



# ROD & GUN GAZETTE

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Steven J. Davis, President*



It's hard to believe I have been doing this for three years. Being President of this fine club has had both its merits and its aggravations. Times certainly have changed in the world and rural eastern Connecticut is no exception. I have often said in meetings and other venues that running this club is a business and as President

one must be able to keep fun separate from function. I hope I did that.

I have had a tremendous amount of pride in keeping the club a premier sportsman's destination for both our members and guests. It has been enjoyable to work with various chairpersons to provide everyone an opportunity to experience something they love to do in the little time that today's busy lifestyle allows. However, always remember that it is the members that make this club stand out because of all the hard work that goes into running the various programs; without this we would be nothing. The future of this club is only as good as we want to make it.

The bills never stop and certainly our expenses are not decreasing. It is a fact that clubs like ours are a dying breed! I plan on continuing to work for the betterment of all members under our new President.

There is one nice thing about relinquishing the Presidency at this time of the year, it's hunting season!! Once again the heart and soul of the foundation on which this club was built is here. I look forward to harvesting some of our own beautiful pheasants and other species in the coming weeks. The club livens up at this time of year and the comfort and smell of the cozy woodstove is not far off.

In closing, again, I want to thank all of the members for their support throughout these years. I want to thank my board and executive committee for all their hard work and late nights at meetings; much of their work is not readily seen but it does move the club into the future. As much as I enjoyed being President, I'm looking forward to being just a regular member who can enjoy the best kept secret in Connecticut.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept 23 Pheasant Fun Trial  
Sept 29 Connecticut Trappers Convention  
Sept 30 FFF Sporting Clays League Finale  
Sept 30 Pheasant Fun Trial

Oct 1 Hunter Safety Course  
Oct 3 Hunter Safety Course  
Oct 5 Hunter Safety Course  
Oct 6 Hunter Safety Course  
Oct 6 Youth Waterfowl Hunt  
Oct 7 Pheasant Fun Trial  
Oct 8 Youth Waterfowl Hunt  
Oct 9 Membership Meeting - Elections  
Oct 13 Youth Pheasant Hunt  
Oct 14 Pheasant Fun Trial

Nov 10 Youth Deer Hunt  
Nov 13 Membership Meeting

Dec 11 Membership Meeting

Jan 15 Newsletter Article Deadline

## GET YOUR WORK HOURS IN

*Bob Hruskocy Membership*

The year is beginning to wind down and a significant number of members have yet to complete their work commitment. Contact any member of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors or Committee Chairmen for suggestions.



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## BAR SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIP

### **This is a very important reminder.**

Members cannot be served at the bar unless they present their membership card to the bartender – this is a state regulation. In the event that a member forgets their card and still wishes to purchase beverages, they must sign their name in the bar book/log. Please abide by these requirements to help our bartenders and to ensure that the Club will not be fined by the state liquor commission.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

*Tom Hoagland, Treasurer*

Another year has passed and we are again deciding on our Officer Team and Executive Board members. I told the nominating committee that I would run again for treasurer, and if elected, this will be my fourth year keeping the books. I am deeply indebted to everyone that has helped me perform my job over the years. Special thanks are given to Jon Guarino and Brenda Liappes for their consistent help and encouragement.

Summer and early Fall months are lean times relative to income and we generally need to transfer monies in order to pay all of our expenses. As we stand today, the Fin has ~\$70,000 in the bank and we are reducing our debt as we continue to make double payments on both the Skeet Facility and Land loans.

I have not received any comments about the potential for memorial gifts to be given to the club (see March 07 newsletter). I remain convinced that it represents a good mechanism for securing additional monies to help improve what we do. Please, if you have any thoughts about how this should be done, contact me.

As I have mentioned many times in the past, please try and run a money-making function to help underwrite the costs of those Club activities that you are most passionate about. Every little bit helps no matter how small. If you have an idea please come and talk to the Board.



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## MEMBERSHIP

*Bob Hruskocy*

The 2008 invoices will be mailed at the end of November; any member that wishes to pay their dues/assessments in advance can do so. Please get in touch with me so I can verify what your 2008 invoice will be. Also, please notify me of any changes to your email or home addresses.

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## NOMINATIONS

*Bob Hruskocy*

At the September membership meeting, the following slate for Executive Officers was approved: President, Donald Bajger; Vice-President, Bob Hruskocy; Secretary, Dick Palmer; Treasurer, Tom Hoagland.

