



Letter from the President

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Special points of interest:

- Men on rendezvous set standard for fun
- Great events in 2006 for our kids
- Help for improving your woodland
- Plans pouring in from every committee
- Jon G reports fish biting as R&GG goes to press

Well, springtime is here and its time for the Fin to kick into gear! The winter, while not as harsh as years past, is still a long time to be inside waiting for the return of warmer weather. Unseasonable conditions left our tip-ups collecting dust, but actually let the shooters enjoy more of their pastime. We did do some public relations over the winter as we hosted a booth at the Harford Sportsman Expo. The booth I thought was a success and a great way to expose the tremendous amenities that we have here. I want to personally thank everyone who helped man the booth. Both old and new members came down to help promote the club to all the guests. Next time at the club pick up one of our new pamphlets we had made for the show, another first for the Fin.

While now is the time the calendar will be filling up with various events at the club, the winter ones were fairly dismal this year. With the exception of our game dinner, other events were cancelled due to lack of interest. It disheartens me to see people put forth an effort to

try hosting events here only to tell me that only 5 tickets were sold! You can't expect these same people to keep trying things, but they do because they truly "do it for the club". Events need headcounts to plan for and if you are going to wait until 5:45 p.m. to buy a ticket for a 6:00 p.m. dinner, guess what? Go to Wendy's!!!! These social events are and have been part of the Fin's heritage for years and I buy a ticket to them all even if I'm working it. I don't expect anything for free from the club neither should anyone else! I hope to see more member enthusiasm in the future.

As the weather improves, we will be organizing another club work party. Arnie Postemski will find something for you to do on that day or two that we shut down the club in preparation for this year's events. We will be having our usual array of archery shoots along with fishing, sporting clays and some shotgun events. One new event is geared toward our kids. Pat Enright has organized a great weekend for them. Get them involved, it's our future!

One serious issue we face in the immediate future here at the club is the Bass property, in particular the Tomeko parcel. The land is seriously up for sale and provides 224 acres of land that we hunt on. The board is looking at some hard options on how to possibly secure this land for our future. Our position and options are somewhat limited as we already have two loans. The skeet field loan debacle being the main stumbling block for incurring another large monthly payment at this time.

So as 2006 warms up, let's all do our part to keep this club going in the right direction. I cannot say it enough that everything that this club tries to accomplish is because of its fine members. So get involved, have fun, and enjoy this fine facility. In closing, again I would like to extend my congratulations to "Moon" for being the 2005 FFF member of the year. Your name could be next....

—Steven J. Davis
President

Annual Game Dinner a Rousing Success

Once again, the Club provided its members with an outstanding Annual Game Dinner. The hall was filled with folks from all corners of the state and there was a large number of VIPs from the ever-exciting worlds of politics and business. The meal was nothing short of sumptuous, satisfying the palate as only wild game can do, refreshments

flowed constantly thanks to the dutiful service from the bartenders, and the raffle was a genuine crowd-pleaser. At the proper moment, Steve Davis held forth to introduce the Man-of-the-Year for 2005-2006. The result by popular demand? None other than Bob "Moon" Hruskocy. Everybody knows and genuinely appreciates the very fine

work he has completed for membership records. Thanks Moon and congratulations! Thanks also to all the members who made the 2006 Annual Game Dinner such a wonderful event!
—CB

Schedule of Events

March

20, 22, 24, 25 CEFS
Hunter Safety

April

1 CT Trappers Fur Sale
8 3-D Archery Work
9 3-D Archery Shoot
9 Easter Egg Hunt
23 Sporting Clays
E. Glastonbury

May

6-7 Junior Outdoors
7 Kid's Fishing Derby
7 Sporting Clays
FFF
13 3-D Archery Work
Setback
14 3-D Shoot
21 Sporting Clays
E. Glastonbury

June

4 Sporting Clays
FFF
16 DU Setup
17 DU Sporting Clays
18 Registered Trap
Shoot

July

9 Sporting Clays
FFF

Pheasant Chicks to Arrive Soon

This year there is much work that must be done to prepare for our arriving chicks. We are planning to try a new automated watering system that will speed up the time it takes to feed the birds, and will greatly reduce the loss of chicks while they are in the coops. The nets will also be replaced with a new net and a system that will not only achieve more height for flying space to improve the birds' wing strength; it will also make them safer from predators. The new system will also make maintenance easier and protect the lifespan of the net itself.

In order to achieve these goals we will need a great deal of help from our members, aside from our usual spring cleaning and preparation for the chicks in the coops. The pens will need to be cleaned out, removing old debris and netting; the poles need new cable and reassuring; the perimeter needs to be cleaned and refastened; and the new net system will need to be installed. The work dates for these projects will be coordinated with the Building and Grounds Committee and Club-wide workdays.

First and foremost the chicks need to be fed. Last year I had a great team of dedicated members both old and new who did a great job of raising the birds.

However, there were only a few individuals and this year we really need more support if the program is going to continue. I would like to have the feeding calendar full before the chicks arrive. The job is not hard and is very rewarding whether you are a pheasant hunter or not.

The early feeding begins when the chicks arrive and continues until they go outside. Feeding must be done twice a day; members may choose mornings, afternoons or both. You can feed for a week or for the duration. It is a commitment but it needs to be done.

There is always a shortage of help, although everyone reaps the benefits of this program. Please contact me to sign up for this rewarding experience or sign up on the calendar at the bar.

Early feeders receive 20 work hours and are invited to the Pheasant Feeders Shoot in November- it's a great time at the end of the sea-

son. Last year we had a great day in the field and donated 30 birds to the game dinner. Late feeders sign up for a week of feeding outside and receive 10 work hours. Thank you in advance for your support.

