



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 12: ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 2010

From everyone at the Rod & Gun Gazette,

Happy Holidays

PRESIDENT'S SPOT

As 2010 comes to a close, I would like to extend my appreciation to all of our members. We have a terrific club and this past year witnessed many fine events. I hope that the holiday season brings you great enjoyment and I wish you all the best in 2011. Thanks again for making this

The Greatest Club In New England.

Larry

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- JAN 30** Annual Game Dinner
- JAN 31** Deadline for Membership Dues
- FEB 5** Ice Fishing Tournament at Mansfield Hollow
- FEB 26** Fish Committee Roast Beef Dinner
- MAR 12** Fish Committee Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner
- MAR 19** Ponds open for fishing
- APRIL 16** 3D Archery Shoot
- APRIL 30** Fly Fishing Tournament
- MAY 1** Kid's Fishing Derby
- MAY 7** 3D Archery Shoot
- MAY 14** Ducks Unlimited Sporting Clays Pheasant Hunt

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Hoagland, Treasurer

Here it is again time for another newsletter. I just sent in the Fin's tax returns to the state and federal government and we seem to be holding our own. We owed the state some taxes and were even with the feds. There are many improvements that the board and president would like to see happen. Our cash flow just cannot stand for big expenses without increasing the income side. We do have two big payments each month totaling ~\$3,000. When these loans are paid off we will have a little more flexibility. If anyone has ideas for earning money for the club please set up and run with it - we could use the funds to further expand our club's efforts.

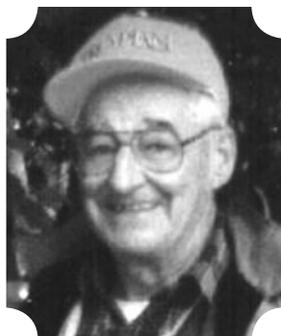
MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hruskocy, Membership Chairman

By now you should have received your 2011 invoice; payment is due by January 31, 2011. Please update any information on the invoice that is incorrect. If 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 January 31st deadline - a payment schedule can be arranged. Your dues can now be paid by credit card (Discover card not accepted); please provide the necessary information. The FFF ended 2010 with 115 Associate, 379 Regular, 34 Junior and 117 Life Members. *Regards, Bob*

RAFFLE TICKETS NOW MANDATORY

Beginning in 2011, the sale of Spring raffle tickets will now be **MANDATORY** for Regular and Associate members. Specifically, each member will be required to sell/buy \$40.00 worth of tickets (8 tickets at \$5 each). This is anticipated to generate about \$7,000 in additional income to the club.



A SAD NOTE

John J. Schumansky, 89, of Windham, avid fisherman and hunter, and long-time member of the Fin, Fur and Feather Club passed away unexpectedly at his home on Monday, November 1st 2010. John was a regular at the Club and its activities for many, many years.



NEWSLETTER

Cameron Faustman, Newsletter Editor

Another year has passed and that means we've managed to put out four more newsletters. I have received a lot of compliments on the newsletter for which I am grateful. However, our collaborator in this effort is Frank Maurer who does an absolute stellar job of laying out the articles in a very image-rich format. In addition, Dave Fromerth provides a great set of photos for each newsletter. Please keep articles and photos coming in 2011. The deadline for material to be submitted for the next newsletter will be March 15th.

FLY-TYING WEDNESDAYS

Join club members for fly tying each Wednesday beginning January 12th. We'll spin yarn in more than one way from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

OUT IN THE FIELD



SPORTING CLAYS

Sporting Clays Committee.

Sporting Clays Committee (L-R) Dick Palmer, Matt Halloran and Dave Fromerth.

Well it's time to make out our Christmas list for sporting clays in 2011. Be sure to ask for sporting clay ammo, shooting glasses, ear plugs, a gun cart, or even maybe, just maybe, a shotgun. The new year is upon us, and spring will bring another active season of Sporting Clays. The Club will have Ducks Unlimited back again in May on Saturday the 14th, and the Connecticut Waterfowler's on Sunday June 26th. These are 100 target shoots, and are heavily participated in; this means that we'll require a lot of members' assistance to pull them off successfully. We will still have the smaller 50 target shoots, but that schedule will not be finalized until March. Significant planning is going on right now to modify some stations to allow for different presentations of targets. We will be requesting two more electric machines that will provide the club with greater sporting clay features, and to help our course evolve to be better than the rest. We wish you all the best throughout the holidays, and see you in the spring. Happy Holidays.

