



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM THE
FIN, FUR
& FEATHER



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dick Palmer, President

As we approach the Holiday season, I want to express my gratitude to our members who helped make this past year a success. We had a lot of ups with very few downs. I was kind of hoping that our past President, Kevin Theriault, would be able to continue at the helm of our organization but due to his illness, he had to step aside, and I was more than willing to accept this position for the coming year. It's our hope that Kevin's health progresses and allows him back into the chair which he so much enjoys.

Remember, dues are payable before the end of January. Also in January, we will be holding the Club's annual Raffle.

As always, we have many activities planned for 2017 that require many man hours from our membership. I hope you have the opportunity to fill those positions. Our Club doesn't run on membership fees alone, all of our activities provide additional income, and your help with running them is needed.

Wishing everyone health and cheer for the holidays.



Upcoming Events

DECEMBER

- 18th** Annual Kids' Christmas party. Children must be signed up in order to receive presents.
- 24th** Annual Club's Christmas gathering at 1 pm. Members/guests are invited. Please bring a pot luck dish.

JANUARY

- 3rd** Executive Board meeting at 6:30 pm
- 10th** Membership meeting at 7 pm
- 29th** Annual Game Dinner at 12 noon. Tickets required.

FEBRUARY

- 7th** Executive Board meeting at 6:30 pm
- 14th** Membership meeting at 7 pm

MARCH

- 7th** Executive Board meeting at 6:30 pm
- 14th** Membership meeting at 7 pm

RAFFLE

Each year, the Executive Board has looked at either increasing dues or making an obligation that each member must purchase or sell their Club Raffle tickets. The Board felt that the raffle was a better solution. The raffle income has helped keep our dues to where they are today. The Club requires each member, who is eligible, to either sell or purchase a minimum \$40 of the \$60 worth of tickets that are sent to you. Needless to say there are great prizes. Some members may be offended by selling or purchasing their tickets, which is understood. However, you are still obligated to purchase/sell the required number of tickets. Inside of your raffle package you will find tickets and a slip for when to turn your tickets. Please be sure you keep your receipt. All tickets must be turned in on the night of the drawing.

GAME DINNER

Members, January 29th 2017 at noon is the club's annual game dinner. Unfortunately it's only for our Club members. Tickets will go on sale at the bar within the next few weeks. Those of us that has harvested a number of game and would like to donate to the dinner can do so. Wrap the game and put down what it is and your name as you can receive some work hours for your donation.

MEMBERSHIP

*Bob Hruskocy,
Membership Chairman*

The 2017 dues invoices were mailed in November, if you have not received an invoice, please notify me asap. Payment must be made by January 31st, 2017. If you were billed for work hours in error, please let me know the function/event you worked so I can correct your file. 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. Please bring in your invoice so the bartender can apply your payment correctly. If you are mailing in your payment and want your membership card mailed, 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 on postage costs for the club.



MEMBERS PASSING

On a sadder note, long time member Bill Knopf has passed. Bill was involved with the pheasant program. Longtime member, Will Lucier, has also passed away. Will was on the Board for many years and was a familiar sight at the BBQ pit, cooking foods for the Club dinners. I apologize for any members I have missed. All members who have passed had helped the club grow and prosper and we are forever thankful.

ARCHERY COMMITTEE

Jim Michaud

As the 2016 Archery year comes to a close, I hope all who participated had a great time. For all of those that help me run and set up the program, I send you my most humble gratitude. Without you I would not be able to do this program.

The 2017 Archery Shoot season should be really exciting. Not only did the club maintain our membership in the Southern New England Archery Association (SNEAA), but we also joined the Connecticut Archery Association (CAA). The SNEAA covers the area of Connecticut on the Eastern side of the CT River, Rhode Island and South Eastern side of Massachusetts that borders Connecticut. The CAA covers the area to the west of the CT River. Since only 3 or 4 clubs belong to the CAA on this side of the river, I hope to bring in many more shooters for our shoots.

Belonging to the CAA, raises the cost for an adult from \$10 TO \$15 per shoot. With \$1 of this fee being sent to the CAA. for and end of year raffle that every shooter gets entered into for participating in a 3-D shoot. This \$1 that goes toward that raffle and helps reduce the cost of the CAA. This makes the CAA significantly cheaper to belong to than the SNEAA. More to come on this next year.

