



Letter from the Vice-President

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Dear Members,

Service on the Club's Executive Board for several years and as the Vice-President for the past four years have been a distinct pleasure for me. During this time, we accomplished a number of very notable objectives. The skeet field renovation project, long in the dreaming stage, is now a remarkably beautiful shooting sports facility, including opportunity for trap shooting. We bought the last remaining contiguous piece of property—for a handsome price, to be sure, but we got it for the Club. Sporting Clays has come a long way and archery also has made great gains in facilities and programs under

very fine leadership. Fishing, ever the great joy of young and old, continues to provide members with relaxation whether they are serious about landing a fresh catch for dinner or for much-needed practice with a fly rod or spin-casting reel. Rifle continues its unique offerings in high power, with special time set aside for the Garand match and recently the long range .22 caliber match. Likewise, pistol continues to attract the hand gun shooters. Both rifle and pistol ranges offer great opportunities for members and guests to drill one-hole groups. Black powder events reawaken the desire in some members for a genuine

shooting challenge with pistol, rifle, and carbine; skirmishers are popping and cracking at breakable as well as paper targets. The bar tends to show a profit, which is a good thing. The Club's adoption of quality software and systematic data entry and analysis keeps members well-informed about our finances. And, events for our children are nothing less than outstanding, whether embedded in the Annual Picnic or basically reserved for the youngsters, like the Christmas Party. We have some tremendously generous members who give their time—an untold number of hours and days—(continued on page 4)

Special points of interest:

- Vote on Changes to Club Dues October 11th.
- Annual Elections October Membership Meeting
- Fall Hunting Season off to great start.
- Thanksgiving & Christmas are just around the bend.

Annual Election of Officers & Executive Board

Members are notified that at the October 11 Regular Meeting the Club will hold its annual election of Officers and Executive Board. The following slate is presented:

OFFICERS

President: Steven Davis
Vice-President: Don Bajger

Secretary: Richard Palmer

Treasurer: Tom Hoagland

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Jim Gifford

Jon Guarino

Bob Hruskocy

Keith Morehouse

John Pawelec

Mike Sobol

Paul Sobol

Bob Theriault

Rick Turcotte

2005 Annual FFF Family Picnic Was Another Tremendous Success

Thanks to the hard work of the 37 men and women who volunteered to help with this year's Family Picnic, everyone (598) who attended had a great time.

As usual, there was plenty of great food, including the all-time favorites—boiled steamers with butter, raw clams with spicy sauce, and clam chowder—and there were hotdogs, hamburgers, kielbasa, and trimmings. There was beer and soft drinks aplenty.

The ordinary raffle was made special this year by the inclusion of a custom-made fly rod generously donated by one of our members, Alan Gnann, a crusty old lobster returned for a pot boiling finish, and—new this year, finally, because it was promised forever—a cow to mark the spot of a lucky Cow Chip Contestant.

Kids especially had fun. There was the Treasure Hunt in the Pile of Hay, Egg Toss, and so much more. Horseshoes were

played by mainly older members under the trees by the Pheasant Pens. Dancing.

Hats off to Bobby T and his terrific crew! He thanks all his loyal helpers!

Next year the FFF Picnic returns, of course. Make plans to help break an already tremendous success story. Be there to help Bobby produce another wonderful day for the FFF's members, family, and friends.

—Editor

"For more great photos of the 2005 FFF Picnic, go to the Club's website at www.finfurfeatherclub.com."

"Anybody care to guess what Bobby T will do to top this outfit next year?"



Skirmishing Update

“On the Line! Skirmishers, load and come to the ready”... These are the words that N-SSA skirmishers look forward to hearing every season. The season will soon come to a close and all the skirmishers will have to reflect on the past season to get them through the winter and into the 2006 season. It has been a good season with skirmishes being held in MA & NY in addition to the skirmish recently hosted by the 20th CVI at the Fin on Septem-

ber 10th & 11th. The thrill of shooting antique and antique replica Civil War firearms while dressed in uniform is addictive and hard to compare to any other shooting sport. While targets at the N-SSA Nationals held twice a year in Winchester, VA are standardized, regional skirmish targets can get a little funky. It is hard to beat watching a hanging 16 ounce water bottle explode when you deliver a direct hit at 50 yards or a 6 inch ceramic tile turn to

dust at 100 yards. Miniature flower pots pose a real challenge as does the stake event which requires the 8 member musket team to pump enough lead down range to break apart a 4 inch wide stake. And, who wouldn't like the thrill of sending a 405 grain minie ball down range to shatter a Jane Fonda workout CD. It's called “shooting trash” and it is great fun. Can't wait until next season!

