



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 14: ISSUE 5

SEPTEMBER 2013

What A Day It Was!



The Family picnic was again this fantastic, the weather was outstanding, Kevin T. and all his crew did an outstanding job to ensure everyone enjoyed themselves, plenty of delicious food, meeting old friends, kids enjoying themselves as kids, and just a great day.



THE PRESIDENT'S SPOT

Wow, it's been almost a year since I became your President. Many activities occurred, great participation by the Club members, again makes our Club the best in Connecticut. I want to encourage all of you to come out and vote during the annual election, which is October 8th. Unfortunately when you read this newsletter, the nominations has closed, but there are votes needed to be cast for the Executive Board, so please try to attend. One of the Club's greatest communications is through electronic mailings. A lot of activities that are not placed on the Calendar of Events in the newsletter are sent out announcing work parties, Pot Luck dinners, and list goes on through electronic mailings. So if you

replace your old e-mail address, or actually got a new one for the first time, please contact our Membership Chairperson, so your name/address can be added or adjusted. The Family picnic again a great success. Much thanks to Kevin T, and his entire group from setting up, to cooking, and breaking down. Our Board member Dave Fromerth is leaving the Board and state. He has been a great asset to our Club and will be greatly missed. I want to thank all our Club members who spent numerous hours working on programs, and activities, and to the existing Board of Directors who works hard to make sure our Club is the best it can be. Thank you.

Dick Palmer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 21 Annual Flipping the Bird chicken BBQ @ 5 pm. Tickets at the bar \$15, there is a cutoff date.
- 21 Skeet Event shoot at the Club, see flyer on web site.
- 22 Sporting Clays Shoot @ 9 am, last one folks.
- 28 Club's Shotgun Championship. Sign up in bar.

OCTOBER

- 1 Last day to purchase hunting buttons.
- 1 Executive Board meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 6 Winter Skeet league starts
- 8 Membership meeting with annual elections @ 7 pm.
- 12 The Great Pumpkin Festival @ 6pm. Great family fun.
- 12 Appleseed gun marksmanship & 13 and safety program.
- 13 3-D Archery Shoot.
- 19 Hunting season opens. Everyone is reminded that all ranges are closed until 10 am on stocking days.

NOVEMBER

- 5 Executive Board meeting @ 6:30 pm.
- 12 Membership meeting @ 7 pm.
- 28 Thanksgiving Day, special hunt activity.

DECEMBER

- 3 Executive Board meeting @ 6:30 pm.
- 10 Membership meeting @ 7 pm.
- 10 Newsletter items are due.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Hoagland, Treasurer

Here we are again, another newsletter. The financial aspects of our club are good. We have some monies in reserve and have been repairing some of the skeet houses. This has been the first year the Fin has not had two mortgage payments to make each month. The land purchase has been paid in total. The skeet loan has been re-negotiated and we can see the end of that loan in a couple of years. So without these payments we can concentrate on saving monies for land purchase. Our three savings accounts have been increasing and can be seen on the balance sheet which is the last page of the monthly financial report.

Over the past nine years the total of our savings and checking accounts have totaled \$52,000 in 2005, climbed to \$85,900 in 2007, slide to a low in 2011 of 19,000, and swelled to a high of \$116,000 in 2013. Our club is doing great but we need to continue supporting it in every way possible. If you have any ideas that could make the club money bring it forward. In a couple of weeks the pheasant committee is hosting a chicken barbecue please purchase ticket at the bar. This event will help defray the cost of the birds that are stock for your hunting pleasure.

FROM THE VP

As I write this article for the newsletter my first year as your Vice President is almost done, and I will be running for VP again this year. A lot of work has been done this year, and there is more for next year. As always the club needs your help to accomplish all of this work around your club. There is always a running list on the bulletin board in the bar and if you contact myself or the President, there are plenty of things to do to get your work hours in. You can also contact any of the committee chairmen and ask them if there is anything they need done. With hunting season just around the corner if you don't have your work hours in your running out of time. I would also like to remind all hunters to go to the club website and refresh yourselves with our clubs hunting rules. In closing good luck to all of the club skeet teams that will start shooting soon and to all you hunters out there, may you have a great hunting season and fill your freezers full of game.

FAMILY PICNIC

Well we had another successful Family picnic this year. Attendance was down some from previous years but we were able to pay for the picnic and also put some money in the bank. The weather was good the food was great and the beer was cold. I hope everyone who came enjoyed it. I would like to thank all the members and family who helped make it happen. I can't list everyone here because it would add an extra page to the newsletter. Over 52 members helped at the picnic. Without this help I could not make this event happen.

