



# ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 17 | ISSUE 1 | MARCH 2016

## WORK HOURS NEEDED

*Keep the Fin On Target in 2016*

### EVENTS

#### APRIL

- 10 3-D Archery shoot. 7 am – noon registration
- 16 Prime Rib Dinner. Limited tickets
- 23 **Annual Club clean up day, starts at 9 am, bring your yard tools, and machines. See President Theriault**
- 24 3-D Archery shoot. 7 am – noon registration

#### MAY

- 1 Kids Fishing Derby. Watch for the sign up
- 1 3-D Archery shoot. 7 am – noon registration
- 14 Fish Tournament watch for notices
- 15 First Sporting Clays shoot. 9 am – noon registration. 50 targets
- 15 CT Trap Association register trap shoot
- 21 & 22 Boy Scout Venture program. Watch notices as pistol/rifle ranges will be closed
- 29 3-D Archery shoot. 7 am – noon registration

#### JUNE

- 5 3-D Archery shoot. 7 am – noon registration
- 12 9 am Sporting Clays Shoot. 3-D Archery shoot. 9 am – noon registration
- 26 3-D Archery shoot. 7 am – noon registration

#### JULY

- 9 2nd Annual Crawfish Boil, limited tickets, be aware of the upcoming notices
- 10 9 am Sporting Clays Shoot, 50 targets. 9 am – noon registration

#### AUGUST

- 7 9 am Sporting Clays Shoot. 50 targets, 9 am – noon registration
- 21 Fin's Annual picnic, starts at noon

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well there was not much snow to melt and the maple sap is flowing which must mean fishing season is just around the corner. I hope the spring finds you all well rested from the winter season. I would like to thank Skip Dillon and his crew for a great game dinner this year and all the committee chairmen for everything they do running their committees. By now you should have received a letter about the possible increase in the fee's associated with not working your club work hours. Increasing the fee from \$10.00 to \$20.00 per hours NOT worked has been proposed and passed by the Executive Board. Now it will be voted on by the Regular and Life Membership in April. This will not go in to effect until next year. I have had people ask what can I do for my hours. We are working on a list of things that need to get done and will be posting it at the club soon and look for emails also. We have a lot of activities for the upcoming year and we will need your help to make them all successful. There are many ways to get your work hours in so make a call to the committee chairman and see how you can help out. We have had to pay to get some things done recently and the cost will keep going up if we don't get help from members. I know some of you have time limits on when you can get to the club just to use the facilities, but if we don't have anyone helping to keep the place in shape we won't continue to have the great facilities we have. The chairmen of all the committees all have things that can be done and I'm sure there are things that can be done at your convenience. Ultimately this is up to you the membership on whether the increase happens or not.

Just a reminder that you must purchase your hunting and fishing badges prior to October first NO EXCEPTIONS.

*Kevin Theriault, President*

# GAME DINNER

The Club's Annual Game Dinner was a big success. Skip Dillon and his crew of chefs did a fantastic job on preparing and serving the meal. Over 150 members enjoyed not only the meal but with renewing friendships with other members.

Our Club had our local and state politicians on hand. President Theriault presented a number of recognition awards and finally capping off Man of The Year.



*This award went to Dick Palmer for being President for the past 3 years. He runs the Sporting Clays program, maintenance of the skeet bldg. and now VP.*

## MAN OF THE YEAR

John Postemski was recognized as **Man of The Year**. John has always had the Club at heart when doing whatever. If you need something completed see John. He's worked the power transmission line expansion, dealing of rocks and timber, repairing the well and septic, what needed fixing John is the man.



*Paul Cardinal received this award for running the Pheasant program over the years. And this past season our Club actually came clean of the expenses with a small net profit.*



*This award went to Frank Decker for the work he does on the machines at the skeet houses.*



*This award went to Jim Skoglund for all the work he does in maintaining the skeet fields and making sure we have shotgun components for our members.*

## STATE DEEP RECOGNIZES THE FIN FUR FEATHER CLUB

The Connecticut DEEP Franklin Wildlife section presented the Club a recognition award for all the Hunter Education/Safety and Bow classes over the past years. Presenting the award to President Theriault is Tom Donnelly, looking on is Vice President Dick Palmer.



# WELCOME TO THE FIN FUR AND FEATHER'S PISTOL RANGE

## MISSION STATEMENT:

To provide a safe, recreational shooting experience for our members and their guests, to promote the sport of shooting and marksmanship, to protect and preserve our shooting and hunting heritage.