PHEASANT WORK DATES 2006

APRIL 15TH: COOP CLEANING

APRIL 29TH: RINGS AND BEADING

FIRST CHICKS ARIVE: MAY 1ST

Debeaking: Friday May 19th

Blinders: Friday June 2nd

SECOND CHICKS ARIVE: JUNE 5TH

Debeaking: Friday June 23rd

Blinders: Friday 7th

I can be reached at:

Thomas O'Neill

241 Parish hill Rd.

Chaplin, CT 06235

Home: (860) 455-9882

Work (860) 396-3829

E-mail toneill@mptn-nsn.gov

OK guys: You love to hunt those birds. Even now you are imagining the dog on point, fast flutter of wings, bird taking flight, shotgun brought up for a magnificent shot in a cold clear morning, and bang! Another one in the bag. You love the aroma filling the house when the birds are made into a devilishly delightful dinner meal. Every one of your friends is envious of your opportunity to enjoy the sport and also the fine meal for a king.

Remember: those birds do not drop from heaven come hunting season. They are raised to plumpness by the care and feeding given by hardworking members. Get in there and do your share. As Tom notes, you will be better for it. —CB

Do your part to help
make the 2006
Pheasant Program a
magnificent success.
Tom's got the gear and
plans. Sign up now
before it's too late.

Survey Results

Thanks to all members for your participation in the 2005 survey. There are over 175 responses that the Board is reviewing and we will publish the results in the next newsletter. The early look has indicated a high degree of satisfaction with our club and the many fine facilities we offer our members. We also received some great input on areas that need maintenance.

The Board will be compiling the data and will work with the Committee

Chairmen to develop action plans and create a budget to address the most urgent needs. We will do our best to address as many things as possible within the limits of our budget constraints. We will give priority to energy efficiency ideas, as you have requested, as these pay back over time.

Thanks again for taking the time make your club even better by participating in this survey. We hope you will be able to help implement many of these

opportunities at your club.

The Committee Chairmen will contact those of you that indicated you would like to participate in an action-planning event when those events are scheduled. If you didn't sign up on the survey you may volunteer by contacting any Board member or Committee Chairman.

— Paul Sobol, for the Board of Directors

"Looks like energy efficiency has some kind of priority in people's minds. I wonder if the 22+% rate hike had anything to do with it? Buy up the CFLs at Bennies and Wal-Mart before they are out of stock again boys and girls.....Don't know what a CFL is? Better ask now before you get your next electric bill."

Attention:

Turkey Hunters, Rifle, Pistol, & Shotgun Shooters

Due to the Juniors Outdoor Weekend on May 6th & 7th, The following restrictions are being implemented to insure the safety of all concerned.

- 1) There will be no Turkey Hunting allowed on the Clubhouse side of Chewink Road on Saturday May 6th.
- 2) The Rifle Range and Pistol Range are closed on Saturday May 6th due to Youth Clinics being held.
- 3) On Saturday May 6th, the Skeet Fields will remain open but Field 7 is reserved for a Youth Clinic. Shotgun shooters are asked to use fields distant from #7.
- 4) As always, during the Kids' Fishing Derby on Sunday May 7th, all ranges are closed until 12:00 p.m. when the derby ends.

These restrictions are being implemented with the consent of the Board and the Rifle and Pistol Committees. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in helping to make this a great weekend for the kids.

Fishing News!!!

By the time this article goes to press the ponds will have been stocked for the first time if not the second as well. Hopefully all those who have had a chance to angle for the fish in the ponds have met with success.

First and foremost please note that the **Kid's Fishing Derby has been moved to a Sunday this year to accommodate the Jr. Activity Day and Campout. The date of the Fishing Derby is Sunday May 7th** and is open to club members' kids, grand-kids, nieces and nephews (and non-club member minors who are attending the Jr Activity Day and Campout) up to age 14. As always the Derby will be a great time with prizes galore. Sign-in starts at 7a.m., fishing is from 8a.m. to 12 p.m. with prizes award immediately after.

I am excited about the fish program at the club this year for a couple of reasons. First, I think that we will finally get to fix and/or replace the docks at the fly fishing pond that are in need of repair. If all goes well we will have a rebuilt handicapped-accessible dock there as well this year. While that is being done, hopefully we will get some help to clear some of the brush from around all the ponds. Details on these activities will be posted at the club and will go out via e-mail.

Next, we will have a fly casting clinic at the club on Saturday April 8th from 8:30a.m.

to 12:30 p.m. taught by club member Alan Gnann and assisted by several club members. Alan has extensive experience teaching fly-casting. This class is open to new or beginning fly-casters and is limited to the first 20 to sign up—sign up is required. At the conclusion of the casting clinic, attendees will be free to ply their new found skills on the fish at the fly-pond. It should be a good time and a good opportunity to use that fly rod that was given to you as a present and has been collecting dust because you did not know how to cast. To sign up e-mail or call Jon Guarino, Jon.Guarino@CIGNA.com, 860-428-2873.

Lastly, Alan will also be teaching a clinic to the youngsters that attend the Jr. Activity Day and Campout. This is a great opportunity to introduce a youngster to the intriguing world of fly-fishing. A special thanks to Alan for his patience and support, as well as thanks to member Gary Brummett of CT-Outfitters for the donation of the flies to help out the youngsters.

Please be sure to read the rules posted at each of the ponds before fishing for the first time this year as some rules have changed. Notably the fly-pond is no kill until 12 p.m. May 7th and the single barbless hook restriction has been lifted on the middle pond and the skeet pond.

