

# The Smoke Pole

Official Publication of  
Grand Valley Cap'n Ballers™  
Muzzle Loading Gun Club

Visit us at: -  
[www.gvcnb.org](http://www.gvcnb.org).

January 2026

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**Happy New Year!!**

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## A PATRIOT SPEAKS

“We will shatter the forces of evil and tyranny and we will unleash the glories of liberty for ourselves and for our children, and for many generations yet to come.”

Donald Trump 2022

### GVC&B Club Officers 2025-2026

**President:** Jeff Terrell  
**Vice President:** Larry Horrigan  
**Secretary:** Ron Fernwalt  
**Treasurer:** Chelsea Fox  
**Range Officer:** Roger Pierce  
**Newsletter:** Jackie Armstrong

### Board Members (Year Elected-2 year position)

Dennis Priddy 2024  
Bonnie Fernwalt 2024  
Tom Verberg 2024  
Leanne Pierce 2024  
Neal Armstrong 2025  
Dave Fox 2025  
Drew Harrington 2025

### 50\50 WINNER

Dick Miller

### ATTENDANCE WINNER

Ed Henson & Paul Thurmond

**CONGRATULATIONS**

## Jeff's Journal

Happy New Year Everyone, and here we are already seven days into 2026, time sure fly's when your having fun, right! Well not really, at least not for me anyway the only things



I've been doing lately is going to doctors for a couple of my annual check-ups and a two funeral visitations. The good news is I passed both of my check-ups with no negative issues and the weeks of coughing and congestion issues seem to be over too. I see the snow melting away the sun came out and tonight I'm going out to dinner with friends I haven't seen in several months.

I hope Winter is treating all of you well as we await Spring and the start-up of the shooting

season so we all can get together again. Actually. Larry has organized a shooting event several weeks ago on the Long Hunter Range and then the Club Shoot last weekend, so there is at least me activity there. Along with that powder sales at the Jag Shop have been doing very well especially for this time of year. We are anticipating delivery of more powder later this month. I've been advised shipments for 2026 should be improved over 2025 and that is very good news for all of us We also have a good supply of percussion caps available, so let us know to make a appointment with one of us if you have the need. We're doing are best to keep you supplied.

The Kalamazoo History Show will be here before we know it so, this will be my first request for muzzle loading items you would like to donate for us to sell at the Show. I'm pretty sure all of us have something just gathering dust in a closet that someone else would like to have and you can help your club too. Please gather them now and bring to our March Meeting. Thank You for your consideration.

The Club schedule for 2026 is available online at [gvcnb.org](http://gvcnb.org) programs and flyers should be there shortly. That's all for now STAY SAFE !

Continued...

Please pay ATTENTION to the following: Membership Dues and Camping fees are due no later than January 31<sup>st</sup>. That is about 3 weeks from now, please don't wait until the last minute to do this, the risk is having to start the membership process from the beginning. Do you really want to do that? I don't think so, act now and get it done.

The Club schedule for 2026 is available online at gvcnb.org programs and flyers should be there shortly. That's all for now STAY SAFE!

See you later, Jeff

## FROM YOUR EDITOR

Our dear friends, Ron & Bonnie Fernwalt last their son, Todd on December 8th. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

There will be two celebrations of life services will be held on Saturday, January 17th from 4pm-6pm at Hilltop Café, 222 Front St, Buchanan, MI 49107 and Sunday January 18th from 1pm-3pm at the Kent City American Legion, 1411 Ball Creek Rd, Kent City, MI 49330

Her is their address if you would like to send them a card.

16808 Peach Ridge, Kent City, MI 49330

Celebration of Life for Todd Ronald Fernwalt  
Jan 17, 2026 ----4 – 6 pm---Hilltop Cafe, 223 East Front Street, Buchanan, Mi 49107

January 18, 2026 ----1 – 3 pm --American Legion, 1411 Ball Creek Road, Kent City, Mi. 49330

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Pat Bradfield lost her beloved husband, Russell on December 24th, surrounded by love and family.

Please feel free call and or send your love.  
She is still living at home. 616-399-2825  
641 Appletree Drive,  
Holland, MI 49423

### Air Gun

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### Novelty Archery-Men

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### Novelty Archery-Women

- 1.
- 2.

