscellaneous business.

Article X: Amendments

These regulations may be amended, supplemented, or repealed by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting called for that purpose or at any annual meeting.

Article XI: Club Property

Club property shall remain the sole property of the corporation. Any member wanting to borrow club property must receive prior approval from the Property Chairman, or in his absence, the President. The time and date of the request shall be recorded by the Property Chairman. Club firearms shall remain the sole property of the corporation. Any member wanting to borrow club fire arms must receive prior approval from the Armorer . The time and date of the request shall be recorded by the Armorer. The Property Chairman and Armorer shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees.

Motorized or wheeled property owned by the corporation will not be used for personal use and may not leave the club grounds, except for maintenance. Violation of this rule is cause for suspension or expulsion under Article VIII.

Any member who wishes to donate property to the club must first obtain the permission of the Property Chairman, with the Board's approval.

Article XII: Safety

Members are required to follow all safety regulations. Members must accompany their guests at all times while on the club grounds. Failure to do so may be grounds for expulsion under Article VIII. All persons under the age of 18 must be under supervision of an adult at all times while on the grounds.

Article XIII: Elections

Election Committee, the election committee shall consist of four members. They will be a Chairperson, Observer, and two Committee members. The chairperson will be elected by the membership and will chair the election committee for five years. If for any reason a chairperson cannot complete his term, a representative will be appointed for one year by the President with the Board's approval. The appointed chairman will run the election the year he is appointed and a new chairperson will be elected. The other members of this committee will be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board. These members will be appointed yearly from the general membership and can not be a candidate except the election chairman.

Duties of the election committee, The duties of the election committee will be as follows;

- A) Oversee the nominations of all candidates for office.
- B) Print the election ballots.
- C) Conduct the election and count ballots. The chairman will read ballots; the two committee persons will record the ballot count. The observer will watch the process and cannot interfere with the ballot count. The observer is to insure that processes are done correctly and if not report to the President so that correct action can be taken. If a ballot is in error the chairman and committee members can invalidate that ballot.
- D) The Chairman will submit the names of the newly elected candidates to the Secretary for presentation to the membership.
- E) All ballots will be destroyed at next club meeting (30 days) after the newly elected members have been accepted by the membership without any objections.
- F) Objections to any election shall be made at the time the newly elected candidates are announced by the Secretary. When there is an objection to any vote count, a recount will be made at that time. The person raising the objection or any candidates of the election must have an additional person be present to view the recount. The objector or candidates are not permitted to be present during the recount. Any additional personnel present during a recount are not permitted to interfere with the count. If these representatives interfere with the recount, the Election chairman may have them removed from the recount area, and the vote will stand as read.

**PAST PRESIDENTS
ASHTABULA ROD AND GUN CLUB**

May 1952- May 1956	David Madden	4 years
June 1956- June 1958	William Dieffenbacher	2 years
June 1958- June 1961	Bill Barbour	3 years
June 1961- June 1962	Gordon Shiflet	1 year
June 1962- June 1963	Robert Strubbe	1 year
June 1963- June 1965	Paul Elliott	2 years
June 1965- June 1966	Ron McNutt	1 year
June 1966- June 1968	Ed Humphrey	2 years
June 1968- June 1970	Sherman Williams	2 years
June 1970- June 1972	Eugene Harris	2 years
June 1972- June 1974	Harold McArthur	2 years
June 1974- June 1976	Frank Greenwood	2 years
June 1976- Jan. 1978	Jim Sage	1 1/2 years
Jan. 1978- Jan. 1980	Bill Swanson	2 years
Jan. 1980- Jan. 1981	John Robinson	1 year
Jan. 1981- Jan. 1983	Earl Wheeler	2 years
Jan. 1983- Jan. 1984	Ted Wesner	1 year
Jan. 1984- Jan. 1986	Lanny Swiger	2 years
Jan. 1986- Jan. 1987	Donald Hinebaugh	1 year
Jan. 1987- Jan. 1988	Mark Evans	1 year
Jan. 1988- Jan. 1989	Donald Hinebaugh	1 year
Jan. 1989- Jan. 1992	Mark Evans	3 years
Jan. 1992- Jan. 1993	Mike Pengelly	1 year
Jan. 1993- Jan. 1994	Ed Crosby	1 year
Jan. 1994- Jan. 1997	Mark Evans	3 years
Jan. 1997- Jan. 1998	Mark Vest	1 year
Jan. 1998-Jan 1999	Jeff Furman	1 year
Jan. 1999-Jan. 2000	John Gockerell	1 year
Jan. 2000-Jan 2002	Jeff Furman	2 year
Jan. 2002-Sept. 2002	Donald Hinebaugh	1 year
Sept.2002-Jan. 2004	Bill Allison	2 year
Jan.2004-Jan. 2007	Chuck Mitchell	3 year
Jan.2007-Jan	Daniel Wyatt	Present

