



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

PRESIDENT'S SPOT

As 2011 draws to a close I want to wish all Fin members and their families and friends a restful holiday season and happy and healthy 2012! The Club accomplished a lot this year and it's a tribute to the Executive Committee's leadership and the members' creative efforts and hard work. I look forward to continuing our efforts for ensuring another successful year at Connecticut's finest hunting and fishing club.

Larry Shewokis, President.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

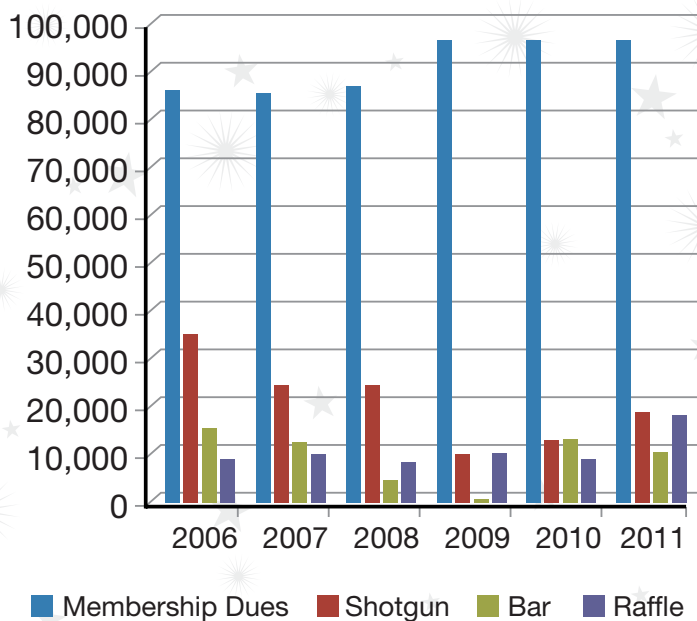
- JAN 20** Pot-luck in-the-bar Social
- JAN 29** Game Dinner
- FEB 3** Clam Night
- MAR 25** 3D Archery Shoot
- APRIL 29** 3D Archery Shoot
- AUG 19** Family Picnic

Happy Holidays

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Hoagland, Treasurer

Here it is the end of 2011 and I am amazed (and grateful) that I've lived this long. If, when I was 15 years old, someone had asked me what I would be doing in 2011 I would have said I'd be dead! Well, I am still alive and writing another treasurer's article for the newsletter. The bar graph figure represents a summary of income and expense data that we have in the computer. I selected the categories that bring in the most money and presented them by year for each of the past six years. As I repeatedly point out to everyone that asks me the figure clearly demonstrates that dues provide the LARGEST income and profit center we have and it averages \$85,000 to \$95,000 per year. Of course the amount from membership is a direct reflection of the number of dues-paying members. The next largest profit center is shotgun sports. Here, the profit can vary considerably due to the number of shoots and the number of shipments of targets. However, as a rule-of-thumb, I think we can say that the shotgun activity yields \$20,000 profit per year. The profit generated from the bar is also variable and reflects membership activity and events that are scheduled such that participants use the bar. The bar generates a profit of approximately \$10,000 per year. Next is the annual raffle which provided about \$9,000 per year until last year when mandatory sales for all members led to an impressive profit of \$18,000! As always, I end this article urging any and all of you to organize an event that you believe the members will attend and try and make some money so we can continue improving what the Fin has to offer.



MEMBERS OF THE MONTH

For October, the FFF Hunter Safety Instructors were honored as Members-of-the-Month!

MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hruskocy, Membership

The 2012 dues invoices were mailed in late November. If you have not received an invoice, please notify me asap. Payment must be made by January 31st, 2012. If you were billed for work hours in error, please let me know the function/event you worked so I can correct your file. Please update any information on your invoice and return with your payment. When making payment at the bar, be sure that either your name or membership number is on your receipt. If you are mailing in your payment and want your membership card mailed, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Membership cards will be mailed out after the game dinner. Please pick up your cards in order to save the club on postage.

CHANGE IN TIME!

At the December membership meeting, a new start time for the monthly membership meetings was adopted by unanimous vote. Please note that beginning in January 2012, membership meetings, held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, will begin promptly at 7:00 pm!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES AND THANKS

Cameron Faustman, Newsletter Editor

Another year has passed from the editor's desk and I'd like to thank the members that have written articles and passed along their photos. I receive lots of compliments on the newsletter and it's really a tribute to the conscientious participation of the membership. I'd like to thank Frank Maurer who continues to do such a wonderful job for us with the layout and printing of hardcopy.