Respectfully
Kevin Theriault, Vice President

THANK YOU

Many thanks o our bakers and birdhouse builders at the family picnic this year. Our \$50 Reward winners are Carol O'Hara with her cookie towers and Tom Potter with the big cat bird house. It's never too early to think about what you might do next year!

MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hruskocy, Membership Chairman/FFF

Here are the latest figures regarding the club's membership; Regular 361, Associate 176, Life 134 & Junior 41. So far there have been 70 new members that have joined the club this year. Just about the same as last year.

The club can always USE more members, if you know of anyone that might be interested bring them up to the club and show them around. Applications are available at the bar or I can email them to you.

I am planning on sending out the 2014 invoices in mid-November, payment must be made by January 31 2014. If any information has changed during the year, please indicate on invoice when making payment. Please let me know if your email address has changed. Email is the best way to be kept informed on what is going on at the club.

If you inadvertently get billed for work hours, please indicate what function you helped out on so I can double check with the committee chairman. For those that qualify for Life membership, I will mail you a new Life membership card and patch in December.

Remember all work hours are too be completed by Oct 1, please don't get into the habit until the last minute to try to get your hours in. There are numerous opportunities throughout the year to get in your work hours.

THE GREAT PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

It's Coming! October 12th – 6pm. Time to bring those pumpkins in. **Main Event** – using our seeds; **Open Class** – using any seed; and the **Carving Contest**. You did not have to grow the pumpkin. Three age divisions – a great way to get involved. Also, a fun family night! Pot Luck dinner - bring a dish to share. Raffle. Pumpkin Painting and Crafts for the kids. Water balloon chucking, the Great Pumpkin search in the dark and voluntary costume contest. Please sign your kids up in advance at the bar. Call the bar **860-455-9516** or call Nancy at **860-456-8782**.

RAFFLE OBLIGATIONS

In order not to raise member dues, the Exec Board felt that it would be less of a financial burden if members had the option of selling their raffle tickets. The Executive Board looked at either increasing the dues or making it an obligation for each member to purchase or sell their tickets. We 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/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 either purchase/sell the required number of tickets, or pay your obligated fee of \$40.

FFF HUNTING RULES & REGULATIONS 2012 REV.

This list is to highlight a few laws/regulations, but is not intended to be all inclusive.
You are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding all Connecticut State Hunting Laws.

- 500 Foot Rule: **It is prohibited to hunt , shoot, carry a loaded firearm within 500 of any Building, occupied by humans, livestock, or hazardous materials.**
- All state laws restricting hunting locations, shooting from a vehicle, across travel roads, or toward any person, shooting from vehicles is prohibited. Exception would be a State approved handicap situation.
- No Sunday Hunting on Club or lease lands.
- No loaded firearms in any vehicle.
- Fluorescent Orange is required from Sept 1st through the last day of State hunting regulations. You are required to wear 400sq.in. of orange, exception would be archery for deer, turkey, waterfowl.
- Legal shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise, till sunset, unless noted below for the Fin Fur Feather hunting rules.