**LIFE MEMBERS
ASHTABULA ROD AND GUN CLUB**

Beatrice Madden	?	Deceased
Wes Hallgren	1977	
Jerry Katz	1984	Deceased
Bill Barbour	1987	Deceased
Lanny Swiger	1991	
Don Weisbarth	1991	
Barb Weisbarth	1991	Deceased
Ken Freede	1991	
Victor Kiehl	1993	Deceased
Art Aho	1996	
Mark Evans	1997	
Don Hinebaugh	1999	Deceased
Earle Wheeler	2002	Deceased
Jerry Jeffers	2002	
Gary Ray	2005	
Scott Hakala	2006	
Bill Haley	2008	
Larry Hanson	2008	

AFFILIATIONS

ASHTABULA COUNTY WILDLIFE CONSERVATION LEAGUE

ACWLCL owns hunting land in Rock Creek, Ohio that may be used by any member of the ARGC, however you must carry your membership card at all times.

CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM

NATIONAL MUZZLE LOADING RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

OHIO CONSERVATION CONGRESS

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES HUNTER SAFETY PROGRAM

WILDLIFE LEGISLATIVE FUND OF AMERICA

OHIO ARCHER'S ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL WILDLIFE TURKEY FEDERATION

CLUB ACTIVITIES

ARCHERY

Check Schedule

BLACK POWDER SHOOTS

Third Sunday at 9:30 am

Open shoot

BOWLING PIN SHOOTS

Fourth Sunday at 10:00 am

Open shoot

CAMPING

Anytime (two weeks max.)

Members and guests only

CLUB HOUSE

C.M.P..

Fourth Sunday at 10:00 am.

Open shoot

SHOOTS

DECATHALON (annual event)

First Sunday after July 4th weekend

Members and guests only

HIKING

Beware of all ranges

HUNTER SAFETY INSTRUCTION

Check Schedules

Free and open to all

4 H RIFLE INSTRUCTION SHOOTS

Check with an officer

Free and open to all

METALLIC SILHOUETTES

Check for availability

PICNIC FACILITIES

Available anytime

Members and guests only

POND FOR FISHING AND SWIMMING

Check for current rules

REVERSE RAFFLE

Early April

Open to all

SHOOTING SPORTS- .22

Check schedules

SKEET SHOOTING

Every Monday at 6:00 pm.

Every Friday at 9:00& Sunday at 10:00 am.

Open shoot

TRAP SHOOTING

Every Tuesday at 6:30 pm.

Every Wednesday & Saturday at 10:00 am.

Open shoot

PISTOL RANGE

Except during scheduled events

Members only

HIGH POWER RIFLE RANGE

Except during scheduled events

Members only

DOG TRAINING

Check for availability

Members Only

DESCRIPTIONS OF SHOOTS

C.M.P.

This is a specialized shoot for military weapons. Just remember, **NO FULLY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS.**

DECATHLON

Once a year our club holds this event for the whole family to enjoy. We shoot ten (10) events, have a cookout, lay back and visit with good friends. As a little extra, we have been very fortunate to see and hear the sounds of cannon fire at this event. Thanks to those owners who take the time to share the experience with us.

