

ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2 DECEMBER 2006

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Can you believe December is here?! The Fin has had a good year with plenty of activities for everyone. The club hosted some big shoots, some great kid's events; raised beautiful pheasant's and even had palm trees grace our grounds this year. Overall the club has done very well and I want to thank EVERYONE who supports any event, function or service we provide here at the Fin. From putting 50 cents into the pool table to buying pheasants to train your dog to shooting 5 rounds of trap or skeet, everyone contributes to the continued success of your club.

Lately there has been much discussion concerning this Executive Committee's

handling of our long term debts. Let me make this perfectly clear (as this reaches our entire membership) that this board does everything in its power to run this business ethically, economically and in the BEST INTEREST OF ALL IT'S MEMBERS! It doesn't matter where the income is generated. There are no heroes here. At the end of the month, there is one coffer to provide Tom Hoagland the resources to keep this club operational. The Fin tries to provide different interests for different people. Not all programs are self-sufficient and need funds from other avenues to allow us to keep it part of the Fin's heritage. So regardless, the Fin is a

team effort and there is no "I" in this team.

At time of the year as the holiday's fast approach, snow should be falling, the wood stove burning and the club gets a little quieter. It's a time to sit back, think of the year that has been and look forward to another event filled year in 2007. Remember this year's game dinner is January 28th and tickets are required and can be purchased at the bar. I want to wish on behalf of myself and the entire EC here at the Fin, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our friend's and their families.

Steven J. Davis
President FFF

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Juniors' Programs*
- *Pistol Adds on to Summer League*
- *Arni Postemski thanks all*
- *John & Laura Pawlec gave great Children's Christmas Party*



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CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Children's Christmas Party was held on Sunday, December 3rd. 67 children and their parents/grandparents attended. Santa Claus arrived to hand out a gift and candy canes to all the children. There were raffles which included a handmade Gingerbread Tree and Gingerbread House, a DVD Recorder

and snowman stuffed with candy.

This event is entirely funded by donations. Many thanks to all those people who attended our money making events throughout the year as well as helping us set up and clean up during and after the party.

Special thanks to the following people for making this party a

great success:

Charlie Hill and his very generous donation
Harry Cattrella donated the DVD Recorder
Winona Berdine & Jon Guarino donated all 16 pizzas.
Thanks again and Happy Holidays!

— John & Laura Pawelec

JUNIORS' PROGRAMS



On October 14th the club offered a 'Junior Pheasant Hunter Training Day' for licensed hunters 12 – 15 years old. It was a classic New England fall day with a heavy frost that morning and the three hunters who took part were eager to go!

Junior Hunters Ben Mike, Zack Simoneau and Nathan Guarino went out with their adult mentors and their dogs and had a fine experience in the field. The hunt lasted about two hours and all were successful at bringing home pheasant for dinner. Most importantly they all learned a little about safe firearms handling and ethics in the field.

I want to thank one of the clubs newer members, Joe Petruzi, for helping me conduct the hunt that day. It was a pleasure working with him. I also want to thank club members Scott Iovene, John Schumansky and Joanne Reynolds for their offer to

work their dogs for any Junior Hunter who did not have one.

Looking forward, I want to remind everyone that during the first weekend of May, 2007 we are planning the 'Second Annual Juniors Outdoor Weekend' so you should mark your calendars! Last May's weekend was a big success with about 35 kids taking part in many different clinics, a campout and the annual fishing derby. I hope to add a couple of new events to the program and the planning for it will start in February. I'll be looking for lots of help when the time comes.

Wishing you all a happy holiday season and please remember, whenever you get the chance, pass on your love for the outdoors to a youngster. They are the future of our sport.

—Patrick Enright

A DAY OUT
HUNTING WITH
YOUR KIDS IS A
DAY THAT IS
UNFORGETTABLE
FOR YOU AND
FOR THEM.
DON'T MISS
OUT.

CEFS & BUILDING & GROUNDS UPDATE

Arni Postemski thanks all CEFS instructors for help with the 2006 fall hunter safety course. Also, he thanks all members who helped with Building & Grounds this year.

PISTOL

I want to thank everyone for keeping the range clean.

We're working on having a Saturday morning summer pistol match, along with the Wednesday evening, a little different format, so keep your eyes glued to the newsletter, and the notices at the range as well as the clubhouse.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy New Year!

As always "Keep 'em in the ten range."

Dick Palmer



TREASURER'S REPORT

As this article is being written, the Fin's Federal and State tax returns are being calculated. Our Accountant, Mike Pallein, usually makes some adjustments particularly for depreciation and equipment purchases. So I will present to the board and membership the return next month. The Fin had a great year in terms of finances. With the recruitment efforts and the state and zone shoot the club was able to bring in additional funds this year. I would like to reiterate what John Powelec says 'run a function we will have more funds'. Functions regardless of how small will bring in funds for us to make renovations and pay for our existing bills. Please if any of you have some ideas and energy, step forward and run an event.

