



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 14: ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2012

“Thanks for the opportunity to serve!”

LARRY SHEWOKIS, PRESIDENT

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR

Fall Brings New Officers.
Cast Your Vote This October!

(see page 3 for the list of nominations)

Summer May Be Over But The Memories Still Remain.

Check out the Fin's
Summer Photo Gallery
on pages 6 and 7.



Brenda Liappes shown here with Dick Palmer put on a great lobster bake July 21st.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

29 Club Shotgun Championship

OCTOBER

6 Connecticut Trapper's Convention
7 Pheasant Fun Trial (CT license needed)
14 3D Archery
14 Pheasant Fun Trial (CT license needed)
20 Great Pumpkin Festival
20-21 Johnny Appleseed Shoot

NOVEMBER

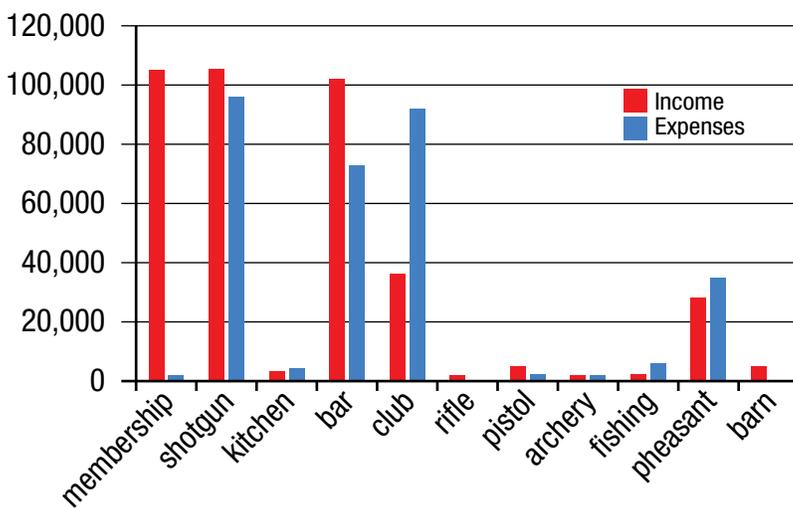
24 Lasagna Dinner

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Hoagland, Treasurer

One more month and we start a new fiscal year and so I thought it was appropriate to categorize some of our expenses and income. In the chart below it is clear that the bar, shotgun sports and membership are our major generators of income. The activities with the biggest expenses are shotgun sports, bar and club. The bar and shotgun sports have brought in more than \$100,000 each, and the people involved in running these activities should get a big pat on the back; thank you guys and gals. As I have written many times, membership, which is dues and assessments, brings in over \$100,000 with very little cost. Thank God as we have big club expenses to pay!

We all should be proud of our club as people (~400) have joined into a functioning unit to create this thing we call "The Fin".



MEMBERSHIP

Bob "Moon" Hruskocy, Membership Chairman

Invoices for 2013 dues will be mailed in early November, however, if you would like to pay your dues early, payment can be made at the bar. Just indicate to the bartender your membership number, and please make sure that your name and membership number are on the receipt. For those that are eligible for Life membership, I will be mailing your Life membership cards in November. Also, work hours need to be completed by September 30th; if you did not fulfill your work hours commitment this year, you cannot hunt until your work hours are paid for. Payment for your work hours can be made at the bar. If you were inadvertently billed for your work hrs, please indicate on the return invoice what function you assisted on. The club's current membership classes are as follow: Regular 372, Associate 157, Life 120, Junior, 43. During 2012 the club gained an additional 80 members.

HELP WANTED — A & B PHEASANT SEASON HUNTERS

*Paul Cardinal
Chairman Pheasant Committee*

Pheasant catchers (minimum of 5) are needed on Fridays starting at 3:45pm. A sure way to earn quick hour; sign up in the bar. We need your help on October 19, 26; November 2, 9,16, 21, 23, 30; December 7, 14 and 21. Pheasant stocking cannot happen without your help. Thank you.

HUNTING NEWS

*Hunting Chairman, Wayne Mather
860-942-3385*

Hunting season will soon be here and I wish everyone a successful season. Hunting properties have been posted and the parking areas marked. Remember that Club-owned property is open to deer hunting by bow only. Any deer or turkey taken on club-owned or club-leased property must be reported to the club within 24 hours. In order to hunt, you must have completed your mandatory 10 hour of work. Portable tree stands must have the owner's name affixed to them and only one stand is allowed per property; they must be removed by the owners at season's end. Be safe and happy hunting.

NEWSLETTER THANKS AND DEADLINE

Cameron Faustman, Newsletter Editor

Many thanks to Dave Fromerth for passing along all of the great photos featured in this issue of the Newsletter. 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.

VENISON WANTED!

Hunters. Please help us secure some venison hindquarters for the mid-winter annual Game Dinner. If you are successful and willing to contribute to the cause, please bring venison to the clubhouse and store in the new freezer. Thanks.