HUNTER SAFETY

We can't say enough about our Hunter Safety Instructors. We unquestionably support the Hunter Safety Programs. The instructors courses each year to instruct and teach both new and old time hunters. The course is a must for beginners, but we recommend everyone take this course at least once. Even non-hunters learn a lot.

RIFLE INSTRUCTIONAL SHOOTS

These shoots are for anyone who wants to learn or just needs a little help with shooting a .22 rifle. Our instructors are well schooled and educated in this area. More than that, they are willing to help anyone learn to shoot .22's.

SKEET AND TRAP(Sporting Clays)

Bring your shotguns and ammo on the days and times set aside for these events and have a fun. There's no better way to hone your skills for hunting. The people running these shoots are the best. If you need help, they are there. It's fun, inexpensive and a great time to get together with fellow sportsmen.

ARCHERY

Our archery shoots consist of indoor and outdoor shoots. We currently have 12, 20 yard indoor lanes, over 30 outdoor McKensy Targets, and special shoots; all for members, non-members and people of all ages. Our 4-H shooters are great to watch.

BLACK POWDER

The exciting shoots our chairmen come up with are second to none. Whether you are a beginner or an old hand, these shoots are for you. The types of shoots are continuously changed to keep it exciting.

BOWLING PIN SHOOTERS

What an event! You get to test your handgun skills against others. There are separate classes for different types of hand guns making this a fair and fun event. This is a timed event, so Good Luck!

CAMPING

Whether you have a tent or a travel trailer, we can find a place for you to park and enjoy the peacefulness of our 96.3957 acres. You can fish, swim, canoe, hike, shoot your bows, guns or just lay back and relax. Or feel welcome to just come down for a picnic lunch!

DOG

Our club can be used to training your bird dog. Dog training signs mark the training ground. The grounds are open from September to May of each year. You can bring in your own birds and use them to training your dog. **State of Ohio regulations** require that all birds to be released must be tagged before release.

TRAINING

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. SAFETY

No matter what you are doing, **THINK SAFETY!**

Guns should only be loaded while on the ranges. Always be sure of your backstop, especially when shooting on the rifle range. NEVER shoot on any range when someone else is forward of you on the range. Be sure children are under adult supervision at all time. **THINK! THINK! THINK!**

2. LITTER

If you can't take your litter and or garbage home with you, please put it in the dumpster. Pick up trash left by other inconsiderate people; keep your club grounds clean. Please dispose of your used targets and cases properly on the rifle and pistol ranges.

3. DRINKING AND DRUGS

No illegal use of drugs will ever be permitted on club properties. No drinking of alcoholic beverages while participating in any shooting event. Drinking alcoholic beverages and weapons don't mix.

4. SWIMMING AND FISHING

If for any reason swimming or fishing is not to be permitted, prior notice and or signs will be posted. Other than an unusual event, swimming and fishing are allowed at any time. Think safety and be careful on the ice. No one is to ever shoot into the waters of our club, nor should you shoot into any waters, for safety reasons. Please be aware of current catch and release limits on fishing as posted at the picnic pavilion.

5. SHOOTING

Eye and ear protection are required at all times when on the shooting ranges.

Shoot only on proper ranges, in a safe manner, and only when it does not disturb or conflict with a club function. Use only ammo that conforms to the range and targets being used. Always remove and dispose of all used targets, brass, boxes and etc. Contact a range officer if uncertain of range rules and procedures. Pistol and .22 RF rifle only are allowed on the pistol range.

6. SHOOTING HOURS

NO SHOOTING AFTER DARK ON UNLIT RANGES.

No shooting before 10:00 A.M. on Sundays.

No shooting after 10:00 P.M. in the evenings.

No unauthorized shooting during any club event or function.

7. PERSONS IN CHARGE

At any event or function, the range officer, or person in charge of that area or range, is in charge. Their rules and regulations **MUST** be complied with at all times.

8. GUESTS ON THE CLUB GROUNDS

Members in good standing may bring one guest with them onto club properties. If you wish to bring more than one guest, you must obtain approval from an officer or trustee. Any group of members or non-members wishing to use the grounds for a non-club function must seek approval through the trustees at any trustee meeting.

