



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 16 | ISSUE 3 | SEPTEMBER 2015

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dick Palmer, President

These past three years have gone by so quick. I want to thank everyone for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your President. Together we have completed some great projects around the club, and without your commitment it wouldn't have been possible. There is still more work that needs to be done to strengthen our interstructure. Please continue to step forth and get involved with these projects. Once again, I want to thank everyone for allowing me to be your President of this great sportsman club.

THE GREAT PUMPKIN FESTIVAL RETURNS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

19th	Annual Chicken BBQ to support the Pheasant program
20th	Last Sporting Clays shoot
29th	Club's Shotgun Championship
30th	Last day to purchase hunting/fishing buttons. All assessments and work hours MUST be paid or you will not be allowed to hunt.

OCTOBER

1st	Sunday Bow Hunting Lease land only open Zone 5
3rd	The Club's Pumpkin Festival; please check the board to sign up your kids/grandkids for this.
4th	Pheasant Fun Trials 9 am. Tune up your bird dog across the street.
11th	Pheasant Fun Trials 9 am. Tune up your bird dog across the street.
13th	Regular Membership meeting 7pm, with annual elections of Officers and Executive Board members.
17th	Opening of Upland game season First stocking group is "A".

NOVEMBER

10th	Membership meeting 7 pm.
26th	Thanksgiving, special turkey prize pheasant hunt.

DECEMBER

1st	Executive Board meeting 6:30 pm
8th	Membership meeting 7 pm.
24th	Annual Members Christmas pot luck dinner and get together 1 pm.
25th	The Club is closed

All Ranges Are Closed Till 10 am
On All Stocking Days.

A MESSAGE FROM THE VP

Well, hunting season is just around the corner and if you don't have your work hours in, or have paid your raffle obligation you are 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 you can do to help them. 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.

As many of you know, President Dick Palmer cannot run for another term as president per our by laws. The job of president is a very time consuming job, and Dick has done a tremendous amount of work for our club. I would like to take this time to thank him for his time in office.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Well folks I missed a financial report last newsletter, sorry. This newsletter I would like to tell you all that we have paid off all of our loans. The Fin does not owe anyone any money. It has taken lots of time and money to pay these loans off. If it wasn't for the leadership of several boards and the generosity of all of our members these loans would still be on the books. I personally hate loans. However, they are necessary these days when you and your family want to purchase things like a house. We put ourselves in debt and pay extra to purchase large ticket items.

Last month we had a total of \$175,000 in all of our accountants. The Fin is doing well and I hope we continue with our conservative financial approach.

MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hruskocy, Membership Chairman

So far to date the club has added 74 members, which is just about the same as last year. The clubs membership categories are as follows: Regular 346, Associate 185, Junior 37 and Life 152.

For those that have not completed your 10 hour work requirement, you have until September 30th to do so. If you have not completed your work hrs and are planning on hunting, you need to pay for your hrs at the bar. You can email me to see if I have your hours recorded. Also if you did not purchase your Spring Raffle tickets, you need to pay for those before you will be issued a hunting badge. I will be mailing the 2016 invoices in mid-November. If there are any discrepancies, please let me know.

SKEET MACHINES

Members we need individuals who can help in maintaining our skeet machines, a lot of problems can be solved if we can establish a good preventative maintenance program. The Club will order parts for these machines but it takes individuals like you to get in there and maintain them. If we continue to fall down in this area, the Fin will not be able to host large shoots like the State and Zone which come around every 3 – 4 years. It also makes it very difficult for our winter league teams to host visiting teams when a machine fails to operate properly. If you are willing to help and can make your time available to maintain these machines please contact Larry Shewokis, Kevin Theriault, or Dick Palmer.

2015 CLUB SHOTGUN CHAMPIONSHIP

This event will be held on Sunday September 27th at 9 am. This year events are 25 targets in each for the following, skeet, trap, modern skeet, sporting clays and 5-stand. After the shoot there will be a BBQ steak dinner and cold beer. The cost for all this fun and bragging rights is just \$40. The sign-up sheet is in the bar, get five friends together and shoot as a squad or you can sign up and get onto a squad. This is a pay in advance event, so please pay the bartender on duty. Most important, you must sign up by September 20th so the caterer knows how many. Any questions please call Jim Davidson @ 860-456-8782.

BROWN SKEET BUILDING

Members,

We need carpenters and labors to extend the roof over the deck at the main brown building, plus replace the existing windows. I would like to meet on Sept 26th at 9 am to put this plan in motion. We need to come up with a design and that's what this meeting is about, plus we need to look at window replacements. The more help we get from skilled members and others, the quicker we should be able to put this together; within 3 days once materials arrive. We need to have all the material on site before starting. Please come down to lend your experience and knowledge to this project at 9 am. Once the materials arrive we'll contact everyone and set the work days up.

Thank you
Dick Palmer President

PHEASANT/HUNT

Members we need feeders and individuals to help stock the Saturday birds, please contact Paul Cardinal for feeding, and Wayne Mather for stocking.

PHEASANT FUN TRIALS

There are only two dates which are Oct 4th & 11th at 9 am. Bring out your bird dog and break them in early. Location is behind the green building across the street.

TRAP

Bob Hruskocy, Trap Chairman

The registered trap season is winding down, therefore there will be less activity on the lower fields. Feel free to stop down if you see people shooting. After all, the club championship continues to be won by trap shooters!

Doesn't matter if you can run 25 in skeet, the club championship is won on the trap field !

The members who shoot competitively did quite well over the summer months. Generally there are shoots every Sunday in CT. The guys who shoot at the Fin support the CTA by attending most of these shoots. They also travel to the other NE States to shoot the respective State shoots.