OBSERVE ALL CLUB RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. You must purchase a metal button for all hunting/fishing activities. Cost is \$25 for regular members and \$10 for a junior member. In order to purchase this button, all work hours must be either completed or paid with paper work to indicate such, for hunting on both Club or Lease lands, and it must be displayed. **You must purchase this button prior to October 1st, NO buttons will be sold after October 1st or on Opening Morning of Hunting. Exception would be new members.**
2. Pheasant Hunting because of the numbers of hunters, are divided into three(3) groups, Wednesday, Saturday A & B. Saturday group rotates every week. Pheasant hunting starts at 8 am on Wednesday and Saturday stocking days. Wednesday group starts at 8 am, and must finish by 10 am, after that time all fields are open, on Saturday hunting starts at 8 am, A or B group, and finishes at 10 am, then at 10:30 am the opposite group can hunt till 12:30 pm, after that all fields are open. Those other days follow the State Hunting Laws. Junior members can only hunt with either their parents or sponsor, and they cannot sign up for stocking days or a group.
3. **All hunters, hunting on Wednesday or Saturday must sign in and out,** other days and after those hours on Wednesday/Saturday, you must sign in your birds in the log book by the front bar door.
4. Members are only allowed 2 pheasants per day, Junior Club member are allowed 2 per day. Member's may bring their spouse to hunt, but will split their bag limit. Members may bring a guest, but they cannot hunt or carry a gun, and that they wear orange. No hunting or training dogs near the pheasant pens, no hunting the area between the rifle/pistol ranges and clubhouse, no hunting in the 3-D archery practice area. Dogs must be on a leashed on the lawn of the Clubhouse side of the driveway.
5. Parking is allowed at the designated parking areas at all lease areas, there is no parking at the skeet/rifle/pistol areas until after 10 am on those stocking days, unless you have a handicap parking permit, and approved by the Executive Board.
6. **Rifle, Skeet, and Pistol ranges, sand pit are Closed until 10 am on those stocking days only.**
7. No shot size larger than # 6 shot shall be used on Club or Lease land.
8. **No Hunting is allowed in any Red Zone areas.**
9. After you or your party has gotten your bag limited, **all dogs will be put on a leash and walk out of the area. Allowing your dog to flush birds and not shoot them will not be allowed.**
10. Thanksgiving morning all fields will be stocked, all hunters must sign in and out, no hunting before 8 am.
11. Hunting of Deer and turkey on Club or lease land.
 - Dates, time, licenses, bag limits you must follow the State Regulations.
 - Metal button are required, and permission slips, Turkey slips will be issued before the middle of April and Deer slips will be by Labor day.
 - Portable Tree stands are only allowed, only one per hunter, per hunting area. All stands must have the member's name on it, and be removed at the end of the season.
 - There is only Bow hunting on Club-own land, no center fired guns allowed on lease land.
 - If you harvest a deer or turkey that must be report it to the Club within 24 hours.
12. Waterfowl hunting is allowed on Club lease land, all state and federal laws prevail. No permanent or dug blinds allowed. Hours are anytime, except Wednesday not before 10am, and Saturday not before 1pm, while pheasant stocking is in place, the Hunt committee will place a notice when goose hunting on Saturday is before above times and which field, or after pheasant stocking has been completed.
13. Use of ATV's, handicapped carts is restricted to Club land only with the approval of the Executive Board.

OUT IN THE FIELD



SPORTING CLAYS

Dick Palmer

Boy, the summer flew, as did the targets. The Club had some great events, whether it was 50 targets or 100 targets for the CWA and DU groups. Everyone had a great time, learning how to shoot those quick and sometimes nasty little targets. We still have one remaining shoot left, that's the 22nd. We can't thank you enough for all of those members who came to help trap, and score, cause without you, there would be no Sporting Clays program. Our Club is one of the best in Connecticut, and our Sporting Clays program is as well. When you have individuals that travel from Fairfield County, all across Rhode Island, and Massachusetts to shoot our event. This really means that our program is top shelf.

Thanks again to those members who work these events, and thanks to those who shot and supported this program. *"Keep Breaking those targets."*

TRAP

Bob "Moon" Hruskocy, Trap Chairman/FFF

For those that are planning on shooting trap in colder weather, remember to let the pump warm up before activating the machine. If the hydraulic fluid in the pump is not warmed up, the machine will start to throw targets. If that happens, please turn off the machine and let the pump warm up for a few more minutes.

I want to thank Bob Cooper for teaching members on the basics of trap shooting. It was well attended and hopefully we can see more people at the trap fields. Now that hunting season is here, the trap gun has been put away until Spring time.

Have fun shooting, see you in the Spring !

5-STAND

Jim Davidson, Chairman

5-Stand is up and running well. Keep checking your e-mails & the Bar wipe board for when we are open. Come down and give us a try

THE PRACTICAL PISTOL SHOOT

The Practical Pistol Shoot is so well attended, that is it almost RSVP, so that is why you need to react right away when the notice goes out that an event is scheduled. This is only one of many different shooting scenarios that John Lonergan and crew run. If you're unsure about shooting this event stop by and watch the activity. Believe me you'll be hooked. From safety to actual firing, it makes you a smarter person about gun safety to becoming a good shot. Hope you can get involve as it's another great activity here at the Club.

ATTENTION HUNTERS:

OCTOBER 1ST IS FAST APPROACHING

As you known right along your ability to purchase hunting buttons for the upcoming hunting season, "ends" October 1, 2013.

This was based upon major problems from past years, where a majority of hunters came in on opening day trying to purchase buttons and paying for work hours. To remove this problem, the Hunt committee with the Board of Directors has made this decision. No one can purchase a hunting button after October 1st, unless you are a new member. You need to have completed all your required work hours by September 30th or you will not be able to hunt, but it's your responsibility to make sure your work hours are completed by working or paying those delinquent hours before purchasing a button.

