



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 14: ISSUE 3

MARCH 2013

We're Back!

Get Ready for a **FIN-Tastic** 2013.

THE PRESIDENT'S SPOT

January our club had put on a great game dinner, many, many thanks to Clayton and his crew of chefs. The fish have been ordered for the beginning of the season and the kids derby, which this year is on May 19th. The Sporting clays schedule is posted, the Scout Venture program is on April 12th, 13th, & 14th, please be aware that the rifle and pistol ranges will probably be closed, you must check before heading out. There is a registered Trap shoot on May 11th, the Northeast Open register Skeet shoot is on May 31st, June 1st and 2nd, and there are also 3-D Archery and Sporting Clays shoots, so you can see there are a lot of programs running here at the Fin. We try and post the activities on the web site, and through the club wide member's e-mail, so if you haven't signed up or changed your address, please contact the membership chairperson. The Club will be doing renovations on the skeet houses as soon as its possible to do so, we need workers to help in repairing roofs, replacing some siding, trim boards, and painting to get them ready for years to come. We need members to come out and help with this project. We will be notifying the membership when starting.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

24 3D Archery Shoot

APRIL

6 Fishing and Hunting Tag Sale
7 Connecticut Trappers Fur Sale
12-14 Boy Scout Venture Crew 15
21 ECSK Winter League Spring League Shoot
28 3D Archery Shoot

MAY

4 Setback Tournament
5 Sporting Clays
11 Registered Trap Shoot
18 Fly Fishing Tournament
19 Kids Fishing Tournament
26 3D Archery Shoot - **Mothers Shoot Free**
31 Northeast Open

JUNE

1-2 Registered Skeet Shoot
2 Sporting Clays
8 Setback Tournament
8 M1 Garand Match
23 CWA Sporting Clays
29-30 N-SSA 5th Regt. ConnVol. Inf Skirmish
30 3D Archery Shoot - **Fathers 1/2 Price**

JULY

7 Registered Skeet Shoot
14 Sporting clays
20 Bow Course
28 3D Archery Shoot

AUGUST

11 Sporting Clays
18 Family Picnic
24-25 Johnny Appleseed

SEPTEMBER

12-13 Johnny Appleseed Shoot
15 3D Archery Shoot
21 3rd Annual Flipping The Bird Feast
22 Sporting Clays
28 Annual Club Shotgun Championship

OCTOBER

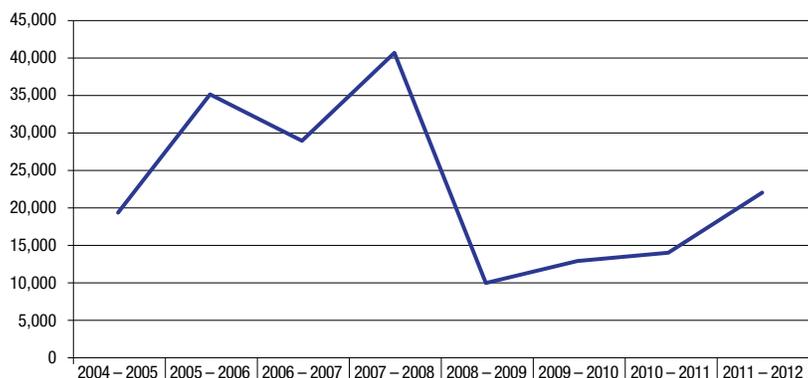
12 Great Pumpkin Festival
13 3D Archery Shoot

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Hoagland, Treasurer

Here we are in 2013, a year I never thought I would ever see. Our club is doing great in a fiscal sense. I thought with all the talk about the skeet fields, I would show you how the net profit for shotgun sports has varied over the past eight years. Most of the variance can be attributed to state and zone shoots being held at the Fin. However a trend that we seem to be spending less for shogun activities is obvious. We need to try and create fun shooting activities that will increase shotgun shooting. If anyone has any ideas please set up.

**Shotgun Sport Net Profits
from 2004 to 2012**



Please remember that \$40 of ticket sales are **MANDATORY** for all regular and associate members per Article 4, Section 3 of the club by-laws. The ticket price is \$5 per ticket.

REMEMBER: State law requires us to account for **ALL** tickets, whether sold or unsold. You must **RETURN ALL** unsold tickets by 8:00 P.M., Tuesday, April 9th, 2013 which is the same night as the drawing.