“Thank you” to all who help to make the Fish Program a success in 2006 as well as “thanks” to the Board for continuing the generous funding of the program.

Fish Committee Chairman – Jon Guarino

Dates of Stocking:

- Wednesday March 15th
- Friday March 31st
- Friday April 14th
- Thursday May 4th (middle and skeet)
- Saturday May 6th (Fly-Pond, Kids Derby)

“Jon has done a great service to the Club in the finance/accounting area, now he’s teaching fish how to balance a checkbook. “

“Seriously, Jon Guarino, with help from his committee, is doing great work for the Club’s fishing interests. Thank them all.”

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Membership News

On Feb 16-20th, the FFF set up a booth at the Dodge Hunting & Fishing Expo in Hartford. The purpose was to solicit members to our club. There was a lot of interest from many patrons. Most were very impressed with what the club has to offer, especially for the price. Many people are looking for a place to shoot, but are having trouble finding a club to shoot at. Several applications were passed out to potential members.

I would like to thank the following people for volunteering their time to work at our

booth: Bill Spears, Dave Fromerth, Dick (Did you see me on TV?) Palmer, John & Laura Pawelec, Dave Rorrio, Matt Halloran, Pat Enright, Kevin Segar, Pete Cafazzo, Bill Knopf, Pete Stoyanovich, Sally Balukas, Steve Pentsak, & Scott Childs. And a special thank you to our President Steve Davis, he was there for all 4 days, putting in a lot of time to help promote our club.

Regards,
Bob Hruskocy
Membership

"Bob 'Moon' Hruskocy got Man-of-the-Year at the Annual Game Dinner this past January. You can see from these notes that he earned that distinguished honor by working hard for the Club.

See if you can whoop him and take the honors in 2007. It won't be easy."

EMAIL, EMAIL, EMAIL

If you have not been receiving any emails from me, **please get in contact with me.** Some email programs may be blocking out the "group emails" that I send. I generally send 2-3 emails a month, updating members on upcoming functions/events. **It is important that you receive this info.**

Reminder, if you have an

email address, you will not receive the hard copy FFF Newsletter. You can download it from the club's website.

If you want the hard copy mailed to you, as opposed to downloading it, please notify me.

Regards,
Bob Hruskocy
Membership

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Work Hours Update

In the upcoming months, there will be plenty of opportunities to get in your 10-hour work requirement. There will be several events and activities that will take place. I send out reminder emails of upcoming events. If you don't have an email address, and are interested in helping out on an event, check the calendar of events in the newsletter. If you

can help on a specific event, contact the committee chairman. Their number is printed on the back of the newsletter. They would love to hear from you! **WE NEED THE HELP!** Your 10 hours must be completed by Sept 30th.

Regards,
Bob Hruskocy
Membership

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JIM DAVIDSON
NSCA CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR

Trap

"The boys and girls in trap & skeet have planned some hot-ticket events for this summer. Reserve these dates and in the meantime get in some practice. You need it."

The sign-up sheet for the 2006 Summer Trap League is posted in the bar. It will start around the first week in June. The format will be the same as last year. It will be a 13-week season, you can shoot anytime you like. You can make up, or shoot rounds in advance. There will be a picnic at the end of the season.

The fee is \$20.00. You can shoot the 2006 Summer Skeet League as well for that fee.

Both leagues will use the "Lewis" scoring system. Therefore, anyone can win a prize!

If you are a new member, or have never shot skeet or trap, it is a great way to meet new members. Come on down and have some fun !

Bob Hruskocy
Trap Chairman

Trap: State Shoot

The CT State shoot will be held on June 23rd, 24th & 25th at the Hartford Gun Club in East Granby, CT. As in the past, the FFF will be responsible for the practice field at the shoot. All revenue collected from practice rounds, goes directly to the FFF. Help will be needed for this 3 day event.

If you can sit in a chair and collect money, it is a great way to get in your work hours !!

Bob Hruskocy, Trap Chairman

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Trap Registered Shoot

The Fin will have 1 registered trap shoot this year, the date is June 18th.

Help will be needed with scoring and loading the houses. Several people will be needed to help with this event. More info to follow as the date approaches.

Bob Hruskocy
Trap Chairman

Skeet & Trap Machine Seminar

There will be seminar on April 23rd and April 30th on how to operate the skeet and trap machines. Start time will be at 1:00pm. If you can't make either of these dates, more classes will be held during the summer months. A lot of money has been invested into these machines, **every** member that uses them, should know how to operate them correctly. This seminar will show you how to properly operate the machines. If you are not familiar on how they operate, a serious injury can occur.

A "Certified to operate machine" card will be given to all those that attend.

ALL members that operate these machines must get this card.

If you know how to operate them already, please see Joe Pirlino or myself, to obtain your card.

Bob Hruskocy
Trap Chairman
Cc:Joe Pirlino
Shotgun Chairman

Improve Your Woodland: Get Help from Sally Balukas

Sally Balukas has successfully completed a forest and wildlife conservation course and is available without charge to help landowners who want to improve and enjoy their woodland.

Sally was among 29 people who attended the intensive, 3 ½ day course at the Yale Forestry Camp in Norfolk, CT. Instructors included forestry and wildlife professionals from throughout the northeast. The training included both classroom sessions and outdoor sessions on the 6,800 acre Great Mountain Forest that surrounds the Yale Camp.

