



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 10: ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2008

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Donald A. Bajger, The Iceman

Not a lot to report for this newsletter. Summer sped by and the club capped it off with another fine Family Picnic. Many thanks to Bob and Kevin Theriault for providing leadership in that event. We will be preparing the clubhouse to receive a new walk-in cooler for the bar and so you will notice some construction with that in the near future. The hunting seasons are upon us and our pheasant program will begin paying dividends for hunters and their dogs. Don't forget to get your work hours in before year's end! Good luck this fall and be safe.



September 27	Connecticut Trapper's Convention
September 27	Bullhead Fishing Tournament
September 28	Sporting Clays Shoot
September 28	Pheasant Fun Trial
October 5	Pheasant Fun Trial
October 11	Youth Waterfowl Hunt
October 12	Pheasant Fun Trial
October 18	Pumpkin Party Pot Luck

MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hurskocy, Membership

The 2009 invoices will be mailed out in late November or early December. If you get billed inadvertently for work hours, please indicate the club function(s) or event(s) that you helped out with. If you want to pay your dues before then, you can do so in person at the clubhouse. We now accept credit cards!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Please note that the deadlines for material to be submitted for the next newsletters will be December 10th and March 10th. Be sure to record your upcoming events on the bar calendar as far in advance as possible. The events listed on page 1 of our quarterly newsletter are taken directly from that calendar. Thank you very much for any and all written submissions and photographs.

NOMINATIONS

At the September membership meeting, the following slate for Executive Officers was approved: President, Donald Bajger; Vice-President, Bob Hruskocy; Secretary, Dick Palmer; Treasurer, Tom Hoagland.

The By-Laws state that the Board of Directors is comprised of the past-president and 6 members. In addition, a maximum of 2 alternate directors can also be approved by vote of the membership. Steve Davis, past president, has indicated that he would prefer not to serve on the Board again this year and so a substitute is needed for him. The following 9 individuals have agreed to serve on the Board of Directors: Patrick Enright, David Fromerth, Jim Gifford, Rosalie Gifford, Keith Moorehouse, Tom O'Neill, John Postemski, Larry Schewokis and Bill Spears. The seven of these individuals that receive the greatest number of votes at the October membership meeting will comprise the Board of Directors, and the remaining 2 individuals will serve as Alternates.

Thanks to Peter Rich and the nominating committee for their efforts.

BAJGER NOMINATED FOR MERITORIOUS LIFE MEMBERSHIP

At the September membership meeting, Tom O'Neill nominated Donald Bajger for Meritorious Life Membership based on his more than 20 years of outstanding leadership and service to the club. As per the By-Laws, the membership will vote on the nomination at the October membership meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Hoagland, Treasurer

I am pleased to have been nominated as the FFF Treasurer for another year. While the position is time-consuming, it is also very rewarding. It's fun to know what is going on in the club and I enjoy helping it move forward. This is the last month of our club's fiscal year and we will soon know our financial standing for the year just past. Our accountant reviews all of our expenses and income for the year and organizes it in a manner that is appropriate for reporting purposes; we will not know our tax commitment for a couple of months yet. I can safely say that our club is doing well and is involved with many events. I do expect that we will feel some effects of the depressed economy. In recent months, we have observed that fewer people have shot skeet and trap, and less money has been spent at the bar. Thus, I encourage all of you to run an event to help our club earn some funds for sustaining our mutual interests in outdoor sports.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Nominations	Page 2
Life Membership Nomitaion	Page 2
Treasurer's Report	Page 2
Fly Pond Maintenance	Page 2
The Great Pumpkin Challenge	Page 3
Annual Picnic	Page 3
Dessert Bake Off Winner	Page 3
Trap	Page 4
Sporting Clays	Page 4
Northeast Open Skeet Shoot	Page 5
Pheasant Fun Trials	Page 5
Armbands 2008	Page 5
Five Stand	Page 5
Juniors Activities	Page 6
Photos: Pheasant Blinders Day	Page 7
Member Listings	Page 8



FLY POND MAINTENANCE

Please note that the fly pond will be drained again this fall. We anticipate that this will occur mid-October.

