



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 18 | ISSUE 1 | MARCH 2017

FISHING SEASON IS BACK

OPENING DAY
April 8th

KIDS FISHING DERBY
May 7th



BIG TROUT DERBY

May 20th

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dick Palmer, President

Wow, spring is almost here and summer is fast approaching. Glad we could put away those shovels and start thinking Sporting Clays, 5-Stand, and practical pistol.

Upcoming events include the Club hosting the NSSA Zone 1 Skeet Championship on Aug 11th, 12th, and 13th. Friday's event starts at noon, and Saturday's and Sunday's starts at 9 am. Skeet shooters all throughout New England and New York will shoot for top gun in their gauges and divisions. The Annual Kids Fishing Derby is on May 7th; please watch for notices and sign up.

The Annual Game Dinner spotlighted a tremendous dinner. Thanks to Clayton Coogan and his crew as they provided a fantastic meal. The Game Dinner raffle was a great success. Many thanks to Jim Dowd as he won the 50/50 raffle and donated his winnings to the Kids Christmas Fund.

Just a reminder, after you use the ranges, pick up your hulls, papers, and brass. If you see something that is broken, stop and let the bartender know so it can be repaired or replaced.

Thank you

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

- 18th Annual Corn Beef Dinner, tickets at the bar
- 26th 3-D Archery Shoot
- 30th First stocking

APRIL

- 2nd 3-D Archery Shoot
- 4th Executive Board meeting at 6:30 pm.
- 8th State wide Open Day of Fishing
- 11th Membership meeting at 7 pm
- 13th 2nd stocking of fish
- 15th Prime Rib Dinner, tickets at the bar. There is a dead line
- 30th 3-D Archery Shoot

MAY

- 2nd Executive Board meeting at 6:30 pm
- 4th Last fish stocking. NO FISHING until after the Kids Derby
- 7th 3-D Archery Shoot
- 7th Annual Kids Fishing Derby. Sign up before this date is required
- 9th Membership meeting at 7 pm
- 20th Big Trout Derby
- 21st Sporting Clays Shoot, 9 am

JUNE

- 4th 3-D Archery Shoot
- 6th Executive Board meeting at 6:30 pm
- 11th Sporting Clays Shoot at 9 am
- 13th Membership meeting at 7 pm.

RAFFLE

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

HUNTING BADGES

Please mark your calendars as you will need to purchase your 2017 badge prior to October 1st. After that date, no badges will be issued, unless you are a new regular member. You must fill out your permission slips, selecting the type of hunting activity you would like and which fall hunting group you want to join, before purchasing your badge. Come September 30th, 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 any outstanding obligations, or you will lose your hunting privileges and your badge. Tremendous amount of work goes into this program from producing permission slips, organizing forms, verifying information on the permission slips, notifying members that information was incorrect or left out, cross checking work hours, confirming that obligations have been paid up, and finally issuing badges. This is to ensure that everyone is eligible to hunt, after meeting those requirements.

It is your responsibility to make sure that information, work hours, obligations, and payments have been completed in order to purchase your badge. Please keep your receipts. It is not up to the Hunting Chairman or Club, it is you.



MEMBERSHIP

*Bob Hruskocy,
Membership Chairman*

Currently the club membership is: Regular 340, Associate 204, Junior 21, Life 156. The club added 72 new members in 2016, however there were 60 people that did not renew their membership to the club this year. If you know of anyone that is interested in becoming a member, I can email you an application. 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. I will be holding a Range Safety Seminar sometime in April for those that need to get their range safety cards. An email will be sent to notify the date.

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FISH COMMITTEE REPORT

All fishermen must purchase a badge for \$25.00, which entitles them to fish and hunt or, new this year, you can purchase a Fish Only button for \$15.00. All Junior members must also purchase a badge for \$10.00. The badges are available for purchase at the bar.

Fish stockings will take place on the following dates:

- 1st stocking – March 30th {Weather Permitting}
- 2nd stocking – April 12th
- 3rd stocking – May 4th

The stocking will start around 4:30pm each day and we would appreciate any volunteers who can make it. Buttonball Trout Hatchery located near the club will supply the fish. The fish will be in good shape since they only have 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 with a good number of 16"+ fish added as well. Brown trout will make up the remaining percent of fish stocked at the last stocking as they are more temperature resistant.

FYI – The upper pond will be CLOSED from May 4th until May 7th, the day of the Kid's Fishing Derby.

The Kid's fishing derby will be held Sunday, May 7th from 9am – 12 noon at the fly pond. Sign-up sheets for kids who will be attending will be located on the message board in the bar. The maximum age limit for participants is 15 years of age. Members who don't have children within this age limit can bring a relative (niece, nephew, grandchild) instead. Lunch will be provided free to the children and the kitchen will be open for adults to purchase food and drinks.