The By-Laws state that the Board of Directors is comprised of the past-president and 6 members. In addition, a maximum of 2 alternate directors can also be approved by vote of the membership. As past president, Steve Davis is automatically a member of the Board of Directors. The following 7 individuals have agreed to serve on the Board of Directors: David Fromerth, Jim Gifford, Keith Moorehouse, Tom O'Neill, John Postemski, Michael Sobol Jr. and Bill Spears. The six of these individuals that receive the greatest number of votes at the October membership meeting will comprise the Board of Directors, and the 7th individual will serve as Alternate.

# OUT IN THE FIELD



## HUNTERS ON TOMECKO'S PROPERTY

If you hunt the Tomecko property, please be aware of houses in the neighborhoods that abut the property boundaries. There is a map of the Tomecko property included with the FFF Hunting Rules & Regulations and this should be consulted prior to your hunt. Specifically, there is a gray house on Insalaco Drive that is close to the Tomecko property boundary. Hunters are reminded that it is illegal to discharge a gun within 500 feet of any dwelling. Also, please note that hunters should avoid shooting in the southerly direction (in the direction of the Insalaco Drive neighborhood) when approaching the 500 foot limit. Let's be smart and good neighbors.

## SPORTING CLAYS

*Jim & Nancy Davidson*

The Club hosted its 3rd Eastern Connecticut Sporting Clays League shoot on Sunday, September 9th. Sixty-six rounds were shot. The summer league picnic and club shotgun championship will be held on September 23rd. The League shoot finale will be held on September 30th and non-league shooters are welcome to participate.



## PISTOL NEWS

*Dick Palmer*

Hey Pistol Shooters, thanks for keeping the range clean. The Summer Wednesday evening league is through; wish more of you shooters would take advantage of this interesting shooting format. I know the Saturday morning shoots are fun, and not sure when Fred will finish up there. John Lonergan also had some successful shoots in the sand pit, and will announce upcoming shoots there as well. Those of you looking to sight in your shot slug guns, muzzle loaders, and rifles, remember to use port #12 at the pistol range, before heading up to the rifle range for final adjustments. Fred and I are always looking for new ideas for the coming year, so if you have some thoughts please contact us. Kevin Segar and I intend to offer a one-day NRA basic pistol certification class in October; the certification is needed for State of Connecticut pistol permits. Watch the bulletin board at the club for the sign-up sheets. **One last note; during hunting season, pheasants are stocked and hunted on Wednesday and Saturday mornings on Club property. Therefore, all ranges are closed until 10 am on those days only.** Until the next time "Keep'em in the Ten Range".

## PHEASANT FUN TRIALS

If you would like to work your dogs and get tuned up for the fall hunting season, the Pheasant Fun Trials can provide you with a great opportunity. The remaining dates are September 23rd and 30th, and October 7th and 14th. The Trials begin at 9:00 a.m. at the dog training area behind the pig barn across from the Club driveway.



# JUNIORS

## JUNIORS WEEKEND

*Patrick Enright*

As fall approaches, many of us at the Fin turn our attention to the upcoming Hunting Season! We have waited a long time to feel that bite in the air, see an explosion of color as a cock pheasant flushes, hear the whistling of wings as a flight of ducks passes overhead, and to feel our heart race when we hear the leaf-crunching approach of a whitetail. These things are still great experiences for us, but they are even better when seen through the eyes of a youngster. My son Shane went on his first waterfowl hunt when he was four years old. I had to carry him over my shoulder across the swamp to keep him dry and we met up with two good friends who had already set out the decoys. As I recall, we took a few birds that day but that is not what was important. The important thing was that I made it about Shane and him having fun – not about harvesting game! I made sure he was comfortable, able to sit with our dog, and most importantly I remembered the hot chocolate! We also talked about all the things we saw and were experiencing. I have had many good times in the outdoors with Shane since that hunt long ago. This October Shane will take his Hunter Safety Course and start hunting with me. I am a very fortunate man this year as I will be seeing the woods through the eyes of my son. It doesn't get any better than that! I challenge all of you to take a kid hunting this year, whether it be your child, grandchild, niece, nephew, or friend of the family, take the time to 'pass it on'!

At the Fin Fur and Feather we are committed to providing opportunities for youth to get involved in outdoor activities. This October the club's dedicated instructors will again teach the 'Connecticut Conservation and Firearms Safety Course'. When I say 'dedicated instructors' I mean just that. They put this class on twice a year (Fall and Spring) and volunteer many hours of their time in doing so. When given the chance you should thank them for doing their part to pass on our hunting heritage. This class offers valuable information for everyone regardless of whether or not they choose to ultimately hunt. All kids should take it for the simple reasons that everyone should be taught safe firearm practices and the important role that hunting plays in wildlife conservation.