EVENTS

THE GREAT PUMPKIN CHALLENGE

Nancy Davidson

We are getting ready to bring them in. Twenty-five people signed out seeds for the "Main Event" and many others for the Open class. On October 18th we will have official judging of the entries at the FFF clubhouse. A pot luck dinner will follow. Show us what you've got; big, little, pretty and sad. We want to see you and your pumpkin there!

ANNUAL FIN, FUR AND FEATHER FAMILY PICNIC

The annual family picnic was a smashing success and I would like to thank everyone who helped with its organization and implementation. We had a great day weather-wise and a total of 547 adults and children participated in the event.

In addition, the picnic realized a net income of just over \$3,000 and yielded 281 work hours. Thanks to everyone that worked the raffles and who bought tickets, and especially to Kevin and Bob Theriault.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Nancy Davidson.

Congratulations go out to this year's Dessert Bakeoff Winner, Marie Bajger! Marie's winning entry was a Chocolate Lovers Cookie Tray. Second place was earned by Chrissy Krukoo for Chocolate Peanut Butter Cups, and third place honors went to Brenda Liappes for her Triple Threat Brownie Tray. Many thanks to everyone that submitted the great-looking and great-tasting desserts.

PLEASE...

TAKE THE EMPTY BOXES TO THE BURN BARREL.

DO NOT LEAVE THEM INSIDE THE SKEET HOUSES!



PICK UP YOUR HULLS AFTER YOU ARE DONE SHOOTING! IT IS NOT UP TO THE NEXT PERSON TO CLEAN UP YOUR MESS!

HELP KEEP YOUR CLUB CLEAN.



OUT IN THE FIELD

TRAP

Bob "Moon" Hruskocy, Trap Chairman

On July 27th the club held a registered trap shoot. Unfortunately, it poured rain in the early morning and this likely kept a few shooters from showing up. However, 26 brave souls that did show up for the event including several new shooters. They were quite impressed with the FFF grounds and facilities. After all expenses were paid, the club managed a profit of \$627.00. I would like to thank the following people for showing up and helping out with the event. It is most appreciated. Ed Polwitzer, David Lee Volz, Dan Gutt, Hans Hoffman, Ed Prest, Bob Owens, Bill O'Hara, Kevin Roy, Scott Rupp, John Holmy, Tony Kubasek, Fred Drasch, Mike Ford, Ron Cloutier, Connie & Frank Mauri. Also, appreciation is expressed to The Hartford Gun Club and Andover Sportsman Club for the use of some of their equipment, and to non-members Kevin Cloutier, Mario Fasano and Phil Syvestro for their help in squadding and cashiering. Without the help of all the above individuals, the shoot would not have been possible. If I failed to mention someone, I apologize. It was not intentional. Once again thank to everyone for their help. See ya next year !

SPORTING CLAYS

Dick Palmer, Nancy and Jim Davidson.

I hope that everyone enjoyed this season of Sporting Clays. Jim and Nancy Davidson turned over the reins to me after having established and kept the program going for fifteen years. It's without doubt a big pair of shoes for me to fill. I really want everyone who was able to help out in the past to continue; this program is only as good as the members who step up and help. Thanks to everyone that assisted me and the club in our shoots (DU, and league events) and for ensuring their success. This was the first year that sporting clays was included in the Club's Shotgun Championship! Our final shoot is September 28th and it may be occurring as you read this newsletter! We will need help to man the traps and assist with general responsibilities.

Following the season's completion, we will have a work party to remove the traps and fences for the winter. I anticipate that this will take place on the morning of October 4th beginning at 9am with the rain date the next day. Please set aside a couple of hours to help bring in the equipment so that it can be properly stored for use again next year. I am always looking for ideas to enhance this program and so please feel free to communicate your suggestions to me.

Once again, I want to thank Jim and Nancy for what they established and built for Sporting Clays at the Fin Fur Feather Club; I look forward to their continued advice and involvement for maintaining this exciting sport. See you on the course, keep breaking those birds.





