



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 11: ISSUE 4

JUNE 2010



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 27 Rifle Match
27 CWA Sporting Clays Event

JULY 10 FFF 50th Anniversary Celebration
11 Rifle Match
11 Skeet Shoot
18 Sporting Clays Shoot

AUGUST 8 Registered Trap Shoot
11 Sporting Clays Shoot
14 Skeet Shoot
15 Annual Family Picnic
29 Ducks Unlimited Sporting Clay (tentative)

SEPTEMBER 11 Shotgun Club Championship
12 Sporting Clays shoot
18 Spaghetti Dinner
19 3D Archery Shoot
25 Connecticut Trapper's Convention
26 Rifle Match

OCTOBER 9 Pawcatuck River Labrador Retriever Club Working Certificate Dog Trials
16 Roast Beef Dinner
17 3D Archery Shoot
23 Great Pumpkin Festival

PRESIDENT'S SPOT

T.C.B. Larry

We've had a lot of great things happening at the Club and I'd like to use this column to say thank you to Jim Michaud "Archery"; Jim & Nancy "5 Stand"; Dick Palmer "Sporting Clays"; Moon "Trap & Membership"; Frank & Connie "Skeet"; John Lonergan "Practical Pistol"; Bill Spears "Merchandise"; Tom Skogland "Kitchen"; Marty O'Rourke "Fishing"; Keith & Peter "Rifle"; and to all the other people that worked under them - a Big Thank You. To my bartenders for their hard work Brenda, Annie, M.E & Cindy, great job ladies. Let's not forget my 50th anniversary committee (Jim & Nancy, John & Laura, Jay & Brenda, Marie, Bobby T. & Roberta) for their hours. Special thanks to Steve Krukoff and his guys for being there when I needed fill/patch for the roads and the machines;

Krukoff Exavation always has my back - Thank You Steve. Last but not least - Jay & Kevin - thank you for all your time and patience with the DVD. Albert Miffit the one person who worked the hardest for me, my friend, thank you. If I forgot anyone I'm truly sorry. In closing I would like to mention the 4 letter word "CLUB"; with members like Bill Griswold, Bill K, Don B, & J.P. how could you not help but have the **BEST CLUB IN NEW ENGLAND.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Hoagland, Treasurer

Here we go again another newsletter report. I report the monies available on-hand at every monthly meeting and thought it might be interesting to look at trends over each year and across several years. It is obvious that the peak is in February and March which is just after dues have been collected. Clearly, the largest income generator is dues collection; thank you all for renewing your membership – the Fin could not survive without you. Over the past years the February totals on-hand were \$91,400 in 2005, \$116,600 in 2006, \$129,600 in 2007, \$97,700 in 2008 and \$107,400 in 2009. The Fin is clearly a stable fiscal entity. We have been spending monies on maintenance and the place is looking very nice. Hope you are all enjoying the place as much as I am.

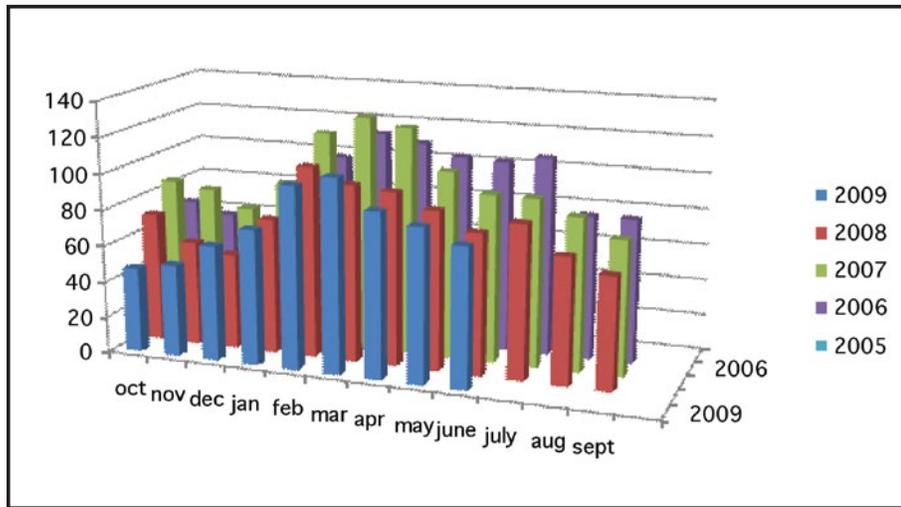


Figure 1. Monthly available cash in thousands of dollars for the years 2009 to 2005.

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

May member-of-the-month was Marty O'Rourke; June member-of-the-month was Greg Pinto.

