



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 13: ISSUE 4

JUNE 2012

THE FIN STOPS ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE!

Members Gear Up for More Monstrous Summer Events.



NEWS FLASH

Zombies invaded the gravel pit and were repelled by Fin members. John Lonergran and his crew did a great job providing fun for all at the gravel pit on May 26th.



PRESIDENT'S SPOT

It's been a great spring with plenty of fishing, shooting and preparations for the coming fall hunting season. I look forward to see you at the Annual Family Picnic.

Larry Shewokis

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

- 23 Rifle Match
- 2 CWA Sporting Clays

JULY

- 7 Rifle Match
- 8 3D Archery Shoot
- 15 Sporting Clays
- 21 Lobster Bake

AUGUST

- 4 Archery Course
- 5 Sporting Clays
- 10 - 12 Zone Shoot
- 19 Family Picnic
- 25 Rifle Match
- 31 State Skeet Shoot

SEPTEMBER

- 1-2 State Skeet Shoot
- 9 Sporting Clays
- 15 Modern Skeet/SKAP Picnic & Finale Rifle Match
- 22 Chicken BBQ for Pheasants
- 23 Archery
- 29 Club Shotgun Championship

OCTOBER

- 6 Connecticut Trapper's Convention
- 14 3D Archery
- 20 - 21 Johnny Applesed Shoot

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Hoagland, Treasurer

Well the summer is here for 2012 and that means sunny days, warm weather and hunt tests for the dogs. The Executive Board has been discussing the fees we charge and our current dues structure. The Fin is in good financial health, but we need to make improvements including renovations to the club house and the skeet houses. We could upgrade the heating system, and improve the fields we have. All of these things cost money. As a club we need to address these costs.

Our President indicated to me that some members feel that our accounts are flush enough and no increases should happen. I thought maybe I should indicate some of our expenses that will come due soon. Last month the Fin paid \$13,000 for targets, and we will soon need to pay \$10,000 for taxes, \$11,000 for pheasants, and to purchase \$20,000 in grain. These are just the big bills and they total \$54,000. Our most recent financial report showed the Fin has \$100,000 in cash of which approximately \$24,000 is in Assessment #2 land and \$10,000 is in capital improvement. So that means the Fin has future large expenses of about \$54,000 and a bank account of \$67,000 from which to pay it.

I share this analysis not to cause alarm with regards to our ability to pay our bills but to demonstrate that we don't have a lot of extra cash. The Fin needs to somehow increase income by about 20 % (or decrease expenses) to enable us to do the proper maintenance and improvements to our facilities. It was in light of these financial challenges that potential increased prices at the bar, skeet, trap, five stand, and birds were considered.

MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hruskocy

The club's membership remains steady. The club has added 68 new members so far this year. The club's membership classes are as follows: Regular 366, Associate 151, Junior 43, Life 120.

The Associate membership continues to grow, it appears that shooting sports are what most new members are interested in. Last year we ended with 375 Regular & 123 Associate members.

Reminder that your 10 hour work commitment must be fulfilled by Sept 30. There are plenty of events coming up to get in your hours!

ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC

Kevin Theriault

The Fin's famous annual Family Picnic will take place August 19th and there will be a work party on August 18th at 8 am to prepare the club grounds. So come and enjoy some great food and company while you listen to Bruce John play for us. If anyone would like to donate some new items for the raffle please let me know. The cost for the picnic will be \$15 for adults (18 yrs and older), \$10 for teens aged 13-17, and kids under 12 are free.

NEWSLETTER THANKS AND DEADLINE

Cameron Faustman, Newsletter Editor

Many thanks to Dave Fromerth for passing along all of the great photos featured in this issue of the Newsletter. 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.

\$50 REWARD

Nancy Davidson

August is the time for our Family Picnic and that means we will be looking for bakers to bake for the 6th Annual Bake-Off and Dessert Silent Auction. Make your best non-refrigerated dessert for a friendly and fun competition. The baker with the most ticket votes will win \$50 and bragging rights for a year. Please sign up at the Bar or call Nancy at 860-456-8782. Last year's winner was Carol O'Hara.

PUMPKIN TALK!

Nancy Davidson

We hope that everyone got their pumpkin seeds planted and that some good growth is going on. Keep your plants well watered and we will be looking for some big pumpkins at the Pumpkin Fest this fall!