*Shane Enright on a November Goose Hunt with club members Kevin Segar, Dick Palmer, and Ron Mott. Shane is the good looking one.*

The Club is also offering the following Youth Hunting Opportunities in conjunction with the State sponsored days this fall:

- 1) Youth Waterfowl Hunt (2 days) – Oct 6th & 8th
- 2) Youth Pheasant Hunt – October 13th (Register on Club Bulletin Board or by contacting Pat Enright by Oct 7th) Any Club member who would be willing to work their dog for this hunt please let me know.
- 3) Youth Deer Hunt – Nov. 10th (Must have consent form signed for youth and mentor. Junior member consent forms will be valid for the season – all others will be valid one day only)

All Club Hunting rules apply and you should consult the Connecticut Hunting and Trapping Guide for state regulations. As always, if you have any questions about or ideas for youth programs please contact me. Patrick Enright, Penright22@yahoo.com. Cell 377-3639.



# FIN FUR FEATHER – JUNIOR PHEASANT HUNTER TRAINING DAY

On October 13, 2007, the Fin Fur and Feather Club will hold a Junior Hunter Training Day for Pheasant. This will be a great opportunity for you to teach your Junior Hunter about pheasant hunting, ethics, and firearms safety in the field. With any luck, you just might have a delicious pheasant dinner that night too!

To participate in this program, hunters must follow these rules:

1. Participation is open to all FFF Junior Members and lineal descendants (son, daughter or grandchild) of any club member.
2. The Junior Hunter must be 12 to 15 years old and have a valid CT Hunting License.
3. He/she must also have valid CT Pheasant Harvest Tags. Although the Junior Hunters must have these tags, they will not have to use them since the club has a pheasant tagging exemption.
4. The adult mentor must be a club member, at least 21 years old, and must accompany the Junior Hunter. The adult mentor is not allowed to carry a firearm. Mentors will be provided for those who need them.
5. You must pre-register your Junior Hunter so that we know how many will participate. This will allow us to know how many birds to stock and assure that the hunting area is not over crowded. We want this to be a high quality and SAFE hunt. The sign up list will be located in the bar and you must register by October 6th.



If You Can Assist With A Dog Or Have Any Questions Please Contact Patrick Enright At 429-0172.



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# EVENTS

## ANNUAL FIN, FUR AND FEATHER FAMILY PICNIC

*Bob Theriault*

The annual family picnic was a smashing success and I would like to thank everyone who helped with its organization and implementation. A special thanks is extended to Joe Kuronya for donating the lobster that was raffled. Our gratitude is also expressed to the Beebe Family for the beautiful sportsman's quilt that they made and donated in the memory of Milton C. Beebe, Charter Member of the Fin. We had a great day weather-wise and a total of 527 adults and children participated in the event. Thanks to everyone that bought raffle tickets.



## BAKEOFF

*Nancy Davidson.*

Congratulations to Chrissy Krukoff for winning the dessert bake-off competition at this year's family picnic. She received a \$50 prize for her chocolate peanut butter bars with light and dark chocolate topping. They looked great! Many thanks to all of the creative bakers that contributed to a fun and successful competition.



## 2ND ANNUAL HAWAIIAN LUAU

*Brenda Liappes.*

The 2nd annual Hawaiian luau was a great success. Thank you to Bobby Theriault, Bill Keonnicke, Wendy Merchant and Albert Miffitt for helping produce 200 kabobs. I also appreciate the efforts of Will Lucier, Glen & Nick Krukoff and Gary Charron for cooking. Special thanks to Dale Hammon for the use of his pig cooker; the pork was awesome! Please plan to join us next year for this very popular event.



## FFF 1ST ANNUAL PUMPKIN CHALLENGE

Six members accepted the FFF pumpkin challenge this year. All seeds were distributed to participants on Memorial Day and the judging of their harvest will take place on October 12th at 6:00 pm. The judges are Bobby Theriault, Bill Keonnicke and Joe Pirolo. Please plan to join us for a pot luck at the official judging.



# ARMBANDS 2007

*Donald A. Bajger,  
Hunting Committee Chairman.*

This year, 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 2007 calendar year. Armbands and consent forms will be available for pick-up 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 purchase your 2007 armband at the clubhouse, just tell the bartender which group you wish to hunt with (Group A, B, or Wed.) and he/she will issue the armband and assign you to the specific group. The cost for a 2007 armband is \$10 and may only be purchased at the bar during regular bar hours from April through December 200

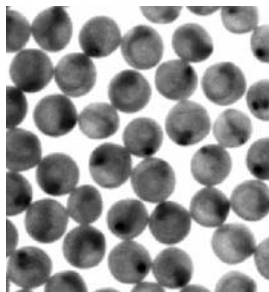
## MERCHANDISE

New T shirts, sweatshirts and hats have arrived and are available for purchase. Please see the bartender during your next visit to the Club as you will not want to miss out on these fine items. Brenda Liappes (the bar permittee) has volunteered to assume responsibility for merchandise sales; please see her if there are particular items of interest to you.

