



HOURS OF OPERATION: APRIL THRU OCTOBER -- 8:00 AM - 9 PM • NOVEMBER THRU MARCH -- 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Volume 39

October 2006

No. 10

## President's Corner

### *My fellow Sportsmen,*

I once again take this space and your time to thank you for the privilege of the BGS� Presidency. I am again honored and promise to do the best job possible. From the time I joined the League in the early 90's, I've loved this club and all that we enjoy. The challenge of the Presidents chair is something that only a few have experienced and I'm proud to have served and am looking forward to the New Year. It will be my last as your President.

Last month I spoke of recognizing and seizing opportunity. With two years of seat time at the head table, I have come to realize some of the problems with the government of the club, the business model, and the processes to deal with issues affecting the club. The government is too big, the business model is flawed and the processes are too slow! I do not know if we can fix these problems in this year but there are some solutions to give a try.

At the October 3rd general meeting we will start the opportunity process with some proposed solutions in the form of By-Laws changes. We will present several. They must be presented separately as they are individual issues and By-Laws and only a vote of the membership can make any changes. It is my hope that we will have ready and you will be presented four (4) proposed changes. These will be voted on at this meeting only to be accepted as motions. The process will take two full months and the motions that are accepted in Oct will be voted on at the December meeting after being written in the newsletter, read a second time in November and discussed at the Dec meeting. The first 4 issues will be the restructure of the Board of Directors, Guest policy, Junior Membership and our meeting agenda.

It is imperative that you as a member understand the issues and the process and be active with that process. This is your club and your set of governing rules and only you can change them.

At your service,  
Greg Delabar  
president@bgslinc.com

### Next Meeting

Tuesday — October 3, 7:30pm  
Please direct any membership concerns to the  
BGS� bookkeeper at 859-858-4060 or  
e-mail at BGS�inc.com

## Russell Steel and Jim Galvin's Road Kill Café

The Road Kill Café is looking for a few good sportsmen/women. We are recruiting members to join the Kitchen Division. If you would be interested in joining our band of jolly cooks please contact our director Russell Steel.

October WOW! We just elected a new board of directors and man do they have a big job to do. We can't send sportsmen and women out to do a big job without a big meal.

October menu:

Hot Dogs  
Homemade Chili  
Fries, Cole Slaw  
Pickles, Cheese, Onions  
Beer Cheese & Crackers  
Cookies

All for the price of your membership!

Let's shoot off our mouths and fill up our stomachs at our club meeting its time to make this the most active membership in the state of KENTUCKY!

See you at the club

DENNIS WEST

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### League Officers:

**President** Greg Delabar ..... 523-0250  
**Secretary** Terry Hagar ..... 885-3058  
**Treasurer** John Burke..... 312-9165

### Directors At-Large:

Bill Blackburn ..... 278-1486  
Claude Jacobs ..... 608-1215  
Mike Kass ..... 887-1742  
Terry Morgan ..... 858-4360  
Robbie Mulcahy ... 885-5301

### Division Directors:

**Archery** Robert Burgess ... 887-5752  
Ken Maness ..... 885-9443  
**Air Gun** Steve Cox ..... 263-8378  
Jamie Piotrowski... 948-3321  
**Bass** Rudy Tester ..... 255-6560

**Casting** Dan Fister ..... 879-9172  
Patrick McFadden 252-6431

**Kitchen** Russ Steel ..... 277-2672  
Dennis West ..... 351-2977  
Bruce Shaeffer ... 259-1866  
**Muzzle Loader** Marvin Inman ..... 885-7327  
**Pistol** Brenn Combs ..... 875-0922  
Richard Gehlbach.. 269-6658  
**Pointer & Setter** Mike Pinkston ..... 548-3608  
**Rifle** Rowland Beers ..... 277-4608  
Jack Lyons ..... 266-0234  
Mike Niblett ..... 887-2250

**Skeet & Sporting Clays** Craig Phinney ..... 887-2157  
Danny Barnes ..... 881-4200  
**Trap** Bruce Sanders ..... 219-9414  
Tim Ore ..... 223-6358

**Past President** John Burke ..... 312-9165

**BGS� Chaplain** Tom Cottingim ..... 533-8896

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### 1. ROLL CALL

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Delabar, Hager, Burke, Blackburn, Jacobs, Kass, Mewhorter, Morgan, Beckley, Cox, Bowman, Fister, McFadden, West, Inman, Shaeffer, Combs, Gehlbach, Lyons, Niblett, Sanders, Mulcahy,

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Burgess, Piotrowski, Tester, Steel, Martin, Pinkston, Barnes, and Ore

**STAFF PRESENT:** Riffell, **CHAPLAIN:** Cottingim

**President Greg Delabar called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Secretary Hager called the roll and a quorum was present.**

### 2. READING OF MINUTES

Secretary Terry Hager presented the minutes from the July 25, 2006 Board Meeting. Motion #1 by McFadden, second by Mewhorter to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer John Burke read the treasurer's report. Motion #2 by Fister, second by Mewhorter to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.

