



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 10: ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 2008



Letter from the President

*Thanks for a great year everyone.
I wish you all the best this holiday
season and look forward to
working with you in 2009.*

Donald A. Bajger, The Iceman

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 25	Game Dinner
January 31	Deadline for dues payment
March 14	Corned Beef Dinner
May 3	Kid's Fishing Derby
August 16	Family Picnic

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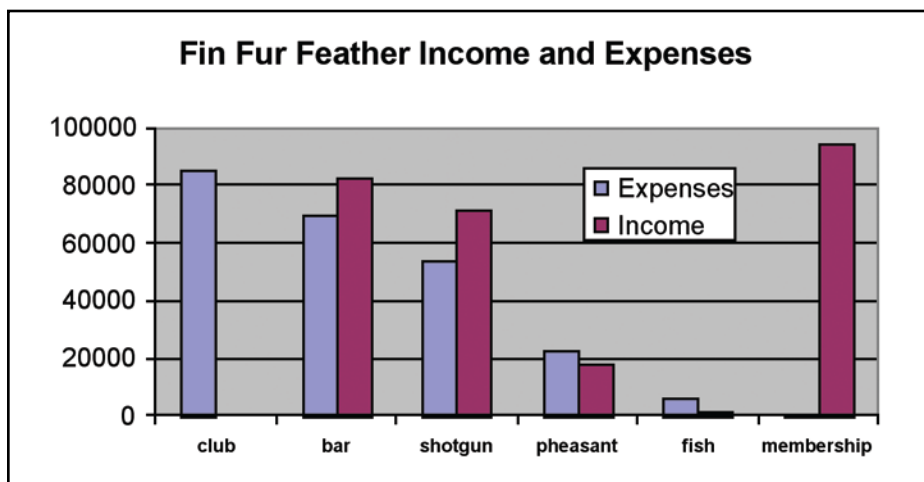
TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Hoagland, Treasurer

Well, here it is time for another newsletter. I just received the tax return from our accountant Mike Pallien. The Fin had about \$7,000 of taxable income in 2008. This amount is in line with other years and indicates that our club is holding its own. It is interesting to look at our 'business' categories to compare expenses and income. The danger in doing this is that one can forget that our goal is to be a "total" sportsmen's club. Overall, the club depends on membership dues to operate. Dues comprise 31% of our income; expenses associated with administering these funds are minimal (\$1,000). Clearly, this is our category with the best return.

As for the other categories the top four in terms of expenses are club (29%), bar (24%), shotgun (18%) and pheasant (8%). Fish falls about eighth with 2% of the expenses.

As for income, membership (dues) is tops (31%) followed by bar (27%), shotgun (24%), pheasant (6%) and fish (0.4%). The Bar made about \$10,000, whereas shotgun sports made about \$17,000. At our December membership meeting, there was a spirited discussion about finances. I thought that it would be instructive to present this figure. The bottom line is that we need to remain creative with approaches for maximizing revenue and minimizing expenses so we can keep the Fin one of the best sportsmen's club in the state and region.



MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hurskocy, Membership

By now you should have received your 2009 invoice. Payment is due by Jan 31, 2009. Please update any information on the invoice that is incorrect and send it to me. If you feel that you were billed for work hours when in fact you did work a function or an event, please indicate this on your return invoice and specify the activities/dates that you helped with. Any "short pays" on your invoice must be accompanied by a note explaining the short pay. This helps the bartender and me rectify why the invoice is not being paid in full. If you are claiming a hardship, please contact me before the Jan 31st deadline – a payment schedule can be arranged.

Fin Fur and Feather Club Membership 2001 – 2008

Year	Regular	Associate	Junior	Life	Total
2001	382	10	11	80	483
2002	477	25	15	83	600
2003	426	39	16	88	569
2004	393	42	17	90	542
2005	396	40	22	94	552
2006	413	46	24	94	577
2007	407	56	27	98	588
2008	401	57	34	105	597

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Cameron Faustman, Newsletter Editor.

Please note that the deadlines for material to be submitted for the next newsletter will be March 10th. Be sure to record your upcoming events on the bar calendar as far in advance as possible. The events listed on page 1 of our quarterly newsletter are taken directly from that calendar.

Written submissions and photographs can be dropped off at the Bar and added to my folder.



NATIONAL NEWS

AMMO BAN AND REGISTRATION PROPOSAL GETTING FRESH LOOK

*This article was taken from the NRA Institute for Legislative Action
(www.nraila.org/Legislation/Read.aspx?ID=4265; 12/12/2008)*

Happy Holidays: Now dispose of all of your ammunition! Every last round! From now on, you will be able to buy only overpriced ammunition that will be registered to you in a government database.

