



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 11: ISSUE 3

MARCH 2010

THE PRESIDENT'S SPOT

T.C.B. Larry

I have been in office for 6 months and it's hard to believe that I have only 6 months left and still so much to accomplish. Past presidents have used this column to encourage involvement by members with our committees, and I need to do the same because it seems that there has been less help over the last two years.

The pheasant Program took the biggest hit last year, when Paul Cardinal was solely responsible for feeding the birds for at least 6 weeks. Please come out to feed this year. I will be overseeing the program until a pheasant chairman steps forward. The fish, skeet, archery, rifle and pistol programs all need your help. If we fail to maintain our high standards of the past, we will start to lose good people to other clubs, so please come out and show your support for these programs and your fellow members.

The 50th anniversary of our Club is coming July 10th. This is going to be BIG so don't miss out on one of the best events this year. It's been my pleasure to serve you in the last 6 months.



Governor Jodi Rell attended the Fin's annual game dinner.

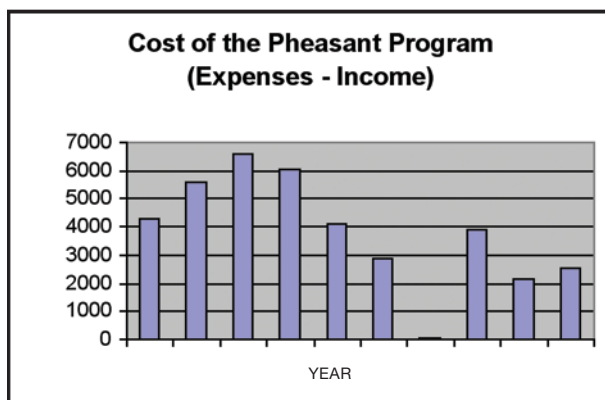
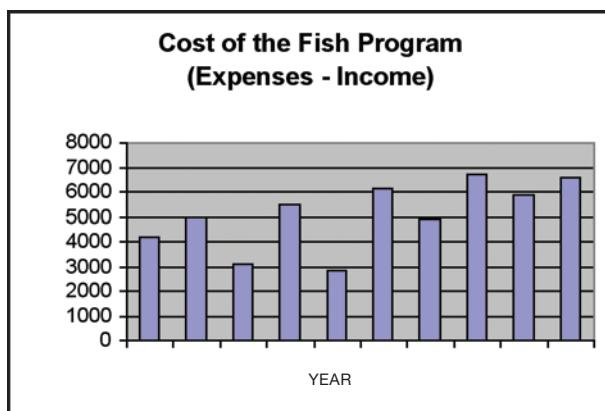
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March	26	Fish Fry
	27	Setback Tournament
April	2	Fish Fry
	10	CT Fur Trappers Auction
	17	Roast Beef Dinner
	18	Registered Trap Shoot
	24	Club Workday
	24	3D Archery Shoot
May	1	Sporting Clays Workday
	1	Fly Fishing Tournament
	2	Kid's Fishing Derby
	8	BBQ Chicken Dinner
	9	3D Archery Shoot
	16	Sporting Clays Shoot
June	4 – 6	State Skeet Shoot
	6	Sporting Clays Shoot
	6	M-1 Garrard Match – Rifle Event
	12	Roast Pork Dinner
	20	3D Archery Shoot
	26 – 27	CWA Sporting Clays Event
July	10	FFF 50th Anniversary Celebration
	11	Skeet Shoot
	18	Sporting Clays Shoot
August	8	Registered Trap Shoot
	11	Sporting Clays Shoot
	14	Skeet Shoot
	15	Annual Family Picnic
	29	Ducks Unlimited Sporting Clay (tentative)
Sept	12	Sporting Clays shoot

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Hoagland, Treasurer

It is time again for a quarterly update regarding the financial status of our Club. Several people are talking about the cost to run the fish and pheasant programs at the Fin and I compiled the following figures to help show you the results. These figures do not have every single expense and income stream figured in, but they are sufficiently accurate to show the trends. The fish program costs the Fin approximately \$5,000 each year. The cost to run the pheasant program has been more variable but averages out to about the same as the fish ~\$5,000; takes many more man-hours to care for the pheasants than to care for the fish. I for one feel that the people that coordinate these programs should be commended for a job well done; many, many members enjoy these programs. Remember if you want to head up a fund-raiser please step forward and make the club some money!



MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hruskocy, Membership Chairman

The club's membership numbers are remaining steady, even through tough economic times. There were only 27 people, both Associate & Regular members, who chose not to renew their membership. The club currently has 372 Regular members, 84 Associate members, 25 Junior members and 119 Life members. These numbers are consistent with past years at this time. The club also collected \$16,820 in non-completed work hours for the year. Since 2001, the club has collected over \$113,000 in non-completed work hours.

One change that was made in the last few months was the requirement of new members to submit a background check on themselves when applying to the club. A new member would be exempt from this if they possess a valid CT pistol permit. If they do not have a CT pistol permit, a background check is still required. Since the State has raised that fee from \$25.00 to \$50.00, the Executive Committee felt it would ease the financial burden for new members.

Also, members DO NOT get credit for their work hrs by sponsoring a new member; this policy has not been in place for 4 years. Some members are still under the assumption that it is still policy.

It was suggested at a membership meeting to have a list of all members available on our website so that members can contact each other. This information will contain the person's name, phone number(s), and email address. It will be available in the "Members only" section on the website. If you do not want your phone number(s) or email address listed, please let me know.

If you know of anyone that is interested in joining the FFF, please have them email or call. I can send them an application.

INCREASE IN ARM BAND COSTS

Don Bajger, the Iceman

Beginning this year, 2010, arm bands are required for both hunting and fishing. The cost of arm bands has been increased to \$25.00 for regular & life members, and \$10.00 for juniors. They must be purchased and worn when hunting at the club or the club-leased property, and when fishing in any of the club ponds. The funds collected will be used to offset the hunting and fish programs. Thank you

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Cameron Faustman, Newsletter Editor

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

OUT IN THE FIELD

SPORTING
CLAYS

5 - STAND

SPORTING CLAYS

Dick Palmer

Hi all! I hope that everyone has stored up lots of ammo for this summer's Sporting Clays events. Our schedule is as follows, **May 16th** 9am (50 targets), **June 6th** 9am (50 targets), **June 27th** is the CWA special shoot (100 targets) 9am, **July 18th** 9am (50 targets), **Aug 8th** 9am (50 targets), **August 29th** tentatively Ducks Unlimited (100 targets), and **Sept 12th** 9am (50 targets). As in the past we will need workers to be present by 8am to help organize the course; breakfast or lunch is provided and trapping occurs until 1:30pm. The CWA special event will require between 24 and 30 members for set-up and related activities; breakfast will be provided with a report time of 8am.

We have scheduled a couple of work days for May 1st at 9am and May 2nd at 9am. Please bring your gloves, brush cutters, rakes, and chain saws. While the people who want to stain are staining, the other people can clear brush and leaves away from the trap placements and shooting spots. Last year we had adequate help and set the entire course up within 4 hours. This year we need to re-stain the fences, gun racks and sign posts, so let's hope that mother nature cooperates.

There is a possibility that a Ducks Unlimited event will be scheduled on August 29th; a firm commitment one way or the other should be known soon. Historically, the DU shoot has been a great money-maker and we will need 24 to 30 workers. Stay tuned for more information in the June newsletter and on the club bulletin board.

Please mark your calendars to provide help at each shoot; I am looking forward to seeing everyone again. If have any ideas to make our set ups easier or how we might better arrange the target presentation, please contact me at **860-933-4768**. See you out there and "keep breaking those targets".

5-STAND

Jim and Nancy Davidson

Spring is just around the corner and we are looking forward to the opening of 5-Stand! Whether you are a beginner or an experienced shooter, we encourage all members to stop by and check out the fun and challenge of this shooting game. Keep your eyes on the lookout emails and fliers in the bar that will announce the official season opening. See you soon.

