



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 15 | ISSUE 3 | SEPTEMBER 2014

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, unless you are a new regular member. 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 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 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

27th	Annual Club Shotgun Championship with Dinner @ 9 am, Sign up in the bar.
30th	Last day to pay for all obligation's, and purchase Hunting Badges.

OCTOBER

4th	The Great Pumpkin Festival – Sign up your children at the bar, and grow your pumpkins
5th	3-D Archery – 7 am Bird Fun Trail across the street
7th	Executive Board Meeting – 6:30 pm
11th	Club Junior Member Pheasant Hunt Day – 8 am
12th	Bird Fun Trail across the street
14th	Regular Membership Meeting with Elections
18th	Fall Hunting Season Starts: “A” group starts at 8 am, closes at 10 am; “B” group starts at 10:30 am, closes at 12:30 pm; all areas open at 1 pm. You Must sign in and out.

22nd	All Wednesday group hunts start at 8 am, all areas open at 10:30 am
25th	Sat “B” group starts at 8 am, “A” group starts at 10:30 am

NOVEMBER

1st	Appleseed Marksmanship Program
4th	Executive Board Meeting – 6:30 pm
11th	Happy Veterans Day to all those served! Membership Meeting – 7 pm
27th	Thanksgiving Day , special stocking, watch notices in the bar for stocking times and game.

DECEMBER

2nd	Executive Board Meeting – 6:30 pm
9th	Membership Meeting – 7 pm
10th	Deadline for newsletter's news items
24th	Annual Membership Party – Noon till 5 pm
25th	Merry Christmas. Bar and club is closed
31st	Bar closes early. Watch for notice in the bar

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dick Palmer, President

This past year the Board has been very active in ensuring that the Club can provide whatever it takes for our Club members. All the programs have gone well from 3-D Archery, Skeet, Practical Pistol, Trap, Sporting Clays, Fish, 5-stand, Pheasant, Hunting and Building & Grounds activities. Many thanks to all of those individuals who help promote and serve on these activities, because without your dedication and commitment, these programs don't run themselves. We need more members to step forward and get involved with anything that runs our club, we need new blood. There are so many talented members, please step forward and become part of the team.

MESSAGE FROM THE VP

Kevin Theriault, Vice President

Well, hunting season is just around the corner and if you don't have your work hours in, you're running out of time. 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. I would also like to remind all hunters to go to the club website and refresh yourselves with our clubs hunting rules. Fall is a time of year when there is a lot of activities at the Fin. There is the Annual Chicken BBQ, The Club Championship, Skeet league starts, Hunting season is upon us, The great pumpkin festival is also nearing. Without your support, these activities cannot happen. So please come out and support your club and all the activities happening. 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.

THE FAMILY PICNIC

Well we had another successful Family picnic this year. Attendance was down from last year, 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 50 members helped at the picnic. Without all this help I could not make this event happen.

DAVE RORRIO

Congratulations to our very own Fin Fur Feather member David Rorrio, who recently took 1st place in his ESP/SS class, and was 25th overall out of 205 competitors, during the 2014 Smith & Wesson IDPA New England Regional Championships. This nationally recognized completion took place on August 17th and 18th at the Harvard Sportsman's Club." Congratulations Dave, nice job.

Get Out & VOTE



Remember what we lost.
Remember those responsible.
**Now is the time to let your voice
be heard!**

NOVEMBER STATE ELECTIONS

Come November, there will be elections from Governor to local senators and representatives. Please get out and vote. Remember, what us as gun owners and outdoors folks lost due to the passage of those gun bills by those politicians that took away some of our 2nd amendment rights, and most important, what could be in store after the elections if those politicians get re-elected. This would again only affect the good people of this state. There are no new laws looking at criminals and individuals with mental health issues, but just using the good citizens of this state as scape goats. Now is the time to step into the polling booth, remember those politicians who passed these bills, vote and be heard. If you are unsure as who those politicians are, contact the CCDL here in Connecticut.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Hoagland, Treasurer

The fiscal year for the fin ends this month so our record will indicate the money made and spent for the entire year. I have noticed a drop in shotgun shooting this year. I looked at a preliminary report and yes we have earned only \$11,000 net income. Over the past five years we have earned shotgun net income of \$27,000 in 2013; \$22,000 in 2012; \$14,000 in 2011; \$13,000 in 2010 and \$10,000 in 2009. So this past year has seen a drop in shotgun shooting. If you have an inkling of shooting, please come on down and shoot your shotgun. And while you're at the bar paying for your rounds please order a drink or two.

