

Message from the West Chester Gun Club President

First of all, I want to thank everyone for your exceptional patience and understanding over the past several months as several major Capital Projects were completed. The work was inconvenient at times but as you can now hopefully see - the improvements are significant and will stand the test of time for our membership and deliver a better trapshooting experience.

The past year was challenging. With 2 months of complete closure and not shooting together as frequently as we were accustomed to, we nevertheless weathered the adversity quite well. The Board created new initiatives to generate revenue while cutting costs in other areas without a reduction in services or jeopardizing our financial position. We prudently addressed several opportunities like installing 2 new Pat-Trap Inc. Target Machines, paving the lower portion of our driveway, retiring and replacing our 70 year old forklift and installing 2 new trap concrete walkways on Traps #2 and #3.

On a personal level, one of the more exciting parts of this work was that Gil Welsford, a Club Life Member and I formed a "Coalition" for the Trap #2 walkway project. (Trap #3 was already funded as a planned Club capital expenditure.) The project cost for a trap walkway is approximately \$17,000. To accelerate improvements at the Club, Gil and I thought it would be a great idea to revitalize one more trap and initially funded \$5,000 as an anchor contribution to get a 2nd trap walkway built this year. We were immediately joined by many other members who made personal contributions to totally fund the entire Trap #2 initiative. In summary, this Coalition was overwhelmed with member support and financial assistance. There were 11 separate contributions of \$1,000 or more *plus numerous additional member contributions of lesser amounts.* The major donors will be recognized for their generosity with a permanent plaque at Trap #2. This project was completed without any cost to the Club!

Your newly elected Board has listened to your comments, collaborated on ideas and delivered proven, cost effective results. Our goal has been to give back 100% to the members who make our club strong and support trapshooting at West Chester.

We are being recognized as one of the best trapshooting clubs in the region and possibly in the state. Besides this, we are a community of friends and families that have like minded interests in the shooting sports and are willing to help others enjoy that experience. We support many organizations with fundraisers such as our local fire companies, scouting groups and families of fallen soldiers. That is what we are about and this has been part of our history since "1898"

We will now take a "Time Out" on major construction and work activity as the numerous state and other ATA shoots take place and ensure everyone can enjoy the Club and the new improvements. Again, thank you for your patience and all you do as WCGC members to make our Club a great place to shoot.

Bob Kappe and the Officers & Directors of the West Chester Gun Club