—David Volz

“Regional Skirmishing is a week-long event . On Sunday morning activity begins with a formation, playing of the “Star Spangled Banner,” and “Dixie.” Below are photographs of the 15th CT Volunteer Company.



Trap—Registered Shoot

The FFF held its second registered shoot on Aug 28th. There were 20 shooters that shot the event. Attendance was down, but after all the expenses were paid, the shoot still made a profit of \$321.40. I would like to thank the following people for all their help:

John and Laura Pawelec for their great job on the grill, Butch Simpson, John Zemzars, John Lonergan, John Olynk, Dave Rorrio, Bob Frankland, Tom Rossing, Jay Young, Alan Perry, Josh St Lawrence, Ted Naumec, Bob Cooper, Don O'Neil, Dan Gutt, & Steve

Davis. A special thank you to non-members: Marshall Lussen & Kevin Cloutier. If I forgot to mention somebody: my apologies. Thank you once again for all your help.

Regards,
Bob Hruskocy
Trap Chairman

Trap—Summer League

Well the first Trap summer league has come to a close. A great time was had by all. Many new friendships were made. All the shooters improved as the season progressed.

Twenty two members shot in the Summer

league. Congrats to Dan Gutt on being the Class A Champ. Pat Buckley Class B, Bob Frankland Class C, Art St Lawrence Class D.

Awards were based on the Lewis scoring system. Trap revenue has in-

creased to \$8887.00, an increase of \$4497.00 from this time last year.

Thanks for all those that participated to make this happen. Hope to see ya next year.

Regards
Bob Hruskocy

"The Club's 2005 Summer Trap League celebrated the end of their season—and a great many good times—with a picnic."



Letter from the Vice-President (continued from p. 1)

to make this place our second home. And many have generously donated dollars when we needed money to buy things.

But, as you all know, the work to make our Club the best it can be is never finished. And, at this point, I want to wish the new officers and board the very best in the new year of operations at the Fin. Above all else: you must set goals and finish them.

What follows is a short list of things I think need attention and that I hope we will accomplish in the short term. Work on these items should begin immediately.

- 1) Ambitiously pay down extra dollars on the skeet field mortgage on a quarterly or semi-annual basis.
- 2) Seriously recruit more regular members to get the count well over 450, as planned.
- 3) Create a Family Membership category in our dues structure to provide formal recognition and pricing benefits for spouses and children.
- 4) Do more, significant things directly for the needy to show that we care and that we are good neighbors.
- 5) Cut back on spending; weigh, and monitor every expenditure over time.
- 6) Totally renovate the kitchen and hire a dedicated, part-time cook.
- 7) Regularly recognize the senior members of our Club who have given so much for so many years.

My work on the *Rod & Gun Gazette* will continue, as will my service as Chairman of the Black Powder Committee. I have thoroughly enjoyed your support and look forward to seeing you at the Fin. Thank you.

—CB

Pistol News

Well folks it's that time of the year again where the pistol and rifle ranges are close until 10 am on Wednesday and Saturday because of the bird stocking. Please remember to shoot from port area # 12 in sighting in those slug guns, black powder, muzzle loaders, and your center fire before moving up onto the rifle range for final adjustments for deer season.

The Summer League finishes shooting. We were able to shoot 14 nights out of 20,

and average 6 shooters per evening. During these courses of fire, Dennis Knowlton had 2 scores at rapid fire during the summer for straight total of 100 out of 100. I mention the one on May 11th, and it happened again on July 13th, NICE JOB Dennis.

Overall if you been at the range its in pretty good shape, the brush is cut back between the rifle and pistol ranges, the bldg had been stain, and the area picked up.

We are looking into establishing the IDPA course here on the grounds, and still in the develop-

ing stages. Those of you who either shot this course of fire or are interested, contact me.

Remember to sign the book, pick up your empty brass or shotgun shells, and please followed the establish rules posted there.

Until the next time "keep'em in the ten range"

Dick Palmer

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Beef Brisket Barbeque

The barbeque scheduled for Oct 8th has been re-scheduled until Nov 5th at 3:00pm. For those that have purchased tickets for the 8th and can't make the new date, your money will be refunded.

There will be 100 tickets sold for this event. They can be purchased at the bar. This is an authentic Texas style BBQ.

A member's father is driving up from Texas to prepare this.

