



Rod & Gun Gazette



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Special points of interest:

- Peculiarities of the Human Condition
- Christmastime
- New Board Member
- New President
- New Treasurer
- Merry Christmas
- Happy New Year!

Letter from the President

Well another year at the "Fin" is rapidly coming to a close. In the coming year, I hope to continue the great work and work ethic of our out going president, Donald Bajger, to keep our club the premier sportsman and social facility that it is.

The Fin had its usual array of events throughout the year, something for everyone. The kids got to find Easter eggs, catch fish, and sit on a funny guy wearing a red suit and receive a gift. We had skeet, trap, rifle and sporting clays shoots. A trap clinic was held by the 2004 Connecticut state champion, Bob Cooper, a Fin member. Ponds were stocked with hearty trout.

Pheasants that you got to watch grow before your eyes to ensure us a great fall hunting season. A family picnic where Mother Nature became the guest of honor. However, with Bobby T's crew and those trusty spongebob "shorts,"

the event was a complete success. There were dinners and various social events put on by different members, not just to make the club some income, but to bring our members together to have fun and enjoy each other's company. There was plenty in 2004, and 2005 looks just as busy.

As I sit here writing this article I've just returned from the Fin. The ponds are icing over. Winter skeet league is in full swing. There are only about 100 pheasants left to be stocked, and a winter storm is fast approaching. Not to worry, Don Bajger organized a wood cutting party so our clubhouse stove will burn non-stop this winter to keep us warm. We had a great time, everyone hauled, cut, split, and stacked wood all morning, and then we drank and dined on fresh pheasant stew and smoked venison. With 15 people, work went quick and we're all set for the year. At every "work" party I meet members old and new. The Fin

has a big membership and getting involved is how you will meet some of these fine people, too. Bob Wislocki a brand new 2005 member was there because he "figured this was a way to meet some of the people here," and he's right.

The club has a lot of events coming in 2005, this wood cutting party was an extra to get some work done but have fun doing it. Please, get involved. Take the initiative to put on a dinner or organize a function. Get members involved, make new friends, and make 2005 a continuation of the great years the Fin has enjoyed.

I'd like to wish everyone and their families a safe and happy holiday season. See you at the club!

Thank You,
Steven J. Davis
President



Club Annual Game Dinner: January 23rd

The Club's Annual Game Dinner is scheduled for January 23rd. Make plans to be there and have a great time with members. If you have game meat to donate for the dinner, be sure and bring it to the Club ASAP so that it can be included in the menu.

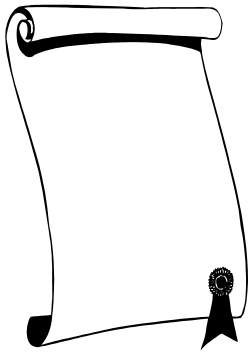
Also, as usual, our Membership Chairman, Bob Moon Hruskocy, will

be on hand that day collecting payments for 2005 dues and assessments and any payments owed for non-completed work hours. Pay up then and there and save the Club expenses for mailing out additional notices and cards.

Speaking of work hours, if you need to get some hours in, and everybody does now that we are talking about

the New Year, sign up now for work hours on that day to help with food preparation and service.

Once again, we will be inviting VIPs, especially local politicians to our dinner. Make them feel welcome and let them know how great it is to be a part of this club.



*Bring in a new member
and sit back to enjoy the
year at the club. Your
work hours are done.*

2005 3D Archery Schedule

Rick Turcotte, Chairman of the Fin's 3D Archery Committee has established the following schedule for the exciting bowyer events in the coming year. Sharpen up your skill, check out the new equipment available, and come on down to the Club for a great time on these dates:

March 13

April 10

May 8

June 12

September 11

On May 8 it's Mother's Day and all Moms shoot free.

Adults 16 and older pay \$10.

Youth 11—15 pay \$5.

Cubs up to 10 are free.

There are trophies in all classes of competition. Breakfast and lunch will be served.

