

Before I begin my note to you, please read the following information that our pistol club released last week:

New Homeowner Brings Lawsuit Against Lewistown Pistol Club

If claims are successful, could affect many clubs across the State!

The Lewistown Pistol Club had been making preparations to celebrate its proud history and 50th anniversary of serving law enforcement, competitive pistol shooters, and the training of local men and women in the safe handling of various firearms. The club has been a loyal supporter of the second amendment rights and an NRA member club that was originally founded by employees of the Avisco Corporation, a company which is a historic cornerstone employer here in Mifflin County.

Since its inception as a not for profit organization, the Lewistown Pistol Club has had hundreds of members who have served our local communities by supporting our civilian and law enforcement communities as a training source, as well as producing a proud history of shooters who have consistently excelled at the Camp Perry National Competitions. In 2009, members of the club were part of the National Champion Service Pistol Team from Pennsylvania. The club is a current member and supports most of the major competitive pistol discipline organizations.

Now, as the result of a neighboring property being sold, the efforts of the new homeowner could close the club down. To date, the actions of our new neighbor have caused a cancellation on short-notice of a scheduled and prepaid match for over 100 shooters from 6 states and having PA DCNR (Game Wardens and Park Rangers) to cease training at the club facilities- producing a significant loss of ongoing revenue.

Now, the neighbor has filed a lawsuit seeking an injunction barring the clubs use of their constructed shooting ranges using the argument that such use violates the safety zone laws of PA. The case references Pacurariu vs. Com, 744 A.2d 389- claiming that the 34 P.S. 2505 grants protection to ANY HOMEOWNER WITH A DWELLING WITHIN 150 YARDS and makes it ILLEGAL to discharge ANY FIREARM within that safety zone for ANY REASON.

If successful, this case and the "Safety Zone" issue would not only end the use of firearms at the Lewistown Pistol Club, but could set a dangerous legal precedent that would have far reaching implications for many of our sister clubs throughout the commonwealth.

The Lewistown Pistol Club will continue to support a full schedule of events for the 2011 season. Please visit our website and watch for our upcoming NRA, Bullseye, IDPA, and USPSA events. The club has secured legal counsel, and anticipates significant legal expenses to prevail in this case. We have established and would welcome any and all help for our legal defense fund! Contributions can be made via PayPal on our website at lewistownpistolclub.com, or sent to Bruce Smith, club Vice-President and PRPA Director at 11898 Arrowhead Way, Mount Union PA 17066. Feel free to contact me directly with any questions you may have at bruce@wealthkare.com or 814-599-3700 (Cell).

Sound impossible- we thought so...

Thanks for taking the time to read about what is happening to our club... I find the events that have been unfolding to be incredible considering what many of us would think to be impossible. As a licensed pilot for over 25 years, I have seen the same scenario of events play out with many small airports throughout this country. Real Estate vs. Favorite Pastime.....

In our case, the neighbor paid nearly a half-million dollars for a home that has bordered our pistol club property since the homes construction in the mid 1980's. With the sale of the property last year to a local business owner, the new neighbor has mounted a constant series of complaints to seemingly every local, state, and possibly even federal organization possible to limit or eliminate our ability to use our facilities in the manner we have become accustomed for over 50 years (With an impeccable safety record).

The actions taken made a serious financial impact on our revenue stream, and we always took the hit believing that we would survive.

With the filing on an official lawsuit by the neighbor against our club, it's seems to no longer be about what is right, what is wrong, and how the events should play out.

We have secured exceptional legal counsel who believes that we will prevail in the case, but with a hefty price tag. It is very possible that the secondary goal of the neighbor- other than winning the case (Which would have dire impact on many clubs in PA)- is to financially break our club.

We made a significant improvement to our 3 shooting pits which we believe was warranted to produce a strong return on investment from USPSA and IDPA matches and events. Those improvements caused us to drain our reserve coffers to a low point, but with expected revenue to return them to safe levels. No we find ourselves low on finances, and building significant costs to prevail in our legal battle.

I wanted to explain our story briefly, stresses the importance of our case, as well as the need and urgency for the legal defense fund, and gives a summary of the events so far but allowing us to keep the moral high ground. No one wants to see us lower ourselves to the level of deeds and actions taken by our new neighbor. The Lewistown Pistol Club will continue to honor our past, and deal with the present in an ethical and moral manner.

I know that many of you will find this action to be incredible, and can find 20 or 30 ways that it's just not possible for a neighbor to do what this one is doing. The sad reality is that defense, even if innocent, can and is a very expensive proposition! Unfortunately, we are at the mercy of the speed of the justice system. In the meantime, we are going forward 100% with our events, our planning, and most of all- our friendships of not only continuing our proud heritage but our constitutional rights as fellow shooters and gun owners.

If you or your club would like to make a contribution to our legal defense fund, you can PayPal to the lewistownpistol@aol.com account or use the donate button on the lewistownpistolclub.com site (Yes, I know, PAYPAL hates gun owners, but it's the easiest method for many people!)....

You can also send a donation directly to me at Bruce Smith (club Vice-President and PRPA Director) at 11898 Arrowhead Way, Mount Union PA 17066.

We also hope to see you at one of our future matches.... Thank for taking the time to read, and hopefully share this message...

Thanks to all!, Respectfully,

Bruce J. Smith III, Vice-President LPC, Director PRPA