## On the Firing Line

### Line Matches—

#### Men's 25yd Rifle Rat

1. Larry Horrigan	20
2. Bill Barnum	19
3. Dennis Priddy	18

#### Men's 25yd Rifle Seal

1. Larry Horrigan	39X
2. Dennis Priddy	36
3. Ed Henson	36

#### Men's 25yd Axe

1. Larry Horrigan	39
2. Dennis Priddy	33
3. Ed Henson	33

#### Men's 50yd

1. Larry Horrigan	44
2. Ed Henson	33
3. Dennis Priddy	24

#### Men's 25yd Trade Gun

1. Larry Horrigan	38
2. Ed Henson	38
3. Bill Barnum	36

#### Men's 25yd Trade Gun-

1. Bill Barnum	30
2. Larry Horrigan	30
3. Dennis Priddy	25

#### Men's 25yd Pistol-

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### Men's 50yd Pistol

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### Women's 25yd Riffle Pie

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### Women's 25yd Rifle 5 Bull

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### Women's 50yd Rifle

- 1.
- 2.

#### Woods Walk-Flint

- 1.
- 2.

#### Woods Walk- Trade Gun

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### Woods Walk Percussion/Silhouettes

- 1.

## FROM THE SHOTGUN CRIB

We are again looking for sponsors for The Spring Shoot or Frontier shoot it would be a great help to keep our prices down. Send check for \$25 to GVCNB, 16808 Peach Ridge, Kent City, Mi. 49330. We will start in March or April putting the list in the Smoke Pole and on the web beginning in March or April and a list of sponsors will be on the web until September of 2027. Thank you in advance for your support.

Ron

The following is an article from MUCC I am putting in the State newsletter:

Ron,

Thank you for offering MUCC the opportunity to communicate through your club platform. I have included our interim CEO, Mike Mitchell, with this response, and he is the one who penned the attached statement.

Grand Valley Cap n Ballers have been a great and respected partner with MUCC, thank you for that.

The changes we are going through are painful but necessary; with the help of partners like GVCnB, we will be here for generations to come.

Hoping you and your family had a Merry Christmas and wishing you a Happy New Year.

Mike,

Grand Valley has hosted a clay shoot at their club for MUCC for several years now and was recognized as club of the year last year.

Ron Burris has continued to be instrumental in this relationship.

Thank You,  
Rob Miller

## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Be sure fill out the membership and camping form that is in the newsletter or pick one up from Ron at the December club meeting.

Please make sure you give us your current phone and email.

Dues and camping fees are due by January 31, 2026

Thank you for your cooperation

Remember those that are plugged in whether you're there or not, the price is \$2.00 per day excluding the weekend days of an event that you were charged for. I know for a fact that it is cheaper here than at home. This allows us to keep refrigerated food when we are enjoying the club every weekend.

### THE GRAND VALLEY CAP N BALLERS AND MICHIGAN STATE CAMPING RULES

1. Each camper must keep his own campsite clean, neat and the grass cut.
2. There will be only one fixed fire pit on each campsite.
3. Use only existing cut wood or use dead fallen trees. No standing trees may be cut.
4. When the camping unit is not in use, it must be disconnected from utilities (electric and water) OR PAY THE \$2.00 ELECTRICAL FEE PER DAY. ANY GUEST CAMPING WITH THEIR UNIT IS REQUIRED TO PAY \$5.00/DAY FOR ELECTRICAL USE.
5. Additional electrical use, after the 20 days included in the annual fee, is to be paid for at the monthly meeting to Ron at shot gun and Jackie on the main campground

Thank you for your cooperation---The Campground Committee Ron, Jackie & Larry

## **GVCnB 2026 MEMBERSHIP AND CAMPSITE RENEWAL FEE**

Annual dues and campsite fees are payable no later than January 31, 2026. Payment must be made to treasurer FOR \$150.00 FOR THE CAMP SITE AND \$50.00 MEMBERSHIP DUES either at any meeting or postmarked no later than January 31, 2026. Make checks payable to Grand Valley Cap N Ballers. Fill out ahead of time to avoid confusion. Thanks. This form must be completed with payment.

IF YOUR CHECK IS NOT POSTMARKED BY JANUARY 31, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND NEED TO START OVER AGAIN TO BECOME A MEMBER.