MESSAGE FROM THE VP

So it's March already as I write this, the snow is starting to melt and it will be soon time to start fishing. The Club ponds will be getting stocked soon and the Pheasant committee will be starting to get ready for the arrival of the birds. There is a lot of work to be done around the club to get it ready for all the upcoming years' events. The Club needs your help. There are many committees that have plenty of work to get done, making it easy to get your 10 hours in. There is also a list posted in the bar of things that need to be done. At the back of the newsletter is a list of all committee chairmen and their phone numbers. Give them a call I'm sure they can tell you what you can do to help them out. There will be some major work days coming up this year. The President would like to clean up around the club house, the pheasant committee is looking to do some work across the street to make a better hunting area, The BSA Venture Crew will be here in April, work will be done on the skeet houses just to list a few things. It would be great if we could have someone that is willing to run the kitchen when some of the events take place to cook burgers and hotdogs, etc. If you have any questions or concerns about the club feel free to give myself or the President Dick Palmer a call or even drop me an email at wfdktheriault@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hruskocy, Membership

The club's membership remains steady going into 2013. A total of 46 people chose not to renew their membership, which is slightly higher than normal.

Here is a breakdown of the club's membership: Regular 344, Associate 155, Life 136, Junior 37. The club added 76 new members last year and have already added 31 members this year. If you know of anyone that is interested in joining, please bring them up and show them the facilities.

THE FIN, FUR AND FEATHER AWARDS NIGHT



MAN OF THE YEAR

Man of The Year was Gary Charron. Gary has always gone out of the way to help the Club, whether it was recycling containers for the Kids Fund, cutting grass, and there are so many other things that he helps the Club through out the year.

Thank You, Gary.

SPECIAL APPRECIATION AWARD

Bob Hruskocy has served as Vice President for over the past 6 years. He is also our been our Membership Chairman and Chairman of the Trap Committee in all that time. The Special Appreciation Award is recognition for a truly deserved person for what he has accomplished for our Club over those years.

Thank You, Moon.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Nancy Davidson has always come forth using her outstanding cooking abilities, organizing contest for the kids or even to test members skills, to help out in anyway possible with activities at the Club, throughout the years.

Thank You, Nancy.



OUT IN THE FIELD

REGISTER SKEET

Frank Mauri, Skeet Chairman

A new skeet season will soon be starting and the Fin will be participating in at least two registered shoots. The North East Open is our main shoot this year as we do not get the Zone or State. We will hold the shoot on May 31, June 1 & 2. Doubles will be shot on the 31st commencing at 2PM with 2 more flights separated by 1 hour each and then shoot-offs will be held. Saturday will see the 12 & 20 Ga. events shot followed on Sunday with the 28 Ga. and lastly the .410. We need help all three days and for a few days earlier. Grass needs trimming as do the sides of the cement walks and stations. The houses and machines need to be cleaned and filled with birds. Our plan is to use fields 1 – 4 but getting 5 ready as well would give us a fall back should any trouble occur on a field. The field kitchen needs to be cleaned and food must be brought down each day and excess food brought back to the clubhouse in the evening. Trash needs to be attended to and general housekeeping of the grounds must be done. We need referees for the shoots. My normal crew of referees will be called on to do this work (I Hope) but anyone interested in learning the ropes of this work should see me.

On July 14 we will hold a one day two gun shoot. A 12 Ga. event will be held in the morning and a 20 Ga. event in the afternoon. While this will be a smaller shoot many of the same jobs must still be done.

Volunteers for either or both shoots should contact me at frankm@toast.net or **860-9741425**. Kitchen volunteers can contact Connie at conniem@toast2.net or at the above phone number.

One additional comment concerning last year's State shoot needs to be made and that relates to the inductions into the Connecticut Skeet Hall of Fame. Three members of the Fin were inducted; Andre St. George for his many years of excellent skeet shooting and because of the many titles he has won both for High-Over-All and Gun championships in shoots all around the US. Also, Connie and Frank Mauri were inducted into the Hall receiving the John Brainard Award for long service to the skeet community of Connecticut.

5-STAND

Jim Davidson, Chairman

We will up and running with the good weather. Looking forward to seeing our old friends and new shooters too! Keep an eye on your e-mails and the bar message board for days we will be open.