PHEASANT COMMITTEE FUND RAISER

The Pheasant Committee will sponsor a Chicken BBQ on September 22nd beginning at 5:00 pm. All hunters are encouraged to attend and support the dinner. Tickets must be purchased in advance and the deadline date for purchase will be September 15th.

OUT IN THE FIELD

FIN SKEET TEAMS CLEAN UP

The Eastern Connecticut Skeet Clubs' 50th Anniversary Awards Banquet was held May 5th at the Bozrah Moose Lodge. The Fin's Skeet teams did well with Division 1 Bad Boys finishing 1st and the Skeet Delete 3rd. In Division 3, second place went to Station Nine and also with Division team high average also Division 3 Terminators came in 3rd with Ted Naumec achieving the high gun average. In Division 4, Team-2-Intense placed 2nd with Cory Dancosse earning high gun. Congratulations for a great job by all of the Fin teams and best of luck next year.



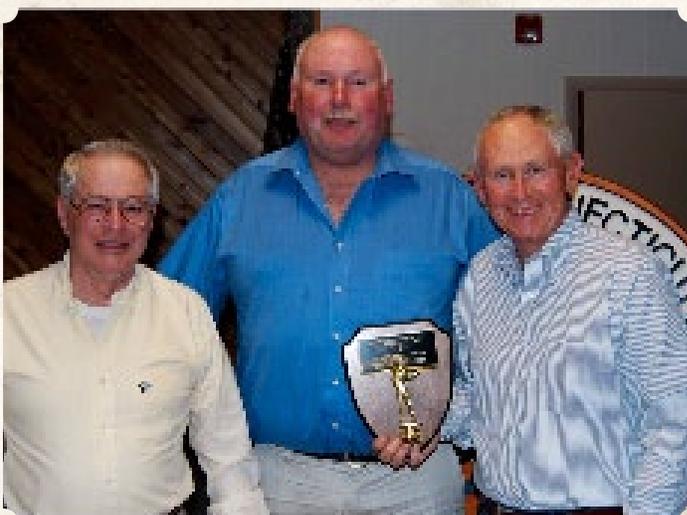
Team-2-Intense Div 4 2nd place finishers L-R Chris Knight, Rob Rogers, Capt. Doug Krammer, spiritual adviser Bill Spears, Norm Slater and Cory Dancosse



Terminators Div 3 3rd place finishers L-R Bruce Goodwin, Capt Troy Quick, Ted Naumec and Don Bajger



Station Nine 2nd place Div 3 L-R Jim Skogland, Dave Fromerth and Capt Dick Palmer



Skeet Delete Div 1 3rd place L-R Winn Danielson, Chip Smith and Charlie Connell



FFF CLUB SHOTGUN CHAMPIONSHIP

The annual Club Shotgun Championship will take place on September 29th. Save the date for one of the most fun challenges in shooting. A total of 125 targets will be presented (25 each of skeet, modern skeet, trap, sporting clays and 5-stand). A steak BBQ, beer and a 50:50 raffle will follow. Come celebrate the end of the summer shooting season with us. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the bar. This is a pay-in-advance event so be sure to register ahead of time!!

SPORTING CLAYS

Dick Palmer

First a big thank you to Club members who worked our past two shoots and the set-up. We had great participation at both events and the course was deemed fun and challenging. We have the Connecticut Water Fowling Association shoot on June 24th and already have enough workers, but come on down to shoot this event. As of this writing, I am not sure what the 100 targets plus meal will cost, but Club members John and Laura Pawelec will be running this shoot for CWA. We still have July 15th, August 5th, and September 9th scheduled for 50-target shoots. September 9th is our last shoot and we will break down the course on that day. Members, these are easy work hours, so if you can work any of the remaining dates, please contact me at 860-933-4768 or through e-mail rpalmer12@snet.net. You must sign up to work; the trapping is easy and you even get a sandwich. You need to be at the club by 8am, and we are usually finished by 1:15pm. At the September 9th shoot we will be looking for a couple of extra members to break down the remaining un-used parts of the course, and then the remainder after the shoot. So take a look at your schedules and sign up to work one, two, or even three of the remaining shoots, and/or try your hand at shooting them; shooter registration runs from 9am until noon. *See you out there, and keep breaking those targets.*

ARCHERY

Jim Michaud

With the change back to holding archery shoots exclusively on Sundays, we are seeing more and more new shooters to our events. This year the committee moved the 3-D course so as to include the upper field near the sand pits, and moved away from the skeet fields. We will be posting more signs for those new shooters to follow the course.