Let's raise a glass of fin beer to the year gone by and the year to come. God bless all.

MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hruskocy, Membership Chairman

The Fin's membership is remaining steady, there have been 64 people that have joined the club this year. Slightly down from last year.

There are 355 Regular, 185 Associates, 143 Life & 41 Junior members. For those that plan on hunting and have not completed their 10 work requirement, a hunting badge will not be granted until your hours have been paid for. You can email me to see if I have your hours recorded. I am planning on mailing out the 2015 invoices in late November. If you get billed for your work hours and in fact completed them, please email me and let me know what function you worked.

WANTED: BRUSH HOGGER

The Club needs a member who has a brush hogger to work on clearing trouble areas around our property. We can provide the fuel and your work hours plus some. Or does anyone know of a person with a big tractor and brush hogger, that we might either rent or have it done by the area cost. Contact the President, Dick Palmer

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.

FAMILY PICNIC NEWS

This year's family picnic Bake Off and Birdhouse raffles proved to be a success thanks to our 22 talented participants. Thank you for your efforts!

The winners of the Bake Off were:

- 1st place – Dolores Saunders
- 2nd place – Debbie Schuttz
- 3rd place – Carol O'Hara

The winners of the birdhouse were:

- 1st place – Tom Potter
- 2nd place – Jim Davidson
- 3rd place – Sarah Potter

RAFFLE

You still need to complete your obligation on the Club Raffle, if you are delinquent. If you hunt and haven't meet this obligation or completed your work hours, you will not be provided with a hunt button or it may be revoke as you may had purchase one for early turkey season. You will definitely will be bill when the dues notices come out. Just a reminder when our raffle begins in January you need to fill the bottom of that form to ensure you have met your obligation.



NRA GATHERING AT THE FIN

As you know, I and many other gun owners within our club and around the state have been volunteering to help candidates who pledge to uphold our constitutional rights. The general election date, November 4th is coming fast and we need your help!

This election is most likely going to be within 2 – 3%, a difference that can be made by gun owners in our state getting involved. While campaign activities may not be glorious, they are extremely important and any bit of time you can give WILL make a difference.

To that end, the NRA is sponsoring a pizza party phone bank from 5 – 7pm on October 1 at the Club House. Join us for two hours of food, friends, drinks, prizes, and most importantly, a few phone calls.

The futures of our state and our freedoms are in trouble - but we can and WILL reverse this trend with your help! Please let me know if you will join us in standing and fighting to restore our rights as citizens!

PHEASANT FUN TRAILS DATES

The pheasant Fun trails are Sept 21st, and 28th, and October 5th & 12th all times are 9 am. Members and non-members are welcome at the Fun Trails. Paul will announce the date when birds can be purchase, so members can purchase them to train their dogs across the street.

CLUB SHOTGUN CHAMPIONSHIP

The Club Shotgun Championship will be held on Saturday the 27th at 9 am. Format for this year will be 100 targets, 25 targets of skeet, 25 targets of trap, 25 targets of modern skeet, and 25 targets of 5-stand. A BBQ steak dinner will be served after the shoot with awards and beer for just \$35 dollars. You need to sign up, either as an individual or get a group together. The sign up chart is near the pool table. It is a pay in advance when you sign up. So come and celebrate the end of the summer shooting season. Any questions contact Jim Davidson at 860-456-8782.