If you have a designated campsite and the fee is not paid ahead of time, FEE WILL BE DOUBLED AFTER JANUARY 31, 2026. If not paid within 30 days after January 31, the unit must be moved off club property, or it will be impounded by local law enforcement.

*REMEMBER THAT ALL MEMBERS WHO HAVE CAMPING UNITS ON CLUB PROPERTY ARE EXPECTED TO CARRY INSURANCE ON THEIR UNITS OR ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY DAMAGE THAT MAY OCCUR WHILE ON CLUB PROPERTY.*

**Please fill out the following in very clear and legible print and return to GVCnB, 16808 Peach Ridge, Kent City, Mi. 49330**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

NMLRA Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Dues \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Campsite Fee \$150.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Total Submitted \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Group

Camping Area \_\_\_\_\_ or Lot Number \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Status Regular \_\_\_\_\_ Life \_\_\_\_\_

Year Joined GVCnB \_\_\_\_\_

### **THE GRAND VALLEY CAP N BALLERS AND MICHIGAN STATE CAMPING RULES**

1. Each camper must keep his own campsite clean, neat and the grass cut.
2. There will be only one fixed fire pit on each campsite.
3. Use only existing cut wood or use dead fallen trees. No standing trees may be cut.
4. When the camping unit is not in use, it must be disconnected from utilities (electric and water) OR PAY THE \$2.00 ELECTRICAL FEE PER DAY. ANY GUEST CAMPING WITH THEIR UNIT IS REQUIRED TO PAY \$5.00/DAY FOR ELECTRICAL USE.
5. Additional electrical use, after the 20 days included in the annual fee, is to be paid for at the monthly meeting to Ron at shot gun and Jackie on the main campground

The \$150.00 a year camping fee reserves the campsite and includes 20 days of electric hookup without additional charges.

Anyone camping at Shotgun will pay the event fee, plus the additional current up charge for A/C use.

At major events, i.e.: Zimmerman, Spring Shoot, Family Rendezvous, Frontier Shoot, Ladies Fun Tyme at the Range, and October Fest/Meat Shoot, members are **REQUIRED** to pay the electrical charge for that event.

All members paying the event electrical fee will not have those days deducted against their 20-day limit.

**After a registered reserved campsite member has surpassed the 20-day electrical use limit, those members will be charged a \$2.00 a day electrical fee when plugged in.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ **REQUIRED**

# Grand Valley Cap N Ballers™ Muzzle Loading Gun Club

## 2026 Club Calendar of Shoots, Meetings & Events

Dates	Events (**See Note)
Jan 4	<i>Club Shoot</i>
Feb 1	<i>Club Shoot</i>
March 1 March 21 & 22	<i>Club Shoot and Meeting</i> <i>Kalamazoo Living History Show</i>
April 11 April 12 April 18 April 25 April 25 & 26	<i>Art Zimmerman Shoot @GVCnB</i> <i>Club shoot &amp; meeting</i> <i>Sporting Clays</i> <i>Table Shoot</i> <i>**May Club Shoot &amp; Meeting</i>
May 1,2 & 3 May 16 May 16 May 23	<i>Spring Shoot</i> <i>Trade Gun Championship</i> <i>Sporting Clays</i> <i>Archery Kick Off</i>
June 6 & 7 June 6 June 13 June 13 & 14 June 20 June 26,27,28	<i>**Club Shoot, Archery &amp; Meeting</i> <i>Cap n Ballers Pistol Shoot</i> <i>Table Shoot</i> <i>HandiCap Shotgun Match</i> <i>Sporting Clays</i> <i>Michigan Shotgun Territorials</i>
July 4 & 5 July 8-12 July 18 & 19 July 25	<i>** Club Shoot &amp; Meeting</i> <i>MSMLA Rifle Pistol Championships</i> <i>Sporting Clays, MUCC Sporting Shoot</i> <i>Table Shoot</i>
August 1 & 2 August 1 August 6-8 August 13-16 August 22 August 29	<i>**Club Shoot, Archery &amp; Meeting</i> <i>Christmas in "JULY" Party</i> <i>Frontier Shoot</i> <i>MSMLA Shotgun Championships</i> <i>Ladies Fun Tyme at the Range</i> <i>Table Shoot</i>
Sept 5 & 6 Sept 5 Sept 19 Sept 19	<i>**Club Shoot, Archery &amp; Meeting</i> <i>Archery Novelty Shoot</i> <i>Sporting Clay</i> <i>GVCnB Pistol Championship</i>
Oct 3 & 4 Oct 4 Oct 10 Oct 24	<i>Meat Shoot, Octoberfest</i> <i>Club Meeting @2:30</i> <i>Sporting Clay</i> <i>Squirrel Shoot</i>
Nov 1 Dec 6	<i>Club Shoot &amp; Meeting</i> <i>Club Shoot and Meeting</i>