9. CLUB PROPERTIES

All motorized club properties must remain on club property. Anyone wishing to use club tables or chairs, etc, must have permission from the club property chairman.

10. GATE

The gate is to be kept locked except during open shoots or activities. Please lock the gate upon entering the grounds and again when leaving. If gate is open, verify that no activity is taking place before locking the gate.

11. WORKTIME

EVERY working member must put in eight (8) hours of work time each year. You can't carry work time from one year to the next. You can't bring friends or relatives onto club properties to work and count their time for you. If you do not get work time in, you must come before the trustees and explain why. The board of trustees will decide what is to be done after your explanation. Work parties, club events, trap setters, grounds work, etc, need to be done all year long. People needing work time and not knowing how to go about it should contact officers, trustees or committee chairmen. All work time must be posted at the Madden House or Main Clubhouse. Please make sure that all work time is approved by the trustees.

12. CHANGES TO CLUB GROUNDS

Anything involving the redesign, digging, planting, moving, cutting of trees or plants on club properties must have prior consent from the trustees.

13. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Any club member can bring charges against anyone on club properties if they feel club rules or any normal safety rules have been broken. Anyone acting in an unsafe or disorderly fashion may be asked to leave the club grounds at anytime by any member observing these actions. If the person in question does not cooperate, contact an officer or trustee as soon as possible and report said incident. It is the responsibility of all club members to ensure safety rules are followed. Correct or report all safety problems or violations immediately. Our club's continued success depends on it.

14. NEW MEMBERS

New members who join during the first nine(9) months of the calendar year will be liable for work time and dues for the entire year. For example, a new member joining in September would pay full years dues and be liable for the 8 hours of work time. New members joining in the last three (3) months of the calendar year will be paid up through

the following calendar year and no work time will be required until the following year.
Annual dues are due on January 1 of each year.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CAMPING

1. Camping donation of \$3.00 for electrical hookup
2. Tent camping is free unless electric is used
3. Two weeks (14 day) limit on camping after which a member must move his tent to a new location.
4. Quiet time after 10:00 P.M. - NO excessive noise.
5. No nude bathing at any time.
6. No illegal drugs at any time
7. No cutting of standing timber without permission- use the wood provided
8. No permanent water hookups
9. Children must be supervised at all times. Remember- all ranges may be active at any time on the club grounds
10. Dogs and cats or any other pets, must be under the owners control at all times while camping or picnics are in progress. You are responsible for your pets at all times.
11. Manpowered small boats and canoes are permitted on the pond with proper safety equipment
12. Members must be present at ALL times when their guest is present.
DO NOT GIVE YOUR KEY TO NON-MEMBERS
13. No shooting of firearms before 10:00 on Sunday.
14. No campfires left unattended upon leaving club grounds
15. Trash must be put in dumpster at all times.

ASHTABULA ROD AND GUN CLUB HISTORY

To all Members and Prospective Members:

This research was done to answer questions and gather information about our club. Questions like "who were David Madden and George Jackson, when was the club house built, when did the pond come into existence." I read old club papers, newsletters, and minutes, talked to current and past members, gathered information and when I was done, I had a much greater appreciation of our members and our club.

I learned how our members worked to make our club one of the largest, best equipped, and better accepted clubs in the area. Some of these people don't come around much anymore, but others we see frequently. People like Bill Barbour: Bill was our club's first secretary when the club became incorporated in 1952. Bill also served as Vice President for two years, President for three years and trap chairman for many years after that. Bill also spent a lot of time building the first trap house, the first rifle range, helping build the club house, working on roads, serving as our representative to the county league of sportsmen and countless other tasks.

How about Wes Hallgren? Wes has been secretary, treasurer or pond chairman for the past twenty-five years. While holding one of these positions, he also put in time working on the grounds or building something for the club. What about members that come up with an idea that makes our club function better: like Frank Greenwood, who in June 1973 introduced the idea of a monthly newsletter.