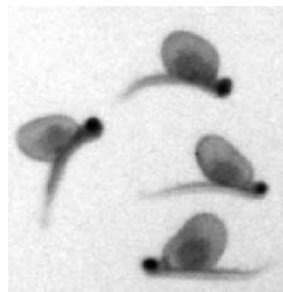
# TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

*Richard Gaurino, Jon Gaurino, and Tom Hoagland.*

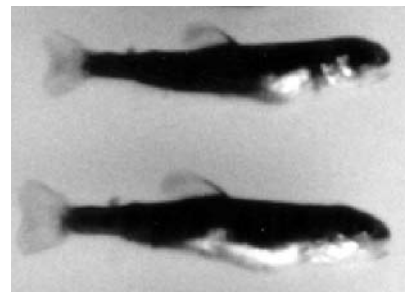
Last year, the Fin donated monies to the local Trout Unlimited (TU) Chapter. Jon Guarino's Dad was the TU contact person for the Fin. For those of you that don't know Jon's dad, he cooked breakfast for the past two years at the fishing derby, and he is very active in our local TU chapter. The donated money was used to supply a local school system with the necessary materials and equipment to allow students to raise Brown trout from egg to fingerling stage. TU identified a middle school science teacher (Ms. L. McAleer) at Parrish Hill High School (Chaplin's local middle/high school). There were 60 students in the class that thoroughly enjoyed the project. Each classroom doing the project received a tank and all the equipment necessary to raise the fish. Approximately 200 eggs were put into the tank. After about six weeks, the eggs developed into eyed alevins typified by a large yolk sac that is used for nutrients. Following another four weeks, the alevins began to resemble small fish as the yolk sac was absorbed. These fish then grew rapidly and developed into fingerlings by the end of the school year. Ms. McAleer's classes were successful at fish production and managed to have 73 fingerling that were stocked into a local river to grow and mature into adult fish.



*Eggs*



*Eyed Alevins*



*Fingerlings*

During the year, the students learned about fish anatomy, physiology and nutrition. Lesson plans pertaining to water and water quality were supplied to the teacher from T. Students were required to keep a written log about the progress of their aquaculture effort and they took a field trip to determine the health of a local stream. They conducted a micro-invertebrate survey and discussed potential threats to fish and our streamside environment. After talking to the classroom teacher, it is clear that the students learned a great deal about fish and developed a better awareness about their environment.



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### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Steven Davis, President	860-558-1890
Don Bajger, Vice-President	860-423-6693
Dick Palmer, Secretary	860-487-0388
Tom Hoagland, Treasurer	860-455-0641

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jim Gifford (alternate)	860-455-2034
Jon Guarino	860-428-2873
Bob Hruskocy	860-569-1592
Keith Morehouse	860-647-1333
John Pawelec	860-429-7033
Tom O'Neill	
Mike Sobol	860-742-8575
Paul Sobol (alternate)	860-228-0725
Bob Theriault	860-456-3431

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

#### ARCHERY AVAILABLE

Your # here

#### BAR

Steve Davis	860-558-1890
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#### PERMITTEE

Brenda Liappes	860-455-0521
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#### BLACK POWDER

Charles Bruckerhoff	860-455-1229
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### BUILDING/GROUNDS AVAILABLE

Your # here

#### 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
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#### FAMILY PICNIC

Bob Theriault	860-456-3431
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#### FIELD TRIALS

Ralph Fonda	203-393-8922
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#### FINANCE REVIEW

James Northrup	860-642-6802
Ken Shane	860-456-8315

#### FISHING

Jon Guarino	860-428-2873
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#### HEALTH/WELFARE

Mary Goss	860-423-3211
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#### HUNTING

Don Bajger	860-423-6693
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#### INSURANCE REVIEW

Eugene Lewis	860-423-3341
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### JUNIOR PROGRAMS

Pat Enright	860-429-0172
Kevin Segar	860-429-4925
Arnie Postemski	860-423-4637

#### KITCHEN AVAILABLE

Your # here

#### MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hruskocy	860-569-1592
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#### MERCHANDISE

Brenda Liappes	860-429-7033
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#### NEWSLETTER

Cameron Faustman	860-455-0521
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#### PHEASANTS

Tom O'Neill	
Don Bajger	860-423-6693

#### PISTOL

Dick Palmer	860-487-0388
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#### RIFLE

Peter Mathewson	860-456-8588
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#### SHOTGUN

Joe Pirolo	860-742-5003
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#### SPORTING CLAYS

Jim Davidson	860-742-7676
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#### TRAP

Bob Hruskocy	860-569-1592
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