



WEST WALKER SPORTSMAN

P.O. BOX 141104, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49514
0-599 Leonard NW (616) 453-5081

FEBRUARY

www.wwsc.org

2004

Thanks, Jim

To thousands of hunters in west Michigan, the name, **Jim Riemersma**, is synonymous with hunter safety. I sat down with Jim and his lovely wife, Mary Ann, recently to recall his 25 years teaching Hunter Safety here at WWSC.

Jim and Mary Ann moved here to the Grand Rapids area in 1970 from their native Minnesota. Jim joined WWSC in 1977 and became a charter member a year later. He served as club treasurer from '79 to '82, and as a member of the board of directors several times over the years.

Having been involved with Boy Scouts, and with his daughter, Renee, about ready to get her first hunting license, Jim approached then president, Bud Goodwin about starting a hunter safety program at West Walker Sportsman's Club. At the time, only one other area club and the local schools were offering classes. Bud heartily agreed as both men felt the program would go a long way toward improving the image of the club. Back in those "rough and tumble" days, WWSC was not known as much of a family place to enjoy the shooting sports. That was about to change quickly, and for good.

By his own admission, Jim says the first few classes were a little dry. But over the years, he and Mary Ann found a winning formula that included the much-needed outdoor sessions. That was the one thing Jim always felt was lacking in other hunter safety programs. By getting his students outdoors, Jim felt he could best reinforce the most important elements of safe gun handling. As a side note, no outdoor session was ever cancelled due to weather! Since his first class in 1979 (which included daughter, Renee), various pieces were added to the program such as archery and tree stand safety, as well as the use of instructional videos and the "interview a hunter" assignment. The core elements however, remained unchanged. As Jim says, "You can't stress safety enough!"

One trademark of Jim's classes was the "landowner." Over the years, several fellows such as Randy Egtvedt, Walt Leedy, Charlie Pruitt, and Matt Kooistra have played that role for the students. Staging a mock encounter with props and a landowner was just one more way to bring the students "into" the class, and help reinforce the concept of being a courteous and respectful hunter. Jim felt he would be remiss if he failed to mention how much he appreciated the help of others as well, namely, Ron Kobel, Mike Baker, Kevin Travis, and Chris Jongsma.

I asked Jim about the changes he has seen over the 25 years since he began the program. Two things that came to mind immediately were a greater awareness and respect for our environment on the part of his students, as well as the inclusion of more girls and multiple family members in his classes. Perhaps his invitation to the students as well as their families to partake in Saturday morning breakfast on the last day of class helped make them feel welcome.

And so, last year Jim held his last class (which included granddaughters Kendra and Kaleigh Thomas) at WWSC. He and Mary Ann have retired from teaching and Jim has become an honorary member of the club. Thank you, Jim for your 25 years of dedicated service to WWSC.

Sportsman's Banquet

Our 2nd annual **Sportsman's Banquet** on **March 20th** is going to be a great affair! We'll have all the fun of last year's event and more. Tickets are \$50 and include dinner and a door prize. Once again we'll be giving away thousands of dollars worth of great guns and gear for the outdoor enthusiast. **Early birds**, buy your tickets now and receive **\$80 of blitz raffle tickets free!** This is a great way to spend an evening with friends and family while supporting your club at the same time. All money raised at the event is targeted for improvements to the ranges, grounds, and building. Visit the shooting desk during scheduled times, or mail your check to the P.O. box in the header. See you there!

MICHIGAN CCW CLASSES
NRA PERSONAL PROTECTION



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Classes in St. Johns and Grand Rapids Monthly

to seniors. Parents, please use discretion. Very young children may not be able to sit as long or comprehend all information. To reserve your spot call early. The cost for the class is \$20 per person, or take advantage of our special WWSC member rate of \$20 per family!

Deposit required.
Certified NRA Instructor:
Marcy DePender
(616) 460-1985
ConfidentlySafe@aol.com

Note: I still have a few spots available for a CCW class to be held Feb.19 & 21. Call the number above for more information.

