



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 12: ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2010



The Fin celebrates the end of summer with the Annual Family Picnic. Highlights on page 6.

FUN at the FIN!

PRESIDENT'S SPOT



Well here we are again, another newsletter and 12 months passed. I will be staying on as President and look forward to another great year.

With the onset of October very near, hunting season is just around the corner. Everyone please have a safe season, and read and abide by the rules. After a morning hunt stop back at the club and enjoy the warmth of the stove, shared stories and a beverage. Winter League is starting October 3rd; good luck and shoot well!

I'll be starting some projects this fall and will be needing help. We will be finishing the woodwork in the bar (see photo of our new display cabinet) and cleaning up by the

burn barrel. Look for dates and times on the website and emails. Last newsletter I tried to thank all of the committees and their helpers. What a great season you guys and gals had, and from what I can see this year is going to be better!!! Thanks again for making **THIS THE GREATEST CLUB IN NEW ENGLAND.** Larry.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- SEPT 25** Connecticut Trapper's Convention
- SEPT 26** Rifle Match
- OCT 3** Pheasant Fun Trial
- OCT 9** Pawcatuck River Labrador Retriever Club Working Certificate Dog Trials
- OCT 10** Pheasant Fun Trial
- OCT 16** Roast Beef Dinner
- OCT 17** 3D Archery Shoot
- OCT 23** Great Pumpkin Festival
- NOV 25** Thanksgiving Day Pheasant Hunt

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Hoagland, Treasurer

Here we are again; time for another newsletter column. Time sure goes by fast. I've been out running my dogs almost every weekend and we've traveled to Albany, Syracuse, Thompson, Nod Brook, Lon Island (Maine) and Vermont. I think that my dogs have seen more of the northeast than most people. I wanted to share with you all of the funds that the Fin has spent on maintenance and remodeling over the past five years.

In 2005/06 we spent \$15,395 which was comprised mostly of renovations to the clubhouse exterior and bar (roof, gutter, etc). In '06-'07 and '07-'08 we spent \$9,000 and \$4,000, respectively, for repairs. In 2008/09 we spent \$13,000 which included the new coolers in the bar, new picnic tables, skeet pavilion and repairs to the skeet houses. This past year we spent \$27,000 and I hope you notice all of the new things. We have a new Five Stand, one of the best in the state. We have new chairs in the bar, new pheasant netting, new beer taps, a terrific merchandise display, two beautiful bathrooms (watch your aim), and partially renovated bar walls (donations still being accepted for more wood). The Fin is doing well financially and we urge everyone to get involved and organize an event to help us earn some money to continue keeping things in solid shape.

MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hruskocy, Membership Chairman

The club's membership remains steady with last year's numbers. Currently, the club has 382 Regular, 113 Associate and 32 Junior members. Last year at this time the club had 383, 88, & 30 individuals in those categories, respectively. There were 65 people who joined the FFF in 2010, approximately half were Associate members. The club still needs members to step up and help out with functions and events. Currently there are 190 regular members who have not fulfilled their work hour commitment. It seems that the same people are always stepping up to help out, we need more members to contribute! The 2011 invoices should be mailed mid-November. If you get billed for work hrs that you believe you did in fact work, please indicate what event you helped out with so I can contact the committee chairman. *Regards, Bob*

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

September member-of-the-month was Mike Sobol Sr.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Cameron Faustman, Newsletter Editor

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

NOMINATIONS

At the September member's meeting, the following slate of officers was presented by the Club's Nominating Committee; there were no nominations from the floor for these positions.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President	Larry Shewokis
Vice-President	Bob "Moon" Hruskocy
Secretary	Dick Palmer
Treasurer	Tom Hoagland

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dave Fromerth	Pat Enright
Matt Halloran	Don Bajger
Keith Morehouse	John Postemski
Shawn Koehler	

RAFFLE TICKETS NOW MANDATORY

At the August Executive Committee (EC) meeting it was decided that the sale of Spring raffle tickets will now be **mandatory** for Regular and Associate members. You will be required to sell/buy \$40.00 worth of tickets (8 tickets at \$5 each). This should generate about \$7,000 in additional income to the club. Last year's raffle brought in close to \$11,000, and based on current membership numbers, we are hopeful to generate approximately \$19,000 in revenue. The EC realizes that some members are experiencing challenging economic times, therefore in lieu of a dues increase, the EC felt this was a better alternative because if you sell your tickets, it need not be an out-of-pocket expense. When you mail or bring in your tickets, make sure you tell the bartender your name for printing information on your receipt. Additional tickets will be available at the bar.