SPORTING CLAYS

The 2014 season is over and I want to help all of our members who came out to help trap or keep score. Without your participation we couldn't run this program. We run 5 – 50 target events, and we had CWA and Ducks Unlimited here hosting their programs. Ducks Unlimited had 85 shooters, and their comments were our Club is great, people are nice, and they are booked for 2015.

We have our dates for 2015 year in place and plan on doing the same format. We also look forward to your help again in 2015. This program takes a lot of time in setting up, ensure safety, picking up after the shoot, making sure the machines are functioning properly, and finally looking to ensure everyone is enjoying themselves. I need to recognize seven Club members Matt Halloran; Mike Fromerth; Bruce Macaro; Ron Palmer; Jim Skoglund; Mark Holland and Mike Holland. These members make this program run.



For the 6th year the Fin Fur Feather has hosted Boy Scouts from June Norcross Webster's NRA Shooting Sports Week of camp. The Connecticut Rivers Council operates J. N. Webster Scout Reservation 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 Sr, Mike Sobol Jr, 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



TRAP

Bob Hruskocy, Trap Chairman

The CT State Trap Shoot was held at the Hartford Gun Club on 6/20-22/14. Even though the Fin has only a few members who shoot registered targets, some members did quite well.

On Friday, Bob Cooper won his yardage group in the handicap event. On Saturday there were approximately 260 shooters for the 200 target Singles event. Brian Scussel shot a 198/200 and finished 2nd in his Class. In only his 2nd year of shooting registered targets, Alan Gnann shot a 194/200 and was in a shoot off for his Class. On Sunday Alan was also in a shoot off in the handicap event for his yardage group. Alan ended up winning HOA for his Class. Bob Cooper won the doubles event on Sunday for the Veteran category. Brian Scussel, Bob Cooper & Dan Gutt ended up making the 2013 CT State team! Three Fin members made the top ten! Good shooting guys!



Left to right: Brian Scussel, Bob Cooper, Dan Gutt, Alan Gnann, Bob Hruskocy

JUNIOR MEMBER HUNT DAY

There is a Junior Pheasant Hunt day for our Junior members on October 11th starting at 8 am. You must sign up the Junior member by October 4th. There arrangements being made now to provide hunting dogs if you don't have one Juniors must have the Club's 2014 hunting button, which is available at the bar. Any questions please contact either Matt Halloran at 860-428-1818, or Troy Quick at 860-933-2585.

Well its almost upland game season and the pheasants are looking good and getting big. Paul and his committee are doing a great job with the birds as always. Don't forget, we need to purchase your hunting button before October 1st, and have all your obligations paid for as well.



The Fin Fur Feather Club has a new pole, many thanks to Dennis Raymond for donating and delivering this beauty. Thanks to our own Club members who helped in preparing the concrete base, setting the pole, and raking the grounds around it. Thank you to all who work on this project.



Maybe you haven't notice but we have someone harvesting our rocks on the Club property for about 2 months now. This company has provided substantial funds toward this project. Once all the areas have been picked over we'll have some excellent access through the woods for hunting.



Another new picture at the Club was the installation of new high power transmission lines through our property. This project should be completed by the end of October in our area. We benefited in a couple of ways, first the clearing of the area behind the Pheasant pens which was an eye sore for a long time, and then allowing us to financially dispose of the trees that were cut. We are so lucky that the new lines went in away from us toward the north and northwest, and not toward our clubhouse and pistol ranges.



Saturday, October 4th, 2014

The Great Pumpkin festival will be held on October 4th at 6 pm. Time to bring those pumpkins in! Large or small, just bring them all. Also a pumpkin carving contest, 3 age divisions, and you do not have to grow them. This is a great family night with a pot luck dinner, pumpkin painting and crafts for the kids, water balloons chucking, kids optional costume contest, the spooky walk of the great Pumpkin Search and raffle. Please sign up all the kids in advance! Sign up list is at the bar or call Nancy 860-456-8782.



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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

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Don Bajger 860-423-6693

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JUNIOR PROGRAMS

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