

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2024

Let me introduce to you two amazing little girls who are new to the muzzleloading community. Lucy (11) and Ellie (8) Granger have been hunting with their dad since 2 years old where they would take naps in the blind. Both started shooting at 5 with .22lr crickets at first and then moved to .38 special out of a Henry lever rifle. They would each use the Henry .357 they practiced with to take their first deer, Ellie at 6 and Lucy at 7. They continue their hunting adventures hunting everything from bullfrogs to deer to dove and everything in between, loving every minute of it.

Even though they started shooting and hunting at a young age they did not do any type of competitive shooting until 2022. They really fell in love with the sport of trap shooting, mainly due to the wonderful volunteers at the NMLRA youth shoot. Among many other volunteers now turned friends, it was Blake Hamilton and Aaron Movstner who went above and beyond and had the girls hooked! They also have female role models to look up to paving the way in the shooting sports including Amanda Weisel and Lacev White. The competitive shooting really took off after the 2023 youth shoot in Friendship and they have not stopped shooting since. They now compete in archery, rimfire, shotgun

(modern and muzzleloader), and rifle events across the Midwest. They are also involved in 4h shooting sports, project Appleseed instructors, and AIM modern trap shooting.



The girls have a long list of awards and achievements from their short shooting career, but a few of the big ones they are extra proud of includes Lucy's, who is the youngest winner of the women's national trap championship in Friendship from spring 2024, second overall at the 2024 Nmlra youth shoot, and recently she became the MSMLA woman's shotgun champion! Ellie at 8 years old has won and placed in matches against adults many times, including 1st place in the hunters shoot, 2nd place in a lady's 10yard shoot, and many 1st places in the sub jr and jr shoots.

In 2024 we learned about grand valley cap n ballers a week or two before the big frontier shoot. Never going to a black powder event without our friendship family was a big leap. After speaking with John & Judy Turner we made final arrangements and went out there. We are very glad we did! Despite the town not having a name like "Friendship" we found just as many welcoming and friendly people. The girls quickly made many friends and proved themselves as worthy competitors. But more importantly as always, showed their extremely safe handling of firearms, and respect towards the tools and the people. We will be sure to make it out to all the events they have at GVCNB. Just returning home from the Michigan state shotgun event, and already looking forward to the spring shoot.

Although they have won many trophies and prizes, the friendships and memories they and we are making along the way continue to be the most rewarding.

219-964-5848

OAKLAND COUNTY SPORTSMAN CLUB

Oakland County Sportsmens Club is golding their fall rendezvous the weekend of September 20th through the 22nd. Camping is available. Rifle and tradeguns are welcome for Saturday and the actual tradegun match is on Sunday. Pistol shoot is Friday evening. Traditional archery is going on throughout Friday and Saturday.

Fish fry is available at our bar and restaurant Friday night. There's a potluck dinner Saturday evening. For more information reach out to Kerry Bush at 248.613.1368.

Thanks, Rob

J & L Horrigan Ent. Custom turned smooth bore barrels Larry Horrigan 269-793-3265 Cell 269-845-0460 E-mail lehorrigan@hotmail.com

GOEX BLACK POWDER

Grand Valley Cap N Ballers[™] Jag Shop is getting a shipment of Goex in and will be available the 1st of August. They also have percussion caps, Swiss and Schuetzen powder.

MANISTEE MUZZLE LOADING CLUB

One thing was left unmentioned in a follow-up to this year's June 29th & 30th black powder competition (rendezvous). Member Jim Rozmarek crafted the rifle that he donated to MSMLA for the State Championship raffle. In the evening program that Saturday, Ruth Palmer and Ira Thumma presented Jim with an MSMLA appreciation award and the organization's traveling trophy for rifle making. It's something our club can be very proud of.

A committee is being formed to plan for our 65th annual June Shoot to be held June 28th & 29th, 2025. We strive to make improvements each year, and suggestions are always welcome.

As shoot season winds down, we've seen new faces in our black powder matches. The CPL classes our club offers have been very well attended. In months to come, Sighting-in-Days service is again being offered to hunters the weekend prior to Nov, 15th. Then, we'll wrap up the club year with the annual Christmas party potluck and shoot group awards in December. Hibernation will follow for some of us!



