



## **ACWSA Michigan-Ohio Group Newsletter**

***Volume 1, Issue 2 – March 2010***

I want to apologize for the delay in communications from last time I sent a newsletter, but I wanted the next newsletter to be packed with information for the start of the first season of ACWSA shooting in Michigan. Our intention is to make ACWSA more about shooting and less about meetings. As such, we hope to use the monthly newsletter, the [Facebook Group](#), and [www.acwsa.org](http://www.acwsa.org) as tools to communicate with the membership. We plan on having one meeting each year for the Michigan/Ohio group which will be scheduled sometime in early November as it was in 2009. In the meantime, please feel free to communicate any suggestions you may have via e-mail, [Facebook](#), and phone to the various points of contact given in this newsletter.

### **ACWSA Board Meeting**

The ACWSA Board meeting was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February. Gary Van Kauwenbergh, ACWSA Adjutant and Webmaster, has e-mailed the minutes of the meeting to unit officers and has posted them on the [Member Information](#) section of the website at <http://www.acwsa.org/Meeting%20Minutes/BdMtnGmnts20100213.mht>.

A number of important items came out of the board meeting including a discussion of the benefits of 501(c)3 status and the necessity to update and correct the ACWSA Rules and By-Laws in order to prepare for a 501(c)3 filing. More about these topics will be written in later communications.

Organizationally, the most significant actions taken at the February board meeting had to do with how the ACWSA will function with the establishment of the new area in Michigan/Ohio. It was decided that we do not yet want to create another layer of command structure in the name of an “Executive Board of Directors” with separate Regional Officers working under them. Instead we have decided to work the two areas through the existing officer structure with some modifications in the form of duplicate services performed in each area as needed.

Instead of having “Regional Commanders”, the meeting resulted in electing a Commander and Deputy Commander of ACWSA. The Commander (Bob Chabalowski) is going to conduct affairs in Wisconsin/Illinois and the Deputy Commander (Chris Hubbard) is going to coordinate events in Michigan/Ohio. Bob stated that he feels that the two positions run this way are co-equal with shared responsibility for planning and coordination. As an aside, this is the same plan that was determined upon at the meeting held at the Bristol, Wisconsin shoot back in September, and published in the minutes

following that shoot. Those minutes are available on the website at <http://www.acwsa.org/Meeting%20Minutes/BdMtnGmnts20090919.mht>

In terms of communication or secretarial responsibilities, the plan is as follows. ACWSA has an adjutant (Gary Van Kauwenbergh) who will handle communications to the Wisconsin/Illinois area and to the ACWSA as a whole. Gary will also handle insurance, membership, and other various items. To reduce the amount of work on Gary, we added what might be considered an "under-adjutant" to conduct the bulk of the secretarial work for Michigan/Ohio. For lack of better words we have termed this position the "Michigan Communication Officer", a role that will be filled by Wally Gibson. Wally has been absolutely instrumental in bringing the Michigan/Ohio group to the point it has reached thus far.

It is intended that Gary and Wally will perform the duties of the Adjutant for their respective sides of Lake Michigan, with Gary handling anything that pertains to the ACWSA as a whole. That in mind we are asking that any membership or insurance questions from the Michigan/Ohio group be directed to Wally who will address the questions as needed. As an example, what worked well for us this time around was that all Michigan/Ohio members paid their dues directly to Wally, who then wrote one check to the ACWSA to cover all of the Michigan/Ohio members' dues, or insurance premiums, for 2010. This split in the responsibilities of the adjutant should reduce miscommunication issues that could arise as a result of the geographic split between the two areas. Simply put, some items done here will not pertain to Wisconsin/Illinois, and some of the Wisconsin/Illinois concerns will not pertain to the Michigan/Ohio.

**Basically, it will work as follows: if you belong to a team in the Michigan/Ohio area, communicate with Chris Hubbard or Wally Gibson who can answer most questions and will communicate any other items with Bob Chabalowski and Gary Van Kauwenbergh.**

And those offices outlined above are the extent of the elected positions in the ACWSA. The rest of the positions are appointments. For our side, the following people have been appointed to fill the following roles for Michigan/Ohio area for the 2010 season. Please refer to the directory near the end of this document for contact information.

Inspector General - Jim Bone/Bob Hubbard  
Statistics Officer - Dan Gibson

Website - Wally Gibson/Chris Hubbard  
Artillery Officer - Norm Gibson

## 2010 Schedule

Below is the final version of 2010 ACWSA schedule for both Michigan/Ohio and Wisconsin/Illinois. There has been some confusion on the shoots for our side because information on acwsa.org was incorrect for some time. Some changes have taken place since the last newsletter in that two of the Michigan shoots now have been confirmed and are set. Those changes are as follows. We have decided NOT to have an ACWSA Championship for 2010 in part due to not being able to find a suitable location and time. As a result, we are going forward with the shoot we had set at Blue Water in July. The other change is that we have confirmed a full shoot at Grayling in September. For those of you that need to prepare artillery charges and projectiles, it should be assumed that any event run at Grayling or Blue Water will include artillery.

