



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 15: ISSUE 1

MARCH 2014

SPRING ➡

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dick Palmer

Members, it's a great start for the new year, the Annual Game Dinner was the best as always, thanks to Clayton and his host of Chef's, and Man of The Year was Kevin Theriault. There is a lot of activity going on in planning shoots for 3-D archery, Sporting Clays, Skeet, Pistol, and Rifle. The Fish and Pheasant committee are working to get things in line for the upcoming season. We are planning a Club wide work day on the 12th at 9 am, we need members to bring leave blowers, saws, rakes and other lawn items to get rid of the winter sights. We also need to continue to renovate the remaining skeet houses with trim and paint, the brown building needs some work as well. With everyone pitching in, the work goes faster and a lot easier. Please watch your e-mails, follow the newsletter for those work details. Spring is around the corner, hope you can come down and work on your Club projects.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

- 1 6:30 pm Executive board meeting
- 5 9 am Sportsman tag sale, see Bill O'Hara
- 8 7 pm Membership meeting & Raffle Drawing
- 6 3-D archery shoot
- 12 9 am, Club wide clean-up
- 19 Opening day of Fishing Season
- 19 Spring Winter league shoot
- 27 Take a Vet Fishing. **Please Note All Ranges Will Be Closed Until This Event Is Completed**

MAY

- 3 Fly Fishing Tournament
- 4 Kids Fishing Derby
- 4 Sporting Clays 50 target shoot, registration at 9 am
- 6 6:30 pm Executive Board meeting
- 13 7 pm Membership meeting
- 18 3-D Archery Shoot
- 18 Registered Trap Shoot
- 31 Appleseed Shooting program

JUNE

- 1 Sporting Clays, 50 target shoot, registration at 9 am
- 3 Executive meeting at 6:30 pm
- 6, 7, 8 Register skeet shoot at the Fin "Northeast Open" 5 guns
- 10 Membership meeting at 7 pm
- 21 CWA 100 target Sporting Clays event at 9 am, **help is needed please sign up at the bar**
- 22 3-D Archery Shoot

JULY

- 5, 6 Register skeet shoot "Fin Open"
- 13 Sporting Clays 50 target shoot @ 9 am.
- 27 3-D Archery Shoot

AUGUST

- 3 Register skeet shoot "No Name Open"
- 10 Sporting Clays 50 target shoot @ 9am.
- 7 Family Picnic at 12 noon

SEPTEMBER

- 6 Saturday Ducks Unlimited Sporting Clays 100 target shoot. **Help is needed, sign up at the bar.**
- 7 3-D Archery Shoot
- 9 Membership meeting at 7 pm
Nominations for Officers, and Board
- 14 Sporting Clays 50 target shoot, last one for the year
- 20 Annual Chicken BBQ to benefit the Pheasant program

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Hoagland, Treasurer

Currently the club is in strong financial shape. The land fund is increasing in case we need to purchase some property. I thought that maybe you guys would like to know that our loan for the skeet fields is under \$60,000 and continuing with a double payment the loan will be paid off in about two more years. Having these loans paid off will loosen up monies for other major activities we the members deem worthwhile. As usual the Fin could use additional monies so any idea you have that could make some money please step up and organize it.

MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hruskocy, Membership

Currently the clubs membership is: Regular 333, Associate 166, Junior 33, Life 142. The club added 72 new members in 2013, however there were 70 people that did not renew their membership to the club this year. This is a little higher than normal. There were several people that indicated they loved the club, but were relocating out of State because of the State's current gun laws. If you know of anyone that is interested in becoming a member, I can email you an application.

The club collected over \$20,000 in work hours this past year. Almost half the members choose to pay rather than work the required 10 hrs. Since 2001, the club has collected over \$192k. If your email has changed, please send me the updated address.

I send out several emails during the year about work parties and events. Don't wait until September to get your work hours completed. Every year members contact me in September because they need get in their hours. Don't wait!