FISHING

Fish stocking is anticipated to occur on 3/13, 3/25, 4/15 and 4/29. This year anyone wishing to fish will be required to purchase a \$25 Fishing/Hunting Armband (available at the bar). This requirement applies to all Life, Regular and Junior members (Jr armband is \$10.00). Members fishing without an armband will be subject to disciplinary action.

SAFETY SEMINAR

Bob "Moon" Hruskocy

Now that the weather is getting warmer, I will try to hold at least one Safety Seminar per month so that members can get their Range Safety Cards. Every member is required to take this course to use the ranges. It is difficult to schedule these dates in advance due to individuals' schedules and weather. Therefore, an email notice will be sent out a few days in advance. If you do not have email, call me and hopefully I can give you that information. The next possible date is anticipated to be the last weekend in April.

TRAP

Bob "Moon" Hruskocy, Trap Chairman

The club is holding two registered trap shoots for the 2010 season. The first shoot is on April 18th, there will be a work party on the 17th to set up for the shoot. Help will be needed on both days. Please email/call if you are available. The second shoot is on August 8th, with setup on the 7th. Help will be needed on both days as well.

The club has very few registered Trap shooters, if you are interested in registered (competition) shooting, please email/call for specifics.

FLY TYING

Come join fellow members Marty O'Rourke and John Goudard for fly tying every Thursday from 1:00 to 4:00 pm in the clubhouse.

JUNIORS ACTIVITIES

Patrick Enright, Juniors Chairman(penright22@yahoo.com)

As I sit and write this article, spring is in the air, but I am sure that since I just took the plow off the quad another snowstorm is right around the corner! Warmer weather is coming and it is time to get the youth in our club involved.

There have been quite a few Junior members joining the club over the last few months and I hope to see them participating in our club's many activities this spring and summer. Along with the fun activities, please don't forget to include the Juniors in the upcoming work parties. The club does not require work hours of its junior members, but there is no better way for them to meet fellow club members and feel like they are a valued part of this organization. Bring them on down and have them pitch in, their help will always be welcomed.

The following youth activities have been planned:

JUNIORS TURKEY HUNT: This year the state has scheduled two "youth only" turkey hunts on April 17th and 24th; hunting ends at 5:00 pm on these days. Connecticut Regulations for turkey hunting state that the hunt must end at 12:00 pm, but for the youth days it has been extended. These youth hunting days are a great opportunity for kids to get a hunt in when the birds have not had any pressure with little competition. If you have a junior member who would like to participate in this hunt but don't know where to start, please contact me. I'll be happy to offer advice and get you pointed in the right direction. Remember that all state and club rules/regulations are in effect for this hunt and that the club armband (\$10 for junior members) is required when hunting on club property or leased land.

KIDS FISHING DERBY: May 2nd starting at 8:00 am, put on by the Fish Committee.

JUNIORS SKEET & TRAP CLINIC: I plan to hold a clinic to introduce youth shooters to the basics of skeet and trap. This will be a one-day instructional clinic with the goals of learning the course of fire, how to score the events, and the use of the trap and skeet machines. Safety will be stressed at all times and hopefully a few targets will be crushed. Participants should plan on shooting at least one round of skeet and one round of trap. Each shooter is responsible for their own ammunition and the cost of each round of targets (\$2.50 per 25 targets). I can provide a shotgun, eye and ear protection for anyone who needs it. This clinic is tentatively scheduled for June 26th. Watch for a sign up sheet to be posted in the clubhouse during the month of May.

I'm always looking for ways to get our youth involved in the outdoors so if you have any suggestions or would like to run a program please contact me. Until next time, "Pass it on!"