OUT IN THE FIELD



FIVE STAND

The new 5-stand is done and ready for you to try out! Jim Davidson's vision of a new and more flexible 5-stand has come true. He and Nancy contributed hundreds of hours, along with a small team of Fin members, to complete Jim's longtime dream. Come down and give it a try – watch for emails and postings in the bar that will let you know the dates on which 5-stand will operate. In the event that you missed the inaugural shoot on Labor Day, there was a traffic jam of participants that kept targets flying for more than 6 hours!



SPORTING CLAYS

Dick Palmer, 860-933-4768

Members, how the summer flew! I cannot believe that when you read this, the season will be over. I thank everyone who came out this year to help with sporting clays. We had a very good season, a lot of targets were thrown and yes, broken! Without your commitment this program wouldn't work, and I am really thankful for that. A highlight this year was the purchase of an electric trap that provides many challenging options and I'm hopeful that we can continue in this direction. Already for the 2011 season, we have the CWA 100 target event scheduled for June 26th, and are in the process of establishing a date in May for the Ducks Unlimited 100 target event. So, we have a big year already being planned; please begin to plan now to help with these events. I need to thank my faithful staff of Dave Fromerth, Matt Halloran, Jim Skuglund, and Tom Skuglund who contributed mightily and without whom would make my job very difficult. Seems we were out there every week working on the course to make it not only enjoyable for the shooters but interesting as well. Thanks guys. Until the next newsletter, *"Keep breaking those targets"*.



TRAP

Bob "Moon" Hruskocy, Trap Chairman

The second registered trap shoot was held on August 8th. A total of 33 shooters participated in the event and after all expenses were paid, the club netted a profit of \$922.78. The field kitchen did quite well that day as well because registered skeet and sporting clays events were being held as well. There are not many clubs in the State that can hold 3 shooting events at once! I would like to thank the following people for their help in making the shoot a success, Mike Dion, Dan Gutt, Ray Nurme, Nick Perry, Dave Rorior, Alan Cassidy, Tony Kubasek, Gene Plympton, Brian Scussell, Mike Nowosielski, John Miller, Bob Owens, John McGuire, Bob Cooper and special thanks to Mike Ford. If I forgot someone, I apologize. The club netted \$1826.00 for the 2 shoots this year as well as \$600.000 for the use of 2 machines for the Connecticut State shoot.

ARCHERY

We have had three great shoots to date; our fourth will be completed September 19th. The committee hopes that all who came enjoyed themselves. The last shoot for this year will be held October 17th. Help will be needed on this day at 1:30 pm to pick up the targets and store them for the winter. We will also go inspect the targets and determine which ones need replacing. Of those being taken out of commission, any member who may want one will have the ability to participate in an auction. This will be announced via e-mail and photos of the targets will be posted after the last shoot. Some discussion has occurred for doing a "special shoot" during our event to raise extra funds. I would like to discuss this in detail after the October shoot as well. Also, the club and executive board recommended that next year we leave our targets positioned outside and cover them with tarps and bungees; this has the potential to reduce that amount of assistance needed for set-u at each event.

On Sunday, September 26th, I will be attending the annual meeting of all archery clubs east of the river, to set dates for next year. I have requested the tentative dates of Saturday April 16th, Saturday May 7th (Pre Mother's Day – Moms shoot free), Saturday June 18th (Pre Father's Day – Dads get off), Saturday July 23rd, Sunday September 18th, and Sunday October 16th. I will propose starting times of 8:00 am to 1:00 pm with scorecards due in by 3:00 pm. These Saturday dates will not conflict with the sporting clay events, and several members stated that Saturdays were better for them. Initial set up of the field will tentatively be Saturday April 9th, starting at 8:00 am. As with this year's shoot, all scores will be totaled and the top shooter in each class will have their choice to shoot free for the one of our sessions. So the more you shoot the better the chances for a free shoot next year. If you have any questions my cell number is 860-402-4155 and my e-mail addresses are james.e.michaud@comcast.net and jmichaud@sscinc.com.



BOY SCOUTS SAY "THANK YOU"

The Fin, Fur and Feather Club opened their facility to the Boy Scouts of America, Connecticut Rivers Council. Mike Sobol provided leadership in the instruction of trap and skeet for youth participants in the NRA Shooting Sports Section of Adventure Week. The experience provided the scouts with a greater appreciation for the shooting sports.

ARMBANDS 2010

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 2010 calendar year. Armbands and consent forms will be available for pick-up at the same time. When you purchase your 2010 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 2010 armband is \$25 and may only be purchased at the bar during regular bar hours from April through December 2010. 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.