MAN OF THE YEAR

KEVIN THERIAULT on the left was presented 2013 Man of The Year by President Dick Palmer. During the past years Kevin has always gone out of his way to either chair a committee, running to pick up supplies, helping in maintaining the grounds or buildings, and has always stepped forward to help make the Club the best it can be.

CLUB WIDE CLEAN UP

There will be a Club wide clean up at 9am on April 12th, usually goes until noon or before, easy work hours. We need to get the grounds picked up, some staining of siding and paint areas at the Club house. Bring your stuff, machines for this. After there will hamburg's and hot dogs for lunch.

RAFFLE

Raffle Committee

REMINDER: The club raffle is April 8th. Each Regular and Associate member are required to buy/sell \$40.00 worth of tickets. If you do not buy or sell them, you will be invoiced for the unsold tickets. Please help to support YOUR club.

TAG SALE

The Club annual spring Tag Sale will be April 5th at 9 am. Please contact Bill O'Hara At 860-872-3558, if you are interested in renting a table to sell your unused or unwanted sportsman items, or any other item. Table costs are \$15. In the past these Tag Sales have been outstanding.

FAMILY PICNIC

Members, this year family picnic is on August 17th at noon, so mark your calendars as time seems to creep upon us so quick. Additional announcements will be through the June newsletter and e-mails. The Family picnic raffle is always looking for items if you like to donate, contact Frank and Connie Mauri.

ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ SEPTEMBER 20TH

The Pheasant Committee annual Chicken BBQ will be held on this date, this is to benefit the Pheasant program, and you really need to attend this BBQ as the meal is fantastic. Check the information in the June newsletter, and through e-mails as to ticket sales.

**5 GUNS
500 TARGETS**

THE

**\$40.00 PER
100 TARGET EVENT**



EVENT #1	Friday, June 6	Doubles	Flight times – 3:00 pm & 4:00 pm
EVENT #2	Saturday, June 7	12 Ga.	Flight times – 9:00 am & 10:30 am
EVENT #3	Saturday, June 7	20 Ga.	Flight times – 12:30 pm & 2:00 pm
EVENT #4	Sunday, June 8	28 Ga.	Flight times – 9:00 am & 10:30 am
EVENT #5	Sunday, June 8	.410	Flight times – 12:30 pm & 2:00 pm

Shoot-offs for each event follow the last flight of the day

Doubles 3, 4 & 5 miss and out by station

\$12.00 DOLLARS OF EACH ENTRY RETURNED AS PURSE MONEY IN CLASS PER EVENT.

Gun Champions - \$2 of each entry

Gun Runners-up - \$1 of each entry

EVENT #6 HOA – \$10 – Classes AAA – D based on .410 avg.
HOA DETERMINED ON THE BASIS OF RESULTS FROM EVENTS 2-5 ONLY
Concurrent's in all events – honors only

RESERVATIONS: Frank Mauri – 860-974-1425

Connie's Field Kitchen will be open Sat. & Sun. 8:30 AM until 2:30 PM

FREE BUFFET AFTER SHOOTING ON SATURDAY AT THE LOWER PAVILION.

ROTATION	SATURDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	SUNDAY
Gauge	12 Ga.	20 Ga.	28 Ga.	.410
1	9:00 AM	12:30 PM	10:30 AM	2:00 PM
2	10:30 AM	2:00 PM	9:00 AM	12:30 PM

The Fin, Fur & Feather Club, Inc. • 213 Chewink Rd., Chaplin, CT 06256 • 860-455-9516 • www.finfurfeatherclub.com