I will have e-mails sent out the week before the shoot for the setup times on Saturday. If you can lend a hand, please let me know because we can always use the help. As with most work details, the more hands the faster the work.

Come out and shoot and have a great time. Hope to see you soon. If you have any questions my cell number is 860-402-4155 and my e-mail addresses are James.E.Michaud@Comcast.net and jmichaud@sscinc.com.

FIN, FUR, & FEATHER CLUB MODERN SKEET AND SKAP INFORMAL SUMMER LEAGUES

1. The Modern Skeet league and the SKAP league will be open to FFF members and their guests. If you would like to participate in one or both leagues and know any non-members who might like to try either league, or even try a few rounds, please extend an invitation. It will be okay to shoot-for-score either Modern Skeet or SKAP with shooters who are not in a league. Let's try to promote our club and invite skeet and/or trap shooters who want to try something new, and have some fun.
2. The league costs will be \$18 for either Modern Skeet or SKAP, or \$25 for both Modern Skeet and SKAP. 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 15, 2012.
3. The Modern Skeet league and the SKAP league will each consist of 12 rounds; rounds may be 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.
4. 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 houses 4 and 8. Score sheets should be turned in at the bar when you pay for your rounds.
5. You may shoot the 12 required rounds for either league anytime between June 15, 2012, and September 9, 2012. Because rounds may be shot when you wish, you may join the league anytime between now and August 1, 2012.

There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the bar.

VETERAN'S FISHING DAY ON APRIL 29TH

Thanks to all who volunteered and contributed funds to this great event.



KID'S FISHING DERBY

Marty O'Rourke had another fine day for the 66 kids that turned out on May 6th for a great day of fishing. Thanks again to the fishing guys for a nice job.



REGISTERED SKEET - 2012

Frank Mauri

The Fin held its annual NorthEast Open skeet shoot on June 2nd and 3rd. The turnout for the shoot was light in part due to terrible weather on Saturday, but 20-12 Ga. shooters and 19-20 Ga. shooters participated. The Fin's Ed Prest shot 99/100 to capture the championship for the 12 Ga. In the 20 Ga. event John Mello drove from the Boston area in all the rain and shot a 99/100 to become the champion of this event.

On Sunday the weather was near perfect with a sunny, cloudless sky and only a very soft wind. The 28 Ga. event was shot first and 17 shooters participated. When all the noise had ended the Fin's Ted Naumec posted a 99/100 and took the championship. Charles Connell Jr. was the B1 winner with 96/100 while Alan Gnann won C1 with 95/100. The .410 competition finished the day and weekend with 17 competitors vying for honors increased clouds and more wind. Charlie LaPointe posted a 98 to win the event with Josh St. Lawrence taking the Runner-up title with 95/100. Josh had a remarkable weekend since he refereed the 12 and 20 Ga. events on Saturday getting thoroughly soaked and then on Sunday shooting his first registered targets in many years and posting a 97/100 in the 28 Ga. and 95/100 in the .410.

In addition to Josh, Frank Decker and Bill Dixon shared the same rain on Saturday and refereed the shoot. Frank returned to do it all over again on Sunday and was joined by Neil Wippert and Mike D'Amato. Alan Perry, Elmer MacCluskey and Art St. Lawrence were there as usual to assist in any way possible. Mark Galligan worked the kitchen while Sean and Ian O'Reilly helped move the food back-and-forth and removed the garbage and performed general clean-up. Thanks to Connie Mauri for doing the weekend's cooking.

