



Letter from the President

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Special points of interest:

- Bobby T thanks all
- Membership dues/ fees to be paid by January 31, 2007
- Hunting Rules & Regulations
- Pheasant Hunting Dates
- Deer, Turkey, & Waterfowl Hunting Rules

"It's the most wonderful time of the year." No it's not Christmas, hunting season is here! Soon we may participate in a sport as old as mankind itself. Whether you plan on hunting at any of our land available or going elsewhere, please have a great season and hunt safe. Remember to purchase and DISPLAY your arm band at all times while hunting.

As this goes to print, we will already be going strong with pheasant trials at the club, archery for deer has begun, and early goose season will be closing. Our pheasants again look to be big and beautiful and I'm sure they will taste just as good. The pheasant program undertook a lot of changes this year and with immense help from various members (far too many to mention), we will again enjoy a great season.

The club saw many great

events come through our driveway this year (with more to come) and I hope that many of you participated. These events are both financially important to the club but even more so, the social aspect is worth even more. The work that goes into each is sometimes long, but the club shines because I have heard many compliments from both members and non-members alike.

We held some big shoots this year and I want to thank Frank and Connie Mauri for all their help with those. I had great feedback about them and again the club shined. But behind the scenes when most of us are at our "everyday" jobs, people like Joe Pirillo, Billy Spears, Dave Fromerth and Dick Palmer are here keeping those fields in top shape. If you come here to play during the week you probably will also

see Arnie Postemski or Gary Charron cutting the grass or just doing some general maintenance to keep our club looking great. Don't be afraid to pitch in and help.

So, as this year winds down and hunting and winter skeet kicks into high gear, come spend some time at your club. Stop by our clubhouse and say hi to our new permittee/bar manager Brenda Liappes. Stop in on the second Tuesday of the month for our membership meeting also to find out what is going on. The big events have passed for now but there is always something to do here. Remember: hunt safe and please respect this great privilege that we enjoy here at the Fin.

—Steven J. Davis
President FFF

Thanks for the Club Annual Family Picnic

Bobby Theriault, our Master of Ceremonies Supreme, sends a hearty THANK YOU to all the Club's members, spouses, and friends who helped in any way to make the 2006 FFF

Family Picnic the great success it was this past August 20th. According to Bobby T, there were perhaps 100 fewer attendees than last year, but the profit from sales of raffle tick-

ets especially was in the neighborhood of \$1,300. That money will be put to good use for improvements at our Club. Once again, Bobby T and his team hosted a great picnic.

Jr. Pheasant Hunting Day

Jr. hunters must be licensed and 12 to 15 years old. They must also have valid CT Pheasant Harvest Tags, although they will not need to use them. They must be accompanied by a licensed adult and that adult may not carry a firearm.

I need a list of those interested no later than October 5th. Contact Pat Enright at penright22@yahoo.com or 429-0172.

When you contact me please include the following:

- Jr. hunter's name
- Age
- Do you need a dog to hunt with?
- Your phone number

Once I have a list of all those interested I will contact each one on Sunday October 14th with the details, such as time, place, etc.

Anyone who would be willing to work their dog for the kids this day please contact me also.

Thanks, Pat Enright

FFF Shotgun Championship

Well, unfortunately due to life's busy schedule we have had to postpone the club's shotgun championship. I have talked to Jim Davidson and unfortunately he and Nancy are unable to run the event as they like to, so they thought it best to postpone it. Hopefully, it seems as if we can run it in

the early spring. This way everyone can get a few extra months of practice to dethrone Billy Spears and the winner can have bragging rights for the whole shotgun season. Whether you're a double A shooter like some or a double Z shooter like myself, come out for the challenge, fun, and

ribbing plus the great food and festivities that go with this shoot. So, do your part when you see Jim and Nancy post the sign up sheet and don't wait until the last minute to participate.

—President Davis

Survey Update

Based on all of your input (over 175 of you responded) there has been a lot of activity making repairs and improvements this summer. The board has used your input to prioritize our scarce resources on the things that benefit the most members. We can't fix everything in one year but we have accomplished a significant amount within our funding limitations.

- 1) The Pheasant program has new nets, watering systems and improved drainage.
- 2) The clubhouse has new energy saving doors

and a significant portion of the siding has been replaced and painted. Next up will be new gutters to protect the siding from further damage.

