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## *Letter from the President*

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### Special points of interest:

- FFF Family Picnic August 21
- Membership News
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Can you believe a half of year has already passed? I hope all of our members in some way or another have taken the opportunity to come out and participate, work or enjoy many of the events here at the club. It seems every weekend from now until the fall there is something happening here. The club just completed a big Ducks Unlimited shoot and what can I say, between Jim and Nancy Davidson and John and Laura Pawelec the event was a complete success. Our first of two registered trap shoots took place with the new trap and Connecticut State champion Moon Hruskocy putting on a great shoot for all the attendees. Before you know it our not-to-be-missed family picnic will be here and I can't wait to see what Bobby T will wear this year!

With the family picnic,

although a great time, comes the passing of summer and the gearing up for the great hunting season that many of our members look forward to. I hope this won't be our last season to see those beautiful birds we've come to love, care for, and hunt so passionately become victims of our club's inability to raise them properly. Tom O'Niell and Don Bajger have put in countless hours so others can play, and they are tired!!! Members we need to help them keep this incredible program going. I would hate to think that to look out in the middle of summer and see those pen nets lying lifeless on the ground. I can't say this any other way. That is the plain truth of the matter. Please help in any little way you can.

Our club has so many members that I do not think I would ever meet every single

one of you, but I'll try. If there is ever a question, comment or suggestion that anyone has for me please feel free to call me or leave a note at the bar. My trusty friend and the Fins' gate keeper Kenny Bartlett will make sure I am aware of it after he pours you your favorite beverage. I wish every one a great summer. Enjoy it as the time keeps on rolling. Enjoy your club whenever you get the chance.

—Steven J. Davis  
President

## *Club Annual Family Picnic for 2005*

At the last Executive Committee meeting, Bobby T cheerfully reminded all of the officers and board members that the time is fast approaching for the Club's 2005 Annual Family Picnic— August 21. For many years Bobby T has served marvelously as the Mas-

ter of Ceremonies for this very important Club event. It's but one of his many contributions as a volunteer to help make our Club what it is to members and friends. As usual, he's assembling a crew to help with the work that has to be done for cooking, serving, cleaning,

setups, and take downs. So, he needs you to help with the 2005 Family Picnic. To get your work hours in and help call Bobby T at 860-456-3431 NOW. He needs your help. You'll have plenty of great food to eat and beer to wash it down.

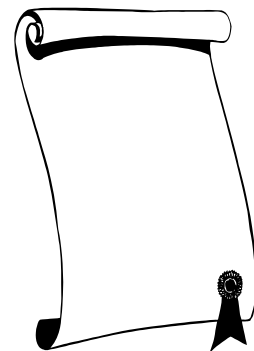
## Raising Our Pheasants

In the President's letter to the membership, he reminds members of the fun we have every fall hunting pheasants. He also reminds everyone that those pheasants are not plentiful native birds and would be a rare find in our woods and fields if it were not for the Club's pheasant raising program. Also, these birds are not cheap, when you take into account the cost of their food, electricity, and water; not to mention the labor involved—which is all volunteer hours.

I've been watching this situation develop for several years. In the past I've hunted the birds and done my share of work with feeding, watering, cleaning pens, and fixing up the fence. I've also looked out for the foxes, hoping to spy one when I'm at practice on the range. But this old problem of volunteers is threatening to end our pheasant program. Quite frankly, if we wake up one of these days to find a sizable number of the birds with their feet up in the air because they weren't fed and watered and cared for properly, the Board is going to have to take action, and that action could spell the end of the program. Nobody on the Board wants that to happen. However, when I consider the appeals for help from volunteers that have been made by Tom O'Neill, lately, and Don Bajger when he was at the helm in previous years—and he's still helping—and discover that nobody is signing up to help, it all boils down to one thing: an approaching disaster for the birds and the program! We could lose a major percentage of this year's birds in a matter of hours.

So, heed this warning: if you like to hunt pheasants, do your part with helping to raise them. If you have work hours to put in before the hunting season begins (which is the annual deadline for completion of work hours by every member), then get yourself up to the Clubhouse Bar and sign up to help feed and water those birds! —CB

**HELP! The pheasant program desperately needs club members to feed, water, and care for the pheasants. Contact Tom O'Neill.**



*Bring in a new member and sit back to enjoy the year at the club. Your work hours are done.*



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## 2005 FFF Family Picnic

Scheduled for:

**August 21 from noon until 6:00 p.m.**

Nobody misses the FFF Family Picnic!

