



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 13: ISSUE 3

MARCH 2012

Its Time to Play Outside



PRESIDENT'S SPOT



President Larry Shewokis hosted Lieutenant Governor, Nancy Wyman, at the FFF Game Dinner.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

- 24 Setback
- 25 3D Archery Shoot
- 31 CT Trappers Fur Auction

APRIL

- 1 Easter Egg Hunt
- 7 Sportsman Tag Sale
- 14 – 15 Pistol Skills I
- 29 3D Archery Shoot
- 29 Veteran's Fishing Day

MAY

- 5 Fly Fishing Derby
- 6 Kid's Fishing Derby
- Sporting Clays
- 12 Registered Trap Shoot
- 13 3D Archery Shoot
- 19 Rifle Match

JUNE

- 1 – 3 Northeast Open
- 3 Sporting Clays
- 9 M1 Garand
- 17 3D Archery
- 23 Rifle Match
- 24 CWA Sporting Clays

JULY

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

AUGUST

- 19 Family Picnic
- 25 Rifle Match

SEPTEMBER

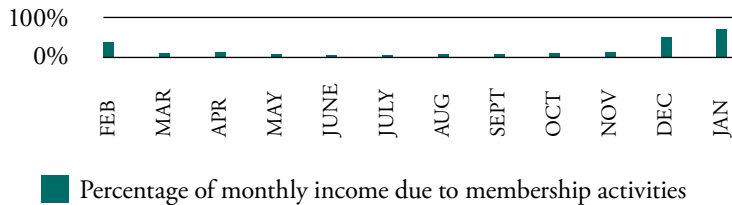
- 15 Rifle Match

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Hoagland, Treasurer

Well, with this newsletter I want to show you in a different way how big the membership contribution to the Fin's revenue is. By far and away dues and assessments bring in the most money for implementing our various activities and programs. In the Figure below, I have plotted the percentage of the monthly income due to membership activities. The months of December and January generate more than 50% of their income from dues. Together with the additional months of February, March, and November, they constitute 5 months in which membership fees contribute 10 % of the income. As John Postemski stated at our March Membership Meeting, we cannot afford to let our membership numbers fall without seriously impacting the things we like to do. John and others also noted the importance of bringing your friends to the Fin; the place will sell itself. All of the existing members should remember that we are ambassadors for the Club and as such we need to act friendly and welcoming to all visitors as they are prospective members.

PERCENTAGE OF MONTHLY INCOME DUE TO MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES



MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hruskocy, Membership Chairman

At the end of 2011, the Club had 375 Regular members and 136 Associate members. However, at the writing of this newsletter, the club is down to 348 Regular members. That is the lowest it has been in many years; we need new members to keep the cost of running the club as low as possible. If you know anyone that might be interested in membership, please let me know and I can send them an application. If the Connecticut decides to cancel the state's pheasant program, we should be able to add a few members.

	REGULAR	ASSOCIATE	JUNIOR	LIFE	TOTAL
2001	382	10	11	80	483
2002	477	25	15	83	600
2003	426	39	16	88	569
2004	393	42	17	90	542
2005	396	40	22	94	552
2006	413	46	24	94	577
2007	407	56	27	98	588
2008	402	57	34	104	597
2009	383	83	30	115	611
2010	379	115	34	117	645
2011	375	123	40	113	651

MEMBERS ADDED

	REGULAR	ASSOCIATE	JUNIOR	TOTAL	DROPPED OUT
2007	16	15	5	36	22
2008	32	10	12	54	28
2009	24	28	5	57	36
2010	22	34	12	68	32
2011	23	23	7	53	39

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Cameron Faustman, Newsletter Editor

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

SPRING RAFFLE

The 2012 Spring Raffle drawing was held at the March 13th Membership Meeting. The winners were as follows. Thanks to all members for their efforts in selling/purchasing tickets.

- 1ST DENNIS CHARRON**
\$750 gift card from Cabela's
- 2ND B. KELLEHER**
\$500 gift card from LL Bean
- 3RD K. KOPACZ**
\$300 gift card from Center Sports
- 4TH G. ZEMZARS**
\$200 gift card from Home Depot
- 5TH B. HAMILTON**
\$100 gift card from Angelino's

6TH ANNUAL GREAT PUMPKIN FEST NEWS!

Nancy Davidson

Seeds will be in the 3rd week of March. Look for them and more details at the bar. We are looking forward to a great growing season.