CONGRATULATIONS CHARLES BRUCKERHOFF

Charles Bruckerhoff, a long-standing member of the Fin, was recently honored by the International Hunter Education Association. He received their highest award for excellence and commitment to hunter education at their June 2010 conference in Estes Park, Colorado. For his accomplishments, Charles received a plaque/trophy and a .22 Henry lever action rifle. Be sure to congratulate and thank Charles for his dedication to hunter education.



MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hruskocy, Membership Chairman

The FFF's membership is holding steady even during these tough economic times. There were 30 members who chose not to renew their membership for this year. That is consistent with past years. Currently the club's membership consists of 378 Regular, 99 Associate, 32 Junior and 118 Life members. To date there have been 47 new members for 2010, 18 regular, 19 Associate & 10 Juniors.

Keep in mind that your work hour requirement must be completed by Sept 30th. There are many events that are taking place during the next few months; please do not wait until the last minute to try and accomplish your hrs. Every year I get emails during the month of September inquiring "what can I do"? Well, the time is now! Last year the club collected \$17,370.00 in work hrs. Since 2001, the club has collected \$113,610.00. If you know of anyone that is interested in becoming a member, please bring them to the club and show them the facilities. Applications, can be emailed, or can be picked up at the bar.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Cameron Faustman, Newsletter Editor

Please note that the deadline for material to be submitted for the next newsletter will be September 15th. Written submissions and photographs can be dropped off at the Bar and added to my folder.

OUT IN THE FIELD



SPORTING CLAYS

Dick Palmer, 860-933-4768

Well, the Sporting Clays program is in full swing. For our first shoot the weather could not have been better. We had plenty of shooters and help from club members. Our most recent shoot was dry, but rain prior to the event and a damp weather forecast kept alot of the shooters under cover; we still had a successful event. Our next shoot is the Connecticut Waterfowlers on June 27th and we need alot of help that day; please come down to the Club by 7:30am for set-up and plan to finish by 1 pm with a free BBQ dinner provided to all workers.

The shoots scheduled for July 18th and August 8th will also require volunteers to ensure that they happen – remember that alot of Club members may be on vacation and so if you are in the area and can assist, please contact me and/or be at the Club by 8 am. This is an easy option for obtaining your work hours before fall Pheasant season. Our last sporting clays event will be on September 12th. Again, I would like as much help as possible because I intend to put everything (traps, gun racks, fences, and barrels) away for the winter on this day. Also, the end of that month is when work hours need to be completed by, so please mark your calendar to set aside time to help our Club's program. Thanks to everyone who has helped so far. Until the next newsletter, "Keep breaking those targets".



PRACTICAL PISTOL

What is FFF Practical Pistol? Fin Fur and Feather Practical Pistol employs many aspects of various shooting disciplines for a unique Pistol/Shotgun Shooting experience. Practical Pistol is not a sanctioned competition by any of the national organizations but utilizes many of their stage designs, techniques and safety protocols. Participants maneuver through “stages” engaging various targets. Scoring is calculated based on target types: metal targets must be either hit or knocked down as specified by course description, whereas cardboard targets are to be hit in specified areas. Time is normally a factor and the shooter begins at the audible “beep” of a timer held by a “Range Safety Officer”. “Total Factor”, which decides the winners, is the shooter’s target score- converted to time and then added to their total time for each stage, providing their “factor”.

What do I need to Participate? To participate you will need a pistol or revolver in safe working condition, a belt-mounted holster, and for semi-autos 2 magazines, or 1 speed loader for revolvers (recommend at least 3 magazines or speed loaders) with the appropriate number of belt-mounted magazine pouches. Shotguns can be any type, though pumps and autos are best suited using birdshot and slugs. Shotgun and Pistol matches are separate events, shoot just one or both. *Please note that shoulder, small-of-back, or inside-the-pants holsters are not allowed for safety reasons.* Thigh holsters are permissible as long as they fit and retain your pistol safely (as determined by the Match Director). Pockets generally do not work well for holding extra magazines as shooters tend to fumble magazines which can be both unsafe and slow! Extra magazine holders/pouches are inexpensive and readily available.

Who can participate? Anyone who can safely handle their firearms is encouraged and welcome to participate. We have a range of abilities at these matches, but every match is strictly FOR FUN! You will leave each match with the self satisfaction of having the fortitude to show up, try something new, and compete against something other than a can or piece of paper! A schedule of events is posted in the Fin Bar and on the Fin website.

Email updates are sent periodically, so be sure the club has your email address. If you are interested in participating and/or helping with these events please contact: John Lonergan at shootergold@sbcglobal.net or (860) 643-7453.

RIFLE

The annual D-Day June 6 M-1 Garrand Match was held with Pete Mathewson as range master.



