



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 11: ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2009

THE PRESIDENT'S SPOT



Many thanks to Donald Bajger for his many efforts and accomplishments as President! And welcome to Larry Shewokis.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept 26 Connecticut Trappers Convention
- Sept 27 Club Shotgun Championships
- Oct 3 PRLRC Dog Trials
- Oct 9 3rd Annual Great Pumpkin Challenge Pot Luck Dinner

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Hoagland, Treasurer

The last month of the Fin's fiscal year is upon us. This means we will have a yearly report next month that will reveal how we ended the year. Inventory purchased can make the year-end result quite confusing and misleading. This month (September) we purchased \$11,000.00 worth of targets. That means we will account for targets in September that will be used and make a profit for us in the next year; that is, expenses for this inventory will be charged in last year. Thus, the Fin should consider that \$11,000.00 is added to the year-end as income as the value of the targets will be credited to next year. It is one of those funny things that accountants recognize but take for granted. Also, various other corrections will be made to our books by our accountant (Mike Pallien). As you read the report that I will make next month, remember that there will be lots of adjustments and corrections made prior to the actual submission of our tax return.

I urge any members that have a money-making idea to please come to the board and present it to us.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Cameron Faustman, Newsletter Editor

Please note that the deadline for material to be submitted for the next newsletter will be December 15th. 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. Written submissions and photographs can be dropped off at the Bar and added to my folder.

ARMBANDS 2009

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 2009 calendar year. Armbands and consent forms will be available for pick-up at the same time. When you purchase your 2009 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 2009 armband is \$10 and may only be purchased at the bar during regular bar hours from April through December 2009.

Please note that the rules/regulations for hunting on club-owned and club-leased property are at the bar. Crossbow hunting for disabled hunters will be allowed as per Connecticut hunting regulations.

MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hruskocy, Membership

The 2010 invoices will be mailed out in late November or early December. Please update any information in order to keep our records accurate. If you get billed inadvertently for work hours that you feel you earned, 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. Remember, we now accept credit cards. Make sure your name or membership number gets printed on the receipt.

At a recent Membership meeting it was suggested that we add the club's membership information to our website. The information would include the member's name, email address and phone number. Since our site is now password-protected, this information would not be available to the general public. If you do not want your information posted to the website, please let me know. Any questions, regarding this suggestion, please contact me.

The club currently has 386 Regular, 82 Associate, 29 Junior and 114 Life members.



CONNECT WITH FELLOW FFF MEMBERS

Check it out!

We now have a "forum section" on the website.



OUT IN THE FIELD

SPORTING CLAYS

Dick Palmer

Well folks, our shoot will have come and gone by the time that you read this newsletter. Our last shoot was the 13th and I want to thank all of our Club members who helped make this season a big success. Without active participation by Club members, this program would not work; I will acknowledge the hardworking folks that made Sporting Clays possible in the December newsletter. One big plus this year was that the Club's new machine provided an extra target presentation and skill level. I am already looking at next year's dates and anticipating our Club's efforts in providing the best in Sporting Clays. Truly folks, thank you very much for your time in presenting this fun program at the Fin Fur & Feather Club.

A big Thank You to all Club members who helped trap during the 5 Sporting Clays Shoots, and the special Ducks Unlimited event. We had over 65 members participate throughout the summer. Without your help this program would not function. I couldn't name everyone as I know I would miss someone, we had a lot of members working multiple shoots.

I do want to mention the members of my staff who worked with me prior to the shoots with setting up the course for every shoot, and who worked with the trappers during each shoot, Dave Fromerth, Matt Halloran, Bruce Macaro, Jim Skoglund, Tom Skoglund, and especially Joe Pirolo who handled the registrations. Thanks again everyone, in you all in 2010. As before, "Keep breaking those targets".



