



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 16 | ISSUE 1 | MARCH 2015

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dick Palmer, President

Wow, it's already the middle of March. This winter seems like it would never end. So many activities are lined up for spring and the coming year. Please review the coming events calendar, and make sure your e-mails are coming through. If not check with the membership chairman to see the address is correct. I want to thank Skip Dillon and all of those who helped put on the Annual Game Dinner. Another note is our mortgage note is approaching pay off. We should be finished before October. We need members to step in and help out in the Club activities, and work days. Most are pretty easy, and will help the programs; they are all easy work hours. So step up to help out.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

22nd	3-D Archery shoot 7 am
29th	The Annual Chili Cook Off. Sign up, admission is \$5.00. Great Chili, fun, and lots of cold drinks to cool the fire. 1 pm

APRIL

10th	Opening Day of Fishing
10th 11th 12th	The Scout Venture Program will be at the Club for these 3 days
18th	Club wide work day. Starts at 9 am till noon. Blowing leaves, picking up branches, cleaning up around the clubhouse, pavilions, whatever we have time for. Easy work hours
26th	3-D Archery shoot

MAY

3rd	Kids Fishing Derby starts at 9 am. NOTE new time!!
3rd	Opening of Sporting Clays season Shoot starts at 9 am, 50 targets/\$15. Trappers are needed, report at 8 am finish by 1:30. Easy work hours
16th	Prime Rib Dinner night to benefit the Fish program and the kids derby
17th	3-D Archery shoot. Registered trap shoot
25th	Memorial Day – the Club will be open

JUNE

5th	
6th	The Northeast Open register skeet shoot
7th	
7th	Sporting Clays Shoot-50 targets/\$15. 9 am. Trappers are needed
14th	3-D Archery Shoot

JULY

12th	Sporting Clays 50 target shoot. 9 am. Trappers are needed
19th	3-D Archery shoot

AUGUST

9th	Sporting Clays 50 targets. 9am. Trappers are needed
16th	Annual Family Picnic

SEPTEMBER

4th	
5th	Connecticut Skeet Championship here, help is needed
6th	
12th	Ducks Unlimited Sporting Clays Shoot
19th	Annual Chicken BBQ to support the Pheasant program
20th	Last Sporting Clays shoot

HUNTING BADGES

Please mark your calendars as you will need to purchase your 2015 badge prior to October 1st. After that date, no badges will be issued, unless you are a new regular member. You must fill out your permission slips, for selecting the type of hunting activity you would like, selecting your fall hunting group, and finally purchasing your badge. Come September 30th, if you have not completed your work hour requirement, or paid your obligations, you will be notified. You must pay for those work hours, and any outstanding obligations, or you will lose your hunting privileges and your badge. Tremendous amount of work goes into this program from permission slips, organizing forms, verifying information on the permission slips, notifying members that information was incorrect or left out, cross checking work hours, obligations paid for, and finally issuing badges. This is to ensure that everyone is eligible to hunt, after meeting these requirements.



It is your responsibility! to make sure that information, work hours, obligations, and payments have been completed so to purchase your badge. Please keep your receipts. It is not up to the Hunt Chairman or Club, it is you.

REMEMBER OCTOBER 1ST IS THE DEADLINE.

MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hruskocy, Membership Chairman

Currently the clubs membership is: Regular 346, Associate 180, Junior 37, Life 151. The club added 65 new members in 2014, however there were 36 people that did not renew their membership to the club this year and there are 35 people who have not indicated if they are remaining in the club. If you know of anyone that is interested in becoming a member, I can email you an application.

The club collected over \$20,000 in work hours this past year. If your email has changed, please send me the updated address. I send out several emails during the year about work parties and events. Don't wait until September to get your work hours completed. Every year members contact me in September because they need get in their hours. Don't wait!

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

We need members with tractors with brush hogs minimum width of 48" to cut down the field in front of the Skeet and trap fields and a few areas inside the Sporting Clays and 3-D ranges. It's our intent that we enlarge the parking areas at the pistol/ rifle ranges, by removing trees and with the possibility of getting process gravel from the high line expansion. We also need to take down a few trees, split and stack for the coming fall /winter season. This will start after the heating season is done, so our metal cover is clear of the old wood. If you can help, please contact John Postemski at 860- 208-0353. We'll set aside each Monday in April to complete this. You'll get work hours and we can assign your work to fit your schedule.

PHEASANT MEETING

March 21st is an important Pheasant meeting. We're looking for 6 members to stock for the coming 2015 season. Our existing stocker's are stepping down. It probably would be for Saturday morning only. If you can't make the meeting, please contact Paul Cardinal. We need members to step up for this.