NORTHEAST OPEN SKEET SHOOT

Frank Mauri

The Fin will host the 2009 Zone 1 registered shoot and the 2009 Connecticut State Skeet shoot. Last year, these two events garnered us more than \$10,000 not including income from the bar and field kitchen. We need to prepare now for these 2009 events and some of this preparation should involve a club-wide attempt to increase the participation of members in the shoots this year so they will be prepared to compete in 2009.

PHEASANT FUN TRIALS

If you would like to work your dogs and get tuned up for the fall hunting season, the Pheasant Fun Trials can provide you with a great opportunity. The remaining dates are September 28th, and October 5th and 12th. The Trials begin at 9:00 a.m. at the dog training area behind the pig barn across from the Club driveway.

ARMBANDS 2008

Donald A. Bajger, Hunting Committee Chairman

Armbands are mandatory for all members hunting club-owned and club-leased property. This will include Deer, Turkey, Waterfowl, Pheasant and Upland Small Game.

Written consent forms will only be issued to members in good standing who have purchased an armband for the 2008 calendar year. Armbands and consent forms will be available for pick-up at the same time. When you purchase your 2008 armband at the clubhouse, just tell the bartender which group you wish to hunt with (Group A, B, or Wed.) and he/she will issue the armband and assign you to the specific group. The cost for a 2008 armband is \$10 and may only be purchased at the bar during regular bar hours from April through December 2008. Please note that the rules/regulations for hunting on club-owned and club-leased property are at the bar. This year we have added the option of crossbow hunting for disabled hunters as per Connecticut hunting regulations.



FIVE-STAND

Jim and Nancy Davidson.

Five-stand has been running well this summer. It's great to see all of the regulars and we are really pleased with the number of new faces that have been appearing to try out the great fun which five-stand offers. If you'd like to see why this is such an enjoyable challenge, grab 30 shells and your favorite shotgun and walk down to the far end of the skeet fields. We have new shooters all of the time and we welcome the opportunity to coach you through the activity.

JUNIORS ACTIVITIES



Patrick Enright

This summer has been a good one for me. There was a lot of work done around my house and a short family vacation to the Cape. I spent time with my nephew who came up from Florida, and I spent a lot of time with my new labrador retriever 'Jet'. Many things made my summer a pleasant one. Amongst those was the time I spent shooting the Summer Trap League with four Jr. members of our club. These four young men, who were all new to shooting shotgun, conducted themselves perfectly during our time together. I'm obviously not talking perfect scores – how many of us get those? I'm talking about good manners, an enthusiasm to learn, safe and courteous gun handling, never a bad word, picking up when we were done, and helping load the trap house with more targets than we shot. They set a great example for all of us. For the record, these four youngsters are to be congratulated for completing the league. More importantly, they are to be congratulated for conducting themselves as sportsmen at all times. "Nice job guys, I'll shoot with you any time."

This fall, in place of the youth pheasant hunt that has been conducted over the past several years, I will be attempting to coordinate a youth waterfowl hunt on October 11th. This will be a field goose hunt at the Bass Farm and details are posted on the bulletin board in the club house. Junior members have many opportunities for being exposed to pheasant hunting through our club's pheasant fun trials. Also, there are several other clubs conducting Jr. Pheasant Hunts that are open to the public this year.

Trophy plaques were recently awarded to participants in the summer trap league 'Juniors Division'. Pictured left to right are: Jake Jutras, Mitch Vildavs, Shane Enright, and Nate Holmy.

However, few kids get the chance at a goose hunt if their parent is not a waterfowl hunter. I am hoping to create a new opportunity by doing the waterfowl hunt for our Jr. Members. A hunt like this is obviously dependent on volunteers willing to act as guides for the youth. If you are a goose hunter and can act as a guide for a youth member on October 11th please contact me ASAP. I would hate to turn down a future waterfowler because there was no one to show him or her the way.