The training is part of a multi-state outreach pro-

gram called "The Coverts Project" (covert is a thicket that provides sheltering cover for wildlife). Participants, called Coverts Project Cooperators, become part of an informed statewide network of people who work closely with state natural resource professionals. Cooperators volunteer their time to inform and assist the more than 100,000 Connecticut woodland owners who together own 85% of the state's forestland. With her husband, Leon, Sally also manages their own woodland.

The Coverts Project is sponsored by the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System, the

Ruffed Grouse Society, the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

People who own or manage woodland parcels of any size are encouraged to call Sally Balukas 860-872-3090 for advice or information on forest and wildlife. She would be especially pleased to assist any fellow Club members.

"Question for Sally: what can be done, if anything, to stem or stop the disease affecting our lovely stately hemlocks? The Editor is coyly soliciting an article from you on the subject."

Fin, Fur, & Feather Club Junior Outdoors Weekend: May 6-7, 2006

This year the club is proud to offer its members the opportunity to introduce children and young adults to the club and the outdoor activities which so many of us love.

The weekend will commence on Saturday May 6th with outdoor clinics geared towards those 6-15 years of age. Clinics will include the following:

Archery, Fly Fishing, Air Rifle, .22 Rifle, Shotgun/Trap, Black Powder, Tomahawk and Knife throwing. Saturday Participants will also get the chance to help stock trout in the Fly Pond in preparation for the Kids Derby. Lunch will be provided and the Spin Ponds are open for catch and release fishing.

After a full day of activity you may treat your kid to another great outdoors experience by camping with him on Club Grounds. That night you will be allowed to campout in a designated area, receive a hunt-

ing dog demo, and join in a campfire and marshmallow roast. When you wake on Sunday morning you won't have to drive to get to the Kids Fishing Derby. Simply roll out of your sleeping bag, head to the club's kitchen for breakfast and then go fishing! Remember that the kid's derby is limited to those 12 and younger.

This is a great opportunity for you to spend some quality time with a child and pass on the traditions of the great outdoors. Clinics will be run by competent members of the club and all firearms and archery stations will have a certified range officer there. The club is providing all safety equipment, firearms, ammunition, and fly fishing gear for the clinics.

All you need to do is provide the youngster!

Registration is mandatory and limited to the first 30

signed up. Preference will be given to Children, Grandchildren, Niece/Nephews, of FFF Members up until April 23rd. After that date, guests of club members may register until the goal of 30 registrants is met. Registration is free but donations will be accepted on the day of the event. Don't procrastinate or you may be disappointed!

Get your registration packet at the club and turn it in at the bar. If you have any questions please contact Patrick Enright at 429-0172 or penright22@yahoo.com

Let's get those kids out there and 'Pass it on!'

"You read the notices about range closures earlier in this newsletter. Here's the announcement of this terrific event for our youngsters. Do your part to help introduce kids to the things that really matter in life. "

Annual FFF Easter Egg Hunt

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 9, 2006

11:30 registration

12:00 - 2:00 PM Egg Hunt, prizes and Lunch

Ages 2-10

Sign your child up by March 21st on the sheet at the bar.

To ensure every child gets an equal amount of Easter Eggs, you must sign your child up on the sheet. Sorry, no walk-ins accepted.

WANTED: Egg Stuffers to help the Easter Bunny...check your emails and the bar for an upcoming work party.

Shotgun Sports

Currently, the only shotgun activities happening are Winter League Skeet and some recreational shooting on the weekdays. Trap, Sporting Clays, and Five-Stand are pretty much finished until April. However, the year 2006 will present a substantial task to our club as we will be hosting several important shoots:

1. State Skeet Shoot - Labor Day weekend
2. Zone Skeet Championship - August 10th - 12th
3. Registered Skeet Shoot - early June
4. One Registered Trap Shoot - June 18th
5. Ducks Unlimited Sporting Clays Tournament - June 17th
6. Five Sporting Clay League events and periodic Five-Stand Shoots.

All of these activities require the cooperation of our Fin members to insure a successful event. Your help is desperately needed. We have the potential to generate a lot of revenue for the Fin, so please volunteer your time to help out.

At the October membership meeting, a year-end financial report was given which showed that Shotgun Sports is a profit-making entity. After paying all of our expenses, including targets, utilities and the mortgage on the fields, we still generated a profit of over \$6,700.

Additionally I would like to make everyone aware that one of our own, Steve Krukoff, finished 6th in the World Skeet Championship missing only 2 of 550 tar-

gets. This is a tremendous feat. Congratulations Steve from the FFF. We are proud of you.

In closing, those of us who run the shotgun sports events at the Fin wish to extend to all of you, our fellow "Finonians", a healthy joyous holiday season and a happy new year.

—In hope of all 25's:
 Jim Davidson
 Bob Hruskocy
 Joe Pirolo

"Joe Pirolo also reports that the shotgun boys and girls are getting a little nervous about the black powder shoot-off being planned for this summer."

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Fin Fur & Feather Club *2006 Application to Hunt Turkey & Deer*

Use this form to apply for hunting privileges on FFF-owned and leased property for the 2006 season.