### 4. OPERATIONS MANAGER REPORT

Ben Riffell, Operations Manager, reported on the front disputed property, the Office Administrators' estimated date of return to work, the coverage by a reporter from the Jessamine Journal, the Health Department Inspection of the kitchen and the J.D.Crowe festival.

### 5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Delabar thanked the Board members that has served with him this year and announced that he will run will seek re-election. President Delabar stated that Miller Welch Sr. had passed away and read an overview of his accomplishments at the BGSL.

President Delabar announced that the BGSL would have a booth at the J.D. Crowe Festival. Motion #3 by Kass, second by Jacobs to offer \$50 off initiation fee for individuals paying for membership at the J.D. Crowe Festival in Wilmore. New members taking advantage of this must attend orientation within 60 days and the deposit of \$50 is non-refundable. Motion carried unanimously.

### 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Clubhouse and Lodge** President Delabar stated that the tenants of the trailer have moved and there are some repairs that will be necessary,

**Constitution and Bylaws** Steve Cox presented a BGSL Constitution and By-Laws Package with recommended changes to be addressed. President Delabar stated that they were not asking for a vote on the proposal tonight but will asked that it be considered by the new 2006-2007 Board. There was much discussion by the Board. Motion #4 by Cox, second by McFadden to pass the BGSL Constitution and By-Laws Package on to the 2006-2007 Board Members. Motion carried unanimously.

**Farm** Secretary Terry Hager reported on the road grading, the amount of hay that has been sold, and the status of the cattle.

**Finance.** Treasurer John Burke stated that he and President Delabar met with Traditional Bank regarding switching all of the checking accounts to their facility. Terry Hager suggested considering Kentucky Bank because one of their Vice Presidents is a member of the BGSL. No decision was made on the issue.

Treasurer Burke reported that Farm Bureau is still offering tobacco buy-out money. Treasurer Burke asked the Board to rescind the motion to indebt the league. Motion #5 by Burke, second by Fister to rescind the motion to indebt the league. Motion carried

unanimously.

Treasurer Burke reported that the divisions have requested to have the ability to accept credit cards. Treasurer Burke stated that each division would need to get a copy of QuickBooks and a credit card reader.

**Security:** Claude Jacobs stated that there was no report.

**Wildlife and Natural Resources Committee:** - President Delabar reported on the results furnished by Chairman Craig Phinney of the deer count, the Ducks Unlimited Shoot and the Wildlife Committee to investigate the feasibility of a timber harvest.

**Youth:** President Delabar stated that the Youth Dove Shoot had been cancelled because there were no doves and the J.D.Crowe Festival created a conflict.

**Membership** President Delabar stated that the drop list with assignments was included in the packet.

President Delabar stated that the attrition list from 2005 and 2006 was also included in the packet.

**Signs** – President Delabar asked for help from BGSL member, Mark May in making the signs.

**Training Committee** - Brenn Combs discussed some new classes that are being presented. Mr. Combs stated that there was a need for instructors in areas besides pistol.

**Technology:** Richard Gehlbach stated that new routers have been ordered and will be installed at Skeet and Sporting Clays to allow that Division internet connection. Mr. Gehlbach reminded all members to e-mail calendar changes to him as soon as possible.

**Trails:** John Burke stated that one of the Trails Committee members, Tim Snoddy, perished in the recent plane crash. Mr. Burke stated that Steve Martin has also resigned due to business conflicts. Mr. Burke presented an update of the financial cost of adding stalls and paddocks to the BGSL for boarding horses. Mr. Burke stated that to add 4 – 1-1/2 acre paddocks, 2 run-in sheds and 40 acres of perimeter fencing would cost approximately \$50,000. Mr. Burke also noted to add stalls and Barn #1 improvements would be an additional \$64,000 for a total of \$144,000. Mr. Burke stated that this would allow the BGSL to board 40 horses from members. There was much discussion by the Board and the issue was deferred until the next Board of Directors meeting.