POT LUCK SUPPERS

Approximately once per month, the Fin Fur and Feather Club enjoys a potluck supper at 5:00 pm on a Friday. All members and guests are welcome and the only requirement is that they bring a dish to share. This is a great opportunity for new members to meet others and learn about club activities. Check the bulletin boards for announcements and watch for email notices. For more information, contact Bill O'Hara at [860-872-3558](tel:860-872-3558).

THE GREAT PUMPKIN FESTIVAL!

Nancy Davidson.

October 20th at 6:00 pm is the time to bring those pumpkins in! The Main Event will feature pumpkins grown from our seeds; the Open Event will feature pumpkins grown from any seeds; and a Carving Event will allow you to bring a carved work of art from any source (please carve at home). There will be 3 age divisions, (1) 1-8 yrs, (2) 9-15 yrs, and (3) 16 yrs to adult. The traditional pot luck dinner will take place so please bring a dish. Pumpkins will be available for the kids to paint and other fun activities will be available (water balloon chucking, crafts, cookie decorating and the Great Pumpkin Search). Come join us for some great family fun. Please sign up your children in advance so that we can ensure an adequate pumpkin supply. The sign-up sheet will be in the bar or you can call Nancy at [860-456-8782](tel:860-456-8782). Thanks.

ANNUAL BAKE-OFF AND BIRDHOUSE BUILD-OFF RESULTS

The 6th annual bake-off at the Family Picnic was another great success. Many thanks to the 14 bakers that participated and all of you who bought tickets. Our \$50 winner was Carol O'Hara. Second place was taken by Roberta Cardinal, and third place by Patty St Laurant.

The 1st annual birdhouse buildoff at the family picnic was equally popular this year. Participants blended history, whimsy and character into seven creative entries that led to the event's success. Thanks to builders and ticket purchasers alike. The \$50 winner was Josh Theriault.

SLATE OF OFFICERS

The following nominees will be voted on at the October membership meeting.

President	Dick Palmer
VP	Kevin Theriault
Treasurer	Tom Hoagland
Secretary	Greg Pinto

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(total of 6 with 2 alternates)

Larry Shewokis
(automatic as past-president)
Charlie Bruckerhoff
Pat Enright
Dave Fromerth
Matt Halloran
Shawn Koehler
Will Lucier
Kevin Morehouse
Bill O'Hara
John Postemski

SEPTEMBER MEMBERS-OF-THE-MONTH

Frank and Connie Mauri were selected as the September Members of the Month for their continued support of the club and especially for the shotgun activities that they organized and implemented.

OUT IN THE FIELD



THE 37TH ZONE 1 SKEET CHAMPIONSHIP

Frank Mauri

The Fin, Fur & Feather Club hosted the 37th Annual Zone 1 Skeet Championships August 10th - 12th. We hosted the first ever Zone Championship in 1976. Shooters represented each of the New England states and New York with the majority hailing from Connecticut and Massachusetts. The large turnout of shooters provided a stiff level of competition, and the New England weather provided torrential rains, high temperatures, high humidity, strong and variable winds and very hot, bright sunshine to cap off the HOA shoot-off; snow was the only thing missing.

Fifty-five competitors started in the Doubles event held on day one. David Held posted the only 100 and took the gun championship. Jacob Mello's 99 earned him Runner-up, while Willie Clark's 98 was good for third. Kiana Hainsworth was the Junior Champion with a 92. Class honors went to Mark Vaillancourt (AAA), Michel Estapp (AA), Dan Gebers (A), Joe Barboza (B), Ken Pittman (C) and Ron Sannicandro (D). The scores are all the more remarkable since during this completion torrential rains were falling limiting visibility.

Saturday morning brought the 12 Ga. event with 95 participants; periods of light rain occurred but the fabled Fin wind was absent. Eleven scores of 100 were posted along with many high 90s in the classes. A shoot-off among the 100s resulted in Jacob Mello being declared Champ; Steve Livingston was RU and John Mello earned 3rd. Mark Vaillancourt was AAA1, Thomas Fisher AAA2, and John Dyson AAA3. Andre St. George became AA1 and Craig Espenhain AA2 while Ray Gilberts' 99 garnered him AA3. William LaPointe's 100 resulted in his earning A1 and Dennis Jolley's 100 was good for A2. Susan Cabral was A3 with her 99. A shoot-off of 98s was needed to arrange the order of Class B; Stuart

Gifford was B1, Brett Keightley B2 and Chip Smith B3. The big news of this event was in Class C where Kiana Hainsworth, a new shooter, posted her first ever 100 and earned C1. Geoff Turner was C2 and Chris Bianco C3. Robert Benoit with a 98 was D1, while Dan Krouse was D2 and Doug



Kramer D3. Class E was decided when Norm Slater bested Chet D'Agostino in a shoot-off of 89s for C1 with Chet at C2 while Mike Keech was C3. Kiana Hainsworth was the Jr. Champ.