- I wish to hunt **turkey** in the following fields on the Bass Property. I have indicated my preferences for fields to hunt by circling the numbers below:

My Preferences on Bass Property	My Preferences on Bass Property
1st 2nd 3rd 4th East Field	1st 2nd 3rd 4th Tomecko's
1st 2nd 3rd 4th Green Barn	1st 2nd 3rd 4th West Field

- I wish to hunt **turkey** on Club-owned property.
- I wish to hunt **deer** on Club-owned property--**archery only**. I have indicated my preferences for fields to hunt by circling the numbers below:
- I wish to hunt **deer** in the following fields on the Bass Property. I have indicated my preferences for fields to hunt by circling the numbers below:

My Preferences on Bass Property	My Preferences on Bass Property
1st 2nd 3rd 4th East Field	1st 2nd 3rd 4th Tomecko's
1st 2nd 3rd 4th Green Barn	1st 2nd 3rd 4th West Field

Method(s) of hunting deer: Archery Shotgun Muzzleloader

- I understand that no tree stands may be used on Club-owned or Club-leased land at any time.
- I understand that this application must be returned to the Clubhouse Bar by April 12, 2006 in order to be considered; and that once all applications have been reviewed, permits to hunt will be available at the Clubhouse Bar by April 19, 2006.
- I have read State law and regulations and Club rules and I agree to abide by all hunting laws and regulations.

Name: _____ FFF Membership ID Number: _____

Street Address: _____ Town: _____

Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 12, 2006

Notice: You must purchase a valid 2006 Armband to hunt turkey, deer, waterfowl, pheasant, and so forth on club-owned and club-leased land.

Members are hereby notified that they must observe all State hunting laws and regulations in addition to Club Rules.

Failure to abide by State law and regulations or Club rules may result in Board action against the offending member, including action subsequent to court rulings against the member.

—FFF Board of Directors

2006 Hunting Rules & Regulations

OBSERVE ALL STATE HUNTING LAWS

500 Foot Zone: It is prohibited to hunt with, shoot, or carry a loaded firearm within *500 feet* of any building occupied by people or domestic animals, or used for storage of flammable material.

Hunting Near Roads, Buildings, People, and Domestic Animals: Hunting or shooting from or across the traveled portion of any public roadway is prohibited. Shooting toward any person, building, or domestic animal when within range is prohibited.

Sunday Hunting Prohibited: Possession of hunting implements on Sunday in the open is prima facie evidence of violation. Sunday hunting is allowed on licensed private shooting preserves when the operator has permission from the town.

Motor vehicles: Hunting or shooting from a motor vehicle is prohibited (except under Handicapped Hunting Opportunities, see *2006 CT Hunting and Trapping Guide*)

Firearms in Vehicles: It is prohibited to carry a loaded firearm in a vehicle.

Fluorescent Orange Requirement: During the period September 1 through the last day of February, hunters are required to wear at least 400 inches of fluorescent orange clothing above the waist and visible from all sides (for exceptions applied to archery deer and archery and firearms turkey hunters and others, see *2006 CT Hunting and Trapping Guide*).

Legal Shooting Hours: Do you know when it is legal to start and stop hunting? It is your responsibility to consult the *2006 CT Hunting and Trapping Guide!*

OBSERVE ALL CLUB RULES AND REGULATIONS

Field Dress Game Only. Hunters are allowed to field dress game (remove entrails) only. Do not completely dress your game animal until you reach home. Also, dressing of game animals at the Club is prohibited.

1. Pheasant hunting will start at 8:00 am on Saturday and Wednesday, and in accordance with state law during the week. All pheasant hunters must sign in on the assigned group sheets, before hunting on Saturday, and Wednesday
2. Members are allowed two (2) pheasants per day. A Junior member may pick his/her own A, B, or Wednesday season and is allowed two (2) pheasants per day, but must hunt with a Club member who has a valid CT hunting license and is over 21 years of age. Members may bring a guest, but the guest may not hunt or carry a gun, only observe. Members may bring spouse who also hunts when pheasant hunting, but must split daily bag limit.
3. Hunting or training of dogs near or around the pheasant pens is prohibited.
 - ◆ There shall be no hunting on the Clubhouse side of the rifle/pistol range access road.
 - ◆ All dogs must be leashed on the mowed grass area on the clubhouse side of the driveway.
4. 400 inches of fluorescent orange clothing must be above the waist and visible from all sides at all times while hunting.
5. Hunting of turkey and deer on Club-owned and Club-leased property:
 - ◆ Turkey and deer hunting is allowed on Club-leased property, with a Consent Form, armband, a valid CT hunting license, and tags. Junior members may apply for deer and turkey permits to hunt on Club-owned and Club-leased property and must hunt with a Club member who has a valid CT hunting license and is over 21 years of age. All season and bag limits are in accordance with CT state laws and regulations.
 - ◆ Turkey and deer (bow only) hunting is allowed on Club-owned property with a Consent Form, armband, and a valid CT hunting license and tags.
 - ◆ Waterfowl hunting is allowed on Club-leased property. All state and federal hunting regulations and bag limits in addition to Club rules must be observed, with the exception being on Saturdays. Waterfowl hunting on Saturdays during the upland bird (pheasant) season is not allowed before 1:00 p.m. on Club-leased land. There will be no permanent blinds or dug pits allowed.
6. No parking in the skeet field parking lot until 10:00 a.m. on Saturdays during the hunting season, unless you have a handicapped permit vehicle.
7. Parking is allowed only where directed.
8. All pheasants must be signed in immediately after hunting.
9. Rifle & pistol ranges and skeet fields are closed on Saturdays and Wednesdays until 10:00 a.m. Use extreme caution when hunting near these areas.
10. Pheasants shot on Club-owned or Club-leased property do not have to be tagged with state tags, but must be signed in.
11. No shot size larger than #6 chilled shot shall be used while pheasant hunting on Club-owned or Club-leased property. Ammo to be checked at sign-in.
12. All dogs must be kept on leash or must come to heel after your party has taken its limit of pheasants.
13. Observe all state rules and regulations when hunting.
14. Use of motorized ATVs (All Terrain Vehicles) is restricted to Club-owned property, with Executive Committee approval. For more information on this option, please consult "Rules for use of ATVs," 1998.
15. On Thanksgiving Day fields will be stocked. All hunters are welcome.
 - ◆ All hunters must check in before hunting.
 - ◆ Hunting starts at 8:00 a.m.
16. Pheasant harvest record weekday sign-in book is located inside the Clubhouse at the bar entrance.
17. No hunting on Wednesday until 10:00 a.m. on any Club-owned or Club-leased property, except by allowed Wednesday morning hunters and Turkey and deer hunters.
18. Observe Red Zone signs without exception.
19. This year Arm Bands are mandatory, must be purchased before hunting, and must be worn when hunting deer, turkey, waterfowl, pheasant, and upland small game on Club-owned and Club-leased property. Exception arm band may be removed while hunting turkey or archery deer, while the hunter is in a stationary blind or ground stand.