Grand Valley Cap n Ballers Jag Shop 3506 - 26th Street, Hopkins, MI 49328 www.gvcnb.org

Selling Black Powder Schuetzen & Swiss

Please call for an appointment.

Jeff Terrell - (616) 366-3404 Ron Fernwalt - (616) 836-5760 Larry Horrigan - (269) 793-3265

Dennis Priddy The Spirit of Roy Keeler Society 2024 Inductee

Michigan State Muzzle Loading Association's officers and directors scurried about, setting up the awards and traveling trophies for the 2024 MSMLA State Rifle and Pistol Championship. As the preparations settled down, Wayne Lamson addressed the competitors assembled under the back portico at the Grand Valley Cap 'n Ballers™ home grounds, located at 3506 26th Street, Hopkins, Michigan.

Lamson touched on the events surrounding the formation of The Spirit of Roy Keeler Society in 1999. He spoke about Roy "Pa" Keeler and how the society continues the principles Roy lived by while promoting the black powder shooting sports in Michigan.

The seven Keeler Society members present stepped to the front as Eric Hoskinson began describing the as-yet-unnamed 2024 inductee into The Spirit of Roy Keeler Society.

"This year's inductee has been involved in muzzle loading for many, many years," Hoskinson began. "Most of you know him. He has introduced his children and his grandchildren to the sport. In the 35 years I've been involved with scoring at the club and state association, his name has been consistently near the top in both line and primitive matches.

"However, this individual is more widely known both locally and nationally as a very talented gun builder. His carving, inlay and engraving makes any gun he builds a true work of art. As a matter of fact, one of our newest members here at Grand Valley is a proud owner of one of his latest rifles."

Hoskinson then told a humorous story about having to chase this this year's inductee around the club grounds at the Art Zimmerman Memorial Shoot, because he forgot to put his competitor number on his target.

With that, Hoskinson concluded: "This year's inductee into The Spirit of Roy Keeler Society is Dennis Priddy." The announcement was met with rousing applause.

"I was surprised to receive this," Dennis Priddy said later. "It means a lot to me. I never expected this. Pa and I were pretty good friends. He was my mentor."

The "many, many years" goes back to when Dennis was a teenager. "There was a pawn shop where I got off the school bus," he said. "They had a French pistol on display. I saved my money and bought a CVA pistol kit. When I was a kid, if we needed something, we made it.

"I carved flowers in the wood of that pistol, but not with the right tool. I had done some wood carving, but I didn't understand the proper way. I engraved the brass with a cold chisel. It was hideous, but I still have it today.

"I got to shooting with Clyde Carr (2002 inductee) with that pistol, a cap lock, of course. We went to Ionia (Michigan) to a shoot. I never considered a flintlock as being competitive. There was a fellow there with a custom flintlock; he won the cross stick match. I was hooked. From then on, I was a flintlock guy. "Then I traded a bolt-action, single shot 12-gauge for a CVA percussion .45-caliber rifle," Dennis continued with a chuckle. "I didn't

know I had to clean it after so many

shots. I couldn't get it to work. The first person to help me was Clyde Carr. I built him a 12-gauge shotgun that he won a national title with, twice. He and Cy Misner were the guys I shot with."

Dennis Priddy began building muzzleloaders in 1973, crafting a .40-caliber, flintlock, iron-mounted, southern mountain rifle. He has built muzzleloaders for his two sons and two granddaughters, in addition to over 200 rifles, pistols and shotguns. And over the years, many feature articles detailing a recent build have appeared in black powder magazines, and some of his creations have graced the covers of those publications.

A great example is the French fowler that came to be known as "Dennis Priddy's Fowler." This masterpiece began as "a competition smoothbore with simple architecture," but over the next two years the arm evolved into "much more than that."

After viewing a private collection of French fowlers at the Contemporary Longrifle Show in Lexington, Kentucky, he decided to create a muzzleloader that showcased his abilities and talents. Dennis made the 54-inch, octagonto-round, 28-gauge barrel, the butt plate, trigger and trigger guard, side plate, ramrod thimbles, even the screws by hand.

He spent three months modifying a Jim Chambers flint fowler lock. Mythical faces and characters adorned the barrel, butt plate and lock. Ornate carvings highlighted the American walnut stock, along with flowing, mirrorimage silver inlays. In 2013, Dennis Priddy's Fowler was exhibited at ArtPrize®, billed as the world's largest art competition, drawing 4,500 artists from around the world and 400,000 visitors to Grand Rapids, Michigan.

