



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

Happy Holidays



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

- 19 Setback tournament
- 27 Game Dinner

FEBRUARY

- 3 Annual Ice Fishing Tournament
- 9 NRA Pistol

MARCH

- 4,6,7,9 Hunter Safety Course
- 16 NRA Pistol
- 16 Corned Beef Dinner
- 16 Fishing ponds open
- 24 3D Shoot

APRIL

- 6 Sportsman's Tag Sale
- 7 NRA Pistol
- 12-14 Boy Scout Venture
- 28 3D Shoot

MAY

- 4 Bow Course
- 4 Fly Fishing Tournament
- 5 Sporting Clays
- 5 Kid's Fishing Tournament
- 11 Registered Trap Shoot
- 18 NRA Pistol
- 26 3D Shoot

PRESIDENT'S SPOT



First let me start by saying thank you to all of our members for allowing me to serve as your President for this coming year. Every year we face challenges and find ways to overcome them to achieve better programs by working together. I want to thank Larry Shewokis for serving the past 3 years as the Club's President. As the New Year rolls in, numerous committees are already

gearing up for their 2013 programs. These programs require work, but are also fun and I encourage you all to help out. So please step forward with a few hours of your time, and continue to make the Fin the best outdoor Club in the state.

Wishing all of you a healthy and safe holiday season.

Dick Palmer

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Hoagland, Treasurer

In December, the Fin pays its income tax bill. As we all know this year we had additional income and now need to pay the government additional monies. We owe about \$4,000 for last year and are scheduled to pay \$6,000 this coming year, and only online payments are allowed! We are working with our accountant to get the Fin an online account. I can't believe you cannot pay your taxes with a check??? We are moving into a new year and the Fin could use additional funds with all of the proposed projects being discussed. As I always say, if you have an idea to help us make some money step up and let people know. I wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday season.

MESSAGE FROM THE VEEP

Kevin Theriault, Vice President.

Greetings from your new Vice-President. First, I would like to thank Bob Hruskocy (aka Moon) for his years of service to this club on the Board and as Vice President. Bob will still be the membership chairman but is taking a well deserved break from the Board. I would like to thank all the club members that make this club run day-to-day, without all this help the club would not be as great as it is. I look forward to working with our new President, Dick Palmer, and the Board to keep this club moving forward. Please feel free to call me with any questions you have regarding the club. This club is growing every year, new shooting activities, and functions are happening all the time. So make one of your New Year's resolutions to get out to the club more than you did this past year and enjoy everything that is offered. In closing, I hope everyone had a great hunting season and I wish you and your family a joyful holiday season.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES AND THANKS

Cameron Faustman

Dave Fromerth will be handling the Newsletter beginning in 2013. I enjoyed my 6-year tenure with newsletter duties and appreciate all of the support that I received from the membership, and the Executive Committee in particular. The next Newsletter deadline will be March 15, 2013.



MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hruskocy, Membership

The 2013 dues invoices were mailed in late November and if you have not received an invoice, please notify me **ASAP**. Payment must be made by January 31st, 2013. If you were billed for work hours in error, please let me know the function/event you worked so I can correct your file. Please update any information on your invoice and return with your payment. When making payment at the bar, be sure that either your name or membership number is on your receipt. If you are mailing in your payment and want your membership card mailed, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Membership cards will be mailed out after the game dinner. Please pick up your cards in order to save on postage costs for the club.

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

December Member-of-the-Month was **Wayne Mather!** Congratulations!

THANKS JOHN AND LAURA

Thanks to John and Laura Pawelec who organized two wonderful events, the Italian Dinner, and the annual Christmas Party.



OUT IN THE FIELD



MODERN SKEET AND SKAP, SUMMER LEAGUE 2012

In 2011 and again in 2012, the Fin Fur & Feather Club hosted an informal summer shotgun league for Modern Skeet (skeet targets thrown from a vertical-wobble trap) and SKAP (trap shot from skeet stations 1-7, targets thrown from a trap with 90-degree horizontal oscillation and vertical wobble thrown in for more fun). In 2012 we had 27 members and guests shoot in the league, which ran from June until early September. At the end of the season we had a great picnic, funded by league entry fees.