**Human Resources:** Dr. Blackburn, Chairman of the Human Resources Committee, stated that they are advertising for a new position to assist operations.

### 7. OLD BUSINESS

**1, Dogs at BGSL:** Patrick McFadden stated that he had previously discussed dogs at the BGSL chasing vehicles and other issues related to unleashed dogs. Motion #6 by McFadden, second by Fister to require that all dogs be on a leash unless in a designated area or under direct control in a training situation. Motion carried unanimously.

### 8. NEW BUSINESS

**1. Nominating Committee/Division Vice-Presidents.** Dr. Blackburn stated that anyone wishing to make a nomination for next weeks elections to call Rob Mulchay, Nominating Chairman at (859) 421-5408.

**2. Asbury College Request – Archery.** Don Beckley presented a request from Asbury College to use the 3-D archery course with the date to be set at a later time and the event would be fee exempt. Motion #7 by Beckley, second by Inman to approve Dr. Tom Harper's class at Asbury College consisting of 10-20 students to shoot the 3-D course at the Archery Division with the date to be set at a later time and the event would be fee exempt. Motion

carried unanimously.

### 9. MOTIONS:

**Motion #8** by Combs, second by Gehlbach to allow Grady Whitelaw to conduct a Glock Sport Shooting Foundation competition class in the pistol pits from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on September 23, 2006 at a cost of \$50 per participant plus \$10 range fee to BGS� for nonmembers. The Pistol Division has already approved the request to use division steel targets at a fee of \$5 for nonmembers and free for BGS� members during the class. Brenn Combs will attend to assist and to make sure the class complies with club rules. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion #9** by Combs, second by Gehlbach to allow the pistol division to host the annual Blue Grass Regional Glock Sport Shooting Foundation match in the pistol area during the last weekend of October, 2006 (October 28 – October 29); and to use the clubhouse of match registration, scoring and vendors and to use a mule-type utility vehicle between the clubhouse and the pistol area. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion #10** by Combs, second by Gehlbach to allow Brenn Combs to teach a “basic defensive handgun skills” class on November 11-12 using space available in the clubhouse for classroom training and the pistol pits for shooting. Price \$160.00 (including range fee) for nonmembers and \$120 for members. This class combines the basic subject matter of NRA Basic Pistol and Personal Protection into 1 class that will spend more time on practical shooting exercises than the NRA classes. It would be suitable for someone who has gotten or intends to get a CCDW permit, but has had no defensive shooting training. The class would run from noon until 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 11 and 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 12, 2006. Motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:57 P.M.**

## Trap Division

We are drawing near the end of the trapshooting season but still have several ATA registered shoot dates at Blue Grass. I have just returned from Sparta, IL, the new home grounds for the Grand American Trapshoot, The state of Illinois has built the finest shooting complex in the world. The vastness is overwhelming, 27 banks, adequate parking, great shooting, and some of the most friendly people I have ever met. I believe that many different venues will be there, including skeet, sporting clays, pistol, cowboy, etc. If you get a chance to go, GO!

Our own Wayne Hale broke 100 straight in the Doubles championship and wound up winning the Double AA class. Way to go Wayne. I saw several of the shooters that we see at BGS� in Sparta & We had a blast at the Grand.

If you get a chance, come down to the trap range and “Smoke a bird, Trap Style”. It is hard to believe to believe that we are not overloaded with new member requests, BGS� membership in the stock market would be “BUY NOW category”.

Charlie Becknell  
Vice President

## Pistol Division

Pistol Division elections were held at the September meeting.

The new 2006-07 officers are:

President – Lin Edwards,  
Vice-President – Paul DeMichele,  
Secretary – Carole Bryant,  
Treasurer – Kevin Carroll,

Directors – Richard Gehlbach and Clay Caudill.

Pistol Division members competed in several Major Matches last month including the USPSA Handgun National Championship, the 2006 Kentucky Multi-Gun Championship and the National Bullseye Pistol Team Championship.

Michael Foley placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall and 2<sup>nd</sup> Master in Tactical Division of the Kentucky Multi-Gun Championship. Steve Southerland was 4<sup>th</sup> overall and 1<sup>st</sup> A in Tactical Division. Barry West finished 5<sup>th</sup> overall and was High Senior in Tactical Division. Trey Algrim placed 3<sup>rd</sup> C in Tactical Division and Andy Ferguson placed 1<sup>st</sup> C in Heavy Metal.