- 3) Fish program has a new dock with more repairs planned.
- 4) Sporting clays has new trap
- 5) House and Grounds has a "newer" tractor for mowing
- 6) Skeet clubhouse has new heater

For those of you still looking to complete your work hours,

House and Grounds has many projects for you to work on. Contact Arnie Postemski if you can help. Pheasants need a lot of help through the fall for feeding and stocking, call Tom O'Neill 860 455-9882

Thanks again for providing your input on the survey and supporting the work parties. Please take the time to complete this year's survey that will be included with your membership renewal.

—Paul Sobol

Black Powder Season Nearly Over

Another year of skirmishing is nearly at an end. In the month of October, several of the units in the New England Region, including the 5th CVI and 15th CVI will travel to Fort Shenandoah, VA not to shoot individual targets or team events but instead to work the fields and events. It's

our turn to do our part to make sure that the N-SSA's annual national skirmish continues. Throughout the day the worker teams will be busy doing safety checks on the line, marking targets or scores, helping out in the statistics shed and towers, and many of other chores. However, once the

day's work is finished, they are free to travel in the various camps to find old friends and roam Suttlers' Row for bargains on no end of guns, caps, accouterments, and so forth. A national skirmish is always a great time, even if you have to work—just so the work schedule occurs infrequently. —CB

During the skirmish held at Middletown, NY this summer there was a heavy pouring-down rain, yet the N-SSA's skirmishers completed the musket event on Sunday and did not have one fouled musket.

Treasurer's Report

Here it is the last month of our fiscal year. The Fin starts over in October. It has been a very interesting year for our club. The club is doing very well. We have more members so we have the most income under membership over the past four years (~\$100,000). As I understand the Fin gets to house the Zone sheet shoot every four years. This means a lot of work (thanks Frank and Connie) but also more money. In 02-03 our last zone shoot year we had about \$100,000 in shotgun sports activity. This year with

the zone again we had ~\$100,000 in shotgun activity. Keep shooting; it helps pay the bills.

The bar is a big part of the Fin. There have been changes instituted which have streamlined the operation. This year's bar income is more than the past four years (~\$90,000). Keep up the good work ladies and please all you members continue supporting the bar.

Looking at the expense side of the club for the past four years is interesting. This past year shotgun sports spent (~\$63,000) which is greater

than the expenses in 04-05 and 03-04, but less than what was spent in 02-03. Bar expenses are the lowest they have been in the past four years (~\$66,000). Brenda, her bar tenders, and Steve deserve a big thanks. They have brought in more money with the lowest expenses. Good job!

In summary, 2005-2005 is looking to be one of the best years the Fin has had. Keep up the good work.

—Tom Hoagland
Treasurer

Fish Committee Report

The fall fishing season is upon us. Thanks to the generosity of the Board, there will be one final stocking for the year in early October. The only pond to be stocked will be the Fly pond. Once the pond is stocked fishing will again be restricted to catch and release fly fishing. All who fish are encouraged to bend their barbs down.

With any luck we will get

some good ice this winter to support an ice fishing derby or two.

I would like to thank all of those who helped out this year with stocking, kids derby, fly fishing clinic, and kids' day event. You don't have to volunteer to help, but you do and I appreciate it. With that said, in the spring we will be looking to resurface some if not all of the docks at the fly pond, a

notice will go out seeking volunteers to help. We will also be looking to remove some of the brush from around all three ponds.

Thanks again to everyone for another great year of fishing at the Fin—and have a great and healthy winter!

—Jon Guarino
Fish Chairman

Get the kids involved in fishing on a regular basis. It's one of the best ways to introduce them to the excitement in the outdoors.

Trap

The trap summer league is winding down. A total of 22 members shot in the league. The picnic will be in a few weeks.

Congratulations to Pat Enright on his first 25, it was fun shooting at his hat! Hopefully, someone else's hat can get shot at as well.

The Fin received

\$2,400.00 for the use of two of its trap machines at the State shoot. Our registered shoot generated a profit of \$373.38.

I would like to thank all of the members that helped me at both of these events. Your time and effort are most appreciated. Hopefully, we can have some new faces help out next year.