It's a truly great time for all our members: men, women, and children.

### Fees:

Kids ages 0 to 11—enter free.

Kids ages 12 to 17—\$5.00

Adults 18 and older—\$10.00

There will be games, music, and dancing.

Menu for the day includes the following:

- |             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| —Hamburgers | —Steamers           |
| —Hotdogs    | —Cherry Stone Clams |
| —Kielbasa   | —Clam Chowder       |
| —Watermelon | —Soda               |
|             | —Beer               |

The 2005 FFF Family Picnic promises a fun time event for all. Mark your calendar. Make plans to attend now.

Also, help is needed. Get your work hours in and have fun doing it with Bobby T.

So call Bob Theriault at 860-456-3431 or leave a message expressing your interest in helping out at the clubhouse bar. See you there.



*The member who, once again, will make the 2005 Family Picnic rock: Bobby Theriault.*

## Membership News

Any member that has changed their email address from what I have installed or now has an email address, please forward to me your new or current email address.

If you have email and are not receiving any of my emails, it means that I have an incorrect email address for you.

Please send me an updated address ASAP.

Also, for those that have email, this will be your **last** newsletter that you will receive via the **post office**.

To save the club money on postage and printing, the Board has chosen to send eve-

ryone with an email address their copy via the Internet. You can thereby download the newsletter from the club's website at [www.finfurfeatherclub.com](http://www.finfurfeatherclub.com).

However, if you still want a hard copy mailed to you by regular post office service, you must notify me by email or letter so that I can keep you on the mailing list.

Once the newsletter is available on-line, I will notify the members that is available.

Regards,  
Bob Hruskocy  
Membership Chairman

The Club's Fly Pond is timeless beauty. When you need to relax, take a seat at the edge of the pond and restore yourself. Photo thanks Thomas O'Neill.



## Welcome New Members

Since October 2004, a significant number of new members have joined our club. Records compiled by our devoted Secretary show the following names—in the order of their joining:

Jeff Beebe, Steven Falletti, Bill Wilk (October).

Adam Caisse (November).

Edward Blair, Mike Scanion, Robert Wislocki (December).

Jason Davidson, Mike Fromerth, Ed Polowitz, Tom Harrison, Don Semmelrock, Ben Safryn, Rosalie Gifford, Nick Krukoff (January 2005).

Jeff Rich, Forest Shirghio, Rawls Tiffany, John Olynik, Frank Gactano (February).

Scott Iovene (March).

Jashua Gondek, Jeremy Cormier, Guy Bolduc, Wayne Holcombe, Dan Eaves, Claudio Vecchiarino, Roger Cormier (April).

Ziggy Sadowski, Raymond Galli, John Zemzars, Scott Berner, Stephen Johnson (May).

Little Mike Sobol, Jr., Gary Brummett, Dan Bureau, Roger Philips, Shane Hilton (June).

On behalf of the Club's Executive Committee and all of our fine members, I want to extend a warm welcome to each and every one of these new members to the Fin Fur and Feather Club.

We have a wonderful organization and a great facility, offering tremendous opportunities for indoor and outdoor recreation that sportsmen and sportswomen everywhere enjoy.

Have a great time at the Club!

As was explained to you at the initiation, an effective way to become known and appreciated is to contact one or more of the Club's committee chairpersons and volunteer to do some work for the club. There isn't a month goes by that there aren't several important events where members' help is needed to make the place rock. So, if you haven't already taken the opportunity to volunteer for service in the club, do so ASAP.

The Club's calendar of events, which is included in this newsletter, identifies a wide variety of upcoming club activities. Join in the fun of shooting, fishing, or relaxing in the clubhouse, and also join in the fun of making these events happen for everyone to enjoy. We will be so glad to meet you and to work alongside you.

The worst thing to do as a member of this Club—aside from bad behavior, complaining and stewing or fighting with others—is not to do anything because you won't be known and it will soon seem to you (and to your spouse or "significant other") to be a waste of time and money.