**What is contained here are the correct dates and is a final copy.**

<b>ACWSA Michigan Calendar Dates</b>			
<b>2010</b>			
Date	Location	Hosts	Notes
May 8-9	Blue Water Port Huron, MI	146 <sup>th</sup> New York	<a href="#">LSHS Field Trip/ 1-Day ACWSA</a>
May 31	Dearborn	Chris Hubbard	Memorial Day Parade
June 12-13	Caseville, MI	8 <sup>th</sup> Arkansas	
July 24-25	Blue Water Port Huron, MI		Includes Artillery
July 31-August 1	Grayling	Loomis' Battery	Long Range Artillery
August 14-15	Richmond	1 <sup>st</sup> South Carolina	
September 24-26	Grayling	7 <sup>th</sup> Wisconsin / Loomis' Battery	Includes Artillery
October 9-10	Richmond		
October 23-24	Blue Water Port Huron, MI	146 <sup>th</sup> New York	<a href="#">LSHS Field Trip/ 1-Day ACWSA</a>

<b>ACWSA Wisconsin/Illinois Calendar Dates</b>			
<b>2010</b>			
Date	Location	Hosts	Notes
June 5-6	Appleton, WI	66 NC & 2 WI	
July 17-18	Bristol WI	56VA	
August 7-8	Boscobel WI	15 WI & 8 WI	Civil War Days
September 4-5	Rhineland WI		
September 11-12	Bristol WI		ACWSA/N-SSA

### **[The First Shoot - May 8-9, 2010](#)**

If you are like many of us, you are starting to get excited about the new shooting season! The first ACWSA shoot is rapidly approaching, and as published before it will be somewhat of an experiment in that the first event will be an attempt to incorporate more elements of live-fire team shooting into the Lake Shore High School American Civil War Class field trip. This event will consist of three team events conducted as demonstrations for the class on Saturday. The Saturday events will be a smoothbore musket team demonstration, artillery match, and a long range (200 yard) rifle match. There will also be a period where students will load and fire live ammunition under supervision and all volunteers to participate in this will be accepted. Because Saturday is going to be very Civil War focused, please wear your best uniform and equipment. Sunday will be a one-day shoot that will include musket team in the morning and carbine team in the afternoon. Please note that both days will include a lunch provided to volunteers/shooters.

A website has been put together to provide a schedule, information about specific events, target types, and a registration form. Please use this information and the on-line registration form provided on the website to submit estimated team entries to Chris Hubbard by May 1st. The website for the Civil War Field Trip Shoot can be found [here](http://civilwarfieldtripshoot.weebly.com) at <http://civilwarfieldtripshoot.weebly.com>. Please note there is no need to send a check or cash before the shoot. Registration will be handled on site, as described below.

## Registration

Registration for ACWSA works a bit differently than some of you may be used to. Rather than pre-registering teams and paying for those teams ahead of time, all funds are collected at the range on the day of the shoot. This is the reason the registration form for the Field Trip Shoot says do not send funds. Filling out the form is a courtesy to the host team and serves as a tool to help plan on the amount of supplies needed for the shoot.

In addition to this change, each shooter pays for the events they are entering rather than each unit paying for the teams they have participating. For instance, if the 146th New York has 7 people who are intending to shoot musket team, the 146th New York will pay the \$6.00 per shooter at registration. Because musket teams are only 6 person teams, and the 146th New York had 7 people wishing to shoot musket, they have one extra shooter, but all shooters have paid to play.

Meanwhile, let's say the 7th Wisconsin only has 5 people shooting musket. They would pay the \$6.00 per shooter but would be one person short of having a full team. They could pick up the extra shooter from the 146th New York, if both parties agree. Since the pick-up shooter has already paid, the 7th Wisconsin does not have to bear the burden of paying for their pick-up. Everybody plays, everybody pays.

Teams are free to find their own pick-ups, and can pre-arrange that if they choose, but at registration a current ACWSA roster will be on hand, and each shooter participating will be accountable for their entry fees. This will also serve to verify membership for all who are competing in the absence of visibly worn membership cards. It will also give an actual number of people who participate in each shoot. The system is fair, and functional, even if it takes some getting used to.