## Contact Information

### Club Shoots & Meetings

Jeff Terrell – 616-366-3404  
[cubsterbear@hotmail.com](mailto:cubsterbear@hotmail.com)

### Shotgun:

Ron Fernwalt - 616-836-5760  
[rbfern@triton.net](mailto:rbfern@triton.net)

### GVCnB Trade Gun & Squirrel Shoot

Dennis Priddy – 517-852-4607  
Larry Horrigan – 269- 845-0460

### Air Rifle

Dennis Priddy – 517-852-4607 Larry  
Horrigan – 269-845-0460

### Archery

Neal Armstrong – 616-293-5884  
[Primitivecreationsbyneal@gmail.com](mailto:Primitivecreationsbyneal@gmail.com)

### Fun Tyme at the Range

Jeff Terrell – 616-366-3404  
[cubsterbear@hotmail.com](mailto:cubsterbear@hotmail.com)

### Spring Shoot/Frontier Shoot

Jeff Terrell – 616-366-3404  
[cubsterbear@hotmail.com](mailto:cubsterbear@hotmail.com)

### Table Shoot

John Turner  
Phone 269—420-2824  
[joeturners44@comcast.net](mailto:joeturners44@comcast.net)

### Novelty Pistol

Jerry Johnson  
616-250-0349  
[jerry@attitudejacl.com](mailto:jerry@attitudejacl.com)

**\*\*NOTES:** Shotgun, Air rifle & Archery matches  
will be held on the Saturday of each club shoot  
May thru September.

Shotgun Saturday starts at 9:00 – 3:00

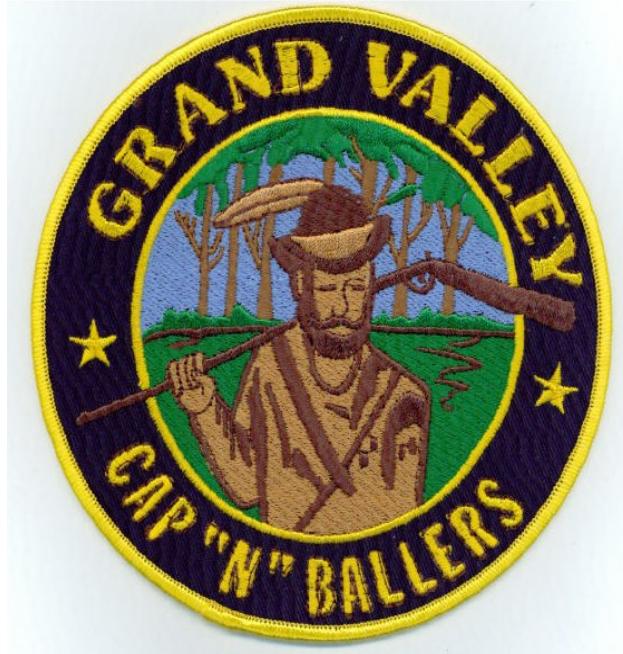
Shotgun Sunday starts at 9:00 – 1:00

Archery starts at 9:00 and air rifle 12:00

All line matches start at 12:00

May – Sept. Pistol starts at 11:15

# GRAND VALLEY CAP n BALLERS™



Our mission is to create, promote and encourage an interest in historical firearms; to preserve their histories, along with the crafts and traditions of our American heritage; to promote good fellowship and teach firearm safety; to purchase, hold and use the Club property, both real and personal for accomplishing these purposes, and to preserve our constitutional rights as to any and all acts permitted by the laws of the State of Michigan.

GRAND VALLEY CAP n BALLERS  
MUZZLE LOADING GUN CLUB™