



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 12: ISSUE 4

JUNE 2011

Reeling in the Big Ones!

Fishing is Back at the Fin!



Eric Mathewson caught this chunky Brook Trout that measured more than 15 inches! More photos from the Kid's Fishing Derby and the Fins's Flyfishing Tournament can be seen on page 5.

PRESIDENT'S SPOT

By the time you receive this newsletter, the year will be half over and days will be getting shorter. The upside is that fall hunting isn't too far off. I hope that all of the members have a great summer and I look forward to seeing a big group at the annual summer picnic.

Larry Shewokis

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

25 – 26 CT Waterfowlers Sporting Clays

JULY

- 9 – 10 Fin Open Registered Skeet
- 10 Rifle Match – 200 yds
- 17 Sporting Clays
- 23 3D Archery
- 24 Rifle Match – 200 yds
- 31 Registered Trap Shoot

AUGUST

- 6 – 7 No Name Open Registered Skeet
- 7 Sporting Clays
- 21 Rifle Match – 200 yds
- 20 Work party for family picnic
- 21 Family Picnic
- 27 – 28 Johnny Applesed Shoot

SEPTEMBER

- 11 Sporting Clays
- 15 Deadline for newsletter material
- 17 Modern Skeet and SKAP League Shoot-Off
- 18 Rifle Match – 200 yds
- 18 3D Archery
- 24 Club Shotgun Championship

OCTOBER

- 15 Great Pumpkin Festival

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Hoagland, Treasurer

I have another newsletter deadline to meet and it reminds me that the months are flying past. At a recent Board Meeting, people were expressing concern about a perceived "drop off" in shotgun and skeet activities in the last few years. I ran several reports and the following table presents total shotgun and skeet income for the past several years. No real trend actually emerged. Let's keep shooting because it's fun and helps us keep up with maintenance.

Year	Total Shotgun Income (\$)	Skeet Income (\$)
2001-2002	70,394	29,685
2002-2003	111,569	68,178
2003-2004	75,620	37,351
2004-2005	76,228	35,245
2005-2006	110,447	65,061
2006-2007	93,704	42,092
2007-2008	80,996	38,392
2008-2009	103,170	42,334
2009-2010	87,206	37,685

SPECIAL THANKS — BILL GRISWOLD

The membership extends a hearty thanks to Bill Griswold for donating the beautiful flowers that are now planted around the clubhouse. Thanks for helping us make the place look terrific, Bill!

ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC

Kevin Theriault

One of our premier annual events, the Family Picnic, will take place on August 21st. A work party will take place one day prior (i.e., August 20th), in order to prepare the grounds. As always, we will need lots of workers for both the work party and on the day of the actual event.

PUMPKIN NOTES!

Nancy Davidson

We hope by now that your pumpkin seeds are up and growing well. Best of luck with your growing season and we'll look forward to seeing you on October 15th for the Great Pumpkin Festival.

REPRESENT THE FIN AND HELP PRESERVE OUR OUTDOOR SPORTS

The FFF belongs to the Windham/New London County League of Sportsman's Clubs. This organization discusses upcoming legislation that affects sportsmen's rights. Meetings occur monthly on the first Thursday September through June at different clubs in both counties. Meetings start around 7:00pm and generally last 2 hours. This coming year the meeting will be held at the Groton Sportsman Club September through January, then at another location for the last 5 months. The Club has positions for either 1 or 2 delegates, and 1 or 2 alternates. If you or a member that you know would be interested in representing our club, please contact Dick Palmer.

COMPONENT CHAIRMAN NEEDED

The club is looking for someone to handle the sale of shooting components to the members. If the Executive Council cannot find a qualified individual by July 5th, the FFF will no longer sell components to its members. If anyone is interested in this position and would like to know more about it, please contact Larry Shewokis or Bob Hruskocy.