TRAP

Bob "Moon" Hruskocy

The FFF held a registered Trap shoot on July 26th. Unfortunately for the second year in a row, the weather did not cooperate. It was raining in the early am, and many shooters chose to stay dry at home. However, there were 17 brave souls that attended the shoot. All of the guests were impressed with the club's facilities and indicated they would be back again next year. Even with a light turnout, the club managed to make a profit of \$350. I would like to thank the following members for helping out with the shoot: Bob Cooper, Marshall Lussen, Jim Browne, Ed Prest, Nick Perry, Mike Ford, John Mcguire, Dan Gutt, Bob Frankland, Gary Palmer, Dave Dagon, Win Danielson, and John Grady. Without their help, the event would not have been possible. A special thank you to Connie Mauri for helping out with the field kitchen; we received several compliments on the quality of food from the shooters. If I forgot to mention someone, I apologize, it was not intentional. We are planning on possibly hosting 2 shoots next year and hopefully the weather will cooperate !

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 13th, 20th, and 27th; and October 4th and 11th . The event begins at 9:00 am on all dates.

WATERFOWL HUNTING 2009

Donald A. Bajger, *Hunting Chairman*

Waterfowl hunting is allowed on club-leased property. In addition to club rules, all state and federal hunting regulations and bag limits must be observed. Please note that there are special regulations that apply on Saturdays and Wednesdays. During the upland bird (pheasant) season waterfowl hunting on Saturdays is not allowed before 1:00 p.m. and on Wednesdays not before 10:00 a.m. There are no permanent blinds or dug pits on club-leased land. The hunting committee will post a notice when goose hunting will be allowed on Saturday and Wednesday mornings; this usually occurs towards the end of November as pheasant stockings have finished up by this time.

PHEASANT HUNTING 2009

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

October 17, A

October 24, B

October 31, A

November 7, B

November 14, A

November 21, B

November 28, A

December 5, B

December 12, A

December 19, B

December 26, A

January 2, B

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

October 21

October 28

November 4

November 11

November 18

November 25

December 2

December 9

December 16

December 23

December 30

GOT ARCHERY?

At one time the Fin, Fur and Feather Club had an active 3D-archery group that sponsored shoots on our property and traveled elsewhere to compete. Jim Michaud has expressed potential interest in trying to re-invigorate the archery presence of our club but he needs some sense of member buy-in. If you would like to see a more active archery presence at the Fin, please contact Jim and let him know that you would help him return this great sport to our repertoire. Jim can be reached at 860-871-9179 or james.e.michaud@comcast.net.

ENJOY BREAKFAST AT THE HUNT!

The Clubhouse Kitchen will be open for breakfast on Saturdays starting October 17th at 7:00 a.m. during hunting season. This requires a lot of voluntary work and preparation, please support your kitchen and fellow member volunteers.



On Sunday, July 11, 2009 shooters competed in the annual Fin Open. We had two events, the 12 Ga. and the 20 Ga. Sixteen shooters competed and when all had shot Charlie LaPointe had the only 100 and was the Gun Champ. Frank Lucibella had a fine 99 and was runner-up. Larry Shewokis from the Fin shot a 98 and that was good enough for a first place finish in Class A. We had many shooters from Rhode Island and from the Hamden Gun Club. They did quite well and we are always grateful for their participation in our shoots.

The 20 Ga. event had 17 shooters and when targets were shot Charlie LaPointe had the high score of 99 and was the Gun Champ. Charlie had a fine day shooting a combined total of 199/200. He was also the High Over-All champion. Paul Brulotte's 98 was good for gun runner-up after beating Bill Connell who also had posted a 98. Bill settled for AA1; he is the cousin of our own, famous Charles Connell Jr.

Many Fin members assisted the shoot as referees, target loaders, general cleanup personnel and in the field kitchen. Thanks to all for their efforts. Their hard work resulted in all shooters being very pleased with the event and our Club, and they noted that this shoot was the most fun of all shoots this year.

THE CONNECTICUT STATE SKEET CHAMPIONSHIP

Frank Mauri

The CT Skeet championships were held at the Fin over the Labor Day weekend. Five events commenced with Doubles on Friday afternoon. Saturday saw the 12 and 20 Ga. competitions followed on Sunday by the 28 Ga. and 410 bore events. On Friday night the Fin hosted a cocktail party with assorted finger foods, and on Saturday a porterhouse steak dinner was enjoyed by the shooters and guests followed by the awarding of pins for the events already held and the naming of the state skeet team members in all 5 events.