Hope to see ya on the lower fields!

—Regards
Bob "Moon" Hruskocy

Upcoming Events

- October 7: Bullhead Tournament
- October 14: Jr. Pheasant Hunting Day
- October 28: Roast Beef Dinner for Kids' Christmas
- November 11: Oldies Dance for Kids' Christmas
- December 3: Annual Kids' Christmas Party

Membership Update

Currently, the Fin has 409 Regular, 42 Associate, 23 Junior and 94 Life members. Forty-two (42) Regular members joined the club this year, and 11 Associates joined. That is a total of 53 new members! That is the most members to join in one year since we opened the membership up in 2001.

The website and the booth at the Hartford Sportsman show attributed to this increase. There were 11 people that joined directly from the

Sportsman show.

New members are vital to the club's success. Each year the club expenses increase. Membership is the biggest source of income to the club.

If you know of an individual that would be interested in joining the club, please bring them here and show them around.

—Regards,
Bob "Moon" Hruskocy

Membership Invoices for 2007

Next year's invoices should be in the mail by the last week of November. All dues and assessments must be paid by January 31st. This

should give you enough time to pay your dues. If for some reason, you need additional time, please feel free to contact me so that we can work some-

thing out. We don't want to lose ya!

—Regards,
Bob "Moon" Hruskocy

When the call was made to get dates and events for September through January for this newsletter, there was really NOT MUCH on the Club's calendar. What's going on folks?

Membership Email Addresses

Please make sure that I have your correct email address. If you have changed it, please forward to me your new one. The email feature is the best way to keep you informed of events that happen at the club. If you have not been

receiving any emails from me during the year, please contact me so that we can find out why. Some email programs have "spam" filters and may not accept the Fin's emails.

As in the past, if you have an email address, you will not

receive a hard copy of the newsletter. You can download it from the club's web site.

If you still want a hard copy mailed, please let me know.

—Regards,
Bob "Moon" Hruskocy

2006 Election of Officers & Board

On October 10 during the regular monthly Membership Meeting, the Club will hold its annual election of officers and Board members.

The slate of officers is uncontested and includes the following individuals and their offices:

President: Steven Davis

Vice President: Don Bajger

Secretary: Dick Palmer

Treasurer: Tom Hoagland

The nominating committee selected the following individuals for the slate of Board members:

Jim Gifford

John Guarino

Bob Hruskocy

John Pawelec

Mike Sobol

Paul Sobol

Bob Theriault

Nominations from the floor produced the following 2 individuals:

Kieth Morehouse

Tom O'Neil

All members are encouraged to attend the October meeting and to vote in this election.

Skirmish in Glastonbury

All along the skirmish line when these peculiar, non-typical targets are set up for competition skirmishers react with the most curious language.

A couple of weeks ago, the New England Regional Skirmish was held at the Glastonbury Elks Club and many of our local units attended the event. Since it was a "Regional Skirmish," members of all of units lend a hand to prepare targets, organize and monitor the events, and take their turns shooting the different individual and team targets.

A skirmisher has plenty of time during a "Regional" to watch fellow skirmishers try their best to hit the targets, and it is especially fun to watch when the targets are the non-typical ones. And so it was on Sunday of that weekend when I had the pleasure of watching Mike Thomas's 5th CVI musket team tackle the final event. Hanging out among some

other equally amusing breakables a mere 50 yards away on wavering wires were these small orange juice cans—about the 8 ounce variety—filled with water.

I watched Mike take on one of those XXXX cans and after nearly melting down his musket he had the extreme satisfaction of seeing it explode on his last shot. Great shooting Mike!

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2006 Hunting Rules & Regulations

OBSERVE ALL STATE HUNTING LAWS

500 Foot Zone: It is prohibited to hunt with, shoot, or carry a loaded firearm within *500 feet* of any building occupied by people or domestic animals, or used for storage of flammable material.

Hunting Near Roads, Buildings, People, and Domestic Animals: Hunting or shooting from or across the traveled portion of any public roadway is prohibited. Shooting toward any person, building, or domestic animal when within range is prohibited.

Sunday Hunting Prohibited: Possession of hunting implements on Sunday in the open is prima facie evidence of violation. Sunday hunting is allowed on licensed private shooting preserves when the operator has permission from the town.