## NEWS:

As you have noticed, the Pistol Range is continuing to be upgraded. We hope to provide our members a more exciting and challenging range for you to use.

The new dueling tree is available to be engaged from the far right of the pistol range, out from underneath the roof and in front of the ground pole located directly in front of the shooting tree. The shooting tree may not be engaged from any under-roof position. If members would like to paint the plates, please make sure only the plates are painted. The club will periodically paint the plates.

## SAFETY:

When traversing from an under-roof firing point to the shooting position of the tree, all weapons must be unloaded, slide locked to the rear or cylinder open. The shooter will announce to others that they are moving to the tree, keeping the firearm point at the ground away from other shooters. Only when the shooter is in position behind the ground pole may the firearm be loaded. The firearm must be cleared, slide locked to the rear or cylinder open, when returning to the under-roof firing position. No more than 2 shooters at any time.

## PISTOL RANGE RULES:

- The range is open from 9am until sunset
- During pheasant season stocking days, Wednesday and Saturdays the range opens at 10am. You cannot drive to the range until then.
- Anyone under the roof area must have eye and hearing protection when shooting is being conducted.
- When requiring to go down range the shooter must state to all shooters his/her intent. Once all shooters acknowledge the request, unload their firearm, remove magazine, lock slide to the rear or open cylinder and place the firearm on the bench

muzzle orientated down range, and step back and announce "clear". When the original requestor observes all weapons are safe and placed on the bench he/she will announce "Range Closed" and proceed down range. When all people have completed their down range tasks and are back behind the firing line, the requestor will announce, "Range Open", at that time shooters may go back to their firing position and commence loading.

## TARGETS:

- Unless provided by the club as a part of the range, only paper / cardboard targets are allowed.
- Members must use the provided steel target stands.
- If multiple bullseye are to be used, keep all bullseyes edges a minimum of 3 inches from the outer edges of the steel target frame.
- Our steel targets in place are high quality rated steel and are positioned with a deflection and or distance for safe shooting, however there is always a chance that ricochets to the firing line may occur. It is imperative that eye protection is used at all times. If at any time you notice any pitting or damage to a steel target, do not shoot at it and inform the Pistol Chairman or any other board member immediately.

Pistols, rimfire and centerfire up to 44 magnum can be used at the Pistol Range.

Rifles, only rimfire can be used at the Pistol Range

No rifle cartridge pistols

Member's guests must pay \$5, payable at the club bar during operating hours BEFORE using the range. If the club bar is closed, please pay at your next visit when the bar is open.

NRA Instructors conducting the shooting portion of their class must pay \$10 per student BEFORE using the range.

## CONTACT INFO:

Paul Arildsen Paul.arildsen@charter.net  
Jon-Paul Mucha jmuch3523@sbcglobal.net  
This is your range, please keep it clean!

## MEMBERSHIP

*Bob Hruskocy, Membership Chairman*

Currently the club membership is: Regular 342, Associate 183, Junior 28, Life 157. The club added 84 new members in 2015, however there were 53 people that did not renew their membership to the club this year. If you know of anyone that is interested in becoming a member, I can email you an application.

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. I will be holding a Range Safety Seminar sometime in April for those that need to get their range safety cards. An email will be sent to notify the date.

# FISH COMMITTEE REPORT

*Troy Quick, Fish 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.

## **FISH STOCKINGS WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

- 1st stocking – March 31st (WEATHER PERMITTING)
- 2nd stocking – April 14th
- 3rd stocking – April 25th

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 Fly Pond will be CLOSED from April 25th until the Kid's Fishing Derby on May 1st.

Fishing will be allowed April 2nd at 8 a.m no kill only. Absolutely no bait allowed.

Opening fishing for club ponds is April 9th 6 a.m; no kill in fly pond until noon on May 1st

The Kid's fishing derby will be held Sunday, May 1st 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.

## **SCHEDULED EVENTS**

- **Corn Beef Dinner**, March 12th. Ticket Price is \$12 for Adults and \$7 for kids.
- **Prime Rib Dinner**, April 16th. Ticket Price is \$20.
- **Kids Fishing Derby**, May 1st. From 9 a.m – 12 noon.
- **Biggest Trout Derby**, May 14th. \$10 per person from 4-8 p.m.
- **Bullhead Derby**, Date and Time to be determined.

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!

Thank you all for making 2015 a great season. Let's make this year even better.