RAFFLE OBLIGATIONS

Each year, the Executive Board has looked at either increasing dues or making it obligatory that each member must purchase or sell their Club Raffle tickets. The Executive Board felt that the raffle was a better solution. The raffle income has help keep our dues to where it is today. The Club requires each member who is eligible to either sell or purchase a minimum \$40 of the \$60 worth of tickets that are sent to you. Needless to say there are great prizes. Some members may be offended about selling their tickets, which is understood. However, you are still obligated to purchase/sell the required number of tickets. Inside your raffle package you will find tickets and a slip for when to turn your tickets, please be sure you keep your receipt. The raffle drawing is April 14th membership meeting.

FREE DUES

Members; in an effort to increase attendance at membership meetings, the Board has agreed to try out a new incentive raffle. All regular members' names will be placed in a container and at the end of each membership meeting, one name will be drawn. If that member is present, he or she wins free dues for the following year. Members need to be present in order to win. We will start this in May at the latest. Please watch your e-mails.

APRIL 18TH 2015 CLUB CLEAN-UP

Work day to clean up around the clubhouse and grounds starts at 9 am till noon. Please bring equipment, rakes, blowers, saws, shovels etc. Easy work hours.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

John & Laura Pawelec

The Fin's annual Christmas party was held on Sunday, December 21, 2014. There were 40 children that awaited Santa's arrival and gifts. Thanks to all those that brought food and desserts for the potluck luncheon, as well as those that helped set up and take down the hall. Special thanks to Don Bajger Ho, Ho, to Peter Rich, Tom Potter and Arnie Postemski for their monetary contributions.

Keep tuned for a lasagna dinner Feb 25th and The Chili Cook Off contest March 29th 1 pm, all to benefit the future generation of Fin members (the kids)!

WANTED

CHEFS FOR THE FFF ANNUAL

CHILI COOK OFF

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2015 • 2PM

CHEF INFORMATION:

- Open to Fin members and family
- Bring your favorite chili – anything goes!!
 - 4 quart minimum required –
 - 1:30 PM Arrival for set-up
- Free entry – includes 1 voting ballot
- Chili judged by People's Choice voting
 - Chef sign up list at bar -

Please Pre-Register by March 22, 2015

Sorry, no walk-ins

Any questions contact:

John Pawelec at 860 712-9195



Cooks John & Laura Pawelec at the great Italian night dinner 2-28-15

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES AT PISTOL/RIFLE RANGES

There is a new shooting platform on the Rifle range. There is a 50 yard target area, this area is to be used for your first sighting in before moving to the 100 yard line. Paper targets are only to be used. Do not damage this set up. There is no more use of the pistol range for sighting in your center fired rifles, shotguns, muzzle loaders, and hand guns over 41 mag. Please note!!!!!!!!!!!!

Anyone caught shooting a center fired rifle, shotgun, muzzle loader or a handgun over 41 mag, other than a rim fire rifle on the Pistol Range will face disciplinary actions. You must use the rifle range, no more long guns on the pistol range except rim fire. This new range will open shortly. Please read the new signs.

FISHING AND HUNTING TAG SALE

**SAT. APRIL 4TH
9 TO NOON
FIN FUR FEATHER CLUB
CHEWINK RD.
CHAPLIN, CT.**

For info call:
Kevin at 860-208-5188 or
Bill at 860-872-3558

PUBLIC WELCOME

\$20/table – Must be paid at the bar by April 1st

SPORTING CLAYS

The 2015 Sporting Clays season is right around the corner. Prices this year are the same as last year's, \$15 for the first 50 targets, \$10 for an additional 50 targets, or if you're a diehard shooter you can shoot until the course closes for \$35, this is for everyone members or guests. If you might be interested in cooking breakfast sandwiches, burgers/dogs for lunch, please contact Dick Palmer 860-933-4768. We do need about 7 trappers for each shoot, easy work hours, report by 8 am and usually completed by 1:30 pm. I'll have a sign up list for each shoot, so please call. There is the Ducks Unlimited shoot on Sept 12th and the Club will need about 35 workers for this shoot.

The dates for our shoots are as follows;

May 3rd, June 7th, July 12th, Aug 9th, Sept 12th – Ducks Unlimited, and Sept 20th(last shoot). This is our pick date as well, and probably the last chance for work hours.

HUNTING

Hunt Chairmen Wayne Mather

I hope everyone enjoyed a good year hunting. Paul Cardinal did another excellent job with the pheasants. Badges for 2015 are available when you receive this newsletter at the bar. All badges must be purchased by October 1, 2015. This gives you 7 months to purchase them. One of the Hunt rules we changed last year was Junior members can only hunt on the same day/group with their parents or sponsor. Private land consent forms are in this newsletter, please fill out and turn them in. Another change last year is you must be very sure of which group you want to hunt, as once your selection is made there is no changing back. The Hunting Rules and Regulations are on the web site under activities drop down you can click onto them.