"I hand forged the fowler's trigger in the shape of a dragon, like an original shown in Steven V. Grancsay's book, Master French Gunsmiths' Designs of the 17th to 19th Centuries. Years ago, my wife Pat and I journeyed over to Pa's shop in Eaton Rapids for some parts. Jud Brennan was there, that was before anyone knew of him. Pa had that French pattern book and he was bound and determined that I had to have it.

"I said I couldn't afford it, and I told Roy I didn't think I'd ever use it. Pat said, 'You need to have it,' and she and Roy convinced me I needed it. I was inspired by that book. Roy was older and wiser, and he had a way of knowing what we would do in the future.

"The second time I met Pa, a woman walked into his shop. She was a widow, her husband just passed and she wanted to sell his gun, an Art Holly swivel breech. At that time, Holly's rifles were going for a lot of money. She handed it over the counter and wanted \$400. Pa looked it over and said, 'I'll be right back.'

"He wrote her a check, she looked at it and said, 'this has to be wrong.' Roy says, 'nope that's correct.' She said, 'but the check says \$800?' Roy says, 'that's the correct value of that rifle.' I sat there thinking, 'this is someone I want to be like.' I had so much respect for him. Roy didn't take advantage of anyone.

"Don Rose and I went to the turkey shoot in Tecumseh," Dennis continued in a soft, reverent tone. "Roy had just passed away, and on the way home I asked Don if we could stop by the funeral home in Eaton Rapids. There was no one there, and I asked the lady at the funeral home if I could go in. I sat there with Roy for a while, just he and I, and that was special. I'll never forget it.

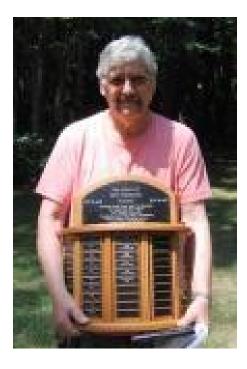
"I shot a couple of years in Hastings, then I got into black powder seriously. I joined Grand Valley, and I've been a member there for 50 years," Dennis said.

On or off the shooting line, Dennis Priddy is a formidable force, displaying a deep passion for America's rich black powder heritage. Like Pa, he is quick to stop what he is doing to mentor a new shooter or share his years of experience with an up-and-coming craftsman. At the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association's national champioinships, Dennis can be found, dawn to dusk, sharing his skills under the portico behind Gunmaker's Hall. His expertise is in constant demand at the Kalamazoo Living History Show, and his craftsmanship is a crowd pleaser at

the annual Contemporary Longrifle Show.

The members of The Spirit of Roy Keeler Society welcome Dennis Priddy!

Submitted by the members of The Spirit of Roy Keeler Society



Dennis Priddy MSMLA Newsletter 1: Still a bit overwhelmed, Dennis Priddy displayed The Spirit of Roy Keeler Society traveling trophy. Dennis is the Keeler Society's 2024 inductee. Ron Fernwalt photo.



Dennis Priddy MSMLA Newsletter 2: Seven members of The Spirit of Roy Keeler Society gathered around as Dennis Priddy thanked the Keeler Society and shared a fond remembrance of Roy Keeler. Ron Fernwalt photo Manistee Clan presented with Certificate of Appreciation from Keeler Society

"May I have a few moments to address the gathering?" Dennis Neely asked. The awards ceremony for the Manistee Clan Muzzle Loading Club's 64th annual Fort Rendezvous (or "Shoot Time in Manistee" as it is sometimes called) had just ended. Don Long seemed a bit surprised, but gave up the microphone. "I won't take long," Neely said.

"Thank you for your patience on this gorgeous evening. I'd like to speak for a moment on behalf of The Spirit of Roy Keeler Society," Neely began.

"The Spirit of Roy Keeler Society was established shortly after Roy "Pa" Keeler's passing in 1998. Roy and his wife, Thelma, were fixtures at the many black powder shooting events around Michigan and on a national level, too. He was the first inductee in the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association's Hall of Fame. Pa was a flintlock shooter. He especially enjoyed the heavy bench rifles.