If I put everyone down and all the past history, we would have a book, however, I hope that by reading the enclosed literature you will get a better understanding of the Ashtabula Rod and Gun Club and hopefully have a few of your questions answered. Any information or questions not answered that you need to know about, please feel free to contact any of the current officers or trustees. They will be glad to help you locate the necessary information.

Sincerely,
Mark Evans

ARGC History

History shows that our organization began on April 12, 1940. A group met at Paynes's Hardware in Ashtabula for the purpose of discussing the organization of a conservation club for Ashtabula city and township. Kenneth Miller acted as the first chairman and appointed a committee to draw up a constitution and by-laws embodying the name and purpose for the conservation club. This committee consisted of three members: William Martin, Earl Richmond and Earl Means.

A second meeting was held on April 19, 1940. At this meeting, the proposed constitution and by-laws were accepted and the approved name was The Conservation Club of Ashtabula. On May 15, 1940, H.S. Payne, Jr. was named the first president of the new organization. Meetings were held in office buildings, member's homes and, for a long time, at the Y.M.C.A. During war time in the 1940's the club was not able to accomplish much as members were off to war. The spirit of the sportsmen kept the club intact through these hard times. Sometime between 1943 and 1947, the name of the organization was changed to Ashtabula Conservation Club. In the late 1940's the club began expanding it's activities and membership. By 1950 the club had made arrangements to lease an old farm on Ninevah Road in Saybrook Twp. Here they would hold meetings and shooting events and put to use the many planned conservation projects. The property was leased from H.W. Tracy of Douglaston, NY for the sum of \$25.00 per year.

The driveway or road as it is referred from Ninevah to the club grounds is actually Hoyt or Old Saw Mill Road. The road led to the old farm where our club grounds are now located. The Farmhouse was located in the "circle" that we now use for camping. The lower level of the existing outhouse was the basement of the original farmhouse. The original outhouse was made of wood and in the fall of 1963 was replaced at a cost of \$190.00. Sometime between 1950 and 1952, the clubhouse was started. It originally had no heat, electric or paneling. Early club meetings were held on the grounds in good weather and at homes, etc in bad weather. In June of 1962 a furnace and ductwork was added to the clubhouse at a cost of \$100.00. It wasn't until 1967 that the clubhouse was wired, insulated and paneled. In 1981 a phone was installed. The kitchen was moved from the main meeting room to it's present location at the back of the club house. This was done to make more room for the growing membership attending meetings. This clubhouse was in use until 1994.

In the fall of 1989, President Evans made a motion for five(5) people to be put on a building committee for a new clubhouse. The original five people on the committee were Ed Crosby, Ken Freede, Jerry Katz, Tom Mitchell and Marty Syrzinski. Due to the hard work of everyone in our organization we began construction in the spring of 1991. Today we have a nicely heated and insulated 48' X 105' building for meetings, events, indoor archery, etc.

Concerns grew as the size of the club increased. Members felt a need to become incorporated. On May 2, 1952 the club became incorporated and changed it's name to The Ashtabula Rod and Gun Club. The first meeting of members was held on April 26, 1952 where the forms of incorporation were completed. The structure for our current by-laws was formed, and the first minutes were recorded. The Chairman was David Madden, Secretary was Bill Barbour, and three trustees were George Johnson, Earl Carley, Sr. and Francis Hennigan. The

three original agents of incorporation were David Madden, William Dieffenbacher and Carroll M. Sheldon. The meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00 P.M. As of January 1, 1953, an entrance fee of \$5.00 was established and all new members had to be voted in by the membership. Annual dues were set at \$1.00 per year.

In May of 1953 the members met with the owner of the property and discussed a purchase agreement. Said property being 57.92 acres was purchased on September 8, 1953 from K.W. and Dorothy Tracy. Purchase price was \$3,000.00, to be paid at a rate of \$1,000.00 down and the balance in annual payments of \$400.00 plus 5% interest for five years.