# TRAP

*Bob Hruskocy, Trap Chairman*

The club will hold one registered trap shoot this year. The date is May 15th. 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 will be needed 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.

Also the Connecticut Trapshooting Assoc. will be celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. To celebrate, the CTA will be raffling a Browning Citori 725 Grade V shotgun at the State shoot on June 25th, 2016. The gun is valued at \$5400.00 Only 1000 tickets will be sold, Tickets are \$20.00. Please contact me if interested.

# SPORTING CLAYS

*Dik Palmer*

**Members, the schedule for the 2016 season is as follows; May 15th , June 12th, July 10th, August 7th, Sept 10th is the Ducks Unlimited Shoot, and our last is Sept 18th.**

All of these shoots start at 9 am, and go through about 1 pm. Registration starts 8:30 and goes to 12 noon. The cost is \$15 for 50 targets, and another 50 targets is just \$10. Usually I will send out an email for trappers about two weeks prior, trappers must contact me. It is very easy to learn and the work hours are easy as well. Report time is 8 am, and after finishing and cleaning up it's usually about 1:30 at the latest. It's always rain or shine. The Ducks Unlimited shoot on the 10th of Sept is a huge shoot, we need about 40 club members to work this day, and again the hours are about the same. A sign up list will be at the bulletin board in the bar or you can contact me through phone or e-mail. So please look at your calendar, mark these dates, come shoot or work, it's a fun day.

Fin Fur & Feather  
Venturing Weekend IV  
May 21, 2016



V E N T U R I N G ® • B S A

**Dear Members of the Fin Fur & Feather Gun Club**

The Fin Fur and Feather Club has graciously opened her doors to another shooting day at the Fin for the Venture Crews from the state on the Fin's club property; it has always been extremely well received by all the Venturers and the working staff & instructors that have attended the past weekends. Venturing has heard nothing but praise and requests for us to hold another outdoor skills weekend. We are again asking for assistance this year on Saturday May 21, 2016. This event, in the past, has been held at the beginning of April. By moving it to May we hope for more favorable weather.

Venture Crew 2 will be sponsoring this event with Jim & Trish Michaud being the contact persons with the club. Jim Michaud is the clubs Archery Chairperson & Trish helps in multiple ways with archery. For this event, the same as prior years Jim will be the CRSO for all the shooting skills and instructors, and Trish is in charge of everything else.

The youth want to work on the same skills they have in past years, but increasing their knowledge, skill and proficiency in Archery (basic skills & 3-D) and Firearms (Rifles, Shotgun (skeet/trap), Black powder and Pistols).

The Venturers will be using the club hall on Saturday and use the kitchen to make lunch, coffee, tea, etc. the rest of the time. We will be storing our food supplies in the kitchen, and they will be marked Venturing. You may notice that this is not running the normal Friday night to Sunday afternoon as we have done in the past. Normally this event is run every other year. However, Venturing now has an international event they hold with Canada every year. On the odd number years, the Connecticut Crews go to Canada, and the even number Canada units come to Connecticut. With the cost of the Fin event and Canada, many were not able to afford doing both. Therefore, the crews have asked to switch the Fin Weekend event to the even number years. For this reason the crews will be shooting one day this year, and in 2018 go back to the full three day weekend plan.

We are now accepting anyone who would like to assist in the instructor portion of the event. You DO NOT need to be NRA certified to be an instructor, but proficient with the area you would like to assist. If you are interested in helping the youth learn better shooting skills, and seeing incredibly large smiles, please contact Jim on his cell phone 860-402-4155 or his e-mail EagleScout1979@comcast.net. If you are not sure if you are qualified, please contact Jim.

We are also accepting donations. With the cost of ammo, we are attempting to keep the cost down so more youth can participate, so donations really help with that. We will accept any ammo donations, of any caliber and type.

Venturing would also like to do a small community service project for the club, lasting about 30 to 45 min. If any club chair has an idea, please contact Trish or Jim.

For those of you who are not familiar with a Venture Crew, we are a part of the Boy Scouts organization. We hold all the same rights, rules and insurance as a regular Boy Scout Troop but we are a Co-ed group of young adults ages 13-20. The youth run the meetings and all events; there are adult advisors that watch over and oversee all the youth. If you have, any questions please feel free to ask.