The price of the ticket is \$12.00/adults, \$8.00/children. Draft beer and soda are included in the price of the ticket. Hope to see you there.

Regards
Bob Hruskocy
Trap chairman

Membership News

"Read this notice carefully. A proposal to change the dues structure will be voted on at the October 11th membership meeting."

Proposed Change in Dues Structure:

At the October 11th membership meeting, there will be a vote taken on a proposal to change the Club's current dues structure. This proposal will affect NEW MEMBERS only.

Currently, members pay two separate land assessments which get paid in full over six years.

The proposal is to make the land assessments permanent. New Regular Members would pay \$300 per year as long as they are members of the Club or until they become Life Members.

Associate Members would pay \$150 per year.

One benefit of this proposal is that over time it will generate more income into our land

fund. Furthermore, it would simplify our dues structure.

Please show up on October 11th and vote on this important issue.

Updates:

Just an update on the current membership for the club. Currently, there are 389 Regular members. In 2005, twenty-eight new Regular members joined the club. There are 40 Associates members, 19 Junior members & 95 Life members. For those that have not given me their email address or it has changed, please forward it to me so that I can keep you up to date on club functions.

2006 Invoices:

The 2006 invoices will be mailed sometime in November. If you have any changes to your

home address or email address. Please email me the changes ASAP.

For those that have an email address, the hard copy newsletter will no longer be mailed to you unless you notify me otherwise. It can be downloaded from the web site.

Regards,
Bob Hruskocy
Membership Chair

2005 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 *2005 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 *2005 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 *2005 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, 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-owned (bow only) and Club-leased property, with a Club Permit, 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.

- ◆ Bow hunting for deer/turkey is allowed on Club-owned property with a Club permit, 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.

Deer, Turkey, & Waterfowl Hunting 2005

This year (2005) your Club will have spring and fall turkey, waterfowl, small game, and deer hunting on Club Leased property. All seasons and bag limits are in accordance with CT State laws and regulations.

For instance, if you wish to hunt goose on Club-owned or Club-leased land, you must use steel or bismuth shot only. Lead shot is illegal on waterfowl. Thus, if you are caught with lead shot on your person while goose hunting, you will be subject to DEP rulings and may face fines or worse punishment.

All applicants must be members in good standing with all fees paid and work requirements completed by **September 30th**.

Waterfowl/goose hunting is open to all members. There will be no permanent blinds or dug pits allowed. At least 400 square inches of hunter orange must be worn above the waist and visible from all sides while walking to and from your hunting area.

Spring and fall turkey hunting will be open to all members. At least 400 square inches of hunter orange must be worn above the waist and visible from all sides while walking to and from your hunting area.

Fall deer hunting by archery, shotgun only, and muzzleloader will be open to all members. At least 400 square inches of hunter orange must be worn above the waist and be visible from all sides at all times while hunting during the shotgun only and muzzleloader deer seasons.

In order to fairly distribute the required permits for turkey and deer hunting, members had to complete the application form and return it to the Club no later than **March 31, 2005**—in care of Hunting Committee.

A lottery system by hunting area and species may be necessary, depending on the volume of hunting application forms received from members.

Permits were available for pick up at the Club on or after **April 21, 2005**.

Anyone who joined the Club after March 31, 2005 and who has completed their work hours or paid fees for non-completed work hours and wants to obtain a permit to hunt deer and turkey this fall season must complete the 2005 Application to Hunt Turkey & Deer form which is available at the Clubhouse Bar. Then, they should contact Don Bajger, Hunt Committee Chairperson to obtain land owner consent forms for Club-owned and Club-leased properties. Call Don Bajger at 860-423-6693.

"Hunting on Club-Owned or Club-Leased land is a great benefit for members of the Fin. Do your part to help keep hunting safe. Also, always show respect for the landowner, the land, and the wildlife. Hunting is not only a favorite pastime, it is a national treasure that could be lost due to carelessness and neglect."

Mandatory Arm Bands for 2005

This year armbands must be worn at all times while hunting pheasant on upland small game on Club-owned or Club-leased property. There will be three different arm band colors, of which each color will represent a different hunting group (Saturday A or Saturday B or Wednesday). This policy will help to identify club members and ensure they are hunting in the right group, and will also help in spotting non-members or trespassers. Only one arm

band will be available per person for a fee of \$5.00 to each member in good standing with all fees paid and work requirements completed by September 30, 2005. To purchase an arm band you must complete and return the 2005 pheasant hunting form by October 2, 2005. A list of hunting groups (A, B, and Wednesday) will be at the bar by October 4. This list will determine your specific group and the color of your arm band. Your name must be

on the list in order to purchase an arm band. If your name is not on the list and you sent in your application or you have any questions, please contact me anytime. I will revise the list every week, as there are always late arrivals. Arm bands can only be purchased at the bar during BAR HOURS.