Motor vehicles: Hunting or shooting from a motor vehicle is prohibited (except under Handicapped Hunting Opportunities, see *2006 CT Hunting and Trapping Guide*)

Firearms in Vehicles: It is prohibited to carry a loaded firearm in a vehicle.

Fluorescent Orange Requirement: During the period September 1 through the last day of February, hunters are required to wear at least 400 inches of fluorescent orange clothing above the waist and visible from all sides (for exceptions applied to archery deer and archery and firearms turkey hunters and others, see *2006 CT Hunting and Trapping Guide*).

Legal Shooting Hours: Do you know when it is legal to start and stop hunting? It is your responsibility to consult the *2006 CT Hunting and Trapping Guide!*

OBSERVE ALL CLUB RULES AND REGULATIONS

Field Dress Game Only. Hunters are allowed to field dress game (remove entrails) only. Do not completely dress your game animal until you reach home. Also, dressing of game animals at the Club is prohibited.

1. Pheasant hunting will start at 8:00 am on Saturday and Wednesday, and in accordance with state law during the week. All pheasant hunters must sign in on the assigned group sheets, before hunting on Saturday, and Wednesday
2. Members are allowed two (2) pheasants per day. A Junior member may pick his/her own A, B, or Wednesday season and is allowed two (2) pheasants per day, but must hunt with a Club member who has a valid CT hunting license and is over 21 years of age. Members may bring a guest, but the guest may not hunt or carry a gun, only observe. Members may bring spouse who also hunts when pheasant hunting, but must split daily bag limit.
3. Hunting or training of dogs near or around the pheasant pens is prohibited.
 - ◆ There shall be no hunting on the Clubhouse side of the rifle/pistol range access road.
 - ◆ All dogs must be leashed on the mowed grass area on the clubhouse side of the driveway.
4. 400 inches of fluorescent orange clothing must be above the waist and visible from all sides at all times while hunting.
5. Hunting of turkey and deer on Club-owned and Club-leased property:
 - ◆ Turkey and deer hunting is allowed on Club-owned (bow only) and Club-leased property, with a Club Permit, armband, a valid CT hunting license, and tags. Junior members may apply for deer and turkey permits to hunt on Club-owned and Club-leased property and must hunt with a Club member who has a valid CT hunting license and is over 21 years of age. All season and bag limits are in accordance with CT state laws and regulations.
 - ◆ Bow hunting for deer/turkey is allowed on Club-owned property with a Club permit, armband, and a valid CT hunting license and tags.
 - ◆ Waterfowl hunting is allowed on Club-leased property. All state and federal hunting regulations and bag limits in addition to Club rules must be observed, with the exception being on Saturdays. Waterfowl hunting on Saturdays during the upland bird (pheasant) season is not allowed before 1:00 p.m. on Club-leased land. There will be no permanent blinds or dug pits allowed.
6. No parking in the skeet field parking lot until 10:00 a.m. on Saturdays during the hunting season, unless you have a handicapped permit vehicle.
7. Parking is allowed only where directed.
8. All pheasants must be signed in immediately after hunting.
9. Rifle & pistol ranges and skeet fields are closed on Saturdays and Wednesdays until 10:00 a.m. Use extreme caution when hunting near these areas.
10. Pheasants shot on Club-owned or Club-leased property do not have to be tagged with state tags, but must be signed in.
11. No shot size larger than #6 chilled shot shall be used while pheasant hunting on Club-owned or Club-leased property. Ammo to be checked at sign-in.
12. All dogs must be kept on leash or must come to heel after your party has taken its limit of pheasants.
13. Observe all state rules and regulations when hunting.
14. Use of motorized ATVs (All Terrain Vehicles) is restricted to Club-owned property, with Executive Committee approval. For more information on this option, please consult "Rules for use of ATVs," 1998.
15. On Thanksgiving Day fields will be stocked. All hunters are welcome.
 - ◆ All hunters must check in before hunting.
 - ◆ Hunting starts at 8:00 a.m.
16. Pheasant harvest record weekday sign-in book is located inside the Clubhouse at the bar entrance.
17. No hunting on Wednesday until 10:00 a.m. on any Club-owned or Club-leased property, except by allowed Wednesday morning hunters and Turkey and deer hunters.
18. Observe Red Zone signs without exception.
19. This year Arm Bands are mandatory, must be purchased before hunting, and must be worn when hunting deer, turkey, waterfowl, pheasant, and upland small game on Club-owned and Club-leased property. Exception arm band may be removed while hunting turkey or archery deer, while the hunter is in a stationary blind or ground stand.