\$50 REWARD

It's almost time for the 5th annual Bakeoff and Dessert Silent Auction at the FFF Family Picnic on August 21st. Make your favorite non-refrigerated dessert item and enter it into the silent auction. The dessert item that receives the most votes will win its baker \$50 and bragging rights for one year.

OUT IN THE FIELD



CREW 15 AND THE FIN, FUR AND FEATHER SKILLS WEEKEND



Crew 15 would like to thank the Fin Fur and Feather membership for their help and use of club property for the Skills weekend held April 8-10. Twenty-three Crew Teens (4 Crews), twenty-five Scouts (3 Troops), fourteen Crew Adult Leaders and eight Boy Scout Leaders resulted in a total Scouting attendance of seventy individuals. During the weekend, the youth tried Fly Fishing, Archery, 3-D Archery, Skeet Shooting, Orienteering, First Aid skills, High-Powered Rifles, Pistols, Rifles and Black Powder. Plus, the DEP trailer was present for demonstrations and to answer questions.

Several Crew members worked on their Shooting Bronze award and seven Boy Scouts earned their Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge that weekend. Many other scouts earned partial credits toward one or more of the seven Merit Badge activities offered during the weekend; scouts will be able to complete the requirements at summer camp.

Of the folks who volunteered to assist the youth with the skills, eight were NRA Instructors, five were DEP Instructors, six were from the Boy Scouts, eight were from the Crews, sixteen were Fin Fur and Feather Members, two were Police Officers and two were from the Military. This totaled out to adults with a total of forty-seven qualifications to assist the youth.

The Units assisted the Fin, in return, by doing a service project. One unit walked the pistol, rifle, shot gun and trap fields, archery field and the fly pond picking up trash and shot gun shells. The rest of the units assisted in removing the old archery shed that was on the archery field and which had been knocked down last year.

Several people gave us their pictures of the weekend, and these were created into a DVD movie. There were thirty-four movies created, of which one was given to the Fin. All of those who volunteered were given a DVD made available through the bar. If you did not receive yours, please contact Jim Michaud. Everyone had a wonderful time and truly enjoyed themselves.

Thanks, Jim & Trish Michaud



FIN, FUR, & FEATHER CLUB MODERN SKEET AND SKAP

The Modern Skeet and the SKAP informal summer leagues will be open to FFF members and their guests. If you would like to participate in either or both leagues and know any non-members who might like to participate, or even just try a few rounds, please extend an invitation. It will be okay to shoot-for-score in either Modern Skeet or SKAP for shooters who are not in a league. Let's promote our club and invite skeet and/or trap shooters who want to try something new, and have some fun.

League costs will be \$15 for either Modern Skeet or SKAP, or \$22 for both. Rounds shot will be at additional charge, and the usual member or guest range fees will apply. League fees will be used for a picnic and awards. Weather permitting, we'll have a shoot-off in the morning and a picnic/award event in the early afternoon of September 17, 2011.

The Modern Skeet and SKAP leagues will each consist of 12 rounds shot at the convenience of members and their guests. Except for the shoot-off date, **no formal practice or shooting dates/times will be scheduled.** Though shooting rounds-for-score with non-league members is encouraged, when practical please try to shoot your rounds-for-score with at least one other league participant.

SKAP will be shot on Field 4 and Modern Skeet will be shot on field 8. Score sheets and rules will be filed in high house 4 and 8 and in the bar. Score sheets should be turned in at the bar when you pay for your rounds.

You may shoot the 12 required rounds for either league anytime between June 1, 2011, and September 9, 2011. Because rounds may be shot when you wish, you may join the league anytime between now and August 1, 2011. **There is a sign-up sheet posted on the Club bulletin board in the bar.**

TRAP

Bob "Moon" Hruskocy, Trap Chairman

The FFF held a registered trap shoot on May 7th. A total of 34 people shot the event, and after expenses the club made a profit of \$619. I would like to thank the following people for helping to make the event possible. Mike Ford, Dan Gutt, Tony Kubasek, John Beck, Dave Rorrrio, Bob Frankland, Charles Bruckerhoff, Gene Plympton, Dave Montagny and Gary Palmer. A special thanks to Connie Mauri for cooking! The next trap shoot will be held on July 31st. Help will be needed; please contact me if you are available.