"He also sold muzzle loading supplies and wrote a monthly column called 'Pa's Powder Horn' in the *Michigan Out-of-Doors* magazine. For those of you that shot the 'Moustache Match,' the powder horn on the pin honors his 25 years of writing about and promoting the black powder shooting sports in the state.

"Roy Keeler was known for his honesty, integrity, sportsmanship and a wry sense of humor. He would stop in the middle of a record setting relay to help another shooter in need, or maybe just to tell a joke appropriate to the circumstance. Roy and Thelma had a long history with the Manistee Clan, and some of you still remember their contributions to your own black powder journey," Neely said.

At that point, he asked Keeler Society members present to step forward. Ruth Palmer, Ira Thumma and Eric Hoskinson joined him. "The Spirit of Roy Keeler Society is dedicated to continuing Roy's passion for promoting the black powder shooting sports while demonstrating those values that he lived by: sportsmanship, friendship and honesty," Neely continued.

"In 2022, the Keeler Society decided that we should, from time to time, show our appreciation to a Michigan muzzle loading club for their continued support of the muzzle loading community and our rich American shooting heritage. May I please ask the Manistee Clan president to step forward?" Neely said as Eric Hoskinson handed him a framed certificate covered with a linen cloth.

Ritchie Gillette, with a somewhat bewildered look on his face, stepped from behind the awards table. "On behalf of The Spirit of Roy Keeler Society it is my privilege to present the Manistee Clan Muzzle Loading Club with this Certificate of Appreciation," Neely said as the crowd erupted in applause.

"It was pretty neat," Gillette said later. Compared to other club members, he considers himself "new in the club" after eight years. "I recently retired so I can shoot more and devote more time to the club. It was impossible before with my work."

"It's nice to get recognition for the club. Manistee has been around a long time, and we are happy with the recognition. It means a lot to the club. Members like Ruth and Ira have been around for a long time, too, and they realize the significance of Manistee's contributions to the sport. I'm pretty sure the certificate will hang in the clubhouse.

"This is the 64th annual Fort Rendezvous," Gillette continued. "The shoot is usually the last weekend in June, but we watch the other clubs around us before setting the date so we don't conflict with their events. It's important that we all maintain and improve participation."

In 1953, Bob Adams and Dick Lijewski discussed forming a muzzle loading club. Other local black powder shooters wanted to join the two and the club grew. In 1958 the Manistee Clan became the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association's Charter Club #127. The first annual Fort Rendezvous was held in 1959.

The Manistee Clan purchased 38 acres located at 3125 Camp Road, southeast of Manistee, Michigan, in 1960. The wellmaintained facilities include the "Fort Rendezvous" building (complete with a kitchen and restrooms), the "Trading Post," a target scoring shed, several support structures, a wooded camping area and a large playground for children.

The spacious range includes dedicated areas for 25-, 50-, 100- and 200-yard matches, complete with loading and shooting benches. "We just opened the 200-yard range and we've started building the covered loading area and shooting line," Gillette said. "The posts are in and we hope to have that completed by fall."

The Manistee Clan holds monthly black powder shoots the first and third Sunday from April to September and is always looking for new members. For more information, please contact Ritchie Gillette at 231-887-0217 or Don Miller at 231-887-7465 and be sure to mark your calendar for the 65th Annual Fort Rendezvous scheduled for June 28 & 29, 2025.

Submitted by the members of The Spirit of Roy Keeler Society



Keeler Society Certificate 1491 newsletter:

Manistee Clan Muzzle Loading Club president, Ritchie Gillette (left) accepted The Spirit of Roy Keeler Society Certificate of Appreciation presented by Dennis Neely as Don Long (back), Ira Thumma, Ruth Palmer and Eric Hoskinson looked on. Wild Rivertree photos.



FLINTLOCKS LLC 6929 Beech Tree Road, Nineveh, In 46164 Ph.: 317-933-3441 www.myflintlock.com Shotgun waads, cleaning patches percussion caps, flints

Shooters on the left stepped to the 25-yard line as five poker chips taunted in Relay#2: offhand, any iron sights. An equal number of competitors attempted to break the pesky black plastic discs to the right.



Only a few spaces remained at the Manistee Clan's ample loading benches as the squaded matches moved to the 50-yard line.