Deer, Turkey, & Waterfowl Hunting 2006

This year (2006) your Club will have spring and fall turkey, waterfowl, small game, and deer hunting on Club Leased property. All seasons and bag limits are in accordance with CT State laws and regulations.

For instance, if you wish to hunt goose on Club-owned or Club-leased land, you must use steel or bismuth shot only. Lead shot is illegal on waterfowl. Thus, if you are caught with lead shot on your person while goose hunting, you will be subject to DEP rulings and may face fines or worse punishment.

All applicants must be members in good standing with all fees paid and work requirements completed by **September 30th**.

Waterfowl/goose hunting is open to all members & their spouses. There will be no permanent blinds or dug pits allowed. At least 400 square inches of hunter orange must be worn above the waist and visible from all sides while walking to and from your hunting area.

Spring and fall turkey hunting will be open to all members. At least 400 square inches of hunter orange must be worn above the waist and visible from all sides while walking to and from your hunting area.

Fall deer hunting by archery, shotgun only, and muzzleloader will be open to all

members. At least 400 square inches of hunter orange must be worn above the waist and be visible from all sides at all times while hunting during the shotgun only and muzzleloader deer seasons.

In order to fairly distribute the required permits for turkey and deer hunting, members had to complete the application form and return it to the Club no later than **March 31, 2006**—in care of Hunting Committee.

A lottery system by hunting area and species may be necessary, depending on the volume of hunting application forms received from members.

Permits were available for pick up at the Club on or after **April 21, 2005**.

Anyone who joined the Club after March 31, 2006 and who has completed their work hours or paid fees for non-completed work hours and wants to obtain a permit to hunt deer and turkey this fall season must complete the 2006 Application to Hunt Turkey & Deer form which is available at the Club-house Bar. Then, they should contact Don Bajger, Hunt Committee Chairperson to obtain land owner consent forms for Club-owned and Club-leased properties.

Call Don Bajger at 860-423-6693.

"Hunting on Club-Owned or Club-Leased land is a great benefit for members of the Fin. Do your part to help keep hunting safe. Also, always show respect for the landowner, the land, and the wildlife. "Fair Chase" is a treasured principle of the American hunting tradition. Hunting is not only a favorite pastime, it is a national treasure that could be lost due to the selfish, careless and negligent behavior of just a few."

"All members who plan to hunt pheasants must follow these rules. Also, be sure to bring your arm band and wear it in the field."

FFF Hunter Safety Class a Great Success

On September 18, 20, 22, and 23 the Fin's CE/FS Hunter Safety instructors provided their annual fall hunter safety course at the Clubhouse. The room was literally full of people. There were 33 individuals who registered for the course and many of these brought friends or family members with them. The ages of participants ranged from 11 (turning 12) all the way up to folks well into their 50s. Many of the older students had hunted in the past, but let their license expire and took the class to get back into the sport. The younger students (those under 18) easily made up nearly half the class, with many of them in the 11 to 15 year old range. There were several ladies in the class and the females were well represented in the younger set, also.

It is very encouraging to see the relatively large number of people from all age groups and including women and men who choose to take our hunter safety course in the spring and in the fall. In the least, they receive a great introduction to firearms safety, CT and New England wildlife, personal safety and first aid, hunting techniques and equipment, and hunting rules and regulations. The impression one gets, however, in watching these courses at the Fin is that the instructors enjoy teaching the classes and the students genuinely appreciate the lively and highly informative class.

Thanksgiving Day November 23, 2006

Places for Group A, Group B, and Wednesday hunters will be determined prior to signing up on Thanksgiving morning.

Saturday Hunting Group

The hunting time for the starting group is 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The second group will start at 10:30 a.m. and hunt until 1:00 p.m.
All hunters may hunt after 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday Hunting Group

The hunting time for this group is from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.
All hunters may hunt after 10:00 a.m.