Not yet--at least for now. A small company, Ammunition Accountability--which wants to help anti-gunners price and regulate the Second Amendment out of existence, profit at the expense of our rights, or both--has found radical anti-gun legislators in 18 states willing to introduce bills pushing such nonsense.**

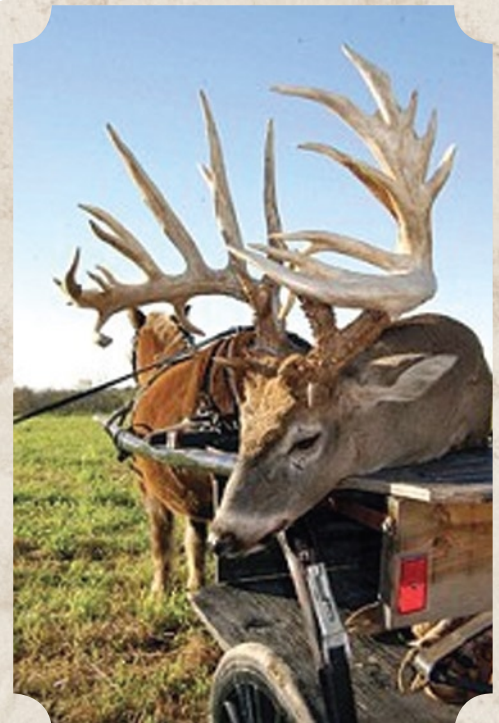
But few anti-gun proposals are so overtly aimed at destroying the Right to Keep and Bear Arms. As we began noting on www.nraila.org in January, so-called "encoded ammunition" or "serialized ammunition" bills would require ammunition manufacturers to engrave a serial number on the base of the bullet and the inside of the cartridge casing of each round of ammunition for popular sporting caliber center-fire rifles, all center-fire pistols, all .22 rimfire rifles and pistols, and all 12 gauge shotguns. In all but one of the bills, people would be required to forfeit all personally owned non-"encoded" ammunition. After a certain date, it would be illegal to possess non-"encoded" ammunition. Reloading would be rendered illegal.

People would be required to separately register every box of "encoded ammunition" and the registration would be supplied to the police. Each box of ammunition would have a unique serial number, thus a separate registration. Gun owners would have to maintain records if they sell ammunition to anyone, including family members or friends. The cost of ammunition would soar, for police and private citizens alike. The Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturing Institute estimates it would take three weeks to produce ammunition currently produced in a single day. A tax of five cents a round would be imposed on private citizens, not only upon initial sale, but every time the ammunition changes hands thereafter.

And to what benefit in terms of fighting crime? Criminals already steal guns and would certainly steal ammunition. Burglaries would be encouraged. Criminals could also use shotguns, which fire pellets too small to encode, and which use shell casings made of plastic, which would be difficult to engrave. Criminals could also collect ammunition cases from shooting ranges, and reload them with molten lead bullets made without serial numbers.

Congress eliminated a handgun ammunition sale recordation requirement in 1983, because there was no law enforcement benefit. Be on the lookout in your states in the next legislative session for anti-gun zealots who refuse to learn from history, plus continue their crusade against our Second Amendment rights.

For more information on this issue, please visit
www.nraila.org/Issues/FactSheets/Read.aspx?id=227&issue=005,
and www.nraila.org/Issues/Articles/Read.aspx?id=289.



BIG BUCKS ARE STILL OUT THERE

Allen Richter forwarded this photo of a buck taken in Wisconsin



OUT IN THE FIELD

REGISTERED SKEET REPORT

Frank Mauri

2008 Season. Three shoots were held at the Fin during 2008. In June we hosted the NorthEast Open. Gas prices were at their highest level, and our attendance was down even though we offered low entry prices for each event. On the plus side many of the Fin members chose to become NSSA members and competed. On the whole they did pretty well. In fact, Ted Naumec shot his first 100/100 in the 12 Ga. competition. During July, we held the Fin Open and again suffered low attendance as gas prices remained high. Later in late August we held our No-Name Open. Attendance was moderate but the proximity to the State Shoot, held the next weekend at Hartford Gun Club, seemed to keep our shooter numbers down. Even with these problems, we made money! Though not alot! But the club needs all the revenue that can be generated; and we did generate some. I wish to thank all members who came out to shoot and also to those who worked the events. The efforts of both groups helped make the skeet program a success.

