

BINGHAMTON GUN CLUB



SUMMER 2026

EMPIRE STATE GRAND PRIX

On June 13-14, 2026 we are hosting the Empire Grand Prix bunker shoot at BGC. The price is \$160 which includes 125 targets: 75 targets on June 13th and 50 targets on June 14th. *After the 125 targets, the top 6 will vie for the championship on the afternoon of June 14th.*

There are practice days available on Thursday 6/11 and Friday 6/12. The price also includes awards and dinner after the event on Saturday 6/13. Those competing may bring a guest for dinner for \$25. Come try the toughest clays game out there at the ONLY bunker facility in NY State. For information contact Scott Jones at the club or email Scott at

Diver6868@yahoo.com



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

In this issue I've decided to start a "Presidents Message" and hopefully all future presidents of the club will address the membership with their perspective. So, on that note, thank you Ted for kicking this off this month for the first time...

As I sit here in my camper on Monday morning at 8:18 am, I'm noticing the first few distant sounds of shotguns. It is a stark difference from the "Independence Day Fireworks Show" starting before 7:30 am over the last four days at M&M Sporting Clays in Pennsville, NJ. At the 2026 Northeast Regional Sporting Clays Championship, the sound of "fun with a shotgun" goes nonstop well after 5:00 pm each day. More than 1100 competitors came from all over the country, some driving for three or four days to get here. They came from all over to challenge themselves in competition, meet up with old friends and make new ones, enjoy some great food, beverages and entertainment, and ultimately become better at the sport they love to hate! It was the best attended regional event BY FAR in the history of the NSCA, and the next one held here will be even bigger.

What is it that attracts so many people from all over to take time off from work, travel, and spend considerable amounts of money in order to shoot at targets so challenging that someone who shoots typically mid-80% at local tournaments is happy when they hit 70% here? I think it's the same thing that hooks us on this sport to begin with: the people, the challenge, the fact that you forget about life for a while. All of this is good for the soul. It feeds us and allows us to be better people as we tackle the challenges we face in life. It teaches us to embrace challenges instead of avoiding them. We learn to miss the mark and then regroup and try again while surrounding ourselves with people who encourage us and want to see us succeed.

The good news is that you don't have to take 4 days to travel to a Regional competition to have this experience. You can do it right here at Binghamton Gun Club. Every time I'm at the club, I see people interacting with each other in REAL life, not through a text message or social media. We shoot, challenge ourselves and then have a few beverages and talk about the targets we hit and the ones our buddies missed. The challenges here are varied from american trap, skeet, sporting clays, all the way to Olympic bunker trap. There are people here (myself included) who are eager to teach and help us all become better. We will soon have the ability for associate members to shoot sporting clays any day of the week, not just when the club is open. So, come out, break some clays, take the opportunity to learn from each other and see if you can break that true pair "the other way" or hit that chondelle "right out of the trap." See you up on the hill!

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE...THE MORE THINGS CHANGE

I was pondering how the world is changing rapidly, and certainly, the tide of change is not always for the better. I think pondering is a better word than thinking, because thinking involves solving a problem. Usually, time sorts out issues and we look back and say, "Well, I guess the sky wasn't falling after all." I'm not so sure anymore. I'm not one to oppose change, in fact I promote it if it results in good stuff happening. I'm just not sure the adage "The more things change the more they stay the same," applies in 2026.

SOLAR FARM

Norbut Solar Farms is proposing a project below our club that would see the installation of 44,000 solar panels and a drastic change in the landscape. It could mean a change in the layout of our sporting clays course. There will be clearing of over 100 acres of trees, road modifications (the road we use to the club), extensive drainage work, storm flood water management and the building of access roads. It is possible traffic to and from the club could be disrupted while streams of heavy trucks deliver the infrastructure (including a power station) and gravel, along with tree removal, grading and the building of access roads. Construction is expected to last at least one year. There is wide opposition to this project, but the laws of NY State favor the landowner who chooses, within guidelines and DEC approval, to move forward with "green energy." As people may not know, these projects are usually the byproduct of a limited liability partnership where wealthy investors invest a small amount of money and subsidies pay the lion's share of construction. This is done for "tax reasons" and "tax credits" for the investors. Basically, it's money laundering since the investors know there is no profitability, but the tax breaks outweigh the investment. There have been a few members of our club who have stated, "Well, you can't stop progress and you can't fight it," but I disagree with that. I have gone to the meetings and have watched this closely, and while it appears we're going to lose the fight, I have made the argument that any changes that cost us substantial financial hardship are unacceptable. The Kirkwood planning board has yet to vote on the project, but I will keep watching it. Anyone can attend the meetings, but you have to be a Kirkwood resident to speak or provide input. It would be a shame to alter our beautiful hill for a feel-good project that adds nothing to the value of our community.