Note: You will not be able to purchase an arm band at 7:00 a.m. on opening morning, the bar will not be open at that time. Don Bajger

“Early in December will be the last regular pheasant stocking for the 2005 season. The date depends on the amount of birds remaining. We will not stock the leased property after that date (Bass Farm). We will stock Club-owned land (Club grounds & Pig Farm) every Saturday & Wednesday) until we run out of birds. All hunting groups will follow the same rotation and starting times as we have done previously. Also, the daily bag limit will be reduced to 1 bird per hunter in the late season.”

Thank you,
Don Bajger
Hunt Committee Chair

Thanksgiving Day November 24, 2005

Places for Group A, Group B, and Wednesday hunters will be determined prior to signing up on Thanksgiving morning.

Saturday Hunting Group

The hunting time for the starting group is 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The second group will start at 10:30 a.m. and hunt until 1:00 p.m.

All hunters may hunt after 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday Hunting Group

The hunting time for this group is from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.

All hunters may hunt after 10:00 a.m.

Pheasant Hunting Dates

If you checked hunting group A or B on Saturday, your starting schedule is as follows:

Date—Starting Group

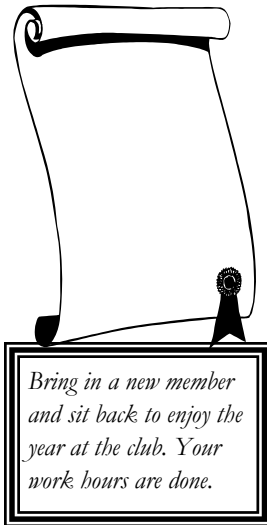
October 15, A
October 22, B
October 29, A
November 5, B
November 12, A
November 19, B
November 26, A
December 3, B

If you checked hunting group Wednesday, your starting schedule is as follows:

Date—Starting Group

October 19
October 26
November 2
November 9
November 16
November 23
November 30
December 7

“All members who plan to hunt pheasants must follow these rules. Also, be sure to bring your arm band and wear it in the field.”



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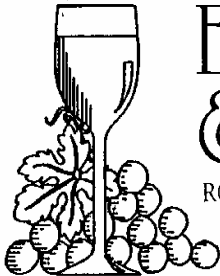
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U.S. Constitution

Bill of Rights Amendment 2

**"A well regulated militia,
being necessary to the security
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justice for
all**

Bring on justice!

Executive Officers

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

Executive Committee

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

Committee Chairpersons

Archery: Rick Turcotte	860-742-6353
Bar: Steve Davis	860-558-1890
Black Powder: Charles Bruckerhoff	860-455-1229
Building/Grounds: Ron Mott	860-450-0724
John Postemski	860-423-9396
By-Laws Review:	
Mary Goss	860-423-3211
Glenn Heinonen	860-423-8144
Bob Theriault	860-456-3431
Children's Fund: John & Laura Pawelec	860-429-7033
Family Picnic: Bob Theriault	860-456-3431
Field Trials: Greg Tremper	860-537-3807
Finance Review:	
James Northrop	860-642-6802
Ken Shane	860-456-8315
Fishing: Jon Guarino	860-455-4081
Health/Welfare: Mary Goss	860-423-3211
Hunting: Don Bajger	860-423-6693
Insurance Review: Eugene Lewis	860-423-3341
Junior Programs: Charles Bruckerhoff	860-455-1229
Pat Enright	860-429-0172
Kevin Segar	860-429-4925
Kitchen: U. R. Wanted	your number
Membership: Bob Hruskocy	860-569-1592
Merchandise: John Pawelec	860-429-7033
Newsletter: Charles Bruckerhoff	860-455-1229
Pheasants: Tom O'Neill	
Don Bajger	860-423-6693
Pistol: Dick Palmer	860-487-0388
Rifle: Peter Mathewson	860-456-8588
Shotgun: Joe Pirolo	860-742-5003
Sporting Clays: James Davidson	860-742-7676
Trap: Bob Hruskocy	860-569-1592

Let us never forget the men and women who today proudly serve this great country, the United States of America, and all who have done so before them. In our times, these brave soldiers continue to place their lives on the line 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