TRAP

Bob Hruskocy, Trap Chairman

The club will hold one registered trap shoot this year. The date is May 17th. There will be work parties scheduled to get the fields ready for the event. I will send out emails in May to let you know when they will be. Help will be needed for the shoot, need scorers and help keeping the machines loaded with targets. I also will need someone to cook breakfast and lunch at the lower field. Please let me know if you can help out.

FISH COMMITTEE REPORT

Troy Quick, Chairman

All fishermen must purchase a badge for \$25.00, which entitles them to fish and hunt. All Junior members must also purchase a badge for \$10.00. The badges are available for purchase at the bar. Please remember to sign in and out, observe all rules and posted signs.

Fish stockings will take place on the following dates:

1st stocking – April 3rd {Weather Permitting}

2nd stocking – April 17th

3rd stocking – April 30th

The stocking will start around 4:30pm each day and we would appreciate any volunteers who can make it. Buttonball Trout Hatchery located near the club will supply the fish. The fish will be in good shape since they only have a short trip from the hatchery to our ponds. Brook and rainbow trout will make up over 90% of the fish stocked, with 12-14" fish the minimum size with a good number of 16"+ fish added as well. Brown trout will make up the remaining percent of fish stocked at the last stocking as they are more temperature resistant.

FYI – The upper pond will be CLOSED from April 30th until May 3rd, the day of the Kid’s Fishing Derby.

The Kid’s fishing derby will be held Sunday, **May 3rd from 9am – 12 noon** at the fly pond. Sign up sheets for kids who will be attending will be located on the message board in the bar. The maximum age limit for participants is 15 years of age. Members who don’t have children within this age limit can bring a relative (niece, nephew, grandchild) instead. Lunch will be provided free to the children and the kitchen will be open for adults to purchase food and drinks.

We are seeking donations so we can purchase additional fish and prizes for the derby. There will be a sign up sheet located in the bar. Please donate and help make this event fun for all participants!

Please note new starting time for the Kids Derby.



**Fund
Raiser for
Fish
Committee**

Last Day to
purchase tickets
May 10th

Tickets Available
at the Bar

For more
information
contact
Troy Quick
860.933.2585

MAY 16TH PRIME RIB DINNER

Dinner to Include
Baked Potato, Tossed Salad,
Rolls & Dessert



FIN FUR & FEATHER
Club

6:00 PM
\$18.00

PHEASANTS

Paul Cardinal, Pheasant Chairman

Members, as chairman I want to thank you for your help and support of the Pheasant program, and making the 2014 a great year. There will be a meeting March 21, 2015 10:00am in clubhouse hall. Work day in April preparing for birds and one in July when the pheasants arrive. I will let members know by club email of date and times. Once again thank you and 2015 is going to be great year with your help.

2014 PHEASANT REPORT

Start	3800 birds
Sold	1808
Stocked	1770
Lost	160
Cost to club	\$3,028.31
Cost per bird stocked	\$1.71

AMAZING!!!!



ANNUAL GAME DINNER AND AWARDS NIGHT

The Annual Game Dinner was held on Jan 25th, 2015. The meal was crafted by Skip Dillon along with a great crew of helpers. The evening also showcased the annual awards presentation. Two Meritorious Recognition awards were handed out. One was presented to Bill Spears for his involvement with Skeet, instructing new shooters, and helping with the ordering and sale of shotgun components. The other Meritorious Recognition award went to Bill Neff whose hard work over the years in running the successful Annual Club raffle has kept us from increasing our dues.



Bill Spears



Bill Neff

MAN OF THE YEAR 2014

Wayne Mather was presented the Man of the Year award for his years of work as Hunt Chairman, working with the Pheasants, and numerous other activities around our Club.





FIN, FUR AND FEATHER CLUB, INC

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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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Will Lucier 860-455-9117
Wayne Mather 860-423-0450
Keith Morehouse 860-647-1333
John Postemski 860-423-9396
Tom Potter 860-212-6573

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

ARCHERY
Jim Michaud 860-402-4155
BAR
Don Bajger 860-423-6693

BUILDING & GROUNDS

John Postemski 860-208-0353

CHILDREN'S FUND

John & Laura Pawelec 860-429-7033

COMPONENTS

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FAMILY PICNIC

Kevin Theriault 860-429-1792

FIELD TRIALS

Tony Kubasek 860-944-6716

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Frank Mauri 860-974-1425

FIVE-STAND

Jim Davidson 860-456-8782

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Dick Palmer 860-933-4768

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INSURANCE REVIEW

Eugene Lewis 860-423-3341

JUNIOR PROGRAMS

Pat Enright 860-429-0172

KITCHEN

Clayton Coogan 860-221-5653

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Bob Hruskocy 860-569-1592

MERCHANDISE

Bill Spears 860-822-6567

NEWSLETTER

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