ZONE 1 SKEET SHOOT:

The weekend of August 9 – 12, 2012, will find the Fin hosting the Zone 1 shoot that involves participants from all of the New England States plus New York. We need a lot of help that weekend and in the weeks leading up to it. The field kitchen area and lower pavilion need to be cleaned thoroughly, the grass weed-whacked, the scoreboard cleaned, the fields edged and blown clear of skeet bird debris, hulls and wads, and the stations painted. Some carpentry needs doing particularly with fence reinforcement; the windows and doors also need some work. Each field needs a picnic table set up to help the shooters. We will be open on Thursday, August 9th for practice shooting and if past practice is repeated many shooters will show up to shoot throughout the day and again on Friday morning. We need people to pull targets, load houses and be generally hospitable to the competitors. Friday afternoon starts the shoot itself and again help is needed to assist shooters if necessary, to load houses, to clean the fields of hulls and other debris, to provide water for refreshment and to help in the lower kitchen area and in the clubhouse where we will provide a buffet meal after the shoot-offs. Saturday will need all of the above work in the listed areas plus help at the clubhouse as we prepare a dinner for the shooters and guests. Sunday will end the shoot and help is especially needed in the afternoon to clean the fields, the lower kitchen, remove garbage and return the picnic tables to the upper pavilion. Contact me at 860-9741425 or frankm@toast.net to volunteer.

TRAP

Bob "Moon" Hruskocy, Trap Chairman

The Fin held a registered trap shoot on May 12, there were a total of 33 shooters. The club made a profit of \$686.00. Thanks to all those helped out during the event.



FIVE-STAND

Nancy and Jim Davidson

Five stand is up and running for the summer. We have been busy moving machines and targets around to continually challenge our shooters. We are also installing solar battery chargers to keep those batteries up at all times. Come on down and check us out. Always happy to walk you through your first round.



FISHING AND HUNTING TAG SALE

The fishing and hunting tag sale held on March 7th was a whopping success with lots of sellers and buyers. Thanks to all who participated.



PHEASANT COMMITTEE

Paul Cardinal, Chairman Pheasant Committee

The amount of help that came forward to rebuild the pheasant pens, after the October snowstorm ruined them, was overwhelming! My hat goes off to **ALL** that helped in the many days and hours we worked to get them repaired. They look absolutely awesome. A special thanks to Jim and Nancy Davidson for their guidance and effort during the project. The nets certainly would not have been straight without them! Also, a big thank you is extended to Wayne Mather for the numerous hours that he invested. There are so many people that chipped in, it was great to see. Thank you to the ladies that cooked for the net-raising day. We have had numerous comments on how nice the pens are now. All the efforts show clearly in the workmanship on the pens. **GREAT JOB MEMBERS!**

We will also be needing help the week of July 11th as 3,800 8-week old birds will be arriving. We will need 30 people to unload and uncrate the birds. If you can be available the week of July 11th, that would be great; please let me know. The date is NOT firm until they call me to confirm, so if I can get phone numbers or emails I will contact everyone the day before the delivery.

Also, we need people to feed and water the birds, please sign up at the bar for one or more weeks that you are available to help. Please email me at Cardinalservice151@Yahoo.com or call 860-377-0453. Again, **THANK YOU** to everyone that has and will help with this very successful pheasant program. It would not be a success without all the help.

Things to remember: July 11th to unload/uncrate new week-old birds; sign up for day/days to feed the birds; Pheasant BBQ, Mammy, September 22, 2012. *Save the Date.*

Keep in Mind . . . We are only successful if we **ALL** pitch in and help!!!! Let's make the pheasant program easy and fun for everyone. We had a great year last year. Let's do it again. Thank you.

PHEASANT HUNTING RULES

Hunting Chairman, Wayne Mather. 860-942-3385.

1. Pheasant hunters must wear badges and sign-in before hunting and sign-out after hunting.
2. After harvesting 2 birds, hunters must stop hunting for that day. There is no running of dogs after the 2-bird limit has been reached.
3. No permanent tree stands; portable stands are allowed with one stand/hunter property. The hunter's name must be affixed to the stand. Stands must be removed immediately following the season's end.
4. Turkey and deer harvested must be reported to the club within 24 hours.
5. Work hours must be completed by October 1st in order to hunt.
6. Park only in designated areas. There is no hunting in red zones. All Connecticut laws and regulations apply.
7. Any violation of Club rules or Connecticut regulations could result in disciplinary action.



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Our Purpose: *To Promote The Conservation of Fish, Game, and Other Natural Resources,
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of Sporting Equipment.*

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