The BGS� was represented on two teams at the National Pistol Team Championship. Jerry Chaney led Team UltraDOT to third place (99 teams firing) in the .22 Caliber Team Championship. They dropped to fifth in the Centerfire Championship and back to fourth in the 45 Caliber match. This gave them second place in the overall aggregate. At the team dinner, retiring team captain Pete Gillis was recognized for having led them to four National Championships in eight years.

Paul DeMichele captained OHINKY Gold, to a decisive win the Open Club/Expert bracket for the sixth consecutive year. Paul finished sixteenth of 202 in the highly competitive Civilian Expert class. Glen Wood finished 349<sup>th</sup> of 679 total competitors.

In Team competition, Team UltraDOT swept the South Carolina Air National Guard Gold Team in the Master Class. OHINKY Gold did the same to the SC ANG Blue team.

Brenn Combs is instructing an NRA Basic Pistol class the first Saturday of each month September thru December. Please sign up 15 days in advance by calling Brenn (502) 875-0922.

Alex Alexander died on his 65th birthday, Sunday, September 17, 2006. Formerly a long time member of the Pistol Division, Alex was active in bullseye and air pistol shooting. He served as a Navy doctor with the Marine Corps in Vietnam, received a Bronze Star and other commendations.

New pit passes are now available. See Lin Edwards, Clay Caudill, Richard Gehlbach or Mike Foley to get your new pit pass.

### Match Information:

**Bullseye:** A Bullseye match will be held October 8. Sign ups begin at 8 – the match begins at 9 a.m. at the Bullseye range. Contact Glen Wood (859) 492-4668 or [glenwood@clarkmhc.com](mailto:glenwood@clarkmhc.com) for more information.

**Cowboy:** The annual Hawaiian Cowboy Match at Fox Bend was held Sunday, August 28th with shooters staying cool in their Hawaiian shirts. There were a few hold outs for real western wear. The September annual Wilderness Trail Match was held with a great turnout. The last Cowboy match of the year will be held on Sunday, October 22.

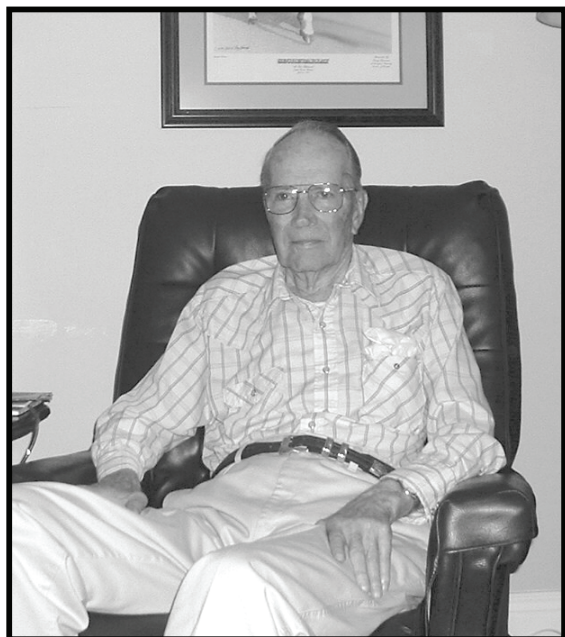
A *Women on Target* Cowgirl Match will be held Saturday, October 21. This will be an excellent opportunity for any want-a-be cowgirls to experience the sights, smell and sounds of hot lead going down range. All guns and ammo will be provided. Even if you have never fired a gun, join in the fun anyway. Bring friends or relatives. Free bandanas for all attending. Contact Tioga Kid (Byron Daniel) 859-333-9838 or [byrondaniel@alltel.net](mailto:byrondaniel@alltel.net). [byrondaniel@alltel.net](mailto:byrondaniel@alltel.net) or 859-333-9838.

**IDPA:** The September match saw 44 shooters. The next match will be October 14. Sign-ups begin at 9:30. The match starts at 10. Contact: Lin Edwards, (859) 273-2768 or [ledwards@att.net](mailto:ledwards@att.net)

**Glock:** The Bluegrass Regional Classic IX will take place at BGS� October 28 and 29. For additional information contact Lin Edwards.

**USPSA/IPSC:** The September IPSC match was attended by 33 competitors. The next match will be October 1 at 10:30 a.m. New shooters must arrive by 9:30. Contact: Barry West, (859) 885-9710 or e-mail: [vikingtactical@alltel.net](mailto:vikingtactical@alltel.net).