In the featured photo Don Nichols (left), shot SKAP with an average of 17.167 and took Champion SKAP honors by one bird ahead of Michael A. Sobol (on right in photo; the one still wearing hair on his head), who averaged 17.083. The SKAP contest came down to the last bird shot on the last round shot. Going into his final round, Don knew he needed a score of no less than 16 to win, and that's precisely what he shot. Way to overcome the pressure, Don!

Michael J. Sobol (the one who wears the hat on his head), proudly displayed young Michael's High Overall Average plaque and cradled his own Champion Modern Skeet plaque on his forearm. Michael J. (dad) took modern skeet honors ahead of his son Michael A. by two birds (23.83 average versus 23.67). The Sobols came within one bird of taking all honors, and young Michael was three birds away from taking all three wins! Great shooting, guys.

Greg Pinto (photo center) would like to thank everyone who participated in the 2012 Summer League. It was great fun shooting with everyone and getting to know them a little better. Many thanks to Lucienne Pinto and Nancy Davidson who prepared our picnic meal. Special thanks to Charlie Hill (SKAP) and Joe Pirolo (Modern Skeet); without your generous donations, modern skeet and SKAP would not exist at the Fin Fur & Feather Club.

FIVE-STAND NOTE

Jim and Nancy Davidson.

We had a very successful year with challenging targets and good club participation. Our most sincere appreciation is extended to all members that came down the hill to shoot 5-stand with us. We hope to see you all in the spring.

TRAP

Bob Hruskocy, Trap Chairman.

The club will hold one registered trap shoot on Saturday May 11th. Help will be needed. More details to follow as the date approaches.



PHEASANT COMMITTEE

*With Sincere Appreciation,
Paul Cardinal, Pheasant Chairman.*

The pheasants we raised this year were very big and very strong flyers. We only lost approximately 110 birds, thanks to the new pens and netting, quality care and good luck with the weather. This was the BEST YEAR EVER! We had a lot of members who worked very hard to care for the birds. They installed the new fencing, new netting, loaded and stocked 2,000 birds and sold 1,700 birds, fed and checked the birds daily, and helped the pheasants survive hurricane Sandy. So a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone that helped in any way, big or little, it all makes a difference in a successful program. The birds we raised were very high quality and we have been complimented by hunters as well the customers who purchased our birds; some who buy from other vendors said our birds were the BEST! So, I hope we can continue with this year's success and add more people next year to help with the feedings and stockings!! Again, to those of you who contributed to this year's success, THANK YOU!



ATTENTION HUNTERS

I hope that everyone had a good year of hunting. Paul Cardinal did another excellent job with the pheasants and we all owe him a big thanks. Please note that Hunting Badges for 2013 will be available beginning in March. You must purchase your Badge before October 1, 2013. After that, only recently approved new members will be allowed to buy them. That gives members 7 months to purchase their Badges. Also, a very important change from this past year, junior members will be required to hunt on the same day/timeslot as their parent or sponsor (i.e., no more signing up to hunt at different sessions). Finally, members will not be allowed to change their day/timeslot (i.e., Saturday A or B; Wednesday) after they have signed up. Private land consent forms will be available in the next bulletin.

ARCHERY

In 2012 we added 3 medium and 2 large targets to our collection. We had a total of 200 shooters for the year which was a few less than expected, however, we sold out older unusable targets to club members and made \$35 more than expected bringing this year's total income to \$1,755.