NOTICE

In the upcoming months, the Executive Board will be researching the cost and legalities of the installation of surveillance cameras around clubhouse grounds. Once this information is gathered, the membership will be notified by either email or the newsletter. A vote will be taken by the membership to see if the club should proceed with surveillance cameras.

MEN-OF-THE-YEAR

The Man of The Year for 2011 went to two individuals that have always demonstrated their complete commitment to the Club. Pictured from left-to-right are Dick Palmer (Secretary), winners Matt Halloran and Dave Fromerth, and President Larry Shewokis. Matt and Dave both donated hundreds of hours in running Sporting Clays, and helping the Club in many other activities as needed. They demonstrate the highest levels of caring and concern for the Club. It was thus very appropriate that they were recognized as Men-of-the-Year for 2011!



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Bill O'Koennicke was presented with the Fin's Lifetime Achievement Award by President Larry Shewokis for his many outstanding contributions to the Club over many years (Thank you, Uncle Bill)!



MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Greg Pinto for being selected as the March Member-of-the-Month!

CHILI COOK-OFF

John Pawelec and Nancy Davidson

The 1st Annual FFF Chili Festival was held on March 11th. Seventeen entries supplied our "people's choice" judges with a wide variety of chili preparations from beef to chicken to venison to pheasant and even moose! Over 90 participants judged and amazingly there was a tie. Following an impartial "taste off", Dave Larsen beat out Dave Rorrio for 1st place and the Flaming Chili Pot Trophy for his beef/sausage chili. Third place honors were claimed by Jay Liappes. Special thanks to all of the chili cooks and to all who attended for making this event such a success. Looking forward to the 2nd Annual Chili Cook-off next year!



The first annual chili cook-off at the Fin was put together by (left-to-right) Clayton Coogan, Nancy Davidson, and Laura and John Pawelec.



John Pawelec (left) presents the first place trophy to Dave Larsen winner of the chili cookoff.

OUT IN THE FIELD

REGISTERED SKEET - 2012

Frank Mauri

The Fin will host three (3) registered skeet shoots in 2012, the NEOPEN to be held on June 1, 2 & 3; followed by the Zone 1 Shoot, August 10, 11 & 12; and culminating on Labor Day weekend, September 1 & 2, with the Connecticut State Skeet Shoot. All three events promise to be big shoots with upwards of 50 shooters attending. The club needs to be in tip-top shape as many of the shooters will be visiting the Fin for the first time. In particular, the skeet fields need to be in perfect order and for this we shall need a number of workers spread over the entire period. The work to be done is not specialized, i.e., you don't need to be a skeet shooter to come and help (and earn your work hours). Anyone wishing to volunteer should call me at 860-974-1425 or email to frankm@toast.net. I will be happy to assign anyone and everyone a task and time that is mutually agreeable. Thanks in advance for all the help to be offered.

FIVE STAND

Nancy and Jim Davidson

Spring is here and so is 5-stand. Keep an eye on your email inbox or check at the bar for dates on which 5-stand will be operating. We look forward to seeing new shooters along with the regulars

TRAP

Bob "Moon" Hruskocy, Trap Chairman

There will be a registered trap shoot held on May 12th. Help will be needed with scoring and keeping the machines loaded. There most likely will be a work party on May 5th to prepare the fields for the shoot. If you don't have email, please contact me and let me know if you can help. An email will be sent as a reminder shortly before the event.

2012 FIN FUR & FEATHER PRACTICAL PISTOL MATCHES

Practical matches are a lot of fun and will be held at the dates/times indicated below. Matches are held in the Sand Pit which is accessed by driving past the skeet fields and 5-stand field. Be aware that if 5-stand is open, the road is closed. Pass the area 30mins before 5-stand begins (times/dates will vary)! All matches require a belt-mounted hip holster and extra magazines (2 minimum). Matches are approximately 50rds-center fire (unless specified otherwise). Eye and ear protection are mandatory for all; spectators are welcome. Recommended equipment includes magazine carrier, chair, knee pads, hat.

MARCH	APRIL
22.lr Two Gun shoot 3/24 9 AM	Practical Pistol 4/21 9 AM
Practical pistol match 3/31 9 AM	Practical Pistol 4/28 9AM

These matches are held for FUN- competition is not stressed, but SAFETY is. Participants should be familiar with their handgun and demonstrate safe gun handling skills. Attendance is limited for safety concerns and matches fill quickly. Please RSVP by Email the week before the match you wish to attend. Cost is \$15/member, \$18/non-member. If you have questions or wish to attend, please contact John Loneragan, shootergold@sbcglobal.net. Additional events and dates to follow.