**This is a rough schedule of what we are going to be doing Saturday:**

- 08:00 – 09:00 Venture's arrival and Sign in.
- 09:00 – 10:00 BSA instruction course in Firearm Safety.
- 10:00 – 12:00 Basic Skills.
- 12:00 – 01:00 Lunch
- 01:00 – 04:00 General Shooting

The Club has given the Venturers sole access to the Rifle, Pistol and Archery ranges for safety reasons. The Venturers will also be using skeet and trap fields 7 and 8, leaving fields 1 to 6 open for club members and skeet/trap teams to practice.

Thank You,

Patricia and Jim Michaud, Venture Crew 2

## CLUB CLEAN UP DAY – APRIL 23RD

Members, as in the past the Club has set aside April 23rd at 9 am for the clean-up day. This will start at 9 am and go until noon. Please bring gloves, lawn equipment, etc. The more members we have the more clean-up can be completed.

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## 2ND ANNUAL CRAWFISH BOIL

Members set the date of July 9th aside for this wonderful dinner. There will be limited tickets, and those who attended last year's event can attest that this dinner is great. Watch for additional notices.

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## WORK HOURS

Members, the Executive Board examined the work hour requirements and fees for non-work hours. It's saddling that when the Club has projects or events that our members can't fill this picture. In fact, we needed to go to the outside to get contractors to come in to complete projects at more than \$10/hour. So with this being said, the Board discussed and passed a motion that we're recommending that the fee for non-completion of work hours go from \$10.00 hour to \$20.00 an hour. This vote from the membership will take place on April 12th at the membership meeting at 7 pm. We need your help for events, and projects which strengthen the Club's interstructure. Per our By-laws, Article III, section 3b, only Regular, Life, or Meritorious members can vote on this propose change. Please have your membership cards available for this vote.

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## RAFFLE OBLIGATIONS

The Executive Board each year has looked at either increasing dues or making an obligation 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 helped 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 in, please be sure you keep your receipt. The raffle drawing is at the April 12th membership meeting.



## 2015 KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

*John & Laura Pawelec*

Regardless of the beautiful Spring type weather, the Children's Christmas Party went on with 54 children waiting for Santa's arrival. We have some great cooks and bakers in this club, thanks to everyone who brought a dish. We had some great food in addition to pizza.

Big thanks to Peter Rich and the Postemski family for their generous donations, and to our volunteers who helped set up and clean up! Special thanks go out to Santa for making 54 children's day!





## 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

Kevin Theriault, President 860-428-5519  
Dick Palmer,  
Vice President 860-933-4768  
Bill O'Hara, Secretary 860-872-3558  
Tom Hoagland, Treasurer 860-455-0641

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Matt Halloran 860-429-1897  
Mark Holland 860-617-3750  
Shawn Koehler 860-810-4050  
Will Lucier 860-455-9117  
Wayne Mather 860-942-3385  
Keith Morehouse 860-647-1333  
John Postemski 860-423-9396  
Tom Potter 860-212-6573

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

**ALTERNATIVES**  
Keith Morehouse 860-647-1333  
Shawn Covell 860-428-0041  
**ARCHERY**  
Jim Michaud 860-402-4155

### BAR

Tom Potter 860-212-6573

### BUILDING & GROUNDS

John Postemski 860-208-0353

### CHILDREN'S FUND

John & Laura Pawelec 860-429-7033

### COMPONENTS

Jim Skoglund 860-992-9779

### FAMILY PICNIC

Kevin Theriault 860-429-1792

### FISHING

Troy Quick 860-933-2585

### FIVE-STAND

Jim Davidson 860-456-8782

### HEALTH/WELFARE

Dick Palmer 860-933-4768

### HUNTING

Wayne Mather 860-942-3385

### INSURANCE REVIEW

Eugene Lewis 860-423-3341

### JUNIOR PROGRAMS

Pat Enright 860-429-0172

### KITCHEN

Open Position

### MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hruskocy 860-569-1592

### MERCHANDISE

Bill Spears 860-822-6567

### NEWSLETTER

Dick Palmer 860-933-4768

### PERMITTEE

Brenda Liappes 860-455-0521

### PHEASANTS

Paul Cardinal 860-455-0255

### PISTOL/PRACTICAL PISTOL

Paul Arildsen 860-508-1132

Jon Paul Macha 860-874-1291

### RAFFLE

Tony Rufrano 860-841-5265

Bill Neff 860-573-1126

### RIFLE

Peter Mathewson 860-456-8588

### SHOTGUN

Bob Frankland 860-690-4149

### SKEET

Bob Frankland 860-690-4149

### SPORTING CLAYS

Dick Palmer 860-933-4768

### TRAP

Bob Hruskocy 860-569-1592