Next year we will have the following 3-D shoots:

- Sunday March 25th with the target setup planned for Saturday the 24th. There will be no target pick up.
- The 3-D shoot will be set up all week allowing club members who cannot make the weekend shoot the opportunity to do so. Sign up for the shoot will be at the bar and please turn in your score card.
- Sunday April 2nd, with the target pick up starting after the shoot around 12:00.
- Sunday April 30th with the target setup planned for Friday the 28th or Saturday the 29th. There will be no target pick up.
- The 3-D shoot will be set up all week allowing club members who cannot make the weekend shoot the opportunity to do so. Sign up for the shoot will be at the bar and please turn in your score card.
- Sunday May 7th, with the target pick up starting after the shoot around 12:00.
- Sunday June 4th with the target setup planned for Friday the 2nd or Saturday the 3rd. Target pick up starting after the shoot around 12:00.

At our shoots we will be allowing the use of crossbows. To use a crossbow, you MUST use the extracting oil on the bolts to get them out of the targets. Otherwise the target material melts around the bolt ruining the target. Getting an extractor, which goes around the bolt or an arrow, will help too.

The archery range is in great shape, but please pickup after yourself. There have been broken arrows left on the shooting line and range. Please remember NO BROAD HEADS on the archery or 3-D ranges. If you use the standard targets for a crossbow, you must use the oil on the bolt, which is used for 3-D targets above, to get the bolt out.

The 2016 year brings the end of my refurbishment plan for refitting the archery at the Fin. Since 2010, when I took over the Archery program, the Fin has purchased forty-eight targets ranging from small to extra-large

sizes. Most of these targets will last over the next five or more years. Some, which were from different companies, were not the best for our shoots and have been moved to the Archery Range. We also purchased metallic stands, which can hold most medium and large targets, making it faster to set up and take down the 3-D targets for the shoots.

If you have not partaken in a 3-D shoot yet, and like to shoot archery or like to bow hunt, please come out and support the club by shooting a 3-D shoot. You will have an opportunity to shoot at turkeys, a Woodchuck, a Bobcat, lots of Deer including Mule Deer, Bears, a Timber Wolf, an African Lion and Alligator, an Elk or Buffalo, a T-Rex, Triceratops or Dragon, several Javelina, a Black Panther, an African Leopard, a Black Buck, a Wild Boar and a Warthog. Take a leisurely walk in the woods and shoot archery!

If you are looking for an easy chairman position, the archery chair is for you. Yes, I am unfortunately being transferred to my company's Indiana office in 2017. I'm hoping it will not occur until June. If you would like to take over this position please contact our President Dick Palmer. I would be happy to show you the ropes during the season and let you know when needs to be done off season (not much). I have everything computerized, which makes it very easy.

For those who know our son Timothy, he is enjoying his enlistment in the Navy. He graduated boot camp on

November 10th, and is currently in his advanced school to become a Navy Search and Rescue Swimmer. Yes, he will be jumping out of perfectly good helicopters to save others. Mom and I are so proud of him. Many have met him at the 3-D shoots and shooting Skeet, Trap and at the Rifle and Pistol Ranges, and at the fishing ponds. Here is his photo from boot camp. I call this the Mom photo; he is smiling. Thank you all for your well wishes before he shipped off and your continued well wishes of him. He will still be in the club while in the Navy, and plans to come to the club when he is back in Connecticut.





WISHING YOU THE BEST SHOOTING IN 2017

SPORTING CLAYS

The 2017 season is right around the corner again. This is one sport you will get hooked on, so come out and enjoy. The Ducks Unlimited group will be returning again on Sept. 9th. The dates are as follows; **May 21st, June 11th, July 9th, Aug. 6th, Sept 9th Ducks Unlimited, and Sept. 17th.** We need 7 trappers for each event, and easy work hours. Watch for e-mails couple weeks before each shoot to sign up.

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VETERANS

The DAV organization has approached the Fin and would like to come and talk with our veterans about health, benefits, and to show us how to file the right forms. Mark Rivard of the DAV would like to sit with those of us who are veterans and make sure we get our benefits filed. I would like those of you who are interested to email me, so I can get back to you with the date and time we will be meeting at the Clubhouse once the date has been selected. Bring your DD 214 with you and we'll see what we are missing. I know, I'm one who needs to file for disability from my contact with Agent Orange. So others like me need to act now. My e-mail address is rpalmer12@snet.net.



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