Sport Show Tickets

If you are planning to attend the Grand Rapids Sport, Fishing, & RV show being held March 18 – 21, then why not buy your tickets through the club? We can offer advance sale tickets at a 25% savings. Tickets at the door are regularly \$8.00, but you can get yours for just \$6.00 and be entered into a raffle which includes:

1st Prize: ½ day fishing for 4 with Best Chance Charters
Second Prize: \$200 cash
Third Prize: \$100 cash

Raffle prizes are only available on the advance sale tickets

West Walker Sportsman's Club will receive \$1.00 for every advance ticket purchased at the \$6.00 discount price. What a great way to save some money, get in a prize drawing, and help your club at the same time! Tickets will be available at the club shooting desk during scheduled shooting times starting Saturday, February 7th.

Refuse to be a Victim

WWSC presents: Refuse to be a victim. This is a three-hour class covering many areas of crime prevention such as personal safety in the home, auto, schools, college dorm, etc. It can be tailored to the interest of the participants to include topics related to senior citizens, travel, credit card, or the Internet. The program was introduced in 1993 for women, taught by women. Since then, due to the interest of men and the realization that if the whole family is trained your home is safer, it is taught by and for both men and women. We all know there is no 100% cure for crime, but this class is designed to make you conscious of your surroundings and able to identify danger zones or situations. This is not a firearm or physical defense class. All ages are welcome from children

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February

2004

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>	
1	2 Charter Range closed 10 - 6	3	4	5	6	7 Archery, Trap & Skeet 10 to 2	
8 Archery, Trap & Skeet 10 to 2	9	10 7 Yd Range Closes 4:30	11 Archery, Trap & Skeet 9 to 12 AM 6 to 10 PM	12 Charter Meeting 7:30	13	14 Archery, Trap & Skeet 10 to 2	
15 Archery, Trap & Skeet 10 to 2	16	17	18 Archery, Trap & Skeet 9 to 12 AM 6 to 10 PM	19	20	21 Archery, Trap & Skeet 10 to 2 7 Yd Range Closes 11 to 2	
22 Archery, Trap & Skeet 10 to 2	23	24 Board Meeting 7:00	25 Archery, Trap & Skeet 9 to 12 AM 6 to 10 PM	26	27	28 Archery, Trap & Skeet 10 to 2	
29 Archery, Trap & Skeet 10 to 2	Mar		2 Archery, Trap & Skeet 9 to 12 AM 6 to 10 PM	3	4	5	6 Archery, Trap & Skeet 10 to 2
7 Archery, Trap & Skeet 10 to 2	8	9	10 Archery, Trap & Skeet 9 to 12 AM 6 to 10 PM	11 Charter Meeting 7:30	12	13 Archery, Trap & Skeet 10 to 2	
14 Archery, Trap & Skeet 10 to 2	15	16 7 Yd Range Closes 4:30	17 Archery, Trap & Skeet 9 to 12 AM 6 to 10 PM	18	19	20 Archery, Trap & Skeet 10 to 2	



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P.O. BOX 141104
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49514

NRA Membership

Don't forget too that you can sign up, renew, or upgrade your NRA membership through our club. We receive a donation from the NRA for processing. Support your club and the NRA. Send your paperwork check (made payable to NRA) to:

West Walker Sportsman Club
Attn: NRA Membership
PO Box 141104
Grand Rapids, MI 49514

Hunter Safety Dates Set

Ron Kobel will be hosting two hunter safety sessions this year at WWSC during July and August. Make plans now to attend. Remember, if your child will be of legal age for spring turkey hunting next year, then you want to be sure they have taken the course beforehand as these are the only sessions available at the club before turkey season '05. Call Ron at 453-3645.

July

Sat. 7/24, Tues. 7/27, Thurs 7/29, & Sat. 7/31.

There will be no indoor archery on Sat. 7/24 & Sat. 7/31.

August

Sat. 8/21, Tues 8/24, Thurs 8/26, Sat 8/28

There will be no indoor archery on Sat 8/21 & Sat 8/28.