The Fin is a social club where men and women, boys and girls, old and young all have great times doing the things they love to do day and night, weekends and work days. Get in there where the action is, roll up your sleeves, put on your work gloves, and have one heck of a time with all of us at your side. It's a great life at the Fin Fur and

Feather Club. Make it so. It's your club, too.

Now and then the Board receives recommendations to make changes to the requirements for membership, especially in the area of fees. Frankly, I haven't heard an argument for making these changes that presents a satisfactory case for change. Although our present policies do not set a limit on the number of members we can admit for regular, associate, or junior status, as the monthly records from October 2004 demonstrate, there are plenty of people out there who see the value in the Club, accept its policies, and also find the fees reasonable. Do your part: bring in more new members.

A recent significant cost increase for new and current members, as you know, is the dollars assessed for the new land purchase. We can't exist without land and we can't afford not to buy up the land contiguous with our property—which the Club has been doing steadily for years. But as you all know, land is not cheap and it doesn't grow. When it becomes available, we must consider buying it and to do so we have to ask members to pay for it.

If anyone is wondering about the wisdom of our latest purchase, they should take a walk on that property. It's positively beautiful and secures for us a great buffer zone for shooting sports. We pay for it in our assessments...and with advance payments, we are paying down on that mortgage with a significant savings in interest. —Cheers, CB

**"Get in there where the action is, roll up your sleeves, put on your work gloves, and have one heck of a time with all of us at your side. It's a great life at the Fin Fur and Feather Club. Make it so. It's your Club, too."**

## *Petition to Amend Club By-Laws*

If you have been attending meetings during the past few months and/or following the minutes for Executive Committee and Regular Member Club meetings you know that a petition has been circulated and has gained a sufficient number of signatures to ask the membership to consider making a change to the Club's By-Laws. Recently, the Executive Committee approved of the petition, which now moves it to the membership for a vote.

On July 12, 2005 at the Regular Member meeting, the voting members of the Club who are present for the meeting will decide the question about including this amendment in the Club's By-Laws.

That petition to change the By-Laws has the following language.

**"No applicant to the FFF who is convicted of a felony shall be accepted into the Club."**

**"Any member of the FFF who is convicted of a felony shall be immediately and permanently expelled from the Club."**

**"Any applicant or member, who, after a minimum of ten (10) years since being convicted of a felony, who has been convicted of no other felony offenses since that time, may request of the Executive Committee special consideration for membership in the Club."**

Considering the gravity of the petition, it is not at all unusual that there is a lot of talk among members about this petition to change the Club's By-Laws. It is also not unusual that there may be misinformation and error associated with the petition. In this article, I will do my best to present factual information for the membership to consider in preparation for the vote on July 12th.

First, rumor has it that the petition is in reference to a certain few members of the Club. This is not so. Our Club's application form was revised

several years ago to ask applicants about their status concerning felony convictions and this preceded any news of members having felony convictions. However, we have no provision in the by-laws supporting this application requirement of members.

Second, the original justification for the changes made by the Executive Committee to the Club's application form came from somewhat recent and highly significant changes in federal and state law pertaining especially to firearms ownership and use. In brief, a person convicted of a felony is not allowed to have a firearm in his/her possession.

Thus, in a club like ours, where firearms are in regular use and often immediately available to by-standers on benches and rests when members are shooting, it is important that we take reasonable steps to ensure that in the course of our activities—formal and informal—no one who is a convicted felon has the opportunity to use or take into his/her possession a firearm.

The laws have changed! And so have the expectations of ordinary citizens regarding people, like us, who appreciate firearms and their legal use. In what follows I quote from CT state law (as of August 2002), as posted on the NRA/ILA website:

"It is unlawful to possess a handgun by a person who has been convicted of a felony; convicted as a delinquent of a serious juvenile offense which includes illegal possession of a controlled substance, negligent homicide, third degree assault, first degree reckless endangerment, second degree unlawful restraint, rioting, or second degree stalking; discharged from custody within the preceding 20 years after acquittal by reason of mental disease or defect; confined by court order for mental illness within the preceding 12

months; subject to a restraining or protective order involving physical force; or an illegal alien. It is unlawful to possess any other firearm by a person who has been convicted of a felony."

The horrific incidents of 9/11 and passage of the Homeland Security Act (November 2002) have also heightened the concern for organizations like ours to take appropriate action to ensure that we operate a safe and legal environment for the safety and welfare of the Club, its members, and friends.