SPORTING CLAYS

Dick Palmer

The season is fast approaching, and we need members to work each event. If you work you will get your work hours, a choice of either a breakfast or lunch sandwich just for sitting on a trap and having fun watching the shooters trying to break targets. The report time is 8 am and usually the finishing time is between 1 and 1:30 pm. We only need 7 members for the 50 target shoots; you can sign up before hand or wait until the e-mail goes out a week before the shoot. You can either call me at 860-933-4768 or e-mail rpalmer12@snet.net. We have two big shoots again this year, the CWA group will be here on Saturday June 21st which starts at 9 am, so report time is at 8 am, which goes till about 1 pm. The other shoot is Ducks Unlimited which is on a Saturday Sept. 6th, and that is the same time. These two shoots, I'll have a sign up list in the bar for you, or you can contact me directly. The regular shoots are 50 targets all on Sunday and the time is 9 am. The dates are as follows; May 4th, June 1st, July 13th, August 10th and Sept 14th. Please set aside some time to work these events. *Keep breaking those targets.*

SKEET & TRAP PRACTICE

Frank Mauri, Shotgun Chairman

The skeet and trap fields will be open for practice daily except Monday. Prior to the bar opening rounds shot must be paid for using the receipt pad & envelopes available in the lower clubhouse and in the exact amount owed. The sealed envelope should be left in the black mailbox located on the front wall of the bar next to the entrance door. After 12:30 pm, Tues. – Fri, the bar is open. Skeet and trap rounds must be paid at the bar and recorded in the book provided, located on the bar. Check and keep the receipt you receive from the bar maid indicating payment. Ideally, pay for your skeet or trap shooting first and get a receipt, then order and pay for any other item you wish. Shooting on Saturday and Sunday commences at 9 am, except during pheasant stocking season and terminates at dark. The bar is open these days beginning at 9:30 am. Log in your rounds shot in the book on the bar and pay the barmaid for the rounds, again, pay for your shooting before ordering drinks. Check and keep your receipt.

REGISTERED SKEET SHOOTS

The schedule of registered shoots to be held at the Fin is as follows:

JUNE 6, 7, & 8	The NorthEast Open 5 guns
FRIDAY, JUNE 6	Doubles in the afternoon
SATURDAY, JUNE 7	12 Ga. in the morning, 20 Ga. in the afternoon. Buffet offered in the evening. Field kitchen open all day.
SUNDAY, JUNE 8	28 Ga. in the morning, 410 in the afternoon. Field kitchen will be open all day.
JULY 12 & 13	The Fin Open: 4 guns
SATURDAY, JULY 12	12 Ga. in the am, 28 Ga. in the pm. Field kitchen will be open all day.
SUNDAY, JULY 13	20 Ga. in the am, 410 in the pm. Field kitchen will be open all day.
AUGUST 3	The No-Name Open: 2 guns
SUNDAY, AUGUST 3	12 Ga. in the am, 20 Ga. in the pm. Field kitchen will be open all day.

Help will be needed each day of the shoots at both the skeet fields and the field kitchen. Contact Frank Mauri – 860-9741425 or frankm@toast.net.

TRAP

Bob Hruskocy/Trap

The club has a registered trap shoot on May 18th. There most likely will be a work party on May 17th to get the fields ready. Some of the skeet fields will be closed. I will send out an email for help as time approaches. The doors to the trap houses need to be repaired/replaced, I will schedule a work party later this Spring.

For those that are interested in shooting trap, we generally shoot on most Saturdays. We would love to have a few more people to shoot with. Send me an email if you are interested. I will have a seminar as well for those that need to get familiarized with the skeet and trap machines.

HUNTING BADGES

Please mark your calendars as you will need to purchase your 2014 badge prior to October 1st. After that date, no badges will be issued. You must fill out your permission slips, for selecting the type of hunting activity you would like, selecting your fall hunting group, and finally purchasing your badge. Come September, if you have not completed your work hour requirement, or paid your obligations, you will be notified. You must pay for those work hours, and outstanding obligations or you will lose your hunting privileges and your badge. Tremendous amount of work goes into this program from permission slips, organizing forms, verifying information on the permission slips, notifying members that information was incorrect or left out, cross checking work hours, obligations paid for, and finally issuing badges. This is to ensure that everyone is eligible to hunt, after meeting all these requirements.

It is your responsibility! To make sure that information, work hours, obligations, and payments have been completed so to purchase your badge. Please keep your receipts. It is not the Hunt Chairman or the Club, it is you.