REGISTERED SKEET – 2011

Frank Mauri

The registered skeet season at the Fin will begin with our NorthEast Open shoot scheduled for June 3, 4 & 5, 2011. The doubles event will occur on the afternoon of June 3rd. The other 4 gauges will be shot on June 4th and 5th in the order .410, 28, 20 and 12 Ga. Our field kitchen will be open all weekend. As always we will need your help for all three days so please mark your calendars.

On July 9th and 10th we will host our own Fin Open, a 4-gun shoot. The registered season will end on August 6th and 7th when we will hold our No-Name Open. This is the last chance to get hours working on skeet so plan to be available.

Help will be needed before, during and after each of these shoots and most of the tasks do not require any previous experience. Each of the Saturdays and Sundays require help beginning at 8 AM and we end our workdays about 5 PM. We do not need a worker to remain all day, some can work mornings, others the afternoon hours. Workers should contact Frank Mauri by phone 860-974-1425 or email frankm@toast.net or by leaving your name at the bar.

I will contact those members who refereed last year so renewal of the referee status may be made as early as possible. Any other member who would like to referee should contact me ASAP via email and we can arrange a time in the spring where you can learn the rules, regulations and other requirements for becoming a referee.



L-R Dick Palmer, Larry Shewokis, Mike Sobol Sr, Paul Prevost & Bill Spears

2010 FFF CLUB SHOTGUN CHAMPIONSHIP

Nancy Davdison

The club championship is one of the shooting highlights of the year and as the season closed out in 2010 another fine event took place. All shotgun disciplines were tested as shooters took aim at 125 total targets. This year, 41 participants shot the event. The top finishers were:

1ST PLACE	LARRY SHEWOKIS	110/125
2ND PLACE	MIKE SOBOL SR	107/125
3RD PLACE	BILL SPEARS	106/125
4TH PLACE	DICK PALMER	101/125
5TH PLACE	PAUL PREVOST	101/125

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful catered steak barbeque following the event; Jim Santacrocce won the 50/50 raffle. Remember that it's not always how well you shoot, it's how much fun you have!

ARCHERY

For the 2010 year, we estimated that refurbishing the archery field and 3-D archery range would cost \$1,886. Donations from club members helped us accomplish our goal at an actual cost of \$1,370 and thus a savings of \$516! For 2010, income from archery events was \$1,766 and this exceeded our goal of \$1,650.

In 2011, we will sponsor 6 shoots. The first four shoots are being moved to Saturdays and will not conflict with sporting clays events. The shoots for next year will be Saturday April 16th, Saturday May 7th, Saturday June 18th, Saturday July 23rd, Sunday September 19th and Sunday October 17th. The shoots will start at 8:00am and run until 3:00 pm.

The estimated 2011 expenses will include the purchase of 3 to 5 new targets and the general maintenance of the archery field and 3-D target range (including removal of the old target frames and the old shack, and trimming the apple tree). Estimated expenses will be about \$1,628 which should bring us to essentially a break-even point for the upcoming season. So, for next year the Archery Committee will be requesting \$1,628.00.

The rejuvenation of the archery activities resulted from tremendous club support. Thanks to all who helped me with this project and the set-up and take-down of targets, and especially Larry for his great work in building the archery target frames; Rick Turcotto and Troy Quick who guided me in overseeing the responsibility and for being at nearly every setup and take down of the 3-D range; Wendy Merchant for volunteering to run the kitchen; Trish Michaud for begin there with me for every shoot and running the sign-in table; and finally Tim Michaud for his great help with loading the truck with 3-D targets and making this a fun job to do. Workers with the archery events put in 473 hours (the folks specifically noted above expended 293 hours). I hope to see you all again next year. Thanks, Jim Michaud. 860-402-4155, james.e.michaud@comcast.net and jmichaud@sscinc.com.