The Club now requires all applicants to get a background check in order to ensure that no applicant has a felony conviction or any police record that should tell us to deny them membership. Many companies and organizations have the same requirement. Also, increasingly these days, companies are having their employees submit repeat background checks at intervals (annual or longer) as an added security measure.

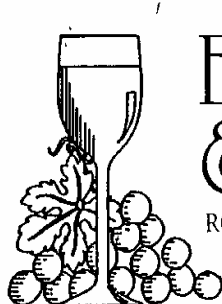
This petition to change the Club's By-Laws is a reasonable step to ensure that our club has law-abiding members, and we have created an environment where our members (adults and children) are reasonably safe from harm.

Recently, the President of the Club obtained legal opinion from civil rights attorneys who inform us that this new language for the By-Laws is reasonable for a private club like ours to adopt.

I strongly encourage you to vote on July 12 in favor of its passage. It is the right time and the right thing to do for the Fin.

**All Life, Meritorious, Regular, and Junior Members may vote on the amendment. —CB**

**"It is unlawful to possess a handgun by a person who has been convicted of a felony.... It is unlawful to possess any other firearm by a person who has been convicted of a felony"**



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email: [charles@creus.com](mailto:charles@creus.com)

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## *Connecticut State Trap Shoot*

The CT State Trap shoot was held on June 24-26, 2005 at the Hartford Gun Club in East Granby.

For the second year in a row the FFF was responsible for the practice field. The club received \$782.00 for all the practice rounds that were shot. Unfortunately the hot weather kept a lot of shooters from practicing. It was hot!

I'd like to thank the following people for showing up in the 98 degree heat and volunteering their time: Bill Dixon, Dale Hammon (2 broken legs) Jon Guarino, Bob Frankland, Joe Pirilo, Dan Gutt, Ben Safryn, and especially Don O'Neal. Don was there for all 3 days which gave me the opportunity to shoot some of the events.

Thanks so much for all your help and helping the Club make money.

Regards,

Bob Hruskocy

Trap Chairman

Psst! Photos in this issue were taken by the editor recently. They capture various aspects of the Club, including some members who happened to be enjoying the facilities at the time. More to come in subsequent issues. —CB



"Skeet shooting doesn't get any better than this. On just about any day you will find avid skeet shooters like these three members (at left) working at improving their record—and having a great time doing so."

## *Calendar Of Events Scheduled at the Fin*

- July 10: Fin Open, Skeet Shoot
- July 17: 50 Round Rifle Match
- July 17: Sporting Clay Shoot 9:00 a.m. start time
- July 25-29: Boy Scout Explorers Group at Pistol Range (range closed 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) & skeet shoot (partial use of range)
- August 6-7: Little Muk Skeet Shot
- August 11: Boy Scouts "Introduction to Skeet Shooting," with Mike Sobol; 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- August 13: Club-Wide Work Day, 4:00 p.m. start
- August 14: Rifle Match
- August 21: FFF Family Picnic, 12 noon to 6:00 p.m.
- August 28: Registered Trap Shoot all day
- September 10-11: N-SSA Skirmish
- September 10: 3-D Archery Work Day
- September 11: 3-D Archery Shoot
- September 17: Shotgun Championship, 9:00 a.m.
- September 18: Rifle Match
- October 2: Sporting Clays, League Finale
- October 16: Rifle Match
- December 4: FFF Children's Christmas Party

Notice: There are a lot of weekends in October and November that do not have Club events scheduled as of this publication of the R&GG. If you have something in mind for members, get moving. There is nothing so exciting as doing your best for the Club.

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## *Renting the Barn Across Chewink Road*

As some of you may know, the barn across the road from the clubhouse is standing idle these days. Recently, it was leased as a space for storage and the dollars from that lease (substantial monthly payments over a few years) helped to pay for many different needs in the club. Regular income from a lease is great for supporting the club's many different sporting events.

Thus, if you know someone who would be interested in storing equipment or materials in the barn, please let the Board know who to contact ASAP.

One important condition must be that the personal property and materials stored there must not put us in jeopardy in regard to our hunting and other club interests in that immediate area. Thus, fuels, explosives, animals, and so forth would not be allowed as stored items.