The Doubles competition was nearly an "All Fin" event. Steve Krukoff was the champion with 100/100, while Andre St. George's 99 was good for runner-up. A fine shoot-off allowed John Mathewson's 98 to land him the AA1 after beating Willie Clark who also had a 98. David Held was AA3 with a 97. Ted Naumec shot an 89 and took C1 while Ethel Murdoch was C3 with an 82.

On Saturday morning Steve Krukoff settled for AAA1 with a 99 in the 12 Ga shoot. Willie Clark and Bob DeFrancesco each scored 100 and in the shoot-off Willie bested Bob and was the 12 Ga. champ with Bob finishing as runner-up. Other Fin shooters who did well were Andre St. George (98, AAA2 honors), David Held (99, AA3), and John Mathewson (99, B1). There were many shoot-offs before all placings were decided and together they required more than 1.5 hours.

The 20 Ga. event was shot on Saturday afternoon. Steve Krukoff outlasted a field of 6, all of whom had 100/100 to become the State's 20 Ga. champion. John Mathewson's 98 earned him the AA2 title, Larry Shewokis was A2 with a 99.

At Sunday morning's 28 Ga. Competition, Steve Krukoff's 100/100 bested Bob DeFrancesco and Tom Fisher, both of whom also had 100s, in a shoot-off to become the 28 Ga. champion. Andre St. George's 98 was good for AAA3, Dave Held had a 97 and won AA3, John Mathewson shot a 98 good for A1 while Charles Connell Jr. had a 92 and took B3.



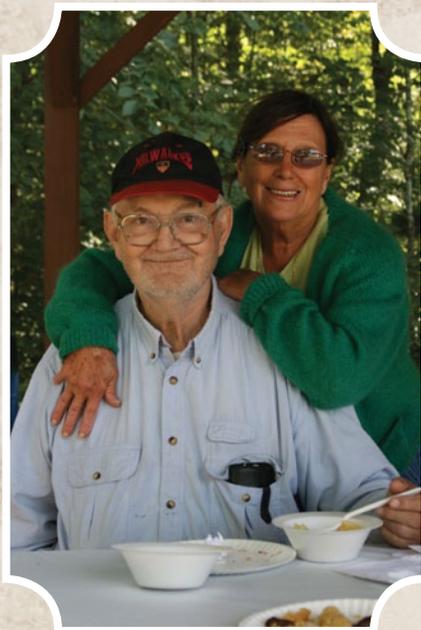
Frank and Connie Mauri at the State Shoot

The final event the .410 championship was held on Sunday afternoon and there were three shooters in a virtual tie for high over-all with nearly perfect scores for the previous three events. Doubles do not count in the HOA competition. The winner of the .410 event was Willie Clark with a 99. Steve Krukoff had a 98 and was the runner-up. David Held won AAA2 with a 97. Larry Shewokis shot a 95 good enough for B1.

The HOA winner was Willie Clark with a 398/400. Steve Krukoff finished with a 397 for AAA1. David Held's 392 won him AA2 with Andre St. George coming in as AA3 with a 388. John Mathewson finished with a 387 good for B1 and Ethel Murdoch won class D1 with a 325.

Steve Krukoff's 100 in doubles finished with a 497/500, a very respectable score! He also took the Doubles, 20 Ga. and 28 Ga. titles.

Many Fin members worked very hard during the 2_ days of this competition. Special thanks go to Marshall Lussen who massaged the target machines until they threw nearly perfect targets. The shooters marveled all weekend over the quality of the targets at which they shot. He was, however, only one of the many who performed their jobs well and made the shoot a complete success. These shoots require many hands to work the trap houses, the fields, the field kitchen (and for this shoot the upper pavilion and the charcoal pit). Without the many volunteers we could not put on these events so a special thanks to all that worked. All of you did a necessary job and each of you contributed to the success of the shoot which reflected very well upon the Fin.



Charlie Hill and Connie Mauri enjoy refreshments at the State Shoot on Labor Day weekend.

2009 FAMILY PICNIC

Kevin Theriault.