The 2013 year's archery budget has been approved by the Board and we will be purchasing larger targets to replace those that were sold. Next year's archery shoots are scheduled as follows: Sunday March 24th, April 28th, May 26th, June 30th, July 28th, September 15th and October 13th. Target set-ups will be on March 23rd, April 26th or April 27th, May 25th, June 29th, July 27th, September 14th and October 12th. We hope you can come out, shoot and assist with the target placement and retrieval during the year.

I would especially like to thank Patricia and Tim Michaud, Rick Turcotte, Chris Clark, Tom and Chris Laraille, Sue and Richard Matejka and Ken Bavier who continue to assist with the development and continued success of the Archery program. Also without the assistance of Tom Asaro, Mason Battye, Seth Charron, Don Bischoff, Ted DeMers, Bob Devaux, Mike Ford, Tasos Gaurilis, Brian Green, John Oliver, Steve Pentsak, The Quick Family, Scott Rupp, Kevin Segar, Vance Stewart, Mark Vanernaur and Dave Volz the setting up and taking down of the targets could not have been done.

I welcome more club members to participate with target placement next year and competing in the shoots. We have over 100 members saying they are interested in archery. If you have suggestions for improvement please let me know, or if you would like to know more about the target placement, take down or the shoots please call me on my cell 860-402-4155 or e-mail me at James.E.Michaud@Comcast.net and jmichaud@sscinc.com.



VENTURE CREW 15 FIN FUR AND FEATHER WEEKEND

Yours in Scouting, Jim Michaud.

The Fin has again opened its doors to Venture Crew 15 of Tolland on April 12, 13 and 14, 2013. This means all shooting areas, clubhouse and kitchen will be closed, with the exception of skeet fields 1 to 5 for this weekend.

The Fin first hosted this event in April 2011. Venture Crews composed of young men and women, 14 to 21 years of age, camp on the property, learn to fly-fish, do archery and 3-D archery, and shoot skeet, high power pistols, rifles and black powder. In 2011, 70 youth got to experience what we enjoy at the Fin. How did this all happen, you may ask? By volunteers! There were 8 NRA Instructors, 5 DEEP Instructors, 6 Boy Scout Instructors, 8 Instructors from the Crews, 2 Police Officers and 2 Military Instructors. But more importantly, there were volunteers from the Fin! This event was so popular, that many crews have been asking when the next event would be. The effort to organize and run the event is significant and the Crew has decided to sponsor it on alternate years. We anticipate as many as 150 youth in 2013. This means more and more youth getting exposed to the activities we do, and enjoy, at the club.

The Fin weekend has two parts. The morning is a 45 minute instruction, where youth who may never had done an activity before learn about safety and proper use of firearms, archery or fly fishing gear. In the afternoon, the youth experience the hands-on activity.

The Fin membership has been great. Martin O'Rourke and John Goddard will be running fly fishing again. Kevin Segar will run trap. David and Dale DeMontigny have volunteered to run the black powder area, Fred Verdic the .22 rifle area, and Larry Shewokis and Michael Sobol the skeet shooting area. This is most of the folks that volunteered last time and I am grateful to them. These volunteers brought their tools, fly gear, rifles, pistols and shot guns and ammo to allow the youth to try them out. The program does provide ammo too, but with the donated ammo they get to shoot much more.

But I need **MORE HELP, volunteers and donations!**

Mike and Larry were able to run one skeet field together, but there was a line 12 or more Crew members deep that wanted to shoot. I would like to open another skeet field and/or a trap field to allow more shooting opportunities. If there are 3 to 5 club members that would like to volunteer with trap, we could have 1 instructor with each youth allowing 5 to shoot at the same time.