Carole Bryant



**The Father  
of the  
Blue Grass Sportsmen's  
League  
Miller Welch  
1912 – 2006  
An Awesome  
SPORTSMAN**



**In 1945, Miller Welch had a dream of a Sportsmen's Club. His dream was of a club where sportsmen from all walks of life could go with their families and enjoy outdoors and their favorite shooting sport. He dreamed of a place where members could fish, practice good conservation, and wildlife enhancement. With this dream and a lot of hard work and dedication, Miller's dream grew into the Blue Grass Sportsmen's League we enjoy today.**

**Thanks Miller!**



Miller A. Welch Sr.

WELCH Miller A. Sr., 93, husband for 33 years of Mary C. Welch, died at home on Aug. 25, 2006. He was born September 24, 1912 on the family farm near West Lafayette, IN to the late Frank and Camilla Welch. He is survived by his brother, Charles B. Welch of Sun City, AZ, his children, Miller A. Welch, Jr., (Patricia), Palm Beach Gardens, FL, Elizabeth Coco (Dale), Cameron Park, CA, two stepchildren, Randall M. Overstreet, (Darlene), Jacksonville, FL, Judge Rebecca M. Overstreet, (Jerry L. Wright), Lexington, KY. Also surviving are three grandchildren, three step grandchildren, and four step great-grandchildren. Mr. Welch was educated at West Lafayette schools, Purdue University, and Arthur Jordan Conservatory of Music in Indianapolis, IN. He was a member of the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity at Purdue. Mr. Welch's career included music, radio broadcasting, real estate development, and insurance. His childhood on the farm inspired a great love for the outdoors and generated a life-long interest in conservation and sportsmen's affairs. In 1927, Mr. Welch made his radio broadcast appearance on the Purdue station, WBAA. He formed his own orchestra and won the 1933 Big Ten Dance Orchestra Contest sponsored by Big Ten Universities and judged by the Columbia Artist Bureau. He later went on the road with his orchestra,

playing throughout the East and broadcasting from various ballrooms and supper clubs. In the summer of 1934, he brought his band to the Iroquois Gardens in Louisville, KY where they broadcast nightly on WHAS. In 1935, following another tour in the east, he came to Lexington's popular dance and supper club, Springhurst Country Club. After eleven months at Springhurst, Mr. Welch was invited to meet Gilmore and Lindsay Nunn; shortly after they purchased the Lexington Herald Newspaper and WLAP radio station. He retired from music and joined WLAP in 1936 as a salesman and announcer. His career at WLAP progressed to sales manager then general manager until the station was sold to Community Broadcasting Company in 1957. The sale included a dormant television license for Channel 27, which eventually became WKYT, where Mr. Welch worked until 1958. Mr. Welch left broadcasting to pursue a career in commercial real estate with Davis T. Bohon. The two were the original exclusive leasing agents for Idle Hour and Gardenside shopping centers. In 1961, he became a partner in Carpenter Warren Insurance Agency, where he stayed until his retirement in 1978. Mr. Welch was active in many professional and civic organizations, including Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, Lexington Junior Chamber of Commerce, Salesmen's Club, and Thoroughbred Club of America. He was the founder of the Bluegrass Sportsmen's League and served as its first president in 1945. He established Kentucky's first hunting preserve in Scott County in 1953. He was appointed to the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission by Governor Combs in 1960. While serving, he helped secure the 1,800 acre Central Kentucky Wildlife Area in Madison County and was instrumental in establishing the Muskie fisheries program at Cave Run Lake. He was a former Vice President of the League of Kentucky Sportsmen and was awarded their coveted "Sportsman of the Year" award in 1966. Mr. Welch was a member of Southern Hills United Methodist Church. Services will be held 2 p.m., Tue at Kerr Brothers Funeral Home on Harrodsburg Road and will be officiated by Dr. William M. Moore and Reverend Dennis Burrows of Southern Hills United Methodist Church and Chaplain John Rudd of Hospice of the Bluegrass and Bluegrass Sportsmen's League. Visitation will be 12:30 p.m. until the hour of service Tue at the funeral home. Entombment will be at Lexington Cemetery Mausoleum. Pallbearers will be Greg Howard, Phil McFadden, Dewey Mullins, John Thomas, Al Borne, and Kevin Wright. Honorary pallbearers will be officers and members of the Bluegrass Sportsmen's League. The family requests memorials to Hospice of the Bluegrass, 2312 Alexandria Drive, Lexington, KY 40504.

Published in the Lexington Herald-Leader on 8/27/2006.