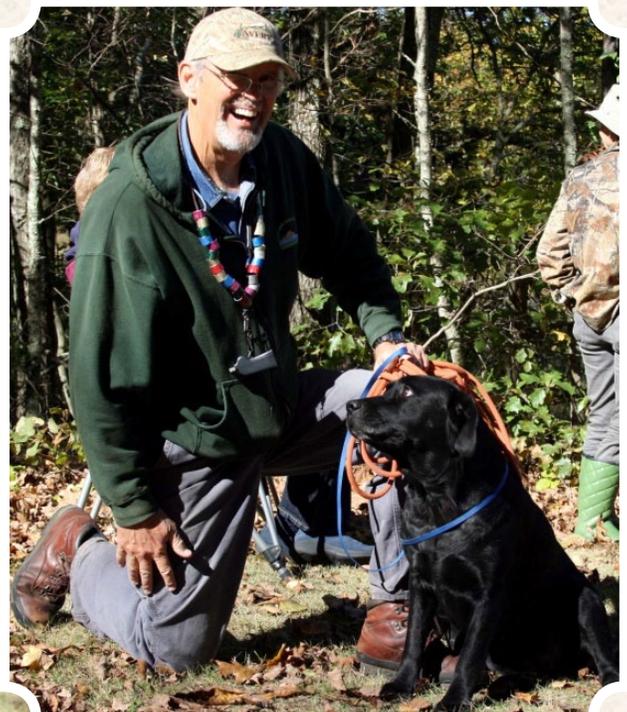


WOOD CUTTERS UNITED

Late October and mid-November witnessed a beehive of activity as members descended on the Club with splitters and saws to prepare firewood for the winter burning season. A big thanks to all of the folks that participated.



PAWCATUCK RIVER LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB WORKING CERTIFICATE DOG TRIALS



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Rain, Snow or Shine!

2011 Dates: February 26 – 27

June 18 – 19

August 27 – 28

October 8 – 9

Who we are and what we're about:

The Appleseed Program is designed to take you from being a simple rifle owner to being a true rifleman. All throughout American history, the rifleman has been defined as a marksman capable of hitting man-sized targets from 500 yards away – no ifs, ands or buts about it. This 500-yard range is traditionally known as “the rifleman’s quarter-mile,” a rifleman can hit just about any target he can see. This skill was particularly evident in the birth of our country, and was the difference in winning the Revolutionary War.

What You Will Learn:

“Six Steps To Firing A Shot”

1. Sight Picture
2. Sight Alignment
3. Respiratory Pause
- 4a. Keep your eye on the front sight (or reticle)
- 4b. Focus your mind on the front sight
5. Squeeze the trigger
6. Follow through

We will also cover sling usage, sight adjustment, inches, minutes, clicks and the Heritage and beginning of the American Rifleman. Much of the teaching takes place on reduced-size targets at 25 meters, so there’s lots of shooting without a lot of walking to check targets.

To register or for more information:

visit www.appleseedinfo.org or
email fvernica@yahoo.com

What to Bring:

- Your Favorite Rifle
- 800 Rounds of Ammo (22 Rimfire OK)
- Eye and Ear Protection
- Ground Cloth

Time: 8:30 am

Cost:

Registered: One Day - \$45 | Two Days - \$70,
Walk Ons: One Day - \$50 | Two Days - \$80
Range Free: \$10 per day

PUMPKIN FEST NEWS!

The Pumpkin Committee

Many thanks to those who grew pumpkins, and to those who participated in the 4th annual Great Pumpkin Festival. While our pumpkins may not have qualified as “huge” it certainly was not from a lack of effort. A true bonus was the creativity displayed by some of our entrants in the carving competitions. Sixty-five adults and thirteen youth enjoyed a great potluck dinner, raffle and fun activities. This year’s winners included a Best-in-Show carved by Tom Potter. The other winners are listed in the following table. We have received a donation of “super pumpkin seeds” from the Spakowski family. Look for them in the spring!



Placing	Main Event	Open Class	Carving		Frozen (strange category)
			9 to15 Yrs Old	16 Yrs to Adult	
1st	Brenda Liappes	Glen Ellet	Amber Quick Jacob Potter	Nancy Davidson	Troy Quick
2nd	Don Warner Glenn Ellet	Brenda Liappes	Sara Potter	Brenda Liappes	Tom Potter
3rd	Troy Quick	Troy Quick			Larry Shewokis

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John Mathewson

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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.*

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Bob McGoff

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Kevin Theriault 860-429-1792

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Marty O'Rourke 860-456-2886

FIVE-STAND

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