

Saegertown SC History

The Saegertown club first formed up back in the late 1950's as a number of sportsmen who began meeting in various members houses in the Saegertown area. Eventually the members purchased slightly more than 60 acres along Bockman Hollow road that became the Saegertown Sportsmen Club grounds. The club was formally recognized as a non-profit corporation by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on November 16, 1964 and the Degree of Incorporation was approved by the Court of Common Pleas of Crawford County on February 22, 1965.

As the years went by the club shifted the club's focus from the original sportsmen club to more of a social club style. After a while a majority of the membership were not comfortable with this mode of operation and asked Paul Pressey to run for club President with the intention of returning the club operations to it's founders concepts. Another member who was influential in returning the club to its sportsmen oriented base was Paul Vogt Sr. Paul also gave me the names of Tom Mehler, a long time Secretary of the club, Buzz Mason, and Ed Rogan, Paul Peters and Chester Morfinsky, who was an early President of the club.

The club affiliated itself with the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen clubs and the National Rifle Association and became active in the Crawford County Federation of Sportmens clubs. It also joined the Lake & Valley Trap League and then the Erie Crawford Trap League in 1975 and 1977 respectively. The Saegertown Sportsmen also helped form the Very Informal Pistol League in the 2006-07 period. John Holt was the primary motivator for this pistol league.

The Club By-Laws were re-written in 1999

The initial club land purchase of 60 acres took place in 1965 from Mr. Glen R. Randolph. As club finances and conditions allowed, the Saegertown club grounds were developed to include a rifle range as it first development project, a trap field either rebuild or new construction of the second field (exact details are uncertain Oct. 12, 1974), an archery range (1988) with permanent backstops, a pistol range and later a second pistol range (2011), a club house building (1971) and later an attached storage garage (1994).

Purchase of an additional 50 acres of land from Mr. Hunt took place in 1998. This additional land was purchased using the contributions of Robert Biernacki, Darlene Stoyer, Kenneth Bossard, John Sontag, Ronald Peters, Gary Metzler, Raymond Riden. ..Each contributed a thousand dollars as a loan payable back in ten years without interest and in return each received a life-time membership. When the loan period was completed, these donors were offered as an alternate to the return of their money, an additional four life time memberships they could distribute as they wished.

Also helping in providing funds, by purchasing Lifetime memberships, were Randy, Dianna, Alan J. and George Chess, G. Thomas and Sean, Lang Donald L. James H. and Timothy L. Roberts, Ronald Stoyer,, Daniel and Tammy Semerad,, Brian Winner and Neal Williams. This was the first time that Life Memberships were offered at our

club. All of those who helped in the land purchase are recognized on plaques permanently displayed in our clubhouse.

The Archery range included an IBO field 3D target course. Among the workers who help start the archery program were Chester Morfinski, Billy Rollin, Dave Ross and Ron Stoyer. This proved to be a very popular draw. Matches at the club would sometimes draw as many as 300 shooters and generate large amount of income both in shooting fees and from kitchen food sales. Unfortunately, as archery equipment improved it became much harder, and more costly to replenish the archery targets. The increased speed and accuracy of newer equipment resulted in excessive, and costly repairs, being needed to maintain the targets. That, coupled with a scarcity of helpers willing to devote the time needed to handle all the extra work spelled the end of the archery program at Saegertown.

The club also ran Fall turkey shoots for a number of years until a lack of participation caused these to be ended in the late 2000's.

Leonard Krupski was a trap boy in the very early days of the trap operations. Tim Vogt was a trap boy in late 1970's

Some other early members, now deceased, were Ed Rogan, Tom Mehler (Secretary) and Ken Bossard. Still living early members (as of when this is being written) include Dale Beers and Dick Cole, Chester Morfinsky, Russ Wilson, Dan Cole, and George Bidwell, a past President, who also help build the storage garage.

Joe Krupsky, Tim Vogt, Gary Metzler and Tommy DiMetres were some of the early trap boys back in the days of manually loaded trap machines. The first of these trap machines left the factory in 1971. It is unclear exactly when it was installed at Saegertown. These manual machines were later replaced by automatic machines that eliminated the need to manually place each target on the launching arm. This was done in 1999.

In 2015 planning was started for the addition of two additional trap fields. Dan Spencer was the main contact for this plan. These two new fields became fully operational in the Fall of 2016. The next step was the addition of lighting to the two new fields to allow their use in the evening hours. The installation of these lights was completed in the Spring of 2017. Another addition to the club facilities was the use of a golf cart to assist shooters with mobility problems easier access to the four trap fields. New benches and gun racks were built and installed on the two new fields in early spring of 2017.

Another new major project which started in 2017 was the creation of the Saegertown High School Trapshooting team. The young men and women from Saegertown High and nearby districts were part of the Penncrest SD Trap League.

The Saegertown High Trap team shot its practices and then its postal league matches at our grounds under the guidance of Head Coach Darin Ashbaugh and his assistants. In their first year they went to the PA Scholastic Clay Target League state championship shoot in Clairton and came home a winner as the third place finishers in Pennsylvania.

One bit of history for our club has been lost. There was a major project clearing the land several years back for what eventually became the area that now contains our trap fields. Efforts are underway to try to locate some of the pictures and identify the people who did the "heavy lifting" to prepare the grounds for our eventual expanding to four trap fields, and the special two weeks only sporting clays course, that would not be possible if it were not for these people putting in the long hours and hard work clearing trees and brush which years later became such an important part of our club's current activities. If you have any information that might help fill in the gaps of our history please contact us to help us be better informed of the work done by these members.