Another great Fin, Fur and Feather Club family picnic was had this year. I would like to thank all members and guests that participated and extend special thanks to all of the members who helped organize and implement the event. The club was able to turn a profit on the picnic which is always great. In total, 259 adults, 58 teens, and 38 kids attended this year. The weather was great and so was the food. I look forward to next year's picnic; until then, I hope everyone has a great hunting season.

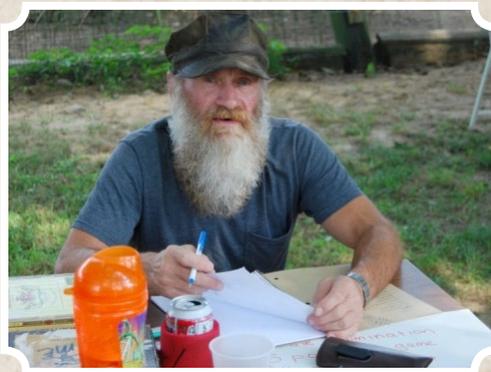
Pictures taken by Dave Fromerth.



Taking a short break from duties at the picnic are Brenda, Nick and Will.



John Postemski and partner show everyone how to do the Polka.



The Annual Horseshoe Tournament, run efficiently by Gary Sheridan was tons of fun as always!



Bobby T. enjoys the afternoon after years of being chairman of the family picnic.



Munch', ready to toss one of many ringers!

RANDOM SHOTS



Photo Courtesy of Rosalie and Jim Gifford

GREAT PUMPKIN FESTIVAL - OCT 9TH 6PM

Nancy Davidson

Time to bring those pumpkins in!
It was a tough growing season this year.
Whether you have a pumpkin or not,
come and join us for a night of fun,
friendly competition and bragging
rights. There are 3 Classes,

- (1) Main event – Our seeds,
- (2) Open event – Any seeds, and
- (3) Carving event – Use any pumpkin –
you did not have to grow it.
Carve it at home & bring it in.

In addition, there are 3 age classes,
Up to 8 yr old, 9-15 yr old, and 16 to adult.
There will be pumpkin painting for kids;
call the clubhouse to sign them up (860.455.9516).
For the pot luck please bring a dish.
Hope to see you there !

FIFTY IN 2010

The Fin, Fur and Feather Club will celebrate its 50th year as a club in Chaplin in 2010. This milestone will require some special celebration. If you would like to help with advance planning, please contact Bob Theriault or any member of the Board.

THANKSGIVING DAY PHEASANT HUNT (NOVEMBER 26, 2009)

All areas will be stocked and open to all hunters starting at 8:00 a.m. We will also be having our Thanksgiving Day Turkey Hunt Raffle. Please support your Pheasant Program by participating.



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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

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Dick Palmer, Secretary 860-487-0388
Tom Hoagland, Treasurer 860-455-0641

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David Fromerth 860-742-6749
Jim Gifford 860-455-2034
Rosalie Gifford (alternate) 860-455-2034
Keith Morehouse 860-647-1333
John Postemski 860-423-9396
Larry Schewokis 860-933-9922
Bill Spears 860-822-6567

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

ARCHERY

Available Your # here

BAR

Don Bajger 860-423-6693

PERMITTEE

Brenda Liappes 860-455-0521

BLACK POWDER

Charles Bruckerhoff 860-455-1229

BUILDING/GROUNDS

Don Bajger 860-423-6693

CHILDREN'S FUND

John & Laura Pawelec 860-429-7033

FAMILY PICNIC

Kevin Theriault 860-429-1792

FIELD TRIALS

Ralph Fonda 203-393-8922

FISHING

Jon Guarino 860-428-2873

FIVE-STAND

Jim Davidson 860-456-8782

HEALTH/WELFARE

Dick Palmer 860-487-0388

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Don Bajger 860-423-6693

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Kevin Segar 860-429-4925
Arnie Postemski 860-423-4637

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Tom Skoglund 860-295-8671

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MERCHANDISE

Brenda Liappes 860-455-0521

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Fred Vernic 203-437-1264

RIFLE

Peter Mathewson 860-456-8588

SHOTGUN

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