REGISTERED SKEET

Frank Mauri, Skeet Chairman

The CT state skeet shoot championships were held over the Labor Day weekend at the Fairfield County Fish & Game Protective Association's Skeet fields in Newtown, CT. There was a good turnout of shooters from around the state including a large contingent from the Fin.

At the Doubles event on Fri. Fin shooters were Larry Shewokis, Frank Decker, Dennis Jolly, Rob Frankland, Josh St. Lawrence, Steve Krukoff and John Mathewson. Josh St. Lawrence was Gun Runner-up (97/100) while Steve Krukoff took AAA1 (96/100) and John Mathewson A3 (94/100).

For the 12 Gauge event on Saturday morning John Mathewson, Larry Shewokis, Frank Decker, Winfield Danielson, David Held, Dennis Jolly, Rob Frankland, Alan Gnann, Steve Krukoff, Charlie Connell Jr. and Josh St. Lawrence all shot. Steve and Charlie both shot 100/100 and following a shoot-off Steve Krukoff was Gun Champion with Charlie Connell Jr. taking the Runner-Up spot. Others who won were Josh St. Lawrence AAA3 (99), Rob Frankland A1 (97), and Alan Gnann B3 (95).

The afternoon was the time slot for the 20 Gauge event. The same Fin shooters participated as for the 12 Gauge. When it was done Steve Krukoff earned AAA1 (99), Josh St. Lawrence AA2 (99) and Winfield Danielson took Veteran class 3 (97).

Steve Krukoff and Frank Decker, both of the Fin, were inducted into the CT Skeet Hall of Fame during ceremonies held during the annual State Shoot Banquet. Winfield Danielson introduced Frank Decker and Sharon Krukoff introduced her husband. Frank and Steve made short addresses expressing their appreciation for the honor bestowed upon them by their peers, after that Howie Altman made the presentations of the awards and took pictures of the recipients and their wives. The awards for the Doubles, 12 gauge and 20 gauge events were also presented at the banquet. Howie Altman, who has been a consistent friend to the Fin over the last 23 years, was hosting his last dinner since he and his wife Sharon will be moving to FL on the 17th of September. Howie will be missed in our area because his support for registered skeet at the Fin, helped us to obtain a share in the rotation for the state shoot and our insertion into the rotation for the Zone 1 shoot, both lucrative events for our club. He has been a tremendous force for skeet at the State, Zone and National levels and has served to keep skeet in CT on a par with the rest of the nation.

Sunday was for the 28 Gauge and finally the 410. The Fin shooter contingent was involved in both events.

In the morning the 28 gauge was held and Steve Krukoff emerged as the Gun Champion with Josh St. Lawrence AAA1 (99), Alan Gnann B2 (96) and Frank Decker B3 (95).

The 410 finished the program and Steve Krukoff emerged as the Champion with a 99. Josh St. Lawrence earned A2 (96) and John Mathewson got A3 (96).

Steve Krukoff won the High-Over-All champion with a score of 398/400 continuing his run of excellent performances. Josh St. Lawrence took Class A with his score of 393/400, Alan Gnann was Class C3rd (366/400).

REMEMBER TO CLEAN UP AFTER YOU SHOOT

Every member of this Club is responsible for maintaining its condition. It is disturbing when you go onto the ranges and find paper, hulls, castings, and other items being left on the ground, and not being place into trash containers, target frames not being put back in their storage area, and even worst, target frames being destroyed by high power rifles, etc. Unfortunately, we don't have full time maintenance staff here to pick up after you. Clean up after you shoot, throw trash away, pick up your brass, put target frames back. If the trash barrel is full, take it to the dumpster and empty it.

Show respect for your Club and other members.

CLUB SHOTGUN CHAMPIONSHIP

The Club Shotgun Championship Will be held Sept 28th at 9 am. 125 targets – 25 each of Skeet, Modern Skeet, Trap, 5-stand and Sporting Clays. Steak barbecue and beer. \$35. A great close to the end of the summer shooting season. Sign-up sheet in the bar. This event is pre-pay.