CONNECTICUT WATERFOWLERS ASSOCIATION 1ST ANNUAL SPORTING CLAYS FUN SHOOT

The CWA will sponsor its first sporting clays fun shoot at the Fin on Sunday, June 27, 2010 (rain or shine) with registration opening at 8:30 am and shooting set to begin at 9:30 am. The cost is \$75.00 (free event t-shirt if pre-registered by 6/12/2010)

\$45.00 for ages 17 and younger, and includes 100 targets, BBQ pork rib lunch, prizes, raffles, and CWA membership.

An Instructional Shooting Clinic will be held in conjunction with the Sporting Clays Shoot for beginner and started shooters. The cost is \$45 and includes: Clinic, t-shirt, BBQ pork rib lunch, CWA membership, raffles (must be pre-registered by 6/12/2010; note there is Limited Enrollment). For more information/registration, call John Pawelec **860 429-7033** or email jpaw33@snet.net.

ARCHERY COMMITTEE

Jim Michaud

The Fin, Fur and Feather 3-D Archery season is about to begin and we need help! The first 3-D shoot is set for Saturday April 24th. Registration opens at 7:00 am and closes at 2:00 pm. Help will be needed on Friday the 23rd (4:00-7:00 pm) to set up targets and the registration area. On the day of the shoot we will also need assistance to start retrieving targets at 3:00 pm. The Kitchen committee has graciously offered to open the kitchen as well.

Since the Fin has not had a shoot in several years, several of us walked the course. It is, to say the least, a bit overgrown in some areas and clean-up is needed. We have work parties scheduled as follows:

- **March 6th**, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm – we will be checking the 3-D targets for usability and course clean-up. Time permitting we will also create new marker signs for the course.
- **March 20th**, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm – we will be doing additional course clean up, cutting rebar we may need, planting the rebar for the targets and shooting locations.
- **April 10th**, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm – we will be modifying the Archer Range. We will need anyone who can carry away the old target frame, help with brush, plant rebar along the woods as 5 yard markers, and assist with setting up the new target frames that Larry Shewokis and his crew created.

The remaining shoots are scheduled for:

- Sunday **May 9th** (Mother's Day when Mom's shoot free)
- **June 20th** (Father's Day when Dad's shoot for half price)
- **September 19th**
- **October 17th**

I know there is a lot to do, so if you want to get your hours in early, please come out and lend a hand. If you have any questions my cell number is **860-402-4155** and my e-mail addresses are NRA.Pistol.Instructor@Comcast.net and jmichaud@sscinc.com. Thanks.

REQUIRED REPORTING OF TURKEY AND DEER

Don Bajger, the Iceman

Anyone hunting deer or turkey at the club or club-leased property during the 2010 season will be required to report their harvest. There will be a sign-up sheet at the clubhouse for you to enter this information, or you may also call the club and have the information logged in for you. This is mandatory, no exceptions please! We will also post photos if you send them to me, or bring them in.

FIN FUR & FEATHER CLUB APPLICATION TO HUNT TURKEY & DEER

Use this form to apply for hunting privileges on FFF-owned and leased property for the 2010 season.

- ☐ I wish to hunt Turkey on the Bass Property
- ☐ I wish to hunt Turkey on the Club-owned property
- ☐ I wish to hunt Deer on Club-owned property (Archery only)
- ☐ I wish to hunt Deer on the Bass Property

Method(s) of hunting deer: ☐ Archery ☐ Shotgun ☐ Muzzleloader

- ☐ I understand that Tree Stands are not allowed
- ☐ I understand that this application must be returned to the clubhouse bar by April 14, 2010 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 28, 2010.
- ☐ 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 14, 2010** (return to the Bar).

Notice: You must purchase a valid 2010 armband to hunt turkey, deer, waterfowl, pheasant, and so forth on club-owned and club-leased land (the armband is also required for fishing in Club ponds). 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

MEMBERS OF THE MONTH

Our January *Member of the Month* was **Frank Starnier**. Frank has been a faithful member of the pheasant raising team for many years and has always been there for special and regular work parties, doing what it takes to make the program run.