Please note that the deadline for material to be submitted for the next newsletter will be March 15th. Written submissions and photographs can be dropped off at the Bar and added to my folder.

OUT IN THE FIELD

FFF Member Rick Turcotte enjoyed some nice pheasant hunting with his dog, Ruby.

REGISTERED SKEET — 2011

Frank Mauri

The Fin hosted 3 registered skeet shoots during the summer of 2011. The first, held June 3rd to 5th, was the Northeast Open. This 5-gun event was our best attended shoot but had numbers well below normal. The Fin Open took place on Sunday July 10th and was attended by 23 shooters who competed in a 12-gauge event. Finally, on August 10th we held another 12 gauge competition that was the least well attended. Our profits from the three shoots totaled about \$1,000 after all costs were accounted for; so, even with a bad economy we were able to make some money. Our location and the cost of gasoline hurt attendance but fortunately we had good participation from Fin members and this offset some of the loss from lower than expected shooter attendance from non-Fin members.

The year 2012 promises to be much more lucrative for the registered skeet program. In addition to our own big June shoot, we will host the Zone 1 shoot which will draw shooters from all of the New England States and New York. This will be followed 3 weeks later by the Connecticut State Skeet Shoot which will see participation by nearly every registered skeet shooter in the state. We will be hosting cocktail hours and dinners at both of these shoots and so there will be great opportunities for socialization between Fin members and the shooters. I hope that many registered skeet shooters from the Fin will plan to participate actively and shoot as many events as their economic circumstances permit. This will be the last time for many years that both of these shoots will be held in the same year at the Fin because the state rotation is 3 years and that of the Zone is 4 years.

I wish to thank all members who helped me during 2011 and I hope I may rely upon them and others for assistance in 2012. These helpers, particularly those that volunteer as referees, materially assist the Fin in turning a profit from the registered matches because registered referees supplied by the Connecticut Skeet Association are expensive.

In closing I wish all of the membership a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

SPORTING CLAYS

Dick Palmer

The way our late fall weather has been behaving, it seems that we should be out on the Sporting Clays range. For the 2012 season, we will have 5 shoots that will start in May and continue monthly through September. As far as the CWA and DU event shoots, I'm hoping that they will return, but will not be sure until the first of the year. We are already planning on some new target presentations and locations. Again, I thank all of you who came out and helped work the 2011 events. The total number of work hours earned was just over 1,200! That is a big **Thank You** to all of our members who came out to make this program a success. In the March newsletter I will have the specific dates of our shoots and hopefully CWA and DU dates as well. Until then, "*be safe and keep breaking those targets*".



ARCHERY

Jim Michaud

Welcome to a new year of Field and 3-D Archery! We will be returning to Sunday shoots and Saturday setups. This year's schedule is as follows:

ARCHERY 2012 AT THE FIN SCHEDULE

SET-UP
9:00 am – 12:00 noon

SHOOT
7:00 am – 3:00 pm

PICK-UP
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Saturday, March 24

Sunday, March 25

Saturday, April 28

Sunday, April 29

Saturday, May 12

Sunday, May 13

Saturday, June 16

Sunday, June 17

Saturday, July 7

Sunday, July 8

Saturday, September 22

Sunday, September 23

Saturday, October 13

Sunday, October 14

I would like to have a work party to assist with repairing signs (re-painting) and moving targets around to avoid the skeet fields in January and/or February. We will also be having a basic clean-up to walk the course, remove any down trees and branches, and to place the shooting stakes out. We will be able to determine at that time if we will need any additional stakes. If you have a chain saw and other general brush-cleaning equipment, please bring them along. The budget for archery has been approved and new targets should be ordered and received before our first shoot. I hope to see you all again, and for those who missed last years' shoots we look forward to your participation. Thanks.

2011 CLUB SHOTGUN CHAMPIONSHIP

Dave Fromerth.

On Saturday, September 24th the 2011 club shotgun championship was held with the largest turnout ever. The weather cooperated nicely and a great ribeye steak dinner was held after the match. A total of 125 targets were shot with 25 skeet, 25 modern skeet, 25 trap, 25 5-stand and 25 sporting clays. The top guns are featured in the photo and are, from left-to-right, Bill Dixon, 5th; Paul Prevost, 4th; Tossos Gaurilis, 3rd; Randy Russo, 2nd; and top gun Brian Scussell. A big thank you to Jim and Nancy Davidson for all of their hard work in providing such a great club event. Hope to see everyone next year.