REMINGTON AI

In other news, the shuttered and fabled Remington firearms plant in Ilion, NY, is under consideration to be repurposed into an AI data center. The project proposes two 250,000 sq/ft data centers for advanced AI training, along with supporting sub-stations. The cost is expected to be 2 to 3 BILLION dollars. There is mixed reaction to this due to concerns of massive strain on the electric grid, water consumption for cooling, and noise from the sub-stations. From a revered firearms manufacture to this. The only silver lining I see is repurposing an empty property and bringing employment to that depressed area. Whether the juice is worth the squeeze is a different argument altogether. The average data center draws 1 to 5 million gallons of water a day to cool the servers.

SPORTING CLAYS ACCESS PASS

OK so the two above are not great news, or mixed news at best. I think this last one is positive. The board and officers have changed the bylaws after a full member vote to allow an "enhanced" pass for shooting sporting clays on the hill on non-club hours. Final details and implementation are being worked out but I think this is a step in the right direction to allow more shooting and participation. We make money and you have fun when we throw birds. When all details are finalized, we will provide a detailed update. Stay tuned!

Your Editor at Large...Andy Sacco

INTRODUCING OUR 2026 RAFFLE GUN!



Browning 825 Sporting 12 Gauge 32"

Browning Item# 0183233002 MSRP \$3,980

Up for grabs to a lucky winner is one of the hottest clays guns of 2026. This gun is brought to us by Shydas Outdoor Center in Lebanon, PA.

- Gloss oil finish Grade III/IV walnut stock with close radius grip
- Right hand palm swell
- Low-post floating rib
- Triple Trigger System with three trigger shoes
- Five extended choke tubes (Invector™ DS)
- Vector Pro lengthened forcing cones with back bored technology

IMPORTANT INFORMATION! **ONLY 1/3 of TICKETS REMAIN**

- Raffle is limited to *300 entrants at \$25 per chance*
- Binghamton Gun Club will pay for the firearm to be shipped to FMK Karate
- *You are ONLY responsible for the FFL fee to take delivery*
- ***Drawing date announced upon sale of last ticket***

Scan the QR code below to go to Zeffy, or use the link. They will ask for a donation which you may choose to do or choose "Other" and put in 0.00 to pay nothing. We get 100% of proceeds using this platform. If you do NOT use a smart phone or computer or have problems, see a board member or officer and we'll make it happen!



<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/binghamton-gun-clubs-annual-raffle--2026>



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MAJOR NEW YORK SHOTGUN MANUFACTURERS

Company	Location	Began Production	Ended Production in NY	Notes
Remington Arms	Ilion	1816 (firearms), shotgun production later in 19th century	2024	America's oldest gunmaker; produced millions of shotguns.
Ithaca Gun Company	Ithaca	1883	Original Ithaca plant closed in 1980s; later reorganized elsewhere	Famous for doubles and Model 37.
Lefever Arms Company	Syracuse	1883	1916 (merged into Ithaca)	Inventor Daniel Lefever pioneered the hammerless shotgun.
Syracuse Arms Company	Syracuse	1888	1908	Produced high-grade double-barrel shotguns.
Baker Gun Company	Batavia	1889	1919	One of America's respected double-gun makers.
W.H. Baker Company	Center Lisle / Syracuse	1870s	Evolved into later Baker firms	Important predecessor company.
L.C. Smith Company	Syracuse	1880	1888 in Syracuse	Eventually became Hunter Arms in Fulton.
Hunter Arms Company	Fulton	1888	1945 (L.C. Smith production)	Produced the famous L.C. Smith doubles.

The New York shotgun industry became increasingly consolidated as stronger firms absorbed competitors.

Ithaca Acquired Lefever

In 1916, Ithaca Gun Company absorbed Lefever Arms Company and continued producing Lefever-branded guns until 1921. Ithaca later continued using the Lefever name on some models into the 1940s.

Historical records show Ithaca also acquired:

- Syracuse Arms Company
- Union Arms Company
- Wilkes-Barre Gun Company
- Toledo Arms Company

This helped Ithaca become one of America's dominant shotgun makers.