2009 Season. This year will bring the Connecticut State Skeet Shoot back to the Fin! The shoot is held Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the Labor Day weekend, which this year occurs on September 4, 5 & 6 with Labor Day occurring on September 7th. This shoot generates a good deal of money for the Fin's treasury and it is the most prestigious shoot held annually in the state. I'll provide more information on this shoot later in the year as plans firm up.

We will have our three regular shoots this year in addition to the State Shoot. In June we will host our premier shoot, the 5-gun NorthEast Open, during the weekend of June 5 – 7. We hope that gas prices will remain at their current levels so as to make this shoot more successful. July 11 & 12 are the dates of the Fin Open. In the past this has been a 2-gun shoot (12 & 20 Ga.) but this year we will strive to make the event a 4-gun shoot. There may be some other innovative changes to the format, but you will have to wait for a later newsletter to find them out. Finally, on the weekend of August 15th & 16th we will host the No-Name Open. The name is a bit of whimsy to counteract the more presumptuous names given most shoots. We hope also to make this a 4-gun shoot!

Those of you who have helped before know the above information represents alot of work but a lot of reward for many Fin members. The skeet committee would like to know who could help, when they can help, how often they can help and for how long each day they can help. Give all the information you can to Larry Shewokis or me so we can plan the logistics of each shoot. Thanks again for all your past assistance and I hope to see y'all and more of y'all at the registered shoots next year.

SHOTGUN

*Larry Shewokis, Shotgun Chairman
(oneatloweight@yahoo.com)*

Hi folks. The winter league is in full swing and teams are doing well . This is a slow time of year and so our next shotgun meeting will take place Tuesday, March 17th at 7:00 pm. We plan to resume refurbishing the skeet fields and buildings in the spring. I would like to thank Al Miffit for all of the work he has done on the skeet fields. We are going to have a very busy 2009 with 4 regular shoots, a very active sporting clays program organized by Dick Palmer, a really popular 5-Stand with Jim and Nancy Davidson, and fun Trap program with Moon Hruskocy. GET OUT AND TRY these great events and remember that the club championship is not far away. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the shotgun sports, please do not hesitate to contact me. THANKS!!!

SPORTING CLAYS

Dick Palmer

Happy Holidays to all. The 2009 shooting season is just around the corner. I want to thank everyone that helped throughout 2008 to make our sporting clays program outstanding; volunteerism is critical to maintaining an active program. Jim and Nancy Davidson set a high standard for us to follow and I'm looking forward working with the membership to continue this fine tradition. Event dates for 2009 are still being worked out, but they will be posted on the Club's website and on the clubhouse bulletin board as soon as I know them. Stay safe, and keep breaking those targets.

FIREARMS SAFETY COURSE NEEDS VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTORS

Kevin Segar, Senior Instructor – Connecticut Conservation/Education Firearms Safety Course.

On a cool, rainy autumn morning in 1975, I was walking to my bus stop when my neighbor stopped with his granddaughter in his station wagon and asked me if I wanted to wait for the bus with them. I gladly accepted the offer and hopped in the back seat. My neighbor was Richard Bergeron, a retired linesman with Connecticut Light and Power and an avid hunter and fisherman. I had always waved to him when he rode by on his riding mower picking up trash on the side of the road, but we had never talked. He was a happy man and enjoyed spending time with his granddaughter. They were talking in the front seat when I decided to look at the spent shotgun shells I had found in the woods. I removed them from my pocket and began to examine them when Mr. Bergeron saw them and asked if I hunted. Sadly, the answer was no. Nobody in my family hunted; my brothers were avid fishermen and liked to camp but nobody hunted or owned a firearm. He asked me why I collected them and I told him I was interested in hunting and would search the woods behind my house after hearing the gunshots. He told me that if I would like some more spent shells to come to his house that weekend. Needless to say I was anxious for Saturday to come.

Saturday morning I rode my bicycle to his house. He met me at the door, introduced me to his wife, and then we descended the stairs to his basement. On the walls of the basement were pictures of hunting dogs, pheasant, quail, fox, ruffed grouse, trout, and trout flies. There were stacks of Field and Stream, Outdoor Life, and Fur Fish and Game magazines heaped on shelves. In one tiny room there was a weird looking vise under a big backlit magnifying glass. Next to these were drawers of feathers, fur, gold beads, bottles of glue, bobbins, and threads of all colors. He taught me to tie wet and dry flies, and helped me to safely fire my first rifle, pistol, and shotgun. He taught me how to shoot my bow more accurately by placing a match stick on the arm. He sent me home with more spent cartridges than I could carry. That fall we hunted behind his German Shorthair dog "Gretchen" for grouse and quail. We fly-fished the rivers and swam in the lakes. He taught me how to turn rocks to find helgrammites, the best trout bait I ever used. He taught me responsibility by having me take care of his dog when he went on vacation. He taught me to respect the environment by picking up fishing line and garbage whenever we

went in the woods. He gave me his old hunting magazines so I could learn how to identify species and learn their habits. His generosity changed my life and motivated me to earn a degree in environmental science. I still have some of the spent shells Mr. Bergeron gave me. I still tie flies on the vise he gave me. Hanging on my wall is a portrait of a fox that his brother in-law painted.