Remember, October 1st is the Deadline.



FISH COMMITTEE REPORT

The fish committee met on Jan. 18 to lay the groundwork for the upcoming season. Rules for fishing the three ponds will be sent via email. All fishermen must purchase a badge for \$25 which entitles them to fish and also to hunt. The badges may be purchased at the bar.

Fish stockings will be on March 14, April 4, April 25 and a special stocking for the kid's derby on May 2. The stocking will be at about 4:30 pm each day so any who wish to come and help should be able to get there. Buttonball Trout Hatchery located very near the club will supply the fish and they will be in good shape since they have only a short trip from the hatchery to our ponds. Brook and rainbow trout will make up over 90% of the fish stocked with 12 – 14" fish the minimum size and a goodly number of 16"+ fish added as well. Brown trout will make up a few percent of the fish in the last stocking as they are more temperature resistant. Approximately 75 % of the fish will be stocked in the middle and lower ponds open to lure and bait fishing with the remainder going to the fly pond.

We are hosting a Veteran's fishing day as we did two years ago and it will be held on April 27 at the Fly pond from 9 am till Noon. Help would be greatly appreciated so that the Veterans can have a good time.

A Fly fishing tournament will be held on May 3 on the fly pond. The entry fee is \$20 and it will be a catch and release event. Sign-up sheet will be posted on the wall of the bar.

The Kid's fishing derby will be held Sunday May 4 from 8 am till 12 Noon also on the fly pond. Sign-up sheet for kids who will attend will be located on the wall of the bar. Twelve (12) years old is the maximum age for participants. Those who haven't any children of the right age can bring a nephew, niece, a relatives or close friends' child. Food will be provided free to the children while adults may buy food at the upper clubhouse kitchen.

We are seeking donations so as to purchase additional fish for the veteran's and our own kid's. A \$10 donation will buy one large fish or a couple of smaller ones. Please donate and help make the two events fun for the participants.



FIN MEMBERS TACKLE MAINE'S SMELT FISHING NEAR AUGUSTA, ME.

Above picture is of Fin members who venture to Augusta, Me. for two days of smelt fishing on the Kennebec River. The Kennebec is a tidal river, we booked a six hour fishing period for Friday and Saturday afternoon. These shacks have small wood stoves, stools , fish riggings, free bait and fire wood which comes with the rental. The ice was about 12" thick; we had only taken about a total of ten fish total, but the socialization was unforgettable. This trip was a total blast. Left to right is Bill, Phil, Kevin, Matt, Mike, Tom, Bruce, Rod, Shawn, and Dick.

PHEASANTS

Paul Cardinal, Pheasant Chairman

WOW members its gets better every year thanks to all your help. The 2013 season was very successful, the cost to stock a pheasant is at an all time low.

There will be a work day in early April, I will let you know by club email.

Once again, help will be needed in July when our 3800 8-week old pheasants are being delivered. Date and time has not been confirmed. I will let you know by club email.

Remember to sign up to feed birds on the calendar in club house bar.

Keep in mind we are only successful if we all pitch in and help. Let's do it again this year! Remember to support the pheasant functions to help keep our costs down and our stockings up! Pheasant functions include: Setback, SCAT, Flippin' Chicken BBQ.

2013 REPORT

Start	3800
Stocked	1954
Sold	1712
Lost	134

Cost to club \$4118.14
\$ 2.11 per bird stocked

GREAT JOB MEMBERS !!!

ANNUAL GAME DINNER

The Annual Game Dinner was again a huge success, thanks to the tremendous work from Clayton Coogan, and his staff of chefs Mitch, Mark, Bill, Matt, Twig, Nancy, Dick, and I know I left somebody out, so my apologies, and for the ladies who help put out the meal. The raffle was also interesting with prizes obtain by Frank and Connie Mauri. Peter Rich had a great line up of Legislators who are pro hunting, and what we stand for, and did another find job to MC this event. Lastly, we must also thank all those members who donated game to this event.