NEW 5-STAND IS UNDERWAY

Mike Sobol

Jim and Nancy Davidson are at it again. Jim has a vision of a new and more flexible 5-stand. The landscaping has been completed, trenches dug, wire buried and concrete piling poured. A small building, yet to be erected, will house the clay and traps to support both 5-stand and sporting clays; it will also serve as the host location for all wiring and controls necessary for operating the 5-stand. When the new 5-stand has been completed, skeet field 8 will be designated for modern skeet. The traps have already been moved from field 3 and relocated to field 8. Many thanks to those who have volunteered so far and to those that will bring Jim’s 5-stand vision to fruition.

STATE SKEET SHOOT

(FIN MEMBERS INDICATED BY *)

Frank Mauri

The Fin hosted its annual NorthEast Open skeet shoot on June 5th and 6th. The weather was sultry, overcast and threatened rain but none was delivered. The shoot was a 4 gun affair with the 12 Ga. and 20 Ga. events occurring on Saturday, and 28 Ga. and .410 events Sunday.

The 12 Ga. was shot off first and 18 competitors vied for honors. **Andre St. George*** shot a 99 and took the event championship after a shoot-off against Ray Gilbert who also posted a 99 and became Runner-up. **Stu Fairbank*** shot a 98 that was good enough for Class AA1. **Winfield Danielson*** posted a 97 and took Class A1 while **Kate Burr's*** 94 garnered her Class B1. Bill Lamphere shot a 94 in Class C and took top honors there. **Doug Kramer*** shooting registered for the first time shot an 87 and that was good enough for Class D1. Ron Sannicandro, who drove here from Scarsdale NY, posted a 77 and was Class E1.

The 20 Ga. event was shot after lunch and when all the smoke cleared there were 2 posted 100's. **Stu Fairbank*** and Ray Gilbert accomplished this feat and shot off for Champ and Runner-up. Stu won the shoot-off and became the 20 Ga. champion while Ray had to settle for Runner-up. **Andre St. George*** was the Class AA winner with a 98. John McCormick shot a 95, good enough for Class A1. **Charlie Connell Jr.*** shot a 96 and won Class B1. Fred Van Patten shot a 95 and settled for B2. Ron Sannicandro with a 75 took D1.

On Sunday, the 28 Ga. event began the day. John McCormick and Ray Gilbert each shot 97 and in the shoot-off John won while Ray settled for Runner-up. **Andre St. George*** shot a 95 and took AA1 while **Winfield Danielson's*** 96 was good for A1. Fred Van Patten took Class B1 with a 95 and Bill Lamphere scored a 94 and took B2. Ron Sannicandro was the D1 winner with a 78.

The .410 was shot after the noontime break and Ray Gilbert stood alone as the champion with a 97. **Andre St. George*** and **Charlie Connell Jr.*** each posted 92 and in a shoot-off Andre bested Charlie and took .410 Runner-up while Charlie took A1. Winfield Danielson* shot an 89 that was good enough for B1 and Bill Lamphere, with an 88, had to settle for B2. **Kate Burr*** shot an 81 and took C1 while Ron Sannicandro's 75 earned him D1.

Many thanks are extended to Bill Dixon, Mike D'Amato, Neil Wippert, and Tony DiCiccio who worked both days and did a great job refereeing the shoot. Frank Decker and Bill Spears filled in when needed as referees and did their usual fine job. The shooters only have to be right on their 100 targets but the refs need to be right for every target thrown to the entire squad.

Alan Perry and Elmer MacCluskey put in two long days working the fields making sure the machines were filled and throwing good targets. They also saw to water needs, ammo, posted scores in the clubhouse and were available for anything else that the shooters required. Art St. Lawrence was a big help as well.



The Field Kitchen was the purview of Connie Mauri. A good menu was prepared for the shooters and they ate alot indicating they were satisfied. Saturday provided a free buffet to the shooters and any others who were at the upper clubhouse after the shoot-offs. Connie had help from Mark Galligan and Eric Schneider for both days. They put in long hours each day cooking and cleaning! Jo-Ann Reynolds helped on Sunday and filled in for Connie when she had to leave early. Matt Halloran did the final cleanup of the field kitchen. Lastly, we need to thank the under-appreciated grass cutters and weed trimmers who keep the fields and grounds beautifully manicured and a pleasure to all who visit.

Perhaps the most noteworthy happening of the event was the record number of Fin members, a total of 12, who competed. There were more competitors from our Club than non-member competitors, and especially sweet was the fact that several of the winners were from the Fin. The more (that shoot) the merrier!



TRAP

Bob "Moon" Hruskocy, Trap Chairman

On April 18th the FFF held the first of two registered shoots that it will host this season. Even though the weather did not cooperate, thirty-three shooters participated in the event. The gross revenue from the shoot was \$1898.00; after all expenses were paid, the club netted a profit of \$903.56. The kitchen income was \$106.00. I would like to thank the following people for their time - without them, the shoot would not have been possible. Dan Quinlan, Dan Gutt, Mike Ford, Ralph Pittfield, Ed Prest, Bob Owens, Bob Rogers, John Lamont, Tony Kubasek, & Bob Frankland. A special thank you goes to Connie Mauri who cooked breakfast and lunch.