But most importantly I still have the life lessons he taught me - lessons that instilled in me a love and respect for the environment. He also left me with the understanding that we have an obligation to future generations, an obligation that involves taking care of the environment so that hunting will be here for generations to come. And that requires safe hunters taught by knowledgeable adults.

So why am I telling you this? The **Connecticut Conservation/Education Firearms Safety Program** needs volunteer instructors to teach the firearms safety program. Here at the Fin Fur and Feather we have a beautiful facility to train the future hunters of America, but the number of hunters in Connecticut is declining on a yearly basis. We are losing kids to video games, crime, neglect, and inactivity. We have only a small handful of instructors at the Fin at present and yet we have many members with years of hunting experience sufficient to fill a library. If you are reluctant to volunteer in this important role because you don't think you can teach then think about this: If you have taught someone to drive - then you have taught. If you have shown someone how to operate a machine or given someone directions - then you have taught. I know you have probably taught someone to shoot a firearm or bow either for hunting or target practice. The Fin has several instructors, all with different years of experience and they do a great job. But the limited numbers make it difficult to cover for an instructor when they are sick or out of town. Our instructor numbers are too low. We don't expect you to teach every topic and attend every class. We will help you find one or two topics you are comfortable with and ask you to spend four to six hours a year volunteering your time! There is nothing more rewarding than seeing a child achieve a passing score and shaking their hand, knowing that you just opened up the fantastic world of hunting to them. The future of hunting depends on these kids being safe and knowledgeable hunters but that takes time and commitment from

senior hunters like you! Please take some time and consider joining our team. The future of hunting is in our hands. Let's take care of it!

Please talk to me when you see me at the club about joining our team! I hope to hear from you soon. Kevin Segar, Senior Instructor – Connecticut Conservation/Education Firearms Safety Course.

John Mathewson

STUMP GRINDING

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Member Pat Enright and his dog, Jet, helped Nate Holmy shoot his first pheasant.

Jet the black lab joined Jr Members Shane Enright and Mitch Vildavs on the "Jr Hunter Waterfowl Training Days."



JUNIORS ACTIVITIES

Patrick Enright, Juniors Chairman (penright22@yahoo.com)

As winter approaches it is a good time to reflect on the past year and look forward to the new one coming. Looking back, I think about some junior members' first turkey hunts, the summer trap league, and a juniors' waterfowl hunt. The junior members that took part in these activities had a great time, but for the life of me I can't figure out why more kids are not taking advantage of what this club offers. We have over thirty junior members in this club, but it is the same four or five kids that take part in the hunting and shooting programs offered. In some ways this is fine with me since I don't think I could handle a hunt that involved thirty kids. On the other hand, I wonder what we can do to get the kids more involved in the club and the outdoors.

The two kids I took on the juniors' waterfowl hunt became totally hooked! They had great hunts and were so thrilled with the experience that they started going to a local marsh near their home just to call ducks and geese. They would get up well before daylight, go to a blind they constructed, set out decoys and call birds while watching the sunrise. They were not hunting these days, no gun involved, they just wanted to experience the outdoors. Seeing how these kids just loved the whole experience is what made the junior's waterfowl hunt a success for me. They wanted to be outdoors whether they were shooting at birds or just calling them in. It was a 'priceless' experience!

If you are the parent of a junior member, please email me with your ideas to get the kids involved and what you would like to see offered. I am also looking for members interested in the juniors' program to step forward and run a clinic or do an event for the kids. If you want to help but don't know what to do – ask me!

Unfortunately, it looks like the juniors' weekend that was very popular for the two years that I ran it will not take place again this year. However, if someone comes forward to chair the event, I could help this person coordinate things and get it going again. If you are interested, just let me know and I will tell you what is involved.

Anyone interested in doing a kid's ice fishing trip this winter contact me ASAP. I will compile a list of names and contact you with a date and time. You don't necessarily need ice fishing equipment as I will work with others to provide it and help teach the kids about ice fishing. There will be a sign up list in the bar for interested individuals.