TRAP

Bob Hruskocy, Trap

The club has one registered shoot this year, it will be held on Saturday May 11th.

On the day of the shoot, I will need held scoring and keeping the houses loaded. I will schedule a work party, an email will be sent to let you know the day. I am planning on using fields 4 – 8 for the registered shoot. Therefore, skeet fields 1 – 3 will be open. Field 4 will be the only field closed. I am also planning on holding an introduction to trap shooting course sometime this summer for new shooters. More details to follow.

2013 SUMMER LEAGUE Shoot May 1st – Aug 31st

- SKAP, Modern Skeet, 5 Stand
- A and B classes will be recognized in each discipline
- Shoot one, two or all disciplines
- \$20 for one, \$25 for two or all disciplines
- Funds will go to the end of the year cookout and recognitions for the top shooter in each discipline and class
- Shoot 10 rounds in a discipline to qualify for recognition
- Log your 10 rounds as you have the time
- Pay as you go at normal club rates
- Leave your score sheets at the Bar
- All score sheets must be turned in by Aug 31st
- Date for the cookout to be announced

Summer league coordinators: **Jim and Nancy Davidson 860-456-8782, Mike Sobol 860-305-3545**
jnad107@charter.net , michael.sobol@charter.netmail.com.

SPORTING CLAYS

Well the season is just around the corner. We have the dates of the shoots which are listed below, the Connecticut Water Fowlers will again be here, and Ducks Unlimited will be coming back this year. So the season will be busy, I will be putting up sign up lists for both CWA and DU, as we need about 30 members for both shoots to trap and score. The 50 target shoots will be doing an e-mail a week or two before the shoot for workers. We will have a short work day on April 6th starting at 11 am to clear brush and put out the traps and some fences, meeting area is the skeet field pavilion, should only take about 2 hours. Please bring limb cutters, rakes, shovels, one or two chain saws will do the work needed. The dates are: May 5th at 9 am 50 targets, June 2nd at 9 am 50 targets. June 23rd is the Connecticut Waterfowlers starts at 9 am 100 targets, July 14th at 9 am 50 targets, August 11th at 9 am 50 targets, Sept. 7th(sat) Ducks Unlimited starts at 9 am 100 targets, and Sept. 22nd at 9am 50 targets, this will be the last shoot of the year, at the conclusion we will be picking everything away for the winter. Members, please mark down these dates to help, all of those working will get a sandwich and easy work hours, 50 target shoots report by 8 am, usually finish by 1:15, the Special shoots report by 8am, you'll get a BBQ dinner and usually finish by 2:30. Any questions please contact Dick Palmer **860-933-4768**.

PHEASANT COMMITTEE

Paul Cardinal, Pheasant Chairman

Reports for the 2012 Pheasant Program have been completed.

Here Are The Stats:

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Pheasants Raised | 3694 |
| Pheasants stocked | 1903 |
| Pheasants sold | 1791 |

The costs per bird were the least they have ever been thanks to all the work done by the membership, work parties, rebuilding the pens, feeding the birds, catching and stocking the birds, the Flipping The Bird Feast, Setback Tournaments and much, much more. What a great effort by all for a successful bird season. 800 8-week old birds have been ordered already for the upcoming season. They will be here the 3rd week of July (somewhere around the 16th). We will need a lot of help to unload and uncrate the birds. Last year we had lots of help and it went quickly and smoothly. Let's make that happen this year too!

We have scheduled an **APRIL 6** work party at 8am to clean and get the pheasant pens ready for the birds. We will also be cutting some brush across the street at the pig farm. The more help we have the quicker it goes. If you enjoy the bird/hunting program, please pitch in.

Let's make 2013 another great year for the **PHEASANT** program that all enjoy so much. Please mark your calendar for the dates underlined above. Thanks again for all the help! It does make **A DIFFERENCE!**

ARCHERY

Jim Michaud, Chairman

The new targets are in for our first shoot on March 24th. Target set up will be Saturday March 23rd starting at 8:00 am. We have our new targets and supplies in. The Fin purchased a Howling Coyote, T-Rex, Alligator, Timber wolf, Dragon, African Lion, Antelope, and a Mule Deer Buck. We also purchased several Touch up Paints for our older targets in hopes of making them look newer. This touch-up work will be done on Saturday as well. We also purchased 11 new 3D Target Stands to assist in the setting up of the medium and large targets.