**S.C.O.P.E.**

**Sportsmen, Conservationists & Outdoorsmen Pursuing  
Excellence**

**Some of the upcoming events are:**

October 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>

Youth Deer Hunt and Camp @ Delabar Lodge  
Members only to hunt

Squirrel Rifle Shoot: Saturday 10 AM

Dinner Fri, Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Sat and Breakfast Sun

November 4<sup>th</sup>

Centerfire Rifle @ BGSL Rifle Range

December 2<sup>nd</sup>

Wild Game Dinner @ BGSL Main Clubhouse

**BRING-A-KID / TEACH-A-KID****Youth Committee**

**youth@bgslinc.com**

**Don Young 859-608-7843**

**Jim & Amy Yeager 859-936-6937**

**Greg Richardson 859-885-7471**

**Greg Delabar 859.539.1634**

**president@bgslinc.com**

**Please call for more information**

**BASS DIVISION**

July 21st and everyone is anxious to attack Guist Creek in Shelbyville, Ky. We had one of the best turnouts of the year. Twenty-four fishermen were on the ramp rearing to get started. The tournament is scheduled to start at 8:00 p.m. and at 6:30 we were hit with the storm of storms. I have not seen rain like that since experiencing the Southeast Asia Monsoon season. It rained so hard that the lake rose 8" in an hour. As true fishermen, everyone hung in there and at 8:15 it was gone. It had rained so hard that the boats had to be pumped out before they could be put in the water. A soggy start, but the rest of the night was pretty nice and it didn't take long for everyone to get into the mode of serious fishing.

The most serious seemed to be Harold Rhodus and Bobby Brinegar. They took first place. Second place was Mike Kass and Claude Jacobs. Mike Kass again had Big Fish. What's up with that? Mike Harbour and Jerry Thompson (known as the Tom and Jerry Show), squeaked in for third.

August 11th – We are back at Herrington Lake for one last time this year. There are about five people who have a shot at Fisherman of the Year, so things are getting intense and more serious than the top five want to admit. There are only three more tournaments to propel one person into the prestigious position of Fisherman of the Year.

As usual, the day of the tournament it rained 4" and a cold front moved in and set right over the lake. The weather was actually nice for fishing but the damage had already been done. We had a nice turnout with 21 fishermen, but only half of them found fish.

Bobby Brinegar and Harold Rhodus again proved to be the superior team and took first place. They can't find their light but they can find fish, go figure. Second place went to Philip Brinegar and Paul Harold. They were just 1lb 7.5 ounces behind Bobby and Harold. Third place was Mike and Sandy Jones. They have fallen off a little, but you cannot keep them out of the money. Mike Jones also had Big Fish.

Next up is Cumberland Lake, August 26<sup>th</sup> all night, from 8:00 to 8:00. We will see who is tough enough to go all night. Some love it and some hate it. It will be fun to see who can hang in there and who can't.

Submitted by:  
John Lingenfelter

**From the BGSL Chaplain**

One of the things I like about the monthly club meetings at BGSL is that we all stand and recite our country's Pledge of Allegiance before we begin. What I like most about that is that when we come to the line "under God," there is no hesitation; we say it. There has been a lot of controversy in this country in the last couple of years about whether or not that phrase should be part of our pledge. Some people feel that it is not politically correct, that it might offend someone. (For an excellent summary of the debate over this issue go to: [undergodprocon.org](http://undergodprocon.org))

Let me be very clear about what I am trying to say: *I never want to offend anyone*. Having said that, I must also acknowledge it will happen anyway; if I believe anything with conviction, if I stand for anything I believe is right, I *will* offend someone. Much of the time I wear a Clerical Collar. To me it is a symbol of humility and service. Yet on occasion, someone is offended by it. Being politically correct is unattainable.

We could see "under God" struck from the pledge so that it cannot be taught or used in our schools or government activities; I hope and pray that does not happen. Even if it does, *I will continue to say it*

whenever I offer the pledge. No offense. On the other hand, for those who don't want to acknowledge God, and don't want to say it as part of our pledge, I promise not to be offended either. I will pray that they have a change of heart.

Oh, yeah, *praying* is something else I will continue to do no matter what. When I asked the kids of the youth group at *Lansdowne Church* if they still prayed at school, they assured me they did, even if no one else heard them doing so. Silent prayer is heard by God just like public prayers are.

I hope I don't offend anyone, but I believe we are "under God." All that says is there is a God, and God is greater than we are. I believe a whole lot more than that about God and I will talk with you about it any time you want. In the meantime, let's stand for what we believe in, and do our best not to offend anyone as we do. See you at the club.

Blessings,  
Tom

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