WATERFOWL HUNTING 2010

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 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 19th, 26th and October 2nd and 9th. The event begins at 9:00 am on all dates.

THANKSGIVING DAY PHEASANT HUNT (NOVEMBER 25, 2010)

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.

PHEASANT HUNTING 2010

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 16, A
October 23, B
October 30, A
November 6, B
November 13, A
November 20, B
November 27, A
December 4, B
December 11, A
December 18, 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 20
October 27
November 3
November 10
November 17
November 24
December 1
December 8
December 15
December 22
December 29

FAMILY PICNIC

Kevin Theriault, Chairman, Family Picnic.

The club had another very successful family picnic this year. I would like to first thank all of the members and some non-members who helped make it a success. The committee chairmen cannot do it alone and without your help club functions would not happen. The club made some money, and everyone had fun and all they could eat and drink. Special thanks to Jim and Nancy for the bake-off, Mark, Sasha and Twiggy for the lobster raffle, Frank and Connie for the regular raffle, and Vance for taking on the horse shoe tournament and rebuilding the pits. Three hundred twenty-three people attended the picnic, and 47 different members helped out. I look forward to next year's picnic. Again, **THANKS** to everyone who helped.



SCENES FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



4TH ANNUAL PUMPKIN FEST

Nancy Davidson and the Pumpkin Committee

The Fin, Fur and Feather Great Pumpkin Festival is just around the corner. Mark your calendars for October 23rd at 6:00 pm to bring in your harvest for bragging rights. Thirty-five packets of seeds went out this year for the Main Event and we are looking forward to seeing the results. No pumpkin is too big or too small! The Open class is a category that provides the opportunity to enter any pumpkin that you grew. And even if you did not grow a pumpkin, you can purchase one locally and participate in the carving contest. Our panel of 3 judges will award ribbons. Bring a dish to share at the pot luck dinner – no entry is required for you to participate. Pumpkin painting will be available for the kids; sign them up at the bar. See you on the 23rd.

BAKEOFF NEWS

Nancy and Jim Davidson.

This year's Bakeoff at the Family Picnic had 12 delicious entries. After all of the ticket votes were placed, first place was awarded to Nancy Davidson with her '#10 Apple Pie'! Second place honors went to Carol O'Hara for her 'cookie and bar box', and the third place winner was Brenda Liappes with her 'triple brownie basket'. Many thanks to the bakers who made the Bakeoff possible. This year's \$50 award was donated to the Kid's Christmas Fund. Hope to see you all next year.

ENJOY BREAKFAST AT THE HUNT!

The Clubhouse Kitchen will be open for breakfast on Saturdays starting October 16th 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. Insufficient support will lead to cancellation.

REGISTERED SKEET

Frank Mauri

The Fin held its final registered skeet shoot of the year, the No-Name Open, on August 8th. It was a busy day with concurrent registered Trap and sporting clays events! We had a full house and the shooters enjoyed mixing together. Skeet used fields 1 & 2 while trap used fields 4 through 7. We were able to hold these three events simultaneously and perhaps next year we can add 5-stand since it now has its own dedicated field.

Eighteen shooters participated in the skeet event which was shot with 12 Ga. only. Jacob Mello of Massachusetts came to the club and shot a 99 and in a shoot-off took top honors from Paul Brulotte who also had shot 99. Paul was runner-up. Paul LaChance who likewise scored 99 came in third in the shoot-off and settled for AA1. Our own Larry Shewokis shot a 97 which earned him A1 and Fred Van Patten won B1 with a 95. C1 went to Bill Lamphere; Robert Vece won D1 and Ron Sannicandro, who came here from Scarsdale, New York just to shoot at the Fin, took E1.

We had the usual suspects on hand to help out. Bill Dixon and Mike D'Amato did most of the refereeing with a little help from others. Most of the helpers had already put in more than their 10 required hours but they came out and helped enthusiastically anyway. The field kitchen fed all shooters and workers making for a very busy day.



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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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ARCHERY

Jim Michaud 860-871-9179

BAR

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PERMITTEE

Brenda Liappes 860-455-0521

BLACK POWDER

Charles Bruckerhoff 860-455-1229

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Bob McGoff

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John & Laura Pawelec 860-429-7033

FAMILY PICNIC

Kevin Theriault 860-429-1792

FIELD TRIALS

Tony Kubasek 860-944-6716

FISHING

Marty O'Rourke 860-456-2886

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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Billy Spears 860-822-6567

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Mary Goss 860-423-3211

PRACTICAL PISTOL

John Lonergan 860-643-7453

RIFLE

Peter Mathewson 860-456-8588

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