NORTHEAST OPEN RESULTS – JUNE 3 – 5, 2011

DOUBLES: 6 ENTRIES

Champion/A1 – Jerry Lehr	95
AA1 – Paul Brulotte	92
B1 – Ted Naumec	91

12 GAUGE: 19 ENTRIES

Champion/AA1 – Winfield Danielson	100
Runner-Up – Ted Naumec	99
A1 – Walter Prokop	95
B1 – Charles Connell Jr.	97
B2 – William Connell	96
C1 – Dennis Jolley	96
D1 – Norman Slater	91
E1 – Anthony Koronkiewicz	96

20 GAUGE: 10 ENTRIES

Champion/AA1 – Ben Kaplan	99
Runner-Up – William Connell	98
B1 – Ted Naumec	96
B2 – Charles Connell Jr.	96
C1 – Dennis Jolley	93

28 GAUGE: 11 ENTRIES

Champion/AA1 – Ted Naumec	99
Runner-Up – Douglas Britt	97
A1 – Winfield Danielson	97
B1 – Charles Connell Jr.	97
C1 – Daniel Krause	91
D1 – Dennis Jolley	93

410: 11 ENTRIES

Champion/A1 – Douglas Britt	95
Runner-Up/B1 – Ted Naumec	94
C1 – Dennis Jolley	81
D1 – Robert Kimball	86

HOA WINNER:

Ted Naumec	388
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FFF FLYFISHING TOURNAMENT

Marty O'Rourke and fellow members carried out and enjoyed a rewarding 2011 flyfishing tournament in early May. Besides warming the fish up for the Kid's Derby the next day, anglers were able to spend time honing their casting skills.



KID'S FISHING DERBY

The annual Kid's Fishing Derby enjoyed wonderful weather, lots of fishing success and quality time for the participating families. The stringers of fish were second only to the ring of families and friends that encircled the fly pond.



Faith and Matt Halloran display a nice mess of assorted fish.



Emma and John Noheimer with two fine trout.



REGISTERED SKEET - 2011

Frank Mauri

On June 3rd – 5th, 2011, the Fin hosted its annual NorthEast Open Skeet Shoot. The matches opened with Doubles on Friday afternoon under cloudy skies and a gusty, swirling, often vicious wind that caused the targets to fly in dramatic and unpredictable fashion. Jerry Lehr of Hamden solved the wind problem and scored a 95/100 to become the Doubles Champion. Saturday the weather was much better, almost idyllic, and Winfield Danielson took advantage of these conditions to post a 100/100 in the 12-ga event and become champion. In the afternoon Ben Kaplan became the 20-ga champion with a score of 99/100. Sunday the weather was even better for the morning's 28-ga event won by Ted Naumec with a score of 99/100 and then in the afternoon Doug Britt won the .410 event with a 95/100. Ted Naumec was the High-Overall Champion with a 388/400. Ted had a particularly good shoot since he won Class B in the doubles, was Runner-up in the 12 ga, won Class B in the 20 ga was the Champion in the 28 ga. and finished as Runner-up and Class B champ in the .410. Participation in the shoot was low but Fin members competed in greater numbers than in the past.

The usual set of culprits were on hand to do the work necessary for the event and included referees Bill Dixon, Neil Wippert, Bill Spears, Frank Decker ably assisted by Alan Perry, Elmer MacCluskey, Mike D'Amato and Ralph Pittfield. Connie Mauri cooked on Saturday and Sunday.