Many of us will soon become busy with the season we wait all year for. Make a renewed effort to take a young person outdoors this year. If you regularly take out your son or daughter have them invite a friend when practical. The kids you do or do not take the time to expose to the outdoors today will be the ones who decide your hunting and second amendment rights in the very near future.

In closing, I am always looking for new ways to get the kids involved in fishing, hunting and the shooting sports. There are a number of members new and old who have expressed interest in the youth programs. Please call or email me with your ideas and let's get some new programs started. Help me 'pass it on'

PHEASANT BLINDERS DAY!



Mascaro Electric LLC
860-537-0862

Fully Insured

Ct. Lic. 183512



All Your Electrical Needs

New Construction • Remodeling

Pools • Spas • Sheds

Telecommunications Cabling

Peter D. Mascaro Jr.

Check out why

Upland Feathers.com

is the blog for upland hunters

UplandFeathers.com - from Swamp Yankee Media



**BOB'S LAWN
&
YARD SERVICE**



Snow Plowing - Mowing - Spring & Fall Cleanup
Bark - Woodchips - Stone
Screened Topsoil



Robert Theriault, Owner
419 Back Road
No. Windham, Ct 06256



John Mathewson

**STUMP
GRINDING**

HOME
860-974-2775

CELL
860-933-6686

Brooklyn Trading Post & Academy
106 Tripp Hollow Road, Brooklyn, CT 06234
860-774-SHOT (7468)



Got Deer Gear?

✓ Rifles ✓ Slug guns ✓ Muzzleloaders ✓ Archery
✓ Calls ✓ Scents ✓ Tree Stands ✓ Ammo



Get the stuff you need
and the service you deserve!



FIN, FUR AND FEATHER CLUB, INC

Post Office Box 81
 Chewink Road
 North Windham, CT 06056
 860-455-9516
www.finfurfeatherclub.com

PRSRT STD
 AUTO
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 NORTH WINDHAM, CT 06256
 PERMIT NO. 3

***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

Don Bajger, President	860-423-6693
Bob Hruskocy, Vice-President	860-569-1592
Dick Palmer, Secretary	860-487-0388
Tom Hoagland, Treasurer	860-455-0641

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Steven Davis (past-president)	860-558-1890
David Fromerth	860-742-6749
Jim Gifford	860-455-2034
Keith Morehouse	860-647-1333
Tom O'Neill	
John Postemski	860-423-9396
Mike Sobol Jr. (alternate)	860-918-0415
Bill Spears	860-822-6567

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

ARCHERY AVAILABLE

Your # here

BAR

Steve Davis 860-558-1890

PERMITTEE

Brenda Liappes 860-455-0521

BLACK POWDER

Charles Bruckerhoff 860-455-1229

BUILDING/GROUNDS AVAILABLE

Your # here

CHILDREN'S FUND

John & Laura Pawelec 860-429-7033

FAMILY PICNIC

Bob Theriault 860-456-3431

FIELD TRIALS

Ralph Fonda 203-393-8922

FISHING

Jon Guarino 860-428-2873

HEALTH/WELFARE

Dick Palmer 860-487-0388

HUNTING

Don Bajger 860-423-6693

INSURANCE REVIEW

Eugene Lewis 860-423-3341

JUNIOR PROGRAMS

Pat Enright 860-429-0172

Kevin Segar 860-429-4925

Arnie Postemski 860-423-4637

KITCHEN AVAILABLE

Your # here

MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hruskocy 860-569-1592

MERCHANDISE

Brenda Liappes 860-455-0521

NEWSLETTER

Cameron Faustman 860-423-9101

PHEASANTS

Paul Cardinal 860-455-0255

Donald Bajger 860-423-6693

PISTOL

Fred Vernic 203-437-1264

RIFLE

Peter Mathewson 860-456-8588

SHOTGUN

Larry Schewokis 860-423-8563

SKEET

Frank Mauri 860-974-1425

SPORTING CLAYS

Dick Palmer 860-487-0388

TRAP

Bob Hruskocy 860-569-1592