CHILI CONTEST

John & Laura Pawelec

The Fin, Fur & Feather recently held it's 3rd annual Chili contest. 13 cooks brought their best chili down to compete to become the 2014 Fin Fur & Feather Chili champion. We had a over 50 eaters who sampled the chili and voted on their favorite. There was homemade corn bread, queso dip and chips and what every good chili contest needs...2 bottles of antacid. This was the closest battle ever...with a one vote difference between each of the top 3 contestants. Trophies were given to the top 3 winners. Here are the results:

2014 CHILI CHAMPION - Mitchell Dominique

2ND PLACE - Dave Larsen

3RD PLACE - Kyle Jay & Jordan Wells

We would like to thank all the chili cooks for their hard work and generous donation of chili, and for everyone who attended to make this event a big success. All proceeds went to the Children's Fund.



2014 FIN FUR FEATHER CLUB APPLICATION TO HUNT TURKEY/DEER

Use this form to apply for hunting privileges on FFF Own and leased land for the 2014 season.

- ☐ I wish to hunt Turkey on lease land.
- ☐ I wish to hunt deer on lease land
- ☐ I wish to hunt Turkey on Club own property.
- ☐ I wish to hunt deer on Club own property (Archery Only).
- Method(s) of hunting deer: ☐ shotgun ☐ Archery ☐ Muzzleloader
- ☐ I understand that only portable tree stands are allowed, your name and Club Number must be on the stand, and they need to be removed at the end of season.
- ☐ This application must be return to the clubhouse by April 13th to be considered. After this date the applications will be reviewed, slips will be available at the bar.
- ☐ I have read all State Laws and regulations, all Club rules and agree to abide by all hunting laws and regulations.

Name

FFF Number

Your current address

State

Zip Code

Phone Number

Signature

Date

NOTICE

You must purchase a valid 2014 badge to hunt Turkey, Deer, Waterfowl, and Pheasants etc. On Club or lease property. Members are hereby notified that they must observe ALL State Hunting laws, regulations, and follow All Club rules. Failure to abide State laws/regulations, or Club rules may result in your forfeiture of Hunting badge, suspension of privileges, or both.

IMPORTANT NOTE

When purchasing your badge and you plan on hunting pheasant in the fall, please be certain of which group you plan on hunting with. Once these buttons are purchase you may not be able to exchange them to another hunting group. The groups are Wednesday, Saturday "A", and "B".



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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.*

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Dick Palmer, President 860-933-4768
Kevin Theriault,
Vice President 860-429-1792
Bill O'Hara, Secretary 860-872-3558
Tom Hoagland, Treasurer 860-455-0641

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Mark Holland 860-617-3750
Shawn Koehler 860-810-4050
Will Lucier 860-455-9117
Wayne Mather 860-423-0450
Keith Morehouse 860-647-1333
John Postemski 860-423-9396
Tom Potter 860-212-6573

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

ARCHERY
Jim Michaud 860-402-4155

BAR
Don Bajger 860-423-6693

CHILDREN'S FUND

John & Laura Pawelec 860-429-7033

COMPONENTS

Jim Skoglund 860-992-9779

FAMILY PICNIC

Kevin Theriault 860-429-1792

FIELD TRIALS

Tony Kubasek 860-944-6716

FISHING

Frank Mauri 860-974-1425

FIVE-STAND

Jim Davidson 860-456-8782

HEALTH/WELFARE

Dick Palmer 860-933-4768

HUNTING

Wayne Mather 860-423-0450

INSURANCE REVIEW

Eugene Lewis 860-423-3341

JUNIOR PROGRAMS

Pat Enright 860-429-0172

KITCHEN

Clayton Coogan 860-221-5653

MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hruskocy 860-569-1592

MERCHANDISE

Bill Spears 860-822-6567

NEWSLETTER

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PERMITTEE

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Paul Cardinal 860-455-0255

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RIFLE

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