FFF 2006 "Juniors" Turkey & Deer Hunting

This year your club will once again offer you the opportunity to take a Junior Hunter out turkey and deer hunting on the state sponsored Junior Hunter Training Days. The junior hunter needs to be a son/daughter, grandchild, or niece/nephew of a regular club member, 12 – 15 years of age, and a licensed hunter with the appropriate tags.

These training days provide an excellent opportunity to start our young hunters off with a great hunt. They get to hunt turkey and deer on a day prior to the regular season opening. This means that no one else has put pressure on the game and gives the junior hunter an increased chance for success. It's like Opening Day just for kids!

The dates for the 2006 Junior Turkey and Deer Hunter Training Days are:

Turkey – Saturday April 29th, 2006

Deer – Saturday November 11th, 2006

You will need to take care of the following requirements:

1. The Junior Hunter and the Adult Mentor must each have **Private Land** Spring Season Turkey and /or **Private Land** shotgun/rifle Deer Permits (**shotgun only may be used**). Apply through DEP.

2. The Junior Hunter and the Adult Mentor must each have written consent forms signed by the land owner. Apply for your consent forms through the club.
3. The Junior Hunter must be either a Junior Member of the club or a relative of a club member. FFF Junior Members consent forms will be valid for the year. If the Junior Hunter you take out is not a club member then the consent form will only be valid for two days - April 29th and Nov 11th.
4. Adult Mentors must be Club members, at least 21 yrs. old and may not carry a firearm.
5. All other applicable State laws and FFF Club rules apply. Please consult the 2006 CT Hunting and Trapping Guide.

Good Luck!! If you have any questions or need assistance contact Patrick Enright at 429-0172 or email me at penright22@yahoo.com

"The outdoors is the greatest place for young people to expand their minds and develop the spirit that lies within each and every one. God meant it that way. Do your part. The kids need our guidance as much today as ever in the past."

Pistol News

Well Folks,

The Old Ground Hog has seen his shadow, so its only 6 more weeks of winter, which means, Summer Pistol League. is just around the corner.

This year the League will start on April 19th, and go through August 30th. As always the time will be at 6 pm, Wednesday evening, and you can either shoot rim fire or center fire, make sure you have your ear and eye protec-

tion. Those of you kind of twisting your fingers around, lets say this, jump up and say, hey, I want to shoot at the Fin Summer Pistol League.

I will be holding a quick seminar on the Saturday the 15th at 10 am to make everyone aware of what that the course of fire is, and what is required from you, and most importantly make you comfortable in shooting.

So, Get those pistols out and say, I'm

going to the club for the summer League.

Thanks to everyone in keeping the course of fire clean, and remember to sign in when shooting. Your participation in this will insure continue interest in this sport.

Any questions call me, or I'm usually at the club on Friday afternoon, or around Saturday.

Once again, "Keep'em in the ten range"

Treasurer's Report

Fellow members:

I've been your treasurer for the past two years. I've learned a lot during these years. I can now use *Quick Books Pro* to record deposits and pay the bills. Most of my job is just that: paying the bills. The Fin receives about 10 bills per week. I cut checks for these bills and record the amounts under the appropriate accounts. As a club, we are doing quite well financially, and I would like to thank the past leadership of the club for their financial savvy.

I summarized our yearly incomes and expenses over the last several years. I thought that you might be interested in reviewing this information. Our income has varied over the past five years.

In the 2000-01 year, our income was \$244,533. Income rose appreciably in 2001-02 to \$331,116 and stayed steady the following year, \$331,153. The big increase in income was due to the opening up of the membership, and the collection of the land assessment for the Ostrager property. For the

next two years, our income fell to \$286,661 in 2003-04 and \$277,949 in 2004-05. As most of you know, we spend just about all of what we bring in. In other words, income equals expenses. In 2000-2001, club expenses were \$263,243. As with income, the expenses went up over the next two years, \$305,665 in 2002-2002 and \$331,718 in 2002-2003. Our expenses for the next two years were very close to the income and were \$285,040 in 2003-2004 and \$279,327 in 2004-2005.

Breaking down these expenses, we can see what percentage of the accounts can be attributed to Club expenses. The club and bar expenses are the top two expenses over the last five years, averaging about 30% for the bar, and 29% for the club. The Bar and the Club expenses are about 60% of all our expenses. The next largest expense is Shotgun Sports which equaled about 16% of total expenses. The rest of the categories are usually less than 5% of the total, and vary from year to year.

Our biggest income sources are from membership, bar, and shotgun sports. These income sources vary from year to year, but they average about 23% each. In total, these categories account for about 70% of the total revenues of our club. Next in terms of income, is our club activity account, which averages about 9% of our income. I would like to highlight this: 9% of our club's total income comes from the club activities we run. Thanks are in line for all of you guys and gals that conduct these activities. Also, if anyone has an idea about a money-making activity please feel free to coordinate it and help increase this income. The next two highest income accounts are pheasants and kitchen, both averaging about 3.5%.