LANSING MUZZLE LOADING CLUB



Another great event that the Lansing MuzzleLoading Gun Club pits on for their junior guest. Keepup the good work. Every year LMLGC does this at their fall shoot for the

Juniors. This keeps the young folks involved.

MICHIGAN SHOTGUN TERRITORIAL

The Michigan shotgun trap andskeet territorial was held at the Grand Valley Cap Nballers[™] Shotgun Range. There was a good turn out for the event. Along with the Territorial there were different reentrey matches available to participate in. The fun part when Garret Porter shot is first perfect score on a re-entry match and his hat was hung on a post and everyone got to shoot it;

A fun time was had by all. Those participating in the top three places for each aggregate aew as follows:

Aggregate I Trap:

Garret Porter-----33 Ron Fernwalt-----29 Jan White-----28

Aggregate S – Lady Trap

Lacey White-----

Aggregate Z Lady Skeet

Bonnie Fernwalt------8 Lacey White-----5

Aggregate I Skeet

Dave McMurray-----27 Agregate BB Skeet Flint Ed Henson

Aggregate AA Flint Trap

Ed Henson-----21

The re-entry match winners can be found on the web by typing in grand valley cap n ballers or gvcnb.org

> **J & J** TRADING POST & STUFF 269-299-0581 JERRY TESSMAN



Ruth Palmer and Ira Thumma presenting the Gun Builders trophy to James Rozemarick at the Mannistee Club

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 14 ARCHERY BLANKET SHOOT GRAND VALLEY CAP N BALLERSTM

SEP EMBER 8 WOODS WALK DETROIT SPORTSMAN CONGRESS

SEPTEMBER 14–22 N. M. L. R. A. NATIONAL MATCHES FRIENDSHIP, INDIANA

SEPTEMBER 21 SPORTING CLAYS (modern Shotgun) GRAND VALLEY CAP N BALLERS™ SEPTEMBER 20, 21, 22 HOWARD CITY HOWARD CITY CONSERVATION CLUB

SEPTEMBER 20 – 22 FALL RENDEVOUS OAKLAND COUNTY SPORTSMAN CLUB SEPTEMBER 21 .22 RIMFIRE RIFLE WOODS WALK DETROIT SPORTSMAN CONGRESS

SEPTEMBER 8 TO NOVEMBER 3 FALL AGG BENZIE SPORTSMAN CLUB

- OCTOBER 5 & 6 MEAT SHOOT GRAND VALLEY CAP n BALLERS™
- OCTOBER 12 SPORTING CLAYS (modern Shotgun) GRAND VALLEY CAP N BALLERSTM
- OCTOBER 13 MEMORIAL SHOOT DETROIT SPORTSMAN CONGRESS
- OCTOBER 26 LEVER ACTION CENTER FIRE RIFLE WOODS WALK DETROIT SPORTSMAN CONGRESS
- OCTOBER 19 TURKEY SHOOT BENZIE SPORTSMAN CLUB
- OCTOBER 19 20 TURKEY SHOOT COLUMBIAVILLE SPORTSMAN CLUB

NOV 1-3 TURKEY SHOOT TECUMSEN <u>sauktraillongrifles@qmail.com</u>

- NOV 10 WOODS WALK DETROIT SPORTSMAN CONGRESS
- DECEMBER 31 "LAST BLAST OF THE YEAR" BLUE WATER SPORTSMAN ASSN

MSMLA SHOTGUN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The MSMLA shotgun championship was held at Grand Valley Cap N Ballers with another good turn out for the championship and re-entry matches. A potluck was held on Saturday night and committee meeting following. Jan White and Garrett Porter was nominated and approved as new committee members. John Shinabarger resigned from the committee due to health ssues. We thank John for his long service and dedication to the MSMLA Shotgun Committee. We welcome him to the committee meeting for ideas and improvements.

On with the scores of the Championship matches. The re-entry matches and championship matches can be found on the web at MSMLA.ORG or just typing in michigan state muzzle loading.

JAN White took 1st in the State Shotgun Championship with a 24, followed by Lucy Granger with 23 and 3rd went to Jim Mathis with a 22.

The Junior State Championship went to Ellie Granger.

The Lady State Championship went to Lucey Granger with a 16 followed by Kalie Trantham with a 16 and 3td went to Lacey Porter.

The Percussion Championship went to Jim Mathis with a 19 followed by Lucey Granger with 18 and 3rd went to Garrett Porter with 16.