On the other hand, if someone wants to mount an effort to convert part or all of the space into an indoor pistol shooting range, that too would be beneficial to the club. —CB

## Pistol News

Hope everyone has gotten back into true form from the long break over the winter. Our Summer League is going strong, and I would like to invite those of you who shoot to come on down Wednesday evenings at 6pm and enjoy some snappy shooting with the rest of the members. Just bring your rim fire pistol, minimum capacity of 5 rounds, enough ammo which is about 70 rounds, and try your hand at shooting bull eyes targets.

The course of fire at 50 yds, the targets are stationary, but the 25 yds course of fire, the targets turn, and only offer you

20/10 seconds to shoot them. The cost is \$2.00 for members and \$3.00 for non-members.

Recently, during a match on May 11th, Dennis Knowlton shot a perfect score of 100, at the 10 second course of fire for 25 yds. Nice job Dennis.

I want to thank those of you who police the area up after enjoying the range. I notice that the step rests are getting to a point of not being able to be use anymore, if anyone is handy with a saw, and would like to make 3 of them, please do, and let me know so I can get you the work hours.

Final note, a BIG THANK YOU to Dave Thompson of Norwich for welding up the target frames, I know he shoots Black Powder at the range. (See photo at lower right.) Dave: thanks again.

Until the September newsletter,

"Keep 'em in the ten range"

—Dick Palmer



## Trap Shooting News

The FFF held it's first of two registered Trap shoots on June 19, 2005, Father's Day. Forty-one shooters shot the event. There were many people present there that have never been to the FFF before. They were quite pleased with our facilities. After paying all expenses, the club made approximately \$1100.00. Not a bad day.

I want to thank the following people for making the shoot a success. Without them, it would not have been possible. Ron Mott, John Pawelec, Don O'Neal, Joe Pirilo, Dan Gutt, Ron Cloutier, Bob Cooper, Tony Kubasek, Steve Davis & his son Cameron, Al Perry, Bob Owens, Art Antoones, Bill Johnson, Tom Hoagland, Ted Naumec, Pat Buckley, Bob Frankland, Butch Simpson, Ed Polowitz, & nonmember Kevin Cloutier. A special thank you to Marshall Lussen of the Hartford Gun Club for letting us borrow a trap machine for our event.

If I forgot to mention somebody, I extend my sincere apologies.

Most of the above people have completed more than their 10 hours of work, yet they still step forward to help. Once again, thank you.

The next registered shoot is August 28th. If you are available to help, either email or call me. Don't be shy!

Regards,  
Bob Hruskocy  
Trap Chairman

## Trap Summer League

The FFF first summer trap league is well under way. Twenty people signed up to shoot the league and most are shooting on Saturday mornings. Scores are getting better and better. If any member wants to come and join us, bring your gun and have some fun. You do not have to be in the league to shoot. Good practice for those going away pheasants! Would love to see ya down there.

Bob Hruskocy  
Trap Chairman



## *In Focus: Kenny Bartlett*



Everybody in this Club knows Kenny Bartlett, the guy who provides such excellent service at the Clubhouse Bar. He's also known to pitch in with activities in the kitchen and meeting room.

You have a question that needs answering, Kenny is the answer guy, and if he doesn't know the answer, he knows who does and he'll direct you promptly.

Every time I enter the Clubhouse when Kenny's on duty, which is often, he's there to greet me with a smile and a warm welcome.

Any time a member has to deal with payments for rounds, assessments, fees, or whatever, he's there to make sure the dollars go into the right account and he returns a proper receipt.

In fact, when the editor of this newsletter stopped by recently to get Kenny's photograph for this article, it was practically impossible to get a decent shot of him because he never, positively never, stopped moving. He was serving drinks, answering the phone, making change, cleaning up members' messes, cheering up people, settling disagreements, providing sage advice—just constantly busy.

You can see in the accompanying snapshots what I'm referring to here. When I wanted the group shot, Kenny couldn't stop his working for a photo, he had to wipe up another mess. When I wanted a portrait, the phone rang, a member asked for another Bud Lite, and so forth.