Bill Barbour, Dick Burg and Frank Lyman sweated out the original rifle range in late 1955 and early 1956. The range was approximately 20 feet wide and 100 feet long. The work was done with axes, handsaws and other hand tools. The range has been expanded twice and the last time in 1966. In April 1989, the shooting platform with a roof was completed making shooting in bad weather a lot nicer. Our rifle range is located on the easterly side of the property in the low-lying area. On November 11, 1976 the range was named in honor of George Jackson. In the spring of 1980, George Jackson passed away and a sign was erected naming the range in his memory.

The trap and skeet range was an old grape vineyard complete with posts, wire and years of vine growth. In the mid 1950's the area was cleared by a bull dozer that was donated for the project. The first trap house was made of wood and built by Bill Barbour. The trap thrower was loaded one bird at a time and pulled by hand by the person loading. The first lights for the trap area were installed in May of 1963. Concrete was poured in May of 1965 for the trap pedestal and sidewalk. At the same time a new trap house was installed. The new trap house was made from the back of an old garbage truck found at Acme Scrap. In 1995, trap chairman, Mike Pengelly, along with the help of others, laid out a second trap house and range. With the new self-throwers and with two trap houses, our club now can hold registered shoots.

The digging of our pond was agreed upon in October 1962. The contract was awarded to Ladsman Excavating for their bid of \$2,200.00. A loan was obtained for the project. Dirt from the pond was taken to our pistol range and used for a backstop, which we still use. The pond was completed in June of 1963. Due to the increased use of our pond and our continuous effort to always think safety, in February 1989 we placed throw bags in four places around the pond. In 1989, along with the help of the Soil Conservation of Ashtabula County and the Saybrook Fire Department, we installed a dry hydrant system for fire prevention.

With the guidance of Bob Allen, Jr. and Vaughn Platt, a new pistol range was put in place in 1995. Safety was really taken into consideration when this was designed. The high walls of dirt around you allows nothing to come in and nothing to go out. You can feel safe in this range when you shoot. The old range, by the low house for skeet, may still be used at certain times, but for your safety, we recommend the new range.

Bob Strubbe, Ed Richards and a few other members built the first pavilion next to the pond in 1964. The pavilion was moved to the circle in 1986 and replaced with our current, much larger pavilion. The new pavilion was erected by a private contractor and finished by members in 1986. The pavilion was dedicated in honor of long time member Al Dingle. Al was club treasurer until his untimely death, which occurred while fighting a house fire in Madison in January 1986.

In April 1964 the first work party started the skeet house. By July of 1964 the skeet house was up, made of wood and shoots began. In 1977, a new cement block skeet house was put up and in 1982 a second skeet house, called the low house, was built; both are in use today by our skeet shooters. In 1986 club members, under the direction of skeet chairman Ken Freede, put in concrete skeet pads and sidewalks making the skeet range complete.