## Metal Targeting

If you check out the target list for the Field Trip Shoot you'll notice we plan on using all three of the designs for the metal targeting discussed in the last newsletter. The designs we chose are shaped like corps identification badges used by the Union Army during the war. No disrespect intended to any Union veterans out there, but we wanted to include more Civil War elements into what we do. We decided upon the 2<sup>nd</sup> corps, 8<sup>th</sup> corps, and the 25<sup>th</sup> corps, as shown below. The diamond is 4x4 inch and the clover leaf (2<sup>nd</sup> corps) and star (8<sup>th</sup> corps) are both just a little bigger than 4 inches so that the relative size or amount of surface area approximates other targets we currently shoot.



We ordered some samples of each design from the supplier in two different metal types. The first metal was 3/8 inch thick cold rolled steel plating, which is what is being used in Wisconsin. The second metal we ordered to test was a hardened 1/4 inch plate. We wanted to see if the weight savings of the 1/4 inch hardened targets was worth the increased unit price, and also wanted to compare the relative durability of the designs and the materials. We took all three designs in both thicknesses out at Haack's farm in February to give them a shot. We shot at each target with examples of all the firearms used in competition including muskets, carbines, a Spencer carbine, .44 revolver, and the ultimate torture test, a British 1842 Smoothbore with a massive .75 caliber bore. There was about 8 inches of snow when we tested them, so we laid an old tarp down to help find the targets once hit, as shown below.



The results were that both thicknesses of metal held up well to all small arms with the exception of the smoothbore. Examples of each target, in both thicknesses, were warped from the impact of an arm that Mike Zandarski has affectionately named "Sir Kicks-a-Lot". This is the reason they do not use the metal targets for smoothbore in Wisconsin. The targets held up well against all other arms. We fired the revolver at them to determine the lightest load possible for knocking the targets off the wire. There was no problem knocking properly hung targets off of the frames even with a 12 grain load from a Remington 1858. You'll notice from the impacts on the targets above that bullets flatten out when they hit the targets. There are no dimples in the targets, just lead marks from the bullets.

With this target a hit counts only when the target is knocked off the hanger. It should be noted that the targets are not wired to the frame in the traditional way but rather are hung on a short hook made from hardened wire that has been bent with a jig for the purpose of hanging the targets. Since the wire is not wrapped around the target, the resistance of the target to the impact of the bullet is only the weight of the target itself. The result is that the target flies off the hanger very reliably. That being said, if you check out the videos of the tests in the [Facebook Group](#) you'll notice that when shooting the revolver at the targets two targets that were clearly hit remained on the wire. The explanation for that is those two targets were wired up in the traditional fashion due to damaged wires. At actual shoots this will not be a problem and instead reflects the conditions of the tests and the limited amount of wires we had on hand.

In the end we decided that the cheaper targets made of 3/8 inch steel was the way to go. There was no durability advantage to the hardened targets. The price of the thicker targets was much less than the hardened targets, and since both types performed similarly, it was felt that even though the thicker targets weigh a little more and will be a little harder to move, the price and durability factors made them the better choice.

The targets have been ordered and should be delivered before the first week of April. We have ordered around 900 targets! They will have to be drilled for 1/4 inch holes once they are received from the supplier and will have to be painted. Our plan is to get together at Brian Haack's and set up a series of drill presses to accomplish this. If you have a portable drill press, we could probably use your help! We will post information about work times for drilling holes on the [Facebook Group](#) as soon as date and time becomes available. They will be completed in plenty of time before the 1<sup>st</sup> ACWSA shoot in May.

Special thanks to Jody Ihlenfeldt (U.S.S. Michigan Landing Party) for her assistance in overseeing our contact with the supplier and helping to develop the special target designs.

## Other Targeting and Supplies

In addition to ordering the metal targeting, we have also acquired a number of other essential items for the summer shoots. We have enough cardboard for most of the season, but could use more. If you have an inexpensive source, please pass it on. We have purchased enough 2x4s for all of the frames and cross arms at Blue Water, at the price of a dollar each. We also bought enough of the hardened wire in two different lengths to make the wire rigs for hanging the metal targeting. Brian Haack has fabricated two jigs, one for Michigan/Ohio and one for Wisconsin/Illinois, for forming the wires into the proper configuration. He also made a "restrike tool" to correct damaged wires while on the range.

On top of all of that we have uploaded photos to the [Facebook Group](#) from the Great Clay Pigeon Pickup of 2010. Following the winter trap leagues we were able to salvage some pigeons free of charge for use in ACWSA shoots. Total picked up at multiple trap fields was estimated at about 11,000. This should be enough for a few shoots, enough at least for this season, with excess. Not everyone made it into the photos. A lot of people assisted. Thanks to: Brian Haack, Mike Zandarski, Leilani Martin and Seth, Norm Gibson, Dianne Gibson, Sean Buckert, Don Iveson, Phil Vermeulen, Wally Gibson and Chris Hubbard.



Pigeons are currently stored at Wallace Gibson's barn with other 1st South Carolina and ACWSA assets. We will need to set a targeting party to drill the birds for the summer's shoots. We will keep you posted of time and date!