For all 3D events, registration is from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00

noon. The cut-off is at 2:30 p.m.

Also, on September 11, the practice range will be relocated from where it usually is to another place nearby in order to accommodate the N-SSA skirmishers who will be holding a skirmish this weekend and will park their campers on the archery practice range, which would be in the line of fire.

See you there!

Children's Christmas Party Great Success

Thanks to the tireless work of some wonderful Fin Elves, the Club's 2004 Children's Christmas Party was a terrific time for our kids. Of course, all of us in the older set know that the event is organized and managed by the very capable and lovable Pawelec couple: John and Laura.

However, they also want to report a special note of thanks

to the following individuals whose hard work helped make this year's party such a great success.

Dave and Jean Fromerth

Jim and Nancy Davidson

The Enright Family

Bruce and Birdie Macaro

Bob Theriault

Joan Johnson

Dave and Teri Rorrio

Steven and Cameron Davis

Winona Berdine

Kenny Bartlett

John Lonergan

John Mathewson and Family

Dan Boya

Dick and Jo Palmer

And SANTA!

To make this year's Children's Party a wonderful time for all kids, Charlie Hill generously donated \$1,000. Thank him generously.

Black Powder

During these seasonably cold days, the Black Powder boys and girls are busy melting down chunks of lead harvested from kitchen sinks, drain pipes, and the local scrap metal dump. This 100% pure lead is poured into ingots of usually one pound each in preparation for the next stage: bullet molding. Ever so carefully, each bullet is molded separately for musket and carbine. Often

the revolver, a round ball, is a two-cavity mold, so you can get a two-for-one pouring. Hundreds of each of these bullets will be molded, cooled, and then placed into a cartridge, in readiness for practice on a warm day this winter or at the latest next May when the skirmishes begin again.

Many thanks to two members of the 5th CT VI for donating a substantial

sum of money to the Club's Children's Christmas Fund!



Boy Scouts Venturing Crew Possible at Fin

Recently, Mike Sobol approached the Fin's Board with a proposal for the Club to consider sponsoring a Venturing Crew of the Boy Scouts of America.

Venturing is a youth development program for young men and women who are 14 years old, and have completed 8th grade, through 20 years old. The program's purpose is to prepare the youths to be responsible and caring adults.

Venturing is based on a unique and dynamic relationship between youth, adult leaders, and organizations in their communities. Local organizations establish a venturing crew by matching their people and program resources to the interests of the young people in the community. The result is a program with exciting and meaningful activities that help the youth pursue special interests, to grow, to develop leadership ability, and to become good citizens.

A Venturing Crew is like a team, always working together for the common good they have established. Examples of the kinds of things a Venturing Crew might take on are as follows.

- Learning to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling values in the Venturing Oath and Code.
- Experience a program that is fun and full of challenge and adventure.
- Become a skilled training and program resource for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and other youth groups.
- Acquire skills in the areas of high adventure, sports, arts, and hobbies, religious life, or Sea Scouting.
- Have a chance to learn and grow in a supportive, caring, and fun environment.

If when reading this notice you developed the impression that

this would entail a good bit of work on the part of a responsible adult, you are right on the mark. Anyone who has ever volunteered to help youngsters, be it with the many different sports teams, after school programs, and the like knows full well that the call for help with organizing a Venturing Crew entails work. But at the same time, commitments to help others, and especially youth, have rewards that go beyond description. The satisfaction of knowing that you have helped a youngster at a critical stage in his or her life to make the right choices in life is its own reward.

The Executive Committee is interested in supporting a Venturing Crew that has interests matching ours. If you would like to make a difference in the lives of young people in our community, step up to the plate. Get hold of Mike Sobol and he'll give you the necessary information. Do a good turn.

"On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times, to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."

Jason Perry Fundraising Event

Thanks to the thoughtfulness of many Fin members, over \$1,700 was raised on October 9th to support participation by Jason Perry in the 56 mile Triathlon race.