In closing, I hope you were privileged enough to spend some quality time outdoors with a youngster this year. I know the days I spent hunting with kids were the best days I had outdoors this year. Wishing you all a great holiday and new year.

EVENTS

SANTA COMES TO THE FIN

Laura and John Pawelec

The annual Children's party was held on Sunday, December 7th. There were 57 children that anxiously waited for Santa's arrival on a nice snowy day. This successful event had plenty of food, fun, gifts and raffles for everyone. Thanks go out to Rosalie Gifford for the horse statue that she donated to the raffle. Appreciation is also expressed to the many volunteers that helped make this event so successful including Dan Boya, Bob Mullen, David & Shari Larsen, Glenn & Joan Johnson, Tom & Julie Petersen, Kevin Segar, Marie Bajger and Allison Hoagland. Special thanks to Don Bajger. The next Children's Fund event will be the annual Easter Egg Hunt!

Laura and John Pawelec hosted another fine Children's Fund event with the December 7th holiday party.



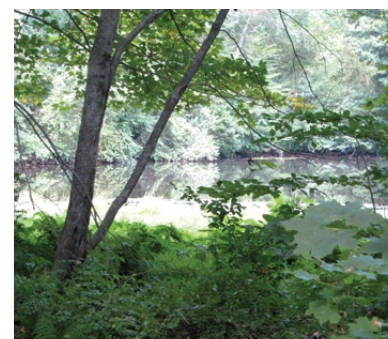
WOODSPLITTING PARTIES WERE PRODUCTIVE!

Woodsplitting parties in November and December experienced the first way in which wood can warm a person. Thanks to Bill Koennicki, Jim Gifford, Bob Theriault, John Hanks and Bill O'Hara for the use of their heavy equipment. Rosalie Gifford sent along the 2 photos.



Top Photo – left to right: Jim Gifford, John Hanks, Al Miffitt, Bill O'Hara.

Bottom Photo – Left to right: Bill O'Hara, John Hanks, Rosalie Gifford, Al Miffitt.



FIFTY IN 2010

The Fin, Fur and Feather Club will celebrate its 50th year as a club in Chaplin in 2010. This milestone will require some special celebration. If you would like to help with advance planning, please contact Bob Theriault or any member of the Board.



FIN, FUR AND FEATHER CLUB, INC

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Our Purpose: *To Promote The Conservation of Fish, Game, and
Other Natural Resources, To Practice and Teach the Highest Degree of
Sportsmanship and to Promote Safe and Proficient Use of Sporting Equipment.*

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Don Bajger, President	860-423-6693
Bob Hruskocy,	
Vice-President	860-569-1592
Dick Palmer, Secretary	860-487-0388
Tom Hoagland, Treasurer	860-455-0641

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Patrick Enright	
David Fromerth	860-742-6749
Jim Gifford	860-455-2034
Rosalie Gifford (alternate)	860-455-2034
Keith Morehouse	860-647-1333
John Postemski	860-423-9396
Larry Schewokis	860-933-9922
Bill Spears	860-822-6567

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

ARCHERY AVAILABLE	Your # here
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BAR Steve Davis	860-558-1890
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PERMITTEE Brenda Liappes	860-455-0521
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BLACK POWDER Charles Bruckerhoff	860-455-1229
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BUILDING/GROUNDS AVAILABLE	Your # here
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CHILDREN'S FUND John & Laura Pawelec	860-429-7033
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FAMILY PICNIC Kevin Theriault	860-429-1792
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FIELD TRIALS Ralph Fonda	203-393-8922
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FISHING Jon Guarino	860-428-2873
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FIVE-STAND Jim Davidson	860-456-8782
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HEALTH/WELFARE Dick Palmer	860-487-0388
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HUNTING Don Bajger	860-423-6693
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INSURANCE REVIEW Eugene Lewis	860-423-3341
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JUNIOR PROGRAMS Pat Enright	860-429-0172
Kevin Segar	860-429-4925
Arnie Postemski	860-423-4637

KITCHEN AVAILABLE	Your # here
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MEMBERSHIP Bob Hruskocy	860-569-1592
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MERCHANDISE Brenda Liappes	860-455-0521
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NEWSLETTER Cameron Faustman	860-423-9101
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PHEASANTS Paul Cardinal	860-455-0255
Donald Bajger	860-423-6693

PISTOL Fred Vernic	203-437-1264
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RIFLE Peter Mathewson	860-456-8588
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SHOTGUN Larry Schewokis	860-423-8563
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SKEET Frank Mauri	860-974-1425
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SPORTING CLAYS Dick Palmer	860-487-0388
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TRAP Bob Hruskocy	860-569-1592
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