We are seeking donations so we can purchase additional fish and prizes for the derby. There will be a sign up sheet located in the bar. Please donate and help make this event fun for all participants!

HUNTING COMMITTEE

Shawn Covell, Hunting Chairman

The new year has brought the thought of the new hunting season to each of us. As I write this article, many items and ideas are being worked on to make this year a success.

The hunting badges are available at the bar, and consent forms will soon be processed and passed on to members. Turkey season is fast approaching along with all the other outdoor activities we look forward to.

Anyone requiring consent forms for the youth week please get your information to the bar so I can make sure they are completed in time.

As a reminder, all requirements must be completed and/or paid for you to get your badge and consent form.

Looking forward, help will be needed to make this year's pheasant program run smoothly to remove the

burden off the few outstanding individuals that have worked so hard in the past.

Each year we have numerous members hunt but are having increasing difficulty getting the weeks of catching, stocking and feeding filled. Be vigilant for emails requesting help so that the birds are out in the field to enjoy.

As a last thought, Remember, that we need to follow all state and club regulations regarding hunting. Please be courteous to each other in the field as there have been complaints regarding this in the past.

As always, feel free to contact me with questions or concerns and I'll do my best to address them.

GAME DINNER

The Club's annual game dinner was again a big success. The Kitchen Chef's put on a fantastic meal consisting of wild turkey pizza, clam chowder, bear meatballs with gravy, goose sausage with penne pasta and sauce, pheasant pot pie, mash potato's and veg's, duck soup, venison meatloaf, and stuff mushrooms. Many thanks to our chef's for such a great meal; they were head chef Clayton Coogan, his crew of Mitch Domigue, Mark Peters, Bill Schultz II, Jorge Volpe, Sasha Peters, Hal Nelson, Kevin Goodell, and Cory Clark. During the meal our pro sportsman and gun legislators Doug Dubinsky, Mike Frances, Tony Guglielmo, Chaplin's first selectman Matt Cunningham spoke about upcoming legislation. The Club present plaques of Appreciation to Gary Godbout, Ron Mike Jr, Skip Gondek for their work at the Club. Special appreciation plague to past President Kevin Theriault for his tenure as President.



Man of the Year Shawn Covell center, President Dick Palmer left and past President Kevin Theriault right



We recognize Skip Gondek for the years of helping with the pheasant program, catching, boxing and stocking the birds.



Past President Kevin Theriault recognize for his work.



We had also recognized Gary Godbout for effort over the years for cooking breakfasts for our hunters and sporting clays shooter.

We recognize Ron Mike Jr. for his work over the years in replacing the roofs over the rifle, pistol ranges and work on the brown skeet bldg. Ron's plague left before a photo could be taken. Thank you

REGISTER ZONE 1 SKEET TOURNAMENT

2017 Zone 1 Skeet championship will be here at the Fin on August 11th, 12th, & 13th rain or shine. As part of the Fin hosting this event, we need members to come and work a half day or full day. Help is needed from stacking targets, emptying trash, working in the field kitchen, running water coolers etc. Please watch your email as preparation is needed for either Wednesday or Thursday to clean the fields to ensure our neat appearance.



SPORTING CLAYS

Dick Palmer, Sporting Clays Chairman

The 2017 season is right around the corner again. This is one sport you will get hooked on, so come out and enjoy. The Ducks Unlimited group will be returning again on Sept. 9th. The dates are as follows; May 21st, June 11th, July 9th, Aug. 6th, Sept 9th (Ducks Unlimited), and Sept. 17th. We need 7 trappers for each event which offers easy work hours. Watch for e-mails a couple weeks before each shoot to sign up. Trappers need to report at 8 am and the event usually goes until 1:15-1:30. Costs are for 50 targets just \$15.00, additional 50 targets \$10.00, all day \$45.00.

If you want to sign up in advance please contact me 860-933-4768 or rpalmer12@snet.net.

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2017 FIN FUR FEATHER CLUB APPLICATION TO HUNT TURKEY/DEER

Use this form to apply for hunting privileges on FFF owned and leased land for the 2017 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.
- I have read all State laws and regulations, all Club rules and agree to abide by all hunting laws and regulations.

This application must be returned to the clubhouse by April 11th to be considered. After this date the applications will be reviewed, slips will be available at the bar.

Name

FFF Number

Your current address

State

Zip Code

Phone Number

Signature

Date

NOTICE

- * You must purchase a valid 2017 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.
- * All Deer and Turkey harvested must be reported within 24 hours by signing the book by the bar Door.
- * Sunday Bow Hunting is for lease land "only".

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 purchased, you will not be able to exchange them to another hunting group.

The groups are Wednesday, Saturday "A", and Saturday "B".



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 Shawn Covell 860-428-0041

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