Special thanks are noted for the FFF Club for use of the kitchen and hall, to Jim and

Nancy Davidson for running the Five Stand Event, to Bill and Linda Dixon for helping with the kitchen and clean up afterwards, to Laura Pawelec, Nancy Davidson, and Linda Dixon for making desserts, to Don O'Neil for putting together the raffle, to Ken Bartlett for all his help behind the

bar and with ticket sales, to Bill Spears for his Winter League Team efforts on ticket sales, and to Charlene Perry, Scotland Post Master for her efforts with ticket sales. Dick White organized the event.

A very special thanks to everyone from Jason Perry.



*First Annual FFF
Pike Under the Ice Fishing Derby*

Open to the public! Kids welcome!

Prizes include 50% of the take and other prizes for 1st to 4th place

Weigh-in on site

Place: Mansfield Hollow Boat Launch

DATE: SATURDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2005

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Entry Fee: \$20 per person

Derby to be held—Safe Ice Permitting

For more information, call the Fin Fur & Feather Club

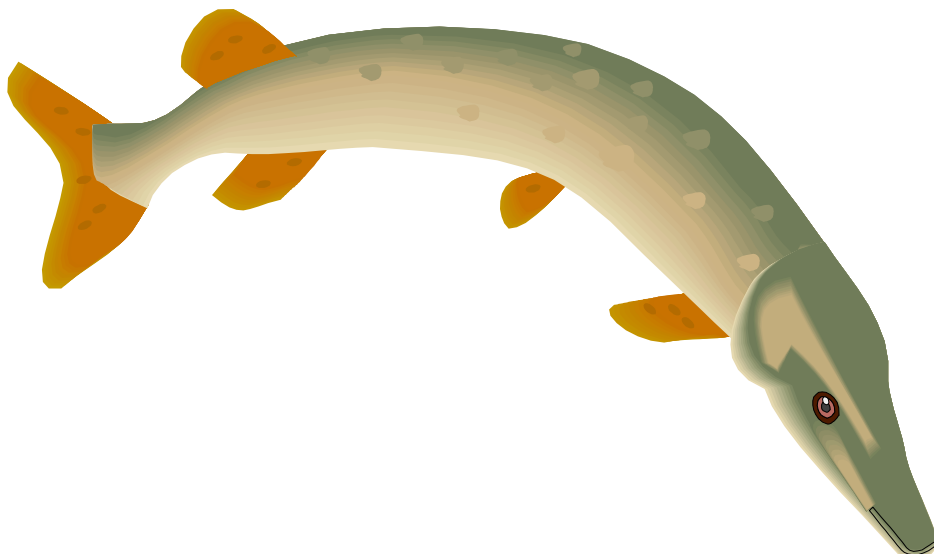
at 860-455-9516

or

Martin O'Rourke at 860-456-2886



"The FFF Fish Committee is planning a terrific winter event: Pike Under the Ice. Make plans to be there. Bring your friends and your fishing gear for a rousing good time."



Peculiarities of the Human Condition

There are times when breaking news stories really grab my attention and I honestly wonder if what I read is some kind of cruel joke by the major media. But, alas, while the telling of the story may be tainted with bias for political or personal reasons, rarely are the true facts anything but shocking.

And so it was this deer season. One morning, away in the north woods of Wisconsin a deranged, murderous perpetrator climbed into a tree stand that did not belong to him, which was placed on private property where he did not have a permit, and waited until the unsuspecting deer hunting party arrived.

They came on snowmobiles, for that is the preferred mode for winter travel in those deep and snow-filled woods. Family members, life-long friends, kids, men and one woman who went out from their homes hunting that day, like they had been doing together for decades.

We can imagine that these Wis-

consin hunters had a rustic camp nearby, warm inside, simply appointed, and perhaps there was a stew made of last season's venison cooking atop the stove for the evening meal. The thick smell of fresh-made coffee woke everyone at 4:30 a.m. in time for the hearty breakfast meal already migrating to the pinewood table. Stories of the illusive big buck still out there somewhere, enlivened with guesses about where he will show up next... talk and talk, good times among friends without end.