The black powder was a popular event as well and David and Dale did a great job with their various black powder rifles. If we had two more black powder volunteers with rifles, more Crew members could have a chance. I have several high power rifle volunteers from the Police Department and NRA Instructors, but if you would like to bring something extra, we would love the help. I need high power pistol instructors and their firearms (I bring my pistols and leave them with the instructors), but I need 3 or 4 instructors to work at the pistol range with their firearms. Rockville Fish and Game has volunteered their archery equipment for the event, but I need some volunteers who do archery too. All instructors make sure the youth are using the equipment properly and staying safe. The 3D course was a great success in 2011, and a few people who do 3-D shoots would be great to take more youth on our short course (about 8 to 10 targets). Do you need to be an NRA Instructor to volunteer? No, you do not. We will have an NRA Instructor, or the equivalent, on each range along with a Range Safety Officer. I am also looking for Range Safety Officers too.

Perhaps you have a hobby that has not been mentioned that you might like to see included, or if this has sparked your interest, and you are thinking of volunteering your time, firearms, ammo or anything else, please let me know. If you would like to volunteer please e-mail me at EagleScout1979@ComCast.net. If you have questions, please feel free to call me on my cell number at 860-402-4155.





CLUB SHOTGUN CHAMPIONSHIP

Jim and Nancy Davidson.

A total of 57 shooters participated in the Club's annual shotgun championship on September 29th. After each participant pulled the trigger on 125 targets, the smoke settled and Paul Prevost won with a score of 112 clay targets broken! Second place was a tie between Dick Palmer and Larry Shewokis who each hit 101 targets. Corey Dancrosse and Mike Sobol each hit 100 but placed 3rd and 4th, respectively, following a tie-breaker station. Al Gnann earned 5th place honors. Thanks to all of the participants and we look forward to seeing you at next year's event.

SPORTING CLAYS

Dick Palmer & Sporting Clay Committee.

First, I want to again thank all of you that came out during 2012 to help trap, score, whatever it was to make our program the best; our members put in over 1,100 hours in support of sporting clays. Now we have our sporting clay schedule for 2013: May 5th is a 50 target shoot, June 3rd is a 50 target shoot, June 23rd is the CT Waterfowl's annual 100 target shoot with meal, July 14th is a 50 target shoot, August 11th is a 50 target shoot, Sept 7th has been set aside for the Ducks Unlimited 100 target shoot and meal, and Sept 22nd will be our final 50 target shoot (and right after we'll be picking up and storing the equipment for the season). Last year's use of email to recruit members to sign for trapping duties worked out very well. We will continue to do that again this coming season but recognize that about ¼ of our members are not on the email list and so please keep track of the dates noted here. The 100 target shoots will still have a sign-up list along with e-mail. We've received new ideas for target presentation and will be working on those this spring on our work day which should be April 6th @ 9 am. The March newsletter will have more details on these shoots as well as our work day date. Until then, keep breaking those targets.



2012 GREAT PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

Nancy Davidson

We had another terrific Pumpkin Festival during the fall with 50 adults and 14 youth taking part in the annual event. The Best-in-Show prize was claimed by Bill and Carol O'Hara. In the Main Event class, Joshua Theriault (1st prize), Pat Enright (2nd prize) and Dennis Charron (3rd prize) took the top three places. Kevin Segar claimed 1st prize in the Open Class.

In the Carving Contest, Alex Dominique took 1st place, Faith Halloran was 2nd and Eric Mathewson claimed 3rd in the 8-and-under class. In the 9-15 yrs contest, Sarah Potter and Abby Green earned 1st and 2nd place honors, respectively. For those that entered competition in the 16yrs through Adult group, first place was claimed by Nancy Davidson and 2nd place by Sasha Peters.

The Costume Contest Winner was Rayne the Skeleton's Bride. The Festival was concluded with a terrific pot luck dinner. Thanks to all who participated in this fun and entertaining event.



PIKE UNDER THE ICE TOURNAMENT

Marty O'Rourke

The 7th annual Fin, Fur & Feather "Pike Under the Ice Tournament" is scheduled for February 3, 2013, from 7:00 am to 12:00 pm. Entry fee is \$20 and prizes will be awarded. Subject to sufficient ice thickness, this event has been a club favorite and a great way to cure cabin fever. For more information, call Mary O'Rourke at 860-456-2886.



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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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