Remington Acquired Parker Brothers

One of the most significant acquisitions in American shotgun history occurred when Remington Arms acquired Parker Bros. in 1934. Parker had been located in Meriden, Connecticut since 1867. After the acquisition, Parker production was moved to Remington's Ilion, New York facility. Remington continued Parker production until 1942. These later "Remington-Parker" guns are highly collectible today.

The Golden Age of New York Shotgun Manufacturing

Between roughly 1880 and 1940, New York arguably produced more premium American side-by-side shotguns than any other state.

Major New York-made classics included:

- Lefever Optimus
- L.C. Smith Ideal Grade
- Ithaca NID
- Baker Paragon
- Parker Trojan, Single Barrel Trap and the collectable D (Grade 3) and higher
- Remington Model 32
- Remington 870
- Ithaca Model 37

Many collectors consider Syracuse, Ithaca, Fulton, and Ilion to be the heart of the American double-gun industry.

End of the Era

The last major large-scale shotgun manufacturing operation in New York was Remington in Ilion. Firearm production began there in the 1820s and continued for nearly 200 years. RemArms announced closure of the historic Ilion factory in 2024 and moved production to Georgia, ending an era of large-scale shotgun manufacturing in New York.

Timeline Summary

- 1816 — Remington founded in New York.
- 1880–1890s — Syracuse, Ithaca, Fulton, and Batavia become major shotgun centers.
- 1916 — Lefever merged into Ithaca.
- 1919 — Baker Gun sold; Batavia production ends.
- 1934 — Remington acquires Parker Brothers and moves production to Ilion.
- 1942 — Parker production ends.
- 1945 — L.C. Smith production ends in Fulton.
- 1948 — Ithaca ceases double-barrel production.
- 2024 — Remington closes Ilion factory, ending nearly two centuries of major shotgun manufacturing in New York.

One fascinating aspect of New York's shotgun history is that many of the greatest American designers—Daniel Lefever, William H. Baker, Leroy Smith, and others—worked within about a 50-mile radius of Syracuse, making central New York arguably the birthplace of the American hammerless double shotgun.

CLUB CALENDAR: ***THIS IS FLUID CHECK DISCORD FOR UPDATES!**

SUNDAY JUNE 7 TH , 2026:	SCTP BUNKER PRACTICE 3
SAT/SUN JUNE 13,14 TH , 2026:	EMPIRE STATE GRAND PRIX
SUNDAY JUNE 28, 2026:	SCTP CHAMPIONSHIP
MONDAY JULY 7, 2026, 8AM:	TRUCKLOAD OF CLAYS BEING DELIVERED, IF YOU'RE FREE COME HELP!

OTHER EVENTS:

JUNE 4, 5 and 6 TH , 2026	NE SIDE BY SIDE CLASSIC	HAUSMANN'S HIDDEN HOLLOW
JULY 23-26 TH , 2026	NORTHERN SIDE BY SIDE EXPO	ROCK MOUNTAIN SPORTING CLAYS
JULY 23-26 TH , 2026	NYS SPORTING CLAYS CHAMPIONSHIP	VERNON NATIONAL

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open annually from February to February. We do NOT pro-rate membership. For questions or for new member inquiries email info@binghamtongunclub.com

IMPORTANT!! UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION!!

We encourage members to join Discord, our private message board, where you will be kept up to date daily on happenings of the club. This will prevent us from sending out too many emails to members. Scan the QR codes below to be directed to these pages.



DISCORD



FACEBOOK

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

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Scott Jones

Ed Moran

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1st VP: Ken Hildebrandt

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MISSION OF THE BINGHAMTON GUN CLUB

Our mission is to bring people together to enjoy and grow the sport of clay target shooting in Broome County and across New York State. We're passionate about fostering a love for shooting sports, from friendly competitions to skill-building events that welcome everyone—from beginners to seasoned shooters.

Beyond clay shooting, we support a wide range of outdoor activities, including hunting, dog trials, and other time-honored sporting traditions. We're dedicated to preserving these pastimes, protecting the environments that make them possible, and strengthening the bond between sportsmen and their communities.

At our core, we're more than just a club, we're a part of the local fabric of outdoor sports, working to ensure that our traditions thrive for generations to come. Whether you're here to compete, learn, or simply connect with like-minded individuals, we welcome you to join us in celebrating the great outdoors!

BINGHAMTON GUN CLUB

Location is at the end of Quilty Hill Rd in
Kirkwood, NY

Mailing Address is:
Binghamton Gun Club
PO Box 126
Johnson City, NY 13790