There has been some discussion as to the how's and why's of mortgage payments. The Fin has three passbook (computer available) accounts and one checking account. On the monthly financial report the total of funds in these four accounts is reported on the balance sheet as cash. The passbook accounts receive moneys through transfers from the checking account. Members pay their dues and assessments at the bar and the funds are rung under their correct account but all the money goes into the checking account. For the funds to be put into one of the passbook accounts, it needs to be done and recorded as a transfer

from the checking to the respective account (this takes time and book keeping and reconciliation). During December and January when dues and assessments are coming in daily for about two months the checking account has lots of money. Sometime in the late winter and also in the early fall funds are transferred from the checking to the passbook accounts.

There are times during the year that the Fin does not bring in enough money to pay the bills. Money needs to be transferred from these passbook accounts into the checking to pay the bills. When a \$15,000+ insurance bill needs to be paid funds need to be transferred. When the taxes are due in the winter and summer funds need to be transferred. When an unexpected order of targets needs to be ordered or when 1000 birds die and need to be replaced funds need to be transferred. It is difficult to know when these things will happen so if money that should be transferred into the passbook accounts is spent the transfer can not happen until sufficient funds are available. It would be unrealistic to think that the club would or should use the passbook accounts as a checking account and transfer funds in and out weekly. By the end of the year (Sept 30), the passbook accounts are justified.

To set the record straight, finds from assessment 1 have paid for the Skeet Field loan and \$14,000 of maintenance

for this past year. The skeet field loan is paid at the end of each month and is \$1141.62 each month (\$13,699.44 each year for a three year total of \$41,098.32). No additional payments have been made on this loan. Funds collected for assessment 1 totaled \$65,000 over the last three years and currently has \$18,443.07 in it. As I said before several other maintenance projects have been paid from this account which adds to well over the \$5,458.61 difference between these numbers. The Ostrager land purchase is paid at the beginning of each month. This payment changes each month and we pay an additional principle payment each month. Three \$10,000 payments have been made to this loan sometime in the beginning of each year. The total principal paid on this loan is \$48,997.85 with a similar amount for interest. With the additional payments on the Ostrager loan, this loan is being paid off faster than the skeet field loan but the club is making good progress on both of these loans. The executive board members are discussing ways to make additional payments on the skeet field loan. They are currently negotiating the terms of the current loan with the Savings Institute.

I hope this explanation is helpful in explaining how the loans are being paid.

—Tom Hoagland



“THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS ARE DISCUSSING WAYS TO MAKE ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS ON THE SKEET FIELD LOAN.”



R&GG'S NEW LOOK

For some time now we've been toying with the idea of giving the R&GG a new look. You see the results in our December 2006 issue. Let us know what you think. The difference isn't dramatic; there is only so much one can do with standard issue Microsoft Publisher. However, we hope the new layout is at least as pleasing to the eye as the one it replaced.

The newsletter staff is always searching for more ads,

so if any members wish to place ads for their business or special notices to friends and loved ones, we provide that service at a very reasonable price.

Also, on a related topic, recently Jon Guarino expressed interest in assisting with our club's website. An ongoing need we have is to post up-to-date photographs of our events. He is focused on that work at this time. Thus, if you attend an event

and take photographs, send copies to Jon or to me and we will do our best to have them posted at the earliest opportunity.

We are also considering adding some new features to the website in order to provide members with the best communications we can on club interests.

Naturally, if there are any complaints, we want to know so that we can address them ASAP. —CB

TIS THE SEASON

STOP FOR A FEW MOMENTS ON CHRISTMAS TO PRAY FOR OUR SOLDIERS WHO ARE AWAY FROM HOME, SERVING OUR COUNTRY, AND ENSURING FREEDOM LASTS.

On behalf of the editorial staff of the R&GG, I wish every member, their families, and their friends the very best in this Christmas season.

This is the time of year that we want to bring joy as well as precious gifts to those we love and cherish. The little delight we take in giving, selflessly felt, is seeing the wonder and genuine appreciation in the smiling faces of

those who receive our gifts. Give to warm the hearts of others and your heart will be filled with joy, too.

Some of us have friends and relatives who are stationed in Afghanistan or Iraq or in other war-torn areas of the world. They will not be home for Christmas, but we may safely assume they would dearly love to be home, if for only a few hours, at this spe-

cial time of the year. They are serving their country, ensuring that the freedom we enjoy lasts for their return and for generation upon generation.

To all the soldiers, we express our sincerest appreciation and best wishes for a safe and enjoyable Christmas.

New Years is next: 2007.
Merry Christmas!
Happy New Year!

—CB

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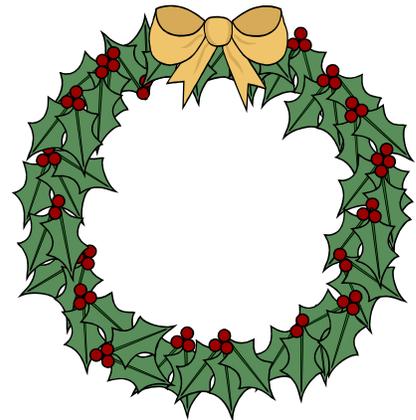
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U.S. Constitution

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.”

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 especially in Afghanistan and Iraq, 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. Free-

dom from tyranny is our gift to the world and as anyone knows who has served particularly in wartime, 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. Do your part. --Editor



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