Pheasant Hunting Dates

If you checked hunting group A or B on Saturday, your starting schedule is as follows:

Date—Starting Group

October 21, A
October 28, B
November 4, A
November 11, B
November 18, A
November 25, B
December 2, A
December 9, B

If you checked hunting group Wednesday, your starting schedule is as follows:

Date—Starting Group

October 25
November 1
November 8
November 15
November 22
November 29
December 6

"Early in December will be the last regular pheasant stocking for the 2006 season. The date depends on the amount of birds remaining. We will not stock the leased property after that date (Bass Farm). We will stock Club-owned land (Club grounds & Pig Farm) every Saturday & Wednesday) until we run out of birds. All hunting groups will follow the same rotation and starting times as we have done previously. Also, the daily bag limit will be reduced to 1 bird per hunter in the late season."

Thank you,

Don Bajger

Hunt Committee Chair

Ducks Unlimited 2006 Photo Display



Another DU Photo



This issue of the *R&GG* is dedicated affectionately to the many members who expressed their enduring support for the editor when the Board removed the June 2006 editorial, "FFF Pheasant Blasting Contest?" from the online version of the *R&GG*. The high value you place on editorial opinion and open discourse, and your thoughtfulness, are priceless virtues. The *R&GG* will continue to provide everyone with insightful writing, timely publishing, and rightful exercise of publishing policies intended to entertain and also inform all of our members. Get the paper copy—it won't disappear.

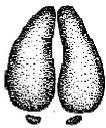
"Carpe diem!"

Thank you all very much for your encouragement,

Editor

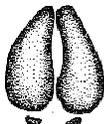
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2006 DU Shooters



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Gun Control - The Choice of Criminals

From these photos it is clear that the folks who competed in the 2006 DU event had a great time!



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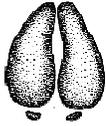
Want to make friends?

Want to wish somebody special a happy birthday?

More 2006 DU Shooters

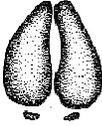


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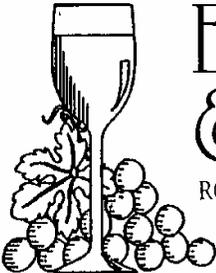


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Fin Fur & Feather Club, Inc.

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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.



U.S. Constitution

Bill of Rights Amendment 2

**“A well regulated militia,
being necessary to the security
of a free State, the right of
the people to keep and bear
Arms, shall not be infringed.”**

**In God we
trust....**

**With
liberty and
justice for
all**

Bring on justice!

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Don Bajger, Vice-President	860-423-6693
Dick Palmer, Secretary	860-487-0388
Tom Hoagland, Treasurer	860-455-0641

Executive Committee

Jim Gifford	860-455-2034
Jon Guarino	860-428-2873
Bob Hruskocyc	860-569-1592
Ron Mott	860-450-0724
John Pawelec	860-429-7033
Joe Pirolo	860-742-5003
Mike Sobol	860-742-8575
Paul Sobol	860-228-0725
Rick Turcotte	860-742-6353
Bob Theriault	860-456-3431
Keith Morehouse (Alternate)	860-547-1333

Committee Chairpersons

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Bar: Steve Davis	860-558-1890
Black Powder: Charles Bruckerhoff	860-455-1229
Building/Grounds: Arni Postemski	860-
John Postemski	860-423-9396
By-Laws Review:	
Mary Goss	860-423-3211
Glenn Heinonen	860-423-8144
Bob Theriault	860-456-3431
Children's Fund: John & Laura Pawelec	860-429-7033
Family Picnic: Bob Theriault	860-456-3431
Field Trials: Greg Tremper	860-537-3807
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James Northrop	860-642-6802
Ken Shane	860-456-8315
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Let us never forget the men and women who today proudly serve this great country, the United States of America, and all who have done so before them. In our times, these brave soldiers continue to place their lives on the line especially in Afghanistan and Iraq, so that the freedoms we enjoy at home are not diminished, and so that the American ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness prevail. Freedom from tyranny is our gift to the world and as anyone knows who has served particularly in wartime, it comes with a high price tag: courage and at times self-sacrifice. We will measure up to our ancestors and we will not let down our children and grandchildren. Do your part. --Editor