I hope you guys have found these data as interesting and informative as I have. Our club is doing well financially and let's all try harder this year to increase our income so we can keep improving our club facilities.

—Tom Hoagland, Treasurer

"There is no news like good news and there is no good news like knowing that the bank account is running in the black."

English Springer Spaniels for Sale

We have English Springer Spaniels for sale. 10 Pups (3F&7M) born 1/18 06.AKC, of course. The dam and stud are strong field/sporting dogs with an outstanding pedigree and temperament. The pups are liver/white and in great shape. \$650 M; \$700 F 203. David H. Stahelski 40 Silo Hill Road Madison CT e-mail stahelski@sbglobal.net 203 421 4659



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Editorial

This issue marks the midpoint in a seven year stretch when I've had the honor of serving as the Club's editor for the *Rod & Gun Gazette*. Every year of reporting on the Fin's activities has demonstrated just how exciting it is to be a member of this great organization.

This year is proving to be no different in that respect than any year of the past. However, something has happened with this particular issue that has NEVER happened in the past. Typically I have to beg people to send in articles or I have to search for things to write about, conducting brief interviews here, collecting bits and pieces of information, documents, or photographs there.

Not for March 2006, Volume 7, Issue 3. No. What a surprise it has been do have people in this club send me articles by the bundle. And

photos. Check out those pics of the Mountain Men! We have an issue that is chock full of important news and stories. In fact, the flood of material for this issue was so great, I actually had time to write a book. (See next page.)

Seriously, every editor desperately needs writers who care enough about their work to sit down and write it up. A large number of our members did that for this issue and I can't tell them in words how glad I am to receive their articles. For the members that material provides up-to-date information about events and highlights regarding the past months. For our archives it gives future generations a well-documented history of how we prepared for their arrival and especially how we did our part to protect this precious interest in

the outdoors. The *R&GG* is the written record of our life at the Fin.

Take the time now to relax with your favorite adult beverage and examine the events for Juniors, Fishing, Shotgun Sports (Trap & Skeet), Pistol, Pheasants, Membership, Woodlots, Hunting, and the Game Dinner. Please realize that none of this would be news unless the men and women who organized and implemented these events had not cared enough and committed themselves to getting the jobs done with finesse. Thank them. Join them next time. Doing the work of the Fin is more than half the joy. Indeed, our work here is the Fin.

Congratulations to all!

Keep the articles coming for June's issue. See you then.

—CB

"Doing the work of the Fin is more than half the joy. Indeed, our work here is the Fin."

Armband's 2006

This year 2006 Armbands will be mandatory for all members hunting Club-owned and Club-leased property. This will include Deer, Turkey, Waterfowl, Pheasant, and Upland small game.

Written Consent forms will only be issued to members in good standing who have purchased an armband for the current year. You may pick up your armband and consent form at the same time. In an effort to make things easier for everyone we will no longer have the Pheasant Hunting Group Applications. When you come down to purchase your 2006 Armband just tell the Bartender which group you wish to hunt (Group A, B, or Wed.) and he/she will issue you your armband and sign you up for that specific group. The cost for a 2006 Armband is \$5.00 and may only be purchased at the Bar during regular bar hours from April 19, 2006 to December 31, 2006.

Editor Writes Book for Basic Pistol Course

Excerpt from Book's Forward

PISTOLS 101 is mainly an instruction manual to teach folks how to handle pistols safely no matter what may be their reason for having one – or not having one for that matter. This book can be used for private study or as part of a course that introduces students to basic pistol shooting. I sincerely hope that this book helps every student to develop the positive attitudes, skills, and safe practices for a lifetime of enjoyment in the shooting sports, but especially pistol shooting. If readers do nothing else I hope as a minimum that they pass on this information to others – for safety sake.

I come to the pistol shooting crowd from a pathway that is very likely quite different from others. For one thing, having academic credentials in the field of education makes me a standout for certain – and it is not always particularly heartening. For another thing, I have other interests in my life besides shooting sports to keep me busy and reasonably happy, so with me shooting a gun is not the all-consuming passion. For the record, it is one very important hobby for me, including particularly teaching the basic pistol course where this book is used, but I also devote spare time to fishing, camping, hiking, hunting, and other stuff guys do. I love variety in life. Heck, I'm also a quilter, having completed a queen-sized "Buckeye Beauty" for my wife this last year – and she did not know it until Christmas morning when she opened the big fluffy package.

I have a family that I love to spend time with: a beautiful wife and four wonderful sons, two of whom are now married and one of whom has given us a grandson – healthy happy Everett Thomas.

And that is exactly my point here: the student who takes up pistol shooting needs to understand it as one important part of their whole life, which of course means figuring out how to combine this interest in handguns with other pursuits. Today, a person cannot just go out and buy a pistol, bring it home, and do with it whatever they want. There are laws governing who can buy guns, when, where, how, what kind of guns, and also why. And pistols are not cheap.

If a person lives alone, it may be somewhat easy to develop this pastime, but if the place called home includes partners, spouses, or a family situation then it calls for care and thoughtfulness. A person who wishes to pursue pistol shooting needs to talk about it with their loved ones and prepare them for this new interest. Explain why it is important to obtain a pistol and how it will be stored and used safely. Get the other family members involved in the pistol shooting sport if they are interested. If they are not interested, that is OK, too. Always give the family all the assurances they need that the home will be just as warm and safe and actually safer than before obtaining a pistol. After that, go to the range regularly and have fun shooting pistols.