Our next shoot is the Fin Open on Sunday, July 10. It will be a 12-ga shoot only. Fin members who would care to work during the shoot should contact me at frankm@toast.net or 860-974-1425. Don't be afraid that you aren't conversant with what's needed at a shoot since most of the work is routine and uncomplicated.

SPORTING CLAYS

Dick Palmer, 860-933-4768

The Club's Sporting Clays schedule is out and the course is in great shape. Bigelow Hollow DU Chapter had their event on May 14th; the weather was dry and everyone had a great time. FFF members (33 in all) did a bang-up job in trapping, scoring, and cooking a fine BBQ chicken dinner. The DU participants had a great time and plan to return next year. The Club's first shoot went off dry on May 22nd and all shooters enjoyed themselves. We have scheduled 50-target shoots on July 17th, August 7th, and September 11th. The September 11th shoot is our final event and we would like to pick up the course that day as well. If you can work any one or more of these shoots please contact me – they provide a great opportunity to earn work-hours. The Club also has a 100-target shoot coming up on June 26th. This is the Connecticut Waterfowler's Sporting Clays event. There is a sign-up list on the Club's bulletin board - we need about 24 members to work this event. Workers get a BBQ chicken dinner after the shoot but must sign up so that we can plan accordingly. Come on out and support your club, either trapping or breaking the targets. Until the next newsletter, *"Keep breaking those targets"*.

PHEASANTS ARE COMING...

Paul Cardinal, Pheasant Chairman

The pheasant program has been going very well. Many thanks to the 34 members that helped with our annual clean-up day in April! All of the "junk" and scrap metal that had been hanging around behind the pens and the club for years was collected and sold as scrap for \$300. Corn has been planted in the pens and waterers have been upgraded. We ordered 3,800 8-week old birds and they will be arriving from Mahantongo Game Farm the week of July 11th, the specific day/time will be emailed to members as soon as we know it. We will need 20 to 30 members to help with unloading and uncrating of the birds. If you can be available to help when the pheasants arrive please call or email me and I will contact you directly when we have a firm date. This is a great time to "start" helping with the birds (if you aren't already) and to earn your hours in advance of the fall hunting season! There is a sign-up sheet in the bar for feeding the pheasants. Please sign up! The more people we have pitch in, the better the program will be for everyone. Thank you for all the support so far! Let's make this a great pheasant season!



THE FIN OPEN

JULY 10, 2011

FIN, FUR & FEATHER CLUB INC.

<http://www.finfurfeatherclub.com>

12 Ga. EVENT \$40.00 per 100 targets.
Flight times: 9:00 am, 10:30 pm, 12:30 pm

SHOOT-OFFS To be held following the final flight of the day
Doubles 3, 4 & 5 Miss and Out By Station

Purse Distribution \$15 TO CLASS!
1 - 6 entries in class - 100% to winner
7 - 14 entries - split 60/40
>15 entries - split 50/30/20

Champion and RU revert to class for payoff
Champion receives \$20 additionally. Runner-up receives \$10 additionally

Concurrents No charge

Reservations Charles Connell Jr. - 860-889-4901
Three fields will be used - shooter has choice of flight time.
Management reserves the right to assign shooters so as to
make full squads for each flight.

Food Will Be Available At The Field Kitchen:
Breakfast will be available beginning at 8:00 am
Hotdogs, hamburgers from 10 am - 2:30 pm

RANDOM SHOTS

Life member, Stan Polomski, reports he shot his limit of 3 toms in 2 weeks while hunting Bass property. This fine bird topped the scales at 24 1/2 lbs!



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A red riding lawn mower is shown on the left, and a green pickup truck is on the right. The truck has a yellow sign with the phone number 456-3431 on its side.

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John Mathewson

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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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Dick Palmer, Secretary 860-487-0388
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John Lonergan 860-643-7453
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John Postemski 860-423-9396

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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BAR
Don Bajger 860-423-6693

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Charles Bruckerhoff 860-455-1229

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FAMILY PICNIC
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NEWSLETTER
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