The State Novice Championship and the Junior Novice championship went to Ellie Granger.

FOR SALE

I have a partially completed in-line percussion shotgun I am trying to sell for my brother-in -law.

Specs are as follows:

Barrel, action, trigger, trigger guard are assembled and inlet into stock. Recoil pad installed. Stock is black walnut, mostly shaped but still has rasp marks, +/- 14" length of pull, fore stock is still square and wide enough to allow a beavertail fore end.

Barrel is unmarked as to maker, 12 ga, 36" long, appears to be choked about 2 or 3" back from muzzle

Action is straight pull, unmarked as to maker Triggers are marked Timney.

I can send photos if you want and if you are interested, I can get the gun over to my nephew in Grand Rapids. He can make arrangements for an inspection.

Asking \$500 Thanks John Beard My phone 517-202-1105

> LIVE ON - SITE PUBLIC AUCTION HELEN GARDNER 3030 4th Street, Wayland, Mi.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2024 @12:00 PM

12:00 PM Selling of Bob Gardner's shop and gun relaqted items

1:00 PM Guns and large shop items

ABSENTEE BIDDING are accepted from qualified bidders by contacting Noah @616-633-4254 or <u>artsmithauctioneers@gmail.com</u> before auction day

BLUE WATER SPORTSMAN ASSOCIATION

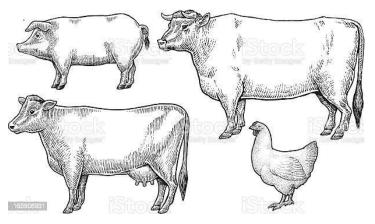
SUNDAY-- SEPTEMBER 22nd --- FUN SHOOT

25 shot Woodswalk, Muzzleloader Rifle, Pistol or Trade Gun.

Registration9:30am --12:00pm Registration Fee \$10.00

GVCNB MEAT SHOOT

Cuts of meat from 1 or all of the below



GRAND VALLEY CAP N BALLERS MUZZLE LOADING GUN CLUB TM October 5 & 6, 2024 south west of Dorr, Mi Both Shotgun Trap & Rifle 3506 - 26th Street, Hopkins, Mi[.] 49328

Michigan State



October 26, 2024

Grand Valley CapNBallers[™] 3506 26th Street, Hopkins, Mi. 49328

Registration 9 am Shooting starts at 10 am thru 2:30 pm

\$20 donation includes both rounds & lunch

Program 20 shot novelty squirrel target round at the main range by the block house in the morning

Lunch Break

10 shot novelty squirrel target round andshoot off on the woods walk range in the afternoon

Questions ContactLarry Horrigan 269-793-3265 or Dennis Priddy 517-852-0939

GVCNB ARCHERY BLANKET SHOOT CANCELLED

The Archery blanket shoot on Saturday the 14th is cancelled due to Neal's mother passing away.



These two young lady's are our future abd doing a very good job at competting intrap. Ellie and Lucy showed us adults how to compete in trap matches. They didvery well at frontier shoot and the MSMLA Shotqun Championships. They entered the adult mtches and done very well. Their parents Chuck and Amber are right there with them helping and watching them load. As a field Range Officer I watched them and they are very safe in handling their shotquns. Keep up the good work Ellie and Lucy and you will go playes in your hobby.

ARTICLES

Please have your articles, flyers and advertisements for your shoots to me 3 months in advance of your shoot date to be printed in the state news letter. I prefer that you send them to me e-mail **rbfern@triton.net**, and I can copy and paste them in the news letter. It makes for faster printing and a much clearer copy than I making a copy and putting in to the news letter.

Let's hear from your club as far as what has happened in the past year. I received one from the Manistee Clan and it was very interesting. It keeps people informed of the progress of different clubs around the state.

If you are unable to put an article together, just send me the hi lites and a contact persons name and I will put it together for you.

NMLRA MEMBERSHIP & CHARTER CLUBS

Become a NMLRA member for \$50.00 and get the magazine or you can become a member for \$35.00 and receive the digital magazine. Your club may want to be chartered with the NMLRA which has a lot of benefits.

Give me a call at 616-836-5760 and I can help you on it and also your field rep for your area and they will be able to help you get started.

Ron Fernwalt

Ron Fernwalt Michigan Field Rep