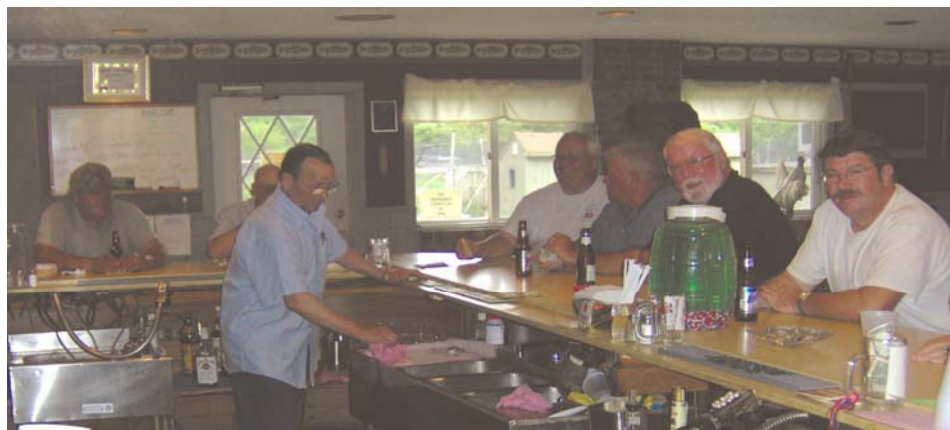
Kenny Bartlett is one important reason why this Club is such a pleasure to belong to. He's the epitome of cheerful service, and he's a wonderful friend of a great many people.

When you see him next, which will most likely be when he's working at the Club, tell him how much you appreciate what he does for all of us.

Thanks Ken, for all that you do for our Club!  
—CB



"Every time I enter the Clubhouse when Kenny's on duty, which is often, he's there to greet me with a smile and a warm welcome."



## *The Fin's Enduring Beauty: A Photo Essay*



## Fin Fur & Feather Club, Inc.

P. O. Box 81 Chewink Road  
North Windham, CT 06256

Phone: 860-455-9516

### We're on the Web:

[www.finfurfeatherclub.com](http://www.finfurfeatherclub.com)

### 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.



## U.S. Constitution

### Bill of Rights Amendment 2

**"A well regulated militia,  
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**In God we  
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### Executive Officers

Steven Davis, President	860-558-1890
Charles Bruckerhoff, Vice-President	860-455-1229
Dick Palmer, Secretary	860-487-0388
Tom Hoagland, Treasurer	860-455-0641

### Executive Committee

Bob Hruskocy	860-569-1592
Ron Mott	860-450-0724
John Pawelec	860-429-7033
Joe Pirolo	860-742-5003
Paul Sobol	860-228-0725
Rick Turcotte (Alternate)	860-742-6353
Bob Theriault	860-456-3431
Keith Morehouse (Alternate)	860-547-1333
Don Bajger (Past President)	860-423-6693

### Committee Chairpersons

Archery: Rick Turcotte	860-742-6353
Bar: Steve Davis	860-558-1890
Black Powder: Charles Bruckerhoff	860-455-1229
Building/Grounds: Ron Mott	860-450-0724
John Postemski	860-423-9396

### By-Laws Review:

Mary Goss	860-423-3211
Glenn Heinonen	860-423-8144
Bob Theriault	860-456-3431

Children's Fund: John & Laura Pawelec 860-429-7033

Family Picnic: Bob Theriault 860-456-3431

Field Trials: Ken Shane 860-456-8315

### Finance Review:

James Northrop	860-642-6802
Ken Shane	860-456-8315

Fishing: Jon Guarino 860-455-4081

Health/Welfare: Mary Goss 860-423-3211

Hunting: Don Bajger 860-423-6693

Insurance Review: Eugene Lewis 860-423-3341

Junior Programs: Charles Bruckerhoff 860-455-1229

Pat Enright 860-429-0172

Kevin Segar 860-429-4925

Kitchen: U. R. Wanted your number

Membership: Bob Hruskocy 860-569-1592

Merchandise: John Pawelec 860-429-7033

Newsletter: Charles Bruckerhoff 860-455-1229

Pheasants: Tom O'Neill

Don Bajger 860-423-6693

Pistol: Dick Palmer 860-487-0388

Rifle: Peter Mathewson 860-456-8588

Shotgun: Joe Pirolo 860-742-5003

Sporting Clays: James Davidson 860-742-7676

Trap: Bob Hruskocy 860-569-1592

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 in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Haiti, 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. That is our gift to the world and as anyone knows who has served, 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