The next registered shoot is August 8th, I will need help setting up on the 7th and with the actual shoot on the 8th. Hopefully some new people will step up and volunteer. The FFF will be lending two of its machines to the CTA for the CT State Trapshoot on June 25-27th and will receive \$600.00 for their use. Thus, there will only be one trap field open at the FFF during this time.

EASTERN CONNECTICUT SKEET CLUB UPDATE

The Fin had 3 teams in Division One; one team in Division Two; 2 teams in Division Three; one team in Division Five; and 1 team in Division Six. Congratulations to all the teams for the great efforts in representing the Fin and thanks to Dave Fromerth for these great photographs. Good luck next year to all.



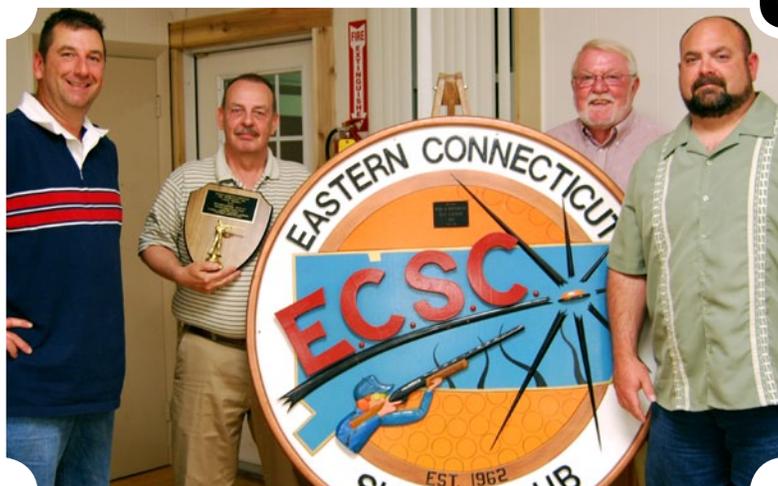
Congratulations to John Mathewson of the FFF Terminators for winning Division Two high average with a 48.846 score.

Fff Bad Boys Have Another Great Year.

Our Division One team's 14-1 season earned them first place and a high division average. Left-to-right, Dave held league champ; Aldo Provera Div. 1 high average; Steve Krukoff was top gun with a 49.846 average; and Captain Larry Shewokis.



FFF team IFID placed 2nd in Division Three with a 10-4 record. L-to-R, Allen Gnann, captain; Bill Johnson; Mike Sobol Jr; and Mike Sobol Sr.



FFF Division Five team, the Nor'easters won the division and high division average. L-to-R, John Pawelec, captain; Jim Skoglund, Dave Fromerth and Dave Rorrio.

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW – 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

The 50th anniversary of the Fin, Fur and Feather Club will take place on July 10th. In addition to the fine food that will be served, a number of displays and activities will be available but only for ticket-holders! July 2nd is the cut-off date for ticket purchase. New merchandise with the 50th anniversary FFF logo is now available in the Bar.

FAMILY PICNIC

The FFF Annual Family Picnic will take place on August 15th – this is one of our highlight events of the year! As with all of our activities, volunteer help is needed to ensure the success of this wonderful gathering. Please plan to assist on August 14th with set-up and on the day of the picnic, especially with clean up. For each of the past couple of years, only a small handful of members actually pitched in with this critical responsibility, and generally it's the same members each time. If we are unable to secure enough help this year I will recommend to the Board that next year's picnic be for members-only, no guests. If you are relatively new to the club and are not quite sure how to get involved, this is a great opportunity – just call me and I'll help you meet other members through this activity. Kevin Theriault, Chairman Family Picnic, [860-428-1792](tel:860-428-1792).

Connie Mauri asks that any club member who wishes to donate an item for the club family picnic raffle should contact her at [860-974-1425](tel:860-974-1425) or at conniem@toast2.net. The item(s) should be brought to the club the week prior to the family picnic.

\$50 REWARD!

We are looking for bakers to make non-refrigerated dessert items for the FFF Family Picnic Bakeoff and Dessert Silent Auction. The dessert with the greatest number of ticket votes wins the baker \$50. The picnic is August 15th. Call Nancy Davidson at 860-456-8782 for more details or sign-up at the bar.

4TH ANNUAL GREAT PUMPKIN CHALLENGE

Nancy Davidson

By now seeds have been sown and hopefully growing well. Now is the time to be planning your strategy for the biggest, best or most interesting pumpkins that you can produce. Be sure to save October 23rd for the 4th Annual Great Pumpkin Festival!



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