Kevin Segar, Marty O'Rourke, and Dave Rogoz were the February *Members of the Month*. They were instrumental in setting up the raffle table and prizes at the annual Game Dinner which is essential to ensuring adequate revenue generation for the event.

March *Member of the Month* was awarded to **Joe Kuronya**. Joe has organized and implemented our delicious Friday night Fish Dinners, and other special meal events such as the spaghetti/meatballs and roast beef dinners. A lot of time and effort is required for anyone putting on a dinner and Joe has helped set a very high standard.



*President Larry Shewokis congratulates Man of the Year, **Tom Hoagland** at the 2010 Game Dinner.*



*President Larry Shewokis poses with **John Postemski**, recipient of the Fin's Lifetime Achievement Award.*



The 5th annual Pike Under the Ice Tournament took place on February 6th at Mansfield Hollow.



GAME DINNER

Martin O. Buckley, Game Dinner Coordinator

I would like to thank all the members of the Fin for their participation in our successful annual game dinner on January 31st. In particular, I want to recognize Jeffrey Butterfield,

Joel Herman, Michael Cavallo, Octavio Falino, Dick Palmer, Dave Fromerth and Matt Halloran for their outstanding contributions to this event and their masterful food creations. Also, thanks to Don Doucette for his work on the ovens and gas systems that allowed us to cook; to Tom Skoglund and Brenda Liappes for ordering, coordination and delivery of all the necessary supplies; and to John Vanini for his 4 days of continuous service. In addition, approximately 23 additional club members worked tirelessly to make the event a great success. And of course, the most important thanks of all, to all those who donated the game, without which, there would be no dinner.



Fin members Stan Palumski, Bill Garrity and John Postemski helped get venison ready for the 2010 Game Dinner.



Jeff Butterfield and the Crew did another outstanding job at the 2010 Game Dinner. Thanks guys.

KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Kid's Christmas Party was held on Sunday, December 20th during Storm Albert! The start of festivities was delayed to permit folks to shovel out. A total of 58 children participated along with Santa. Thanks to all who brought food, helped in the kitchen and cleaned up afterwards.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Unfortunately, work and school commitments will prevent us from organizing the annual Easter Egg Hunt this year. If you or anyone you know would be willing to help make this happen, please call John or Laura at **860-429-7033**.

4TH ANNUAL GREAT PUMPKIN CHALLENGE

It's that time of year again to start considering how you'll grow the biggest or most interesting pumpkin to claim ribbons and bragging rights. Three classes will be featured this year. The "Main Event" requires growers to use our seeds (pick them up at the bar) with no planting to begin prior to May 31st and no vine-injecting! The "Open Class" is an anything goes approach that permits you to use our seeds or any others that you'd like and to plant whenever it suits you. The "Carving Class" will provide our artists to showcase their talents.

Last year's rains made for a tough growing season and a low turnout of pumpkin entries. It's never too late to get started so please plan to join our event. Best of luck for a happy growing season and see you at the FFF's Great Pumpkin Festival on October 23rd!

BAR SERVICE (OR NOT!)

Members wishing to be served at the Bar must present their membership card. If an individual is not a member or if they are a member that has forgotten their card, they must sign-in. Bartenders are required to ensure that this occurs so that the club's ability to continue operating is protected. Please be respectful and comply with requests to present proof of membership/sign-in. Thanks.

RAFFLE WINNERS

The Fin, Fur and Feather Club enjoyed another successful raffle this year. Congratulations to the following winners drawn at the March meeting.

Harold Cipriani - \$500 @ Cabela's
Robert Sadowski - \$300 @ LL Bean
Fran Defranco - \$200 @ Center Sports
Bill Johnson - \$100 @ Stop & Shop
Gary Adams - \$75 @ Angellino's Restaurant



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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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CHILDREN'S FUND

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FAMILY PICNIC

Kevin Theriault 860-429-1792

FIELD TRIALS

Tony Kubasek 860-944-6716

FISHING

Jon Guarino 860-428-2873

FIVE-STAND

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