RANGE SAFETY COURSES

Bob Hruskocy

Now that the weather is getting better, I will try to hold a Range Safety course on a monthly basis. Unfortunately, these will be scheduled based on weather and instructors' availability. An email will be sent as to when the next course will be. ALL members are required to take this course. It covers the rules/operation of the Rifle, Pistol, Skeet & Trap ranges/fields.

SPORTING CLAYS

Dick Palmer, 860-933-4768

Well looks like our spring might be arriving early, and with that another season of Sporting Clays is upon us. We have our dates selected as does East Glastonbury and Andover. Our dates for the 50-target shoots will be **May 6th, June 3rd, June 24th** (CWA event, 100 targets), **July 15th, Aug 5th and finally Sept 9th**. All events start @ 9am and go until 1pm. As in the past those working will be provided with a breakfast or lunch sandwich. These events also provide members with easy work hours; be at the club by 8am on the day of the shoot and be prepared to participate until 1:30. Please set aside one of these dates or more to operate the traps (we provide instruction). **Please call me at 860-933-4768 to let me know which dates you can work; we will remind members via the website, and by e-mail.** We plan to have a short work day on Saturday April 14th, weather permitting, from 9am until finished. We need to set up safety

fences, gun racks, hull buckets, clear the shooting ports of leaves and small brush, and set up the manual traps with covers. The more people we have, the quicker the task will be completed. The Club has provided us with additional funds to purchase two additional electric traps this year, so we can offer many different target presentations at each shoot. The East Glastonbury dates are May 20th, June 10th, Sept 30th, and Oct 28th. Andover shoots are scheduled for March 25th, April 29th, Sept 16th and Oct 14th. These Clubs start their shoots at 9am as well.

So look at your calendar and mark a date or dates to come out to trap/work these shoots. The CWA shoot on June 24th will require a minimum of 28 members to host this event; we usually need members to arrive by 8am and the shoot ends about 12:30, then lunch, and departure by 2pm. Until then, "Be safe, and *Keep breaking those targets*".



ARCHERY

Welcome to a new year of Field and 3-D Archery! Please note the schedule below.

SET-UP DATES (9:00 am to 11:00 am)	SHOOT DATES (8:00 am to 12:00 pm)
March 24	March 25
April 28	April 29
May 12	May 13
June 16	June 17
July 7	July 8
Sept 22	Sept 23
Oct 22	Oct 23

The target Pick-up is the days of the shoots from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm.

We have purchased new targets for this year and added two medium deer, one large deer and a medium brown bear to our collection. We also purchased five stands which should assist

in target set up. If they prove beneficial, I will be asking the executive board for more of these to speed up the set-up process for large and medium targets.

On Sunday March 4th, the archery committee erected the signs to the range and modified the target locations. This new set up will allow the skeet fields and five-stand to be open during 3-D shoots. We are now using the upper field near the sand pit. The executive board gave the archery committee permission to set up a new range as well. This new range will be in the area of the power lines and the fly pond and will be behind the pistol and rifle ranges. When this new range is in use, the pistol and rifle ranges will not be able to be used during the target set-up, the shoot and take-down. With the area provided, we will be able to set up 30 to 40 additional targets, and this will free up the sporting clay area as well. This design will allow operation of all shooting sports and make money for the club. I will be talking to the archery committee over the next couple of months to start planning this project. I hope to see you all again, and for those who missed last year's shoots I hope that you will participate.

Thanks, Jim Michaud.

THE NORTHEAST OPEN - A ZONE 1 WARM-UP SHOOT JUNE 1, 2 & 3, 2012

The Northeast Open will be held at the Fin, Fur & Feather Club Inc., 213 Chewink Rd., Chaplin, CT 06256, <http://www.finfurfeatherclub.com>. Five Guns, 500 targets; \$47.00 per 100 target event. The Field Kitchen will be open Saturday & Sunday 8:30 AM until 2:30 PM. A breakfast menu will be served; lunch will include hot dogs, hamburgers and special items. A free buffet will be served Saturday and Sunday after the shoot-offs. On Friday evening after shoot-offs a happy hour will be held. All shooters and their guests will be welcome all three days.