The party's wholesome family outing was brought to a horrid end when they arrived at the base of that tree to demand, rightfully, that the trespasser get down and get off the property. Apparently, he got out of the tree stand and onto the ground. But then he pointed his gun at the hunters and systematically slaughtered six of them, and in the process, seemed to take delight in ending their lives suddenly, violently with the AK47 he carried allegedly for deer hunting. Fortunately, two of the intended

victims survived to tell what really happened. "Dead men tell no tales," may have been the murderer's motto, but two eye witnesses will reveal the truth.

Chai Vang, an ethnic hmong who 30 years ago immigrated to the U.S. from Vietnam, was arrested soon after the incident and is being held as the suspect. He had been spotted by another hunter earlier in the day who later described Vang as "peculiar," dressed as he was in camo, saying he was lost, and sporting the AK47 with a 20-round magazine.

Some newspapers seized upon this incident and immediately launched editorials calling for a ban on all semi-automatic "weapons," because nobody should own "assault weapons" and they are not appropriate for hunting purposes, and so on. *The Hartford Courant* published the drivel, as expected. It goes without saying but bears repeating: never believe all that you are told by the major media. Stay informed about the truth and vote. —CB, Editor



"The clubhouse at the Fin is a great place to spend time with your friends talking about the things that really matter. See you there."

Christmastime

Most of us have at some time suffered a loss that is especially hard to bear. It may come of a sudden, like a terrible shriek in the night or play itself out over months or years or decades—a sickness that slowly takes away the loved one or close friend, or family member. I suppose there are a few lucky ones among us who personally have never had tragedy rip through

their lives. God bless them for escaping such a fate. But nonetheless they will hear stories of members who have known the deepest, loneliest sorrow of the human heart. Christmastime is a time for celebrating the joyous birth of Christ, joyous because He came onto this earth to die for our sins and assure for all a heavenly reward. Let us all be thankful, for

another Christmas has come into our world. Be joyful, for that is the spirit of Christmas. And let us also give solace, comfort, and joyful feelings to our friends and loved ones who need those precious gifts—far more valuable than Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh—at this time in their lives. Merry Christmas to all!

—CB, Editor



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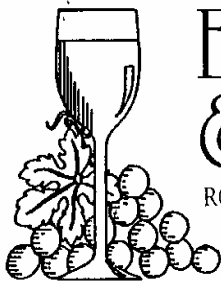
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"Recently, Brandy & Brew was the subject of a self-promoting sting operation by a State Liquor Control officer. Fortunately, John Sutherland's explanation of what really happened was published in the *Chronicle*. Briefly, the sales personnel at his store are fully trained and always card, especially the younger set. What really went down is that an officer attempted to gain prestige and most likely a salary hike by misrepresenting the facts when the high school kid tried to pose as a 21 year old with a falsified ID. We are lucky to have B&B's business and John's vigilant observance of the State's liquor control laws. Anyone who knows John knows that he does not compromise his principles to make a buck. Keep your eye on the fuzz, like John did and you'll be safe, too. Thanks for being a good neighbor, Brandy & Brew."

—CB, Editor

Fin Fur & Feather Club, Inc.

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U.S. Constitution

Bill of Rights

Amendment 2

“A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

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Bring on justice!

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Glenn Heinonen 860-423-8144
Bob Theriault 860-456-3431

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Dick White 860-456-4382
Trap: Bob Hruskocy 860-569-1592

Let us never forget the men and women who today proudly serve this great country, the United States of America, and all who have done so before them. In our times, these brave soldiers continue to place their lives on the line in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Haiti, so that the freedoms we enjoy at home are not diminished, and so that the American ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness prevail. That is our gift to the world and as anyone knows who has served, it comes with a high price tag: courage and at times self-sacrifice. We will measure up to our ancestors and we will not let down our children and grandchildren. --Editor