One of the Loads filling the entire space of Norm's truck



Off-loading at the storage facility

## Featured Uniform Sources

Civil War hobbies with elements similar to ours, including reenacting, have experienced an overall massive growth since the 1960s, and as a result, the number of suppliers of uniforms have also grown. On a monthly basis this section of the newsletter will be used to introduce a supplier that may or may not be known to the membership. The focus will be on suppliers who give a known quality product, have goods that are an accurate reproduction of original items, and who have good customer relations. That in mind, mention here is no guarantee of a supplier's quality or business practices, but only an indication of what is available. While there are many suppliers in the market the focus here will be on suppliers who our members have had experience with, and as a result bad experiences will not be passed on. If you have a supplier you would like to suggest, please share. Our sole hope here is that over time the overall appearance or impression given by ACWSA members will be closer to that of the soldiers we represent in our matches.



**Purveyors of Federal Army Trousers  
of the American Civil War**

One item that always comes up in any discussion of uniforms is Union Trousers. It is with that in mind that this month's featured supplier is:

Chris Sullivan of [Stony Brook Company](http://www.stonybrookcompany.com/)  
Website: <http://www.stonybrookcompany.com/>

Chris has been in business since 1974 and specializes in Union trousers and has an impeccable reputation.

Chris offers trousers in two different grades, both of which are a cut above most reproductions. He offers trousers patterned both after wartime contractor William Deering and also the Federal Arsenal in Philadelphia. He offers them in dark blue and light blue, and in foot trousers and mounted versions.

His standard grade trousers, priced at about 90 bucks, cannot be beat for skirmishing. Despite their inexpensive cost the standard grade trousers are very accurate reproductions. They feature correct patterning, accurate wool kersey and other materials, authentic tin buttons, and come hemmed to the inseam length of the purchaser with the period correct split cuff finish.

For those who want an exacting reproduction his museum grade trousers have all the bells and whistles including hand sewn details, hand sewn buttons holes, and appropriate contractor stamps. Check out the website for the difference between the two grades.

Stony Brook also maintains a consignment service where many deals can be found on a variety of uniform items from various sources.

I know from experience that his customer service is absolutely top notch, as I have owned two different pair of Union trousers in the last 7 years, one pair of William Deering contract trousers in sky blue and one pair of Schuylkill Arsenal trousers in dark blue. Neither has worn out yet. Chris even sent the dark blue pair over night at no additional charge so I could have the trousers in time for an event.

You will not be disappointed!

## T-Shirts

We decided to extend the date for ordering the T-Shirts until after the February ACWSA meeting in Wisconsin. Since then the order has been compiled and has been sent in. Our hope is to distribute the shirts as soon as they are ready and to have them ready at the first shoot. We did order some extra shirts that will be sold after delivery with proceeds going to the ACWSA at the same fund raiser rate which will be available after the pre-orders have been distributed. If you missed out on ordering a shirt this time around, we may be able to put future orders in.

## Team Webpages

Gary Van Kauwenbergh has put a page on the [www.ACWSA.org](http://www.ACWSA.org) site for every team that has joined the Association. They can be seen at <http://www.acwsa.org/Team%20Pages/Teams.htm>. As you can tell, many of those sites are currently empty. In the coming weeks we would like to populate some of the empty sites with new information, picture, and recruiting contacts for each team. If you have something that you would like added to your site contact Chris at [minieball577@yahoo.com](mailto:minieball577@yahoo.com) or Wally at [acwsa.michigan@gmail.com](mailto:acwsa.michigan@gmail.com). We have access to the site and should be able to post items within the next month or so. If you have something that is ready to go on the site now, please send it along to Gary at [garyvank@aol.com](mailto:garyvank@aol.com).

## Membership

Since the last newsletter, we have added one new team and oddly it is with open arms that we welcome the newest team to the ACWSA. It is only odd to welcome them because they represent the most notorious of all Rebel guerilla partisans, most widely known for their wanton destruction of Lawrence, Kansas. Based out of the Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor area, with members spread from Maryland to Indianapolis, Pete Zahner has put together a group of shooters representing William Clark Quantrill's Raiders. Frank and Jesse would be proud. Welcome aboard. After renewals and with the addition of the Missouri Partisans, Michigan/Ohio group membership stands at 202

## Facebook Group

As you have gathered by reading this newsletter, most of the information contained here has been posted in one form or another on the Facebook discussion group for ACWSA Michigan/Ohio. If you have a Facebook account, log on and search for "American Civil War Shooting Association" and you will find it, or follow this link - <http://www.facebook.com/#/group.php?gid=123117631965>. The Facebook group has been a great communication tool and will continue to be a main mode of communication and discussions among members, so if you're not on Facebook, join up!

See you in May!



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(updated March, 2010)

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