FRIDAY JUNE 1

EVENT #1 – Doubles – Flight times 1, 2 & 3 PM
Shoot-offs after last flight

SATURDAY JUNE 2

EVENT #2 – 12 Ga. - Flight times – 9 AM, 10:30 AM
EVENT #3 – 20 Ga. - Flight times – 12:30 PM, 2 PM
Shoot-offs each event following last flight of the day
Doubles 3, 4 & 5 miss and out by station

SUNDAY JUNE 3

EVENT #4 – 28 Ga. - Flight times – 9 AM, 10:30 AM
EVENT #5 - .410 - Flight times – 12:30 PM, 2 PM
Shoot-offs each event following last flight of the day
Doubles 3, 4 & 5 miss and out by station

Please note that \$15 of each entry is returned as purse money in Class per event.

Gun Champions - return to class + \$50 guarantee
Gun Runners-up - return to class + \$25 guarantee

EVENT #6 – HOA – Champ will receive \$50 – NO ENTRY FEE
HOA determined on the basis of results from Events 2 -5 only
HOA optional purse - \$10 entry fee - .410 AVG. DETERMINES CLASS

CLASS I – >0.9400
CLASS II – <0.9400 - > 0.8900
CLASS III – < 0. 8900

Concurrents in all events – honors only
For reservations, contact Frank Mauri – 860-974-1425.

ROTATION	SATURDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	SUNDAY
Gauge	12 Ga.	20 Ga.	28 Ga.	.410
1	9:00 AM	12:30 PM	10:30 AM	2:00 PM
2	10:30 AM	2:00 PM	9:00 AM	12:30 PM

FISHING AND HUNTING TAG SALE

A fishing and hunting tag sale has been scheduled for April 7th. If you wish to have a table to sell your accumulated 'stuff', pre-register by March 30th with a \$10 fee at the bar. If you have any questions, contact Kevin Segar (860-208-5188) or Bill O'Hara (860-872-3558).

VETERAN'S FISHING DAY

The FFF will host a Veteran's Fishing Day on April 29th. Please note that all shooting sports will be suspended from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on that day.

RIFLE MATCHES 2012

The dates for the 2012 rifle matches are listed in this newsletter's calendar. Please note that all rifle matches are 50 rounds at 200 yards. Registration begins at 8:00 am and firing commences at 9:00 am.

THANK YOU!



A big thanks is expressed to the Fin's kitchen crew for a great game dinner.

FIN FUR & FEATHER CLUB APPLICATION TO HUNT TURKEY & DEER

Use this form to apply for hunting privileges on FFF-owned and leased property for the 2012 season.

- I wish to hunt Turkey on the Bass Property
- I wish to hunt Turkey on the Club-owned property
- I wish to hunt Deer on Club-owned property (Archery only)
- I wish to hunt Deer on the Bass Property

Method(s) of hunting deer: Archery Shotgun Muzzleloader

- I understand that Tree Stands are not allowed
- I understand that this application must be returned to the clubhouse bar by April 21, 2012 in order to be considered: and that once all applications have been reviewed, permits to hunt will be available at the clubhouse bar by April 28, 2012.
- I have read State law and regulations and club rules and I agree to abide by all hunting laws and regulations.

Name: _____

FFF Membership ID Number _____

Street Address: _____

Town: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Application Deadline: April 21, 2012 (return to the Bar).

NOTICE:

You must purchase a valid 2012 badge to hunt turkey, deer, waterfowl, pheasant, and so forth on club-owned and club-leased land.

Members are hereby notified that they must observe all State hunting laws and regulations, in addition to Club Rules.

Failure to abide by State law and regulations or Club rules may result in Board action against the offending member, including action subsequent to court rulings against the member.

– FFF BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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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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Bob Hruskocy,
Vice-President 860-569-1592
Dick Palmer, Secretary 860-487-0388
Tom Hoagland, Treasurer 860-455-0641

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Matt Halloran 860-429-1897
Will Lucier 860-455-9117
Bill O'Hara 860-872-3558
John Postemski 860-423-9396
Kevin Theriault 860-429-1792
David Fromerth (alt) 860-742-6749
Greg Pinto (alt) 860-875-4345

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

ARCHERY
Jim Michaud 860-871-9179

BAR
Don Bajger 860-423-6693

PERMITTEE
Brenda Liappes 860-455-0521

BLACK POWDER
Charles Bruckerhoff 860-455-1229

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Kevin Theriault 860-429-1792

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FIVE-STAND
Jim Davidson 860-456-8782

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Billy Spears 860-822-6567

NEWSLETTER
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Paul Cardinal 860-455-0255

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RIFLE
Peter Mathewson 860-456-8588

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Larry Schewokis 860-423-8563

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