PURCHASING OF AMMUNITION

Members, please be aware that as of **October 1, 2013** the law will require you to show a certificate or license to purchase ammunition. No person, firm, or Club shall sell ammunition to any person unless such person holds a valid permit to carry a pistol or revolver issued pursuant to the subsection (b) of this section 29-28 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, a valid permit to sell at retail a pistol or revolver issued pursuant to subsection (a) of section 29-28 of the general statutes, a valid eligibility certificate for a pistol or revolver is issued pursuant to section 29-36f of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or a valid long gun eligibility certificate issued pursuant to section 2 of this act and presents to the transferor such a permit or certificate, or unless such person holds a valid ammunition certificate issued pursuant to section 15 of this act and presents to the transferor such certificate and such person's motor vehicle operator's license, passport or other valid form of identification with a photo and date of birth. This is how PA 13-3 reads now.

This is what is required:

- **An FFL** – Federal Firearms License, current issued.
- **A Connecticut Pistol Permit**, current issued.
- **A certificate to purchase Long Guns**, current issued.
- **A certificate to purchase ammunition**, current issued.

If you don't have one of the above, the Law states we can't sell you ammunition.

The President
10/1/13



During the weekend of June 29th and 30th the NSSA civil war regiment from Connecticut again used the Fin's rifle range for their organization two day shoot. Their shooting skills with the guns from that war really made a believer that their skills are outstanding. You need to try and catch this event again in two years as it is something to watch.



For the 5th year the Fin Fur Feather has hosted Scouts from June Norcross Webster's NRA Shooting Sports Week of camp. The Boy Scouts' June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation is located in Ashford CT. Scouts attending this week of camp do so to be introduced to the many shooting sports disciplines. The Fin Fur Feather provides a day away from camp in which the scouts engage in an introduction to Trap and Skeet. Fin members Mike Sobol, Randy Russo and Pete Cafazzo supported the day with their time, skills and equipment.



The scouts attending this week of camp are mostly from eastern Connecticut. These Scouts are the future of shooting sports and potentially future Fin members. Many thanks to the Fin Fur Feather Club for hosting the Scouts from June Norcross Webster's NRA shooting sports week of camp.

Hoss Haskell, JNW NRA Shooting Sports Coordinator

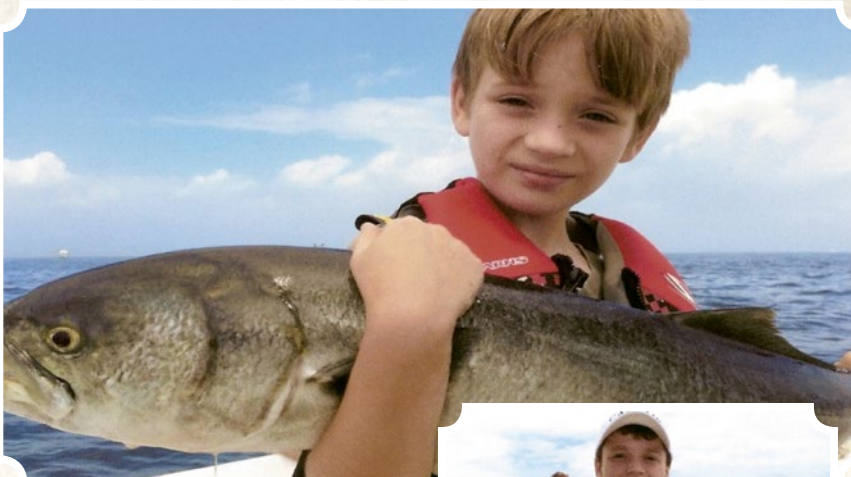
PHEASANTS

Pheasants arrive and a great number of members arrive to help our little birds into their pens. Seems like one of the birds has the right idea, get friendly early. Paul and Wayne have done a great job with this program as has individual's in the past. Always look to see if you can help feed the birds.





The Connecticut Waterfowlers Association has been coming to our Club for their annual shoot. As usual, John and Laura Pawelec did a bang up job for CWA, Will Lucier another great tasting dinner and the targets by the Club's Sporting Clays committee provided them with a great day of fun, and shooting.



Bob Langworthly fishing with his grandsons off of Rhode Island Coast, the Fluke was 10 lbs, 32" and 10 lbs. 30" was awarded a certificate of Merit and a Trophy from DEEP while the Blue fish was 9 lbs., 12 oz. and 33 " long with a certificate being issued for that as well.



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NEWSLETTER AD SPACE

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

anyone wishing to place an ad in the newsletter please contact Dick Palmer, December's newsletter will be the last ad's for this year. 2014 quarterly newsletters, business card size, cost only \$50, they run the entire year (4) newsletters. Members and non-members businesses can advertise.



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***Our Purpose:** To Promote The Conservation of Fish, Game, and
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