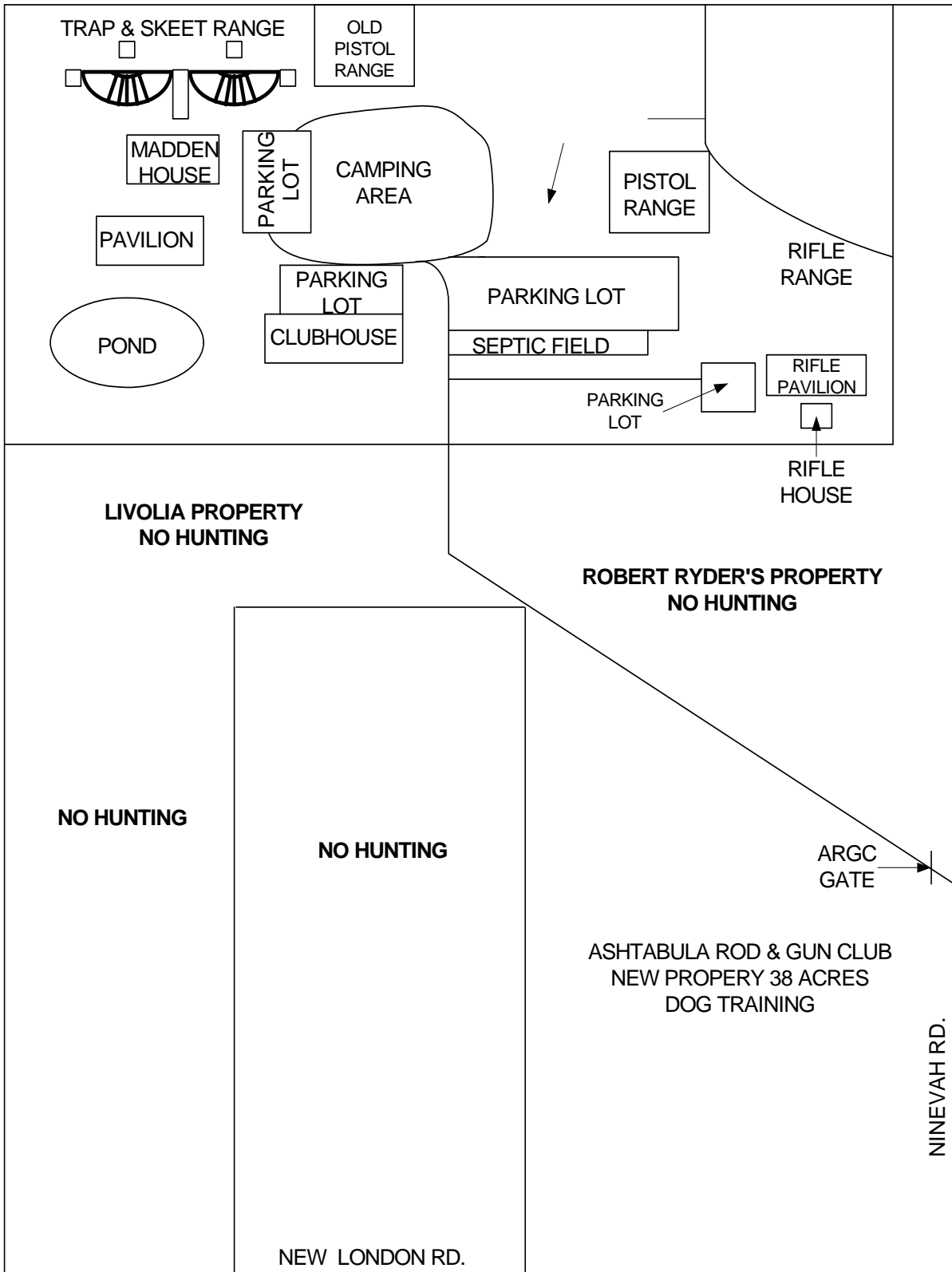
In 1965 our club agreed to accept members of the Northeast Ohio Gun Collector's Association. This organization gave the club tables and chairs and other office equipment in exchange for membership. The new members were associate members and according to the agreement, had no voting rights or club privileges.

In 1969 the club decided to build an all-purpose pole barn. Fiberglass sheets for the roof were donated, the cost of framing was \$270.00 with the trusses extra. In late fall the building was up and ready to use. In early 1970 the building was divided in half to provide shelter for equipment and other half was used to trap and skeet range. This building was dedicated to George Madden, the first club president, and named after him on November 11, 1976.

In 1970 access to the pond and Madden house was made easier by the construction of a road. 108 tons of gravel was spread on the new section of road.

The club grounds with a club house, nice pond, rifle range, trap and skeet ranges and picnic area all became tempting to outsiders. Vandalism and strangers on club grounds prompted the installation of the gate at the entrance to the club on Ninevah Road. The original gate was put up on April 6, 1975 and remains in place today.

In September of 1999, we were able to acquire another 38.4757 acres of property along Ninevah and New London Roads. This property borders our access road to the south. It was purchased from Felix and Ann Rozzo for \$3000 per acre for thirty acres and \$2500 per acre for the additional 8 plus acres. A loan was obtained to make this purchase.



ASHTABULA COUNTY WILDLIFE CONSERVATION LEAGUE