The FFF members did quite well at the CT State shoot that was held at the Hartford Gun Club on June 26 – 28th.

On Friday, preliminary day, Alan Gnann shot 98/100 in the Singles event to win Class B. Brian Scussell won his Handicap yardage group with a score of 94/100.

On Saturday in the 200 Singles event, Brian Scussell won AA class with a score of 196/200, Alan Gnann won B class with a score of 195/200. On Sunday, Bob Cooper won the Veteran title for doubles with a score of 92/100. In the Handicap event, yours truly was lucky enough to win Runner Up with a score of 93/100. Bob Cooper won Veteran HAA with a score of 375/400.

Pete Kasacek is the latest to get the trap "bug", he attended his first State shoot, and continues to improve.

Now that hunting season is near, the trap gun gets put away until the Spring. Hope to see more people on the lower fields !



THE GREAT PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

Members, October 3rd at 6 pm is the time to bring in your pumpkins. Always fun to see what we could get to grow. Main event used core seeds and the Open event is the use of any seeds. The Carving event will be 3 age groups, you do not have to grow your pumpkins for this. We will have crafts and painting for the kids, Water balloons chucking and the Great Pumpkin search, Pot Luck Dinner and Raffle.

Need only to sign up the kids, so we will have enough pumpkins for all. Sign up at the bar or call Nancy at 860-456-8782.

A Fun night for all!

FAMILY PICNIC

Kevin Theriault

Well we had another successful Family picnic this year. Attendance was down from last years but we still made a little money. The weather was hot, 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 their families 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. Special thanks goes out to those people who donated prizes for our raffle this year. Because of these donations the club was able to cover the costs of the picnic.

FAMILY PICNIC CONTEST WINNERS

These are the winners from the Bakeoff contest;
 1st place Carol O'Hara
 2nd place..... Lisa Licata
 3rd place Kevin Theriault

The Birdhouse winners were;
 1st place & 2nd place..... Kevin Theriault
 3rd place Tom Potter

Many thanks to those who participated in the 9th Annual Bakeoff, and the 4th Annual Birdhouse events. We look forward to your entries next year.



SCOUTS FROM JUNE NORCROSS WEBSTER AT FIN 2015

Hoss Haskell

JNW NRA Shooting Sports Coordinator

For the 7th 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 provided a day away from camp in which the scouts engaged in an introduction to Trap, Skeet and 5 Stand. Fin members Mike Sobol Sr, Mike Sobol Jr, Randy Russo and Jim Davidson 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.

HUNTING

Bow hunting on Sunday's starts October 1st all zones except 2,3, & 4a. Our lease property falls into zone 5. With this being said, Sunday hunting with a bow will only be on lease land, **NOT CLUB PROPERTY.** All rules apply State and Club.

Tree stands must be marked with your name and club number and it must be at least 10 ft. high. They must be taken down after the season is over.

All assessments, raffle tickets, work hours must be paid by Sept 30th or you will not be allow to hunt.

LETTER FROM DEEP

All,

FYI – The commissioner has formally established that Deer Management Zones 1, 4b, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 will be open for archery deer hunting on private lands on Sunday beginning October 1, 2015. This is action necessary to put Public Act 15-204, An Act Authorizing Bow and Arrow Hunting on Certain Private Property on Sundays into action. Conversely, DMZs 2, 3 and 4a are NOT open to Sunday archery deer hunting.

Rick Jacobson *Director, Wildlife Division*

This will **ONLY BE FOR LEASE LAND, NOT CLUB PROPERTY.**

Thank you

Dick Palmer, President

2015 FFF HUNTING RULES AND REGULATIONS

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, EXCEPT Sunday Bow Hunting is allowed after October 1st on lease land ONLY.

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 400 sq.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 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 can't sign up for either stocking days or group.
3. All hunters, hunting on Wednesday or Saturday must sign in and out, other days and after those hours on Wednesday/Saturday, must sign in their 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. Member's 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. They must be a minimum of 10 feet above the ground.
 - 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.



NO FISH STORY HERE

Junior members, David, Justin, and Tyler fishing at the fly pond while their dads were cooking for the NSSA group, reeled in a huge surprise. This fish was 30" in length and was estimated between 6 – 8 lbs.



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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

Dick Palmer, President 860-933-4768
 Kevin Theriault,
 Vice President 860-429-1792
 Bill O'Hara, Secretary 860-872-3558
 Tom Hoagland, Treasurer 860-455-0641

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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 Mark Holland 860-617-3750
 Shawn Koehler 860-810-4050
 Will Lucier 860-455-9117
 Wayne Mather 860-423-0450
 Keith Morehouse 860-647-1333
 John Postemski 860-423-9396
 Tom Potter 860-212-6573

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

ARCHERY
 Jim Michaud 860-402-4155
BAR
 Don Bajger 860-423-6693

BUILDING & GROUNDS

John Postemski 860-208-0353

CHILDREN'S FUND

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COMPONENTS

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FAMILY PICNIC

Kevin Theriault 860-429-1792

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Troy Quick 860-933-2585

FIVE-STAND

Jim Davidson 860-456-8782

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Wayne Mather 860-423-0450

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Eugene Lewis 860-423-3341

JUNIOR PROGRAMS

Pat Enright 860-429-0172

KITCHEN

Open Position

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Bob Hruskocy 860-569-1592

MERCHANDISE

Bill Spears 860-822-6567

NEWSLETTER

Dick Palmer 860-933-4768

PERMITTEE

Brenda Liappes 860-455-0521

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Paul Cardinal 860-455-0255

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RIFLE

Peter Mathewson 860-456-8588

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Frank Mauri 860-974-1425

SKEET

Frank Mauri 860-974-1425

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TRAP

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