Our Archery dates are as follows:

March 24th

April 28th

May 26th

June 30th

July 28th

Sept 15th

Oct 13th

The set up dates will be on the Saturday before, unless otherwise published, starting at 8:00am. We will take down the targets on Sunday of the shoot, starting at 12:30 pm. If you can assist with the Set Up or Take Down please call me on my cell **860-402-4155** or e-mail me at James.E.Michaud@Comcast.net or jmichaud@sscine.com

CHILI COOK-OFF



Chili Cook Off Champs! L-R 2nd Place: Dick Palmer, 1st Place: Bill Schultz, 3rd Place: Tom Potter. Thanks to all; hope too see you all next year.



Our hats off and Thanks to John and Laura Pawelec for running the 2nd annual Chili Cook Off. Seventeen contestants and 66 tasters making for a great afternoon at the Fin.

GAME DINNER



Thanks to Clayton Coogan And His Kitchen Crew! Without this wonderful group of people there would be no Game Dinner. Thanks for all your hard work and effort in making The Game Dinner another great success!

THINK SPRING PLANTING!

IT'S TIME FOR THE
7TH ANNUAL GREAT PUMPKIN CHALLENGE.
OPEN TO ALL!

Last year we had some big pumpkins come in to our pumpkin festival. Why don't you give it a try.

TWO CLASSES:

1. **MAIN EVENT** uses our seeds, no vine injecting and plant after Memorial Day.
2. **OPEN CLASS** use any seed, any variety and plant anytime. Seeds are available, free of charge, at the bar.

Hope you have a great growing season.
Any questions call Nancy at **860-456-8782**.

PUMPKIN FESTIVAL OCT. 12TH



HUNTING COMMITTEE

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 2013 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 only portable Tree stands are allowed. Owners name must be attached. Stands to be removed at the end of each season.
- I understand that this application must be returned to the clubhouse Bar by April 13, 2013 in order to be considered. Once all applications have been reviewed, permits to hunt will be available at the clubhouse Bar by April 20, 2013.
- I have read State Law and regulations and club rules and agree to abide by all hunting laws and regulation.

Name: _____

FFF Membership ID Number _____

Street Address: _____

Town: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Application Deadline: April 13, 2013 (return to the Bar).

NOTICE:

You must purchase a valid 2013 Badge to hunt turkey, deer, waterfowl, pheasants, etc. on club owned or leased land. Members are hereby notified that they must observe all State hunting laws and regulations.

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

- FFF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

When purchasing a 2013 Hunting Badge or Picking up your Hunting Application don't forget your copy of the FFF Hunting Rules & Regulations. Its something that should be read over very carefully. Thank You.

Wayne Mather, Chairman



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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

Dick Palmer, President 860-933-4768
Kevin Theriault,
Vice President 860-429-1792
Bill O'Hara, Secretary 860-872-3558
Tom Hoagland, Treasurer 860-455-0641

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Charles Bruckerhoff 860-450-2546
Patrick Enright 860-429-0172
David Fromerth (alt) 860-742-6749
Matt Halloran 860-429-1897
Shawn Koehler 860-810-4050
Will Lucier 860-455-9117
Keith Morehouse 860-647-1333
John Postemski 860-423-9396

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

CHILDREN'S FUND

John & Laura Pawelec 860-429-7033

FAMILY PICNIC

Kevin Theriault 860-429-1792

FIELD TRIALS

Tony Kubasek 860-944-6716

FISHING

Marty O'Rourke 860-456-2886

FIVE-STAND

Jim Davidson 860-456-8782

HEALTH/WELFARE

Dick Palmer 860-933-4768

HUNTING

Wayne Mather 860-423-0450

INSURANCE REVIEW

Eugene Lewis 860-423-3341

JUNIOR PROGRAMS

Pat Enright 860-429-0172

KITCHEN

Clayton Coogan 860-742-9612

MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hruskocy 860-569-1592

MERCHANDISE

Bill Spears 860-822-6567

NEWSLETTER

David Fromerth 860-742-6749

PHEASANTS

Paul Cardinal 860-455-0255

PISTOL/PRACTICAL PISTOL

John Lonergan 860-643-7453

RIFLE

Peter Mathewson 860-456-8588

SHOTGUN

Larry Schewokis 860-423-8563

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Frank Mauri 860-974-1425

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