In the Preface to *The Art of Shooting* published in 1960, Charles Chapel wrote that "The right to own firearms and acquire skill in their use is a basic part of the democratic way of life" (p.7). I believe that Chapel was correct then and that his words are no less true today. However, as noted above there are now laws that place restrictions on the exercise of this right and this way of life. In many states a basic pistol course is the first requirement in a process to obtain a license to purchase and/or carry a pistol. This book and the course it is used in provide that starting point for a lifetime of enjoyment in handgun shooting.

In the past two decades especially there has been significant advancement in the technology for handgun manufacture and also for the technological devices incorporated into the mechanisms and attachments for firearms. Both the revolver and the semi-automatic have benefited from high technology. This book's central purpose is to help the student develop skills and attitudes for safe handling of pistols; thus, it is not concerned much with the advances in firearms technology, as fascinating as that subject is.

PISTOLS 101 also discusses the following topics: Second Amendment to the Bill of Rights; historical development of early firearms; invention of gunpowder, percussion caps and primers, firing mechanisms, and the self-contained cartridge; ammunition; how revolvers and semi-automatic pistols work; care and cleaning of pistols; range safety rules; and storage of firearms. The book recognizes the wide-ranging interests that people have for pistols including collecting, hunting, plinking at breakable targets, target shooting, competitive shooting in an increasing variety of sports, personal and home defense, military defense, and police work....

In the gun trade, there is one thing certain: everyone has their private opinion on guns. It often comes with a strong desire to convince others they are wrong about some topic. State a position, for example, on how to hold a revolver for reloading and there will be several other "experts" with completely different pistol gripping techniques. Make a claim about one-handed versus two-handed pistol shooting, which gun is faster and/or more accurate (the revolver or the semi-automatic), which gun manufacturer makes the best pistol, what is the best load, how long the barrel should be, how much the pistol should weigh, what coating is best, what solvents to use, what kind of bullet is best, etc. and there will be no end of argument from the "experts."

I have no desire to argue with the gun "experts" about pistols or guns and gun equipment of any kind. I'm certain they know more technically specific information about guns than I do. All I ask is that they join me in helping introduce other people to gun safety and the joy of pistol shooting....

It's time to begin **PISTOLS 101**.

Good shooting.

Be safe.

– Charles Bruckerhoff

April 2006

A Publication of Foresight

www.foresightforgoodguys.com

Chapel, Charles E. 1960. *The Art of Shooting*. New York, NY: A. S. Barnes and Company, Inc.

"**PISTOLS 101** is for folks who want to learn how to handle a pistol safely and may possibly have an interest in shooting handguns. The author welcomes editorial comments on the draft version of **PISTOLS 101** from Club members. Encouraging membership in the Fin is a regular feature in his course."

"Boys & Girls in the shotgun , Rifle, & Pistol sports take note (fish too, Jon): if these gents from the 1840s can take digital photos for the newsletter, I don't understand why fellas living in the 2000s can't."

Rendezvous for the Hardy

This was a small Rendezvous in Madbury, NH on February 25th and 26th. At a Rendezvous the goal is to have all your gear, tents, and clothing pre-1840. We do some shooting with flintlock rifles and smooth bores at a variety of targets and compete throwing tomahawks and knives at a wooden block.

Saturday started out nice, but by noon the snow began to fall, when it finally ended around midnight a foot of the white stuff was on the ground. Then the sky cleared and it got

cold enough to freeze the water bucket by the fire. But we all managed to stay warm and dry thanks to layers and good old wool. This was a small event, but all had fun. Larger events, up to 600 people, will be happening in the spring and summer. One will be up in Thompson, Connecticut called the Original Northeastern Rendezvous. Join us for some great fun.

—John Oliver



More Photos of the Rendezvous



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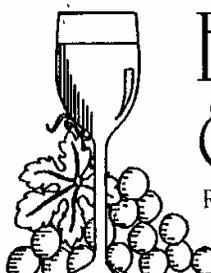
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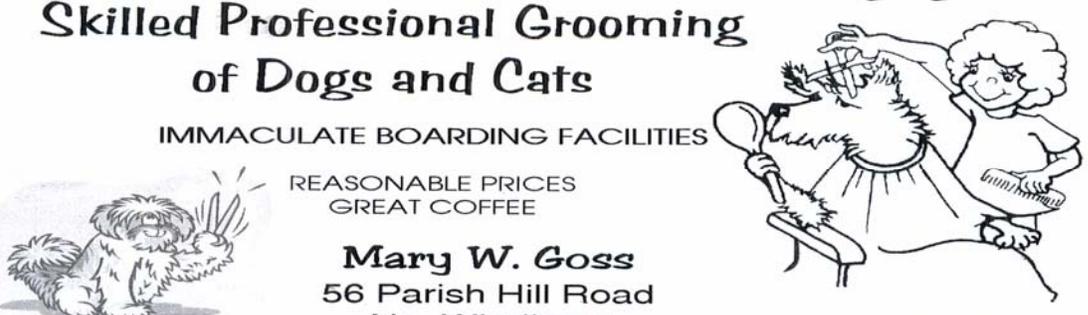
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In Memoriam

Last year we lost a dear soul, everybody's loyal friend in the Club and one of the hardest workers we have ever had. Kenny Bartlett: we miss you. To your family we send our warmest sympathy and best wishes. Requiescat in Pace.

Bill of Rights Amendment 2

"A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

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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 especially in Afghanistan and Iraq, 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 particularly in wartime, 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