PROJECT APPLESEED MARKSMANSHIP CLINIC

On March 24 to 25, 2012, The Fin, Fur & Feather Club will be the site of the "Project Appleseed 2-Day Marksmanship Clinic" sponsored by the Revolutionary War Veterans Association (a 501(c)(3) organization).

- **Pre-Registration Fees:**
\$45 for one day or \$70 for both days.
- **Walk-On Fees:**
\$50 for one day or \$80 for both days.
- **Additional range fee may apply.**
- **Women, under 21, or active military shoot for a nominal fee.**
- **Range fees apply.**

Additional details and a registration form are available online in by going to <http://www.appleseedinfo.org/index.html>.

Contact Fred Vernic at 860.942.2151 or at fvernic@ctappleseed.com.

26 ACRES OF CONTIGUOUS LAND PAID OFF!

John Postemski

Back in 2002, the Fin started working on the purchase of farmland from the Ostrager family. This property was already subdivided and was going to be sold for building lots. Some of this land is where our current sporting clays course is located. The initial asking price started out at \$500,000, but with the assistance of Peter Rich, we were able to acquire the property for \$250,000. The subsequent task of raising \$125,000 for a down payment and implementing a strategy to pay the balance at 6% interest to the seller began in earnest. Five members, Peter Rich, Robert Choinski, Quentin Grant, Charles W. Hill Jr. and Gary Moore each donated \$1,000 and the remainder was covered by members who paid \$300 in lump sum, or \$400 in installments.



The financial commitment for this land was recently concluded. The Club realized a savings of approximately \$15,000 by strategically deciding to pay a 2nd principal payment each month. The membership should be proud that another 26 acres of land was saved from development and that the long term economic strategy saved us money.

ART CONTEST OF CONNECTICUT'S ANNUAL WATERFOWL STAMP

The DEEP has recently decided to institute an Art Contest for the design of the annual Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp. This has great potential to get new people interested in wetland conservation and to spread the good word about the historic duck stamp program and its benefits to the environment. The rules and particulars can be found at www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2723&q=492150&depNav_GID=1655.



GREAT PUMPKIN FESTIVAL RESULTS

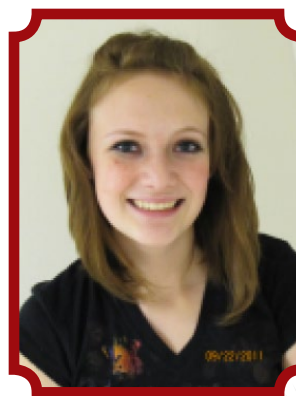
Nancy Davidson reported that this year's Great Pumpkin Festival was a great time for participants of all ages. Twenty-two youth and approximately 50 adults showed up for a night of friendly competition, a great pot-luck dinner, games and activities. The event culminated with the Great Pumpkin Search. This year's prize winners were as follows:

MAIN EVENT	1ST	DENNIS CHARRON
	2nd	Bobby Theriault
	3rd	Nancy Davidson
OPEN CLASS	1ST	GLENN ELLET
	2nd	Twig Peters
PEE WEE	1ST	FAITH HALLORAN
	2nd	Owen Sehl
	3rd	Chace Davidson
JUNIOR	1ST	JULIANNA MULLEN
	2nd	Jacob Potter
	3rd	Sarah Potter
ADULT	1ST	MATT HANNON
	2nd	Nancy Davidson
	3rd	Matt Hannon



FFF JUNIOR MEMBER RECOGNIZED

Junior member, Sasha Peters, recently earned the title of Junior Instructor in the Connecticut Conservation/Education Firearms Program. Her accomplishment was featured in Hunting and Shooting Sports Education Journal (the official journal of the International Hunter Education Association), and allows her to teach hunter safety classes in Connecticut. Congratulations Sasha!



SPRING RAFFLE

The 2012 Spring Raffle tickets will go on sale at the Game Dinner on January 29th and the drawing will be held at the March 13th membership meeting. Once again, Regular and Associate members will be required to sell/buy \$40.00 worth of tickets (8 tickets at \$5 each). The 2011 Raffle raised approximately \$18,000 for the club which bolstered our treasury significantly. Please give this year's ticket sales your best effort.

EAT IN AT THE FIN

There will be a pot luck "in the bar" on January 20th at 5:00 pm (bring a dish, guests welcome), and Clam Night on February 3rd at 4 pm (1/2 shell, chowder, lobster roll; first-come first-served). Come join fellow members, family and friends for a relaxing escape from the cold winter weather.

RANDOM SHOTS



Rocky Mountain bull elk bugling



Rocky Mountain cutthroat on a caddis fly



Bull elk with harem



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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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