The 20 Ga. event sported 82 competitors and when it was done nine scores of 100 had been shot. The resulting shoot-off ended with David Held as Champ, Steve Krukoff Runner-up and Josh St. Lawrence 3rd. Mike Estapp was AAA1, Andre St. George, AAA2, and Willie Clark AAA3. Ray Gilbert earned AA1 with Jacob Mello AA2 and Mark Vaillancourt's 99 good for AAA3. Bob Cabral beat John Mathewson in a shoot-off of 99s and Bob was A1 while John took A2 with John Soares A3 (98). Geoff Turner's 100 earned him B1 while Mike Soufrine (99) settled for B2 and Andrew Dutko B3. Chip Smith (98) was C1 and Ken Pittman (94) D1. Kiana Hainsworth (96) was the Jr. Champ and Class C3.

The Saturday awards dinner was followed on Sunday with the 28 Ga. event and decent weather. Eighty-three shooters yielded four perfect scores. The shoot-off resulted in Bob DeFrancesco becoming the 28 Ga. Champ, Jacob Mello earned the RU spot and Josh St. Lawrence was 3rd. John Mello's 100 was good for AAA1 while Mark Vaillancourt (99) was AAA2 and John Dyson (99) was AAA3. Class AA was settled by a shoot-off of 99s with Andre St. George AA1, Steven Baglione, AA2, and David Held, AA3. Brad Collins (99) earned A1 and B1 was won by Charles Connell Jr. (99). Geoff Turner was C1 with a 97 and

Alison Fisher won D1 with her 90. Kiana Hainsworth continued her run of good scores with a 96 and became Jr. Champ.

The .410 event featured bright sun and a breeze to challenge the 80 participants. Mark Vaillancourt posted the only 100 and became the .410 Champ with Andre St. George (99) Runner-up and Steve Krukoff (99) 3rd. Ray Gilbert took AAA1, Jacob Mello, AAA2, and Willie Clark, AAA3. John Dyson was AA1, David Held, AA2, and Bob DeFrancesco, AA3. Darold Tukey, Ted Naumec and John Mathewson finished A1, A2 & A3, respectively. Class B was won by Tom Crane followed by Winfield Danielson (B2) and John Soares (B3). Joe Barboza took C1, Matt Grabski, C2, and Chris Bianco, C3. Bob Benoit was D1 over Francis Smith (D2) and Richard Burke (D3). Matt Grabski was the Jr. Champ.

The High-Over-All Champion was Andre St. George with a phenomenal 398/400. Runner-up was Mark Vaillancourt also with a 398/400 while John Dyson took 3rd honors with a 397/400. Class HOAs were Jacob Mello AAA1 (397/400), John Mello AA1 (397/400), Ted Naumec A1 (388/400), Chip Smith B1 (390/400), Kiana Hainsworth C1 (381/400) and Ken Pittman D1 (351/400). E1 was taken by Patrick Duthely (299/400). Kiana Hainsworth was the Jr. HOA Champ (381/400).

I wish to thank all of the shooters who attended and competed and thus made this Zone a success. I was fortunate to have many great volunteers to perform the multiple tasks that had to be done so that all shooters would have a wonderful experience. To name all would take up too much space and I am afraid I might omit someone, so let me just say thank you to all who helped. Special thanks must, however, go to Kate Altman who cashiered the shoot in her own capable and inimitable manner. Her efforts were essential to the successful outcome of this shoot.

TRAP

Bob "Moon" Hruskocy, Trap Chairman

The 2012 State Trap Shoot was held at the Hartford Gun Club in late June. FFF members Brian Scussel and Dan Gutt represented the Fin quite well. On Friday, preliminary day, Brian won the Class A title with a perfect score of 100. He followed that with a 98 on Sunday in the Handicap event, earning him runner-up honors; a phenomenal accomplishment since he was competing against 200 shooters. In Friday's Handicap event, Dan Gutt tied in his yardage group. He followed that by winning the Class B doubles title on Sunday. Congrats on the great shooting! Also, a special thank you to Bob Cooper for his coaching assistance. Even though Bob has been laid up in Florida due to a motorcycle accident earlier in the Spring, his mentoring and motivation towards us trap shooters is greatly appreciated! Get well soon Bob!

REMINDER: With the weather starting to get a little colder, remember to let the pump in the trap houses warm up a few minutes before shooting. If targets are being released when the "release" switch gets turned on, please shut it off and let the pump continue to warm up. This will prevent wasted targets. Shoot safe!

REGISTERED SKEET – 2012

Frank Mauri

The registered skeet season at the Fin is over. We held three shoots, our own Northeast Open in June, the Zone 1 Championship in early August, and the CT State Shoot over the Labor Day weekend. All three shoots were successful and earned the club not only some much needed revenue but also garnered us some favorable publicity. We are one of four or five large skeet shooting facilities in the New England/New York region capable of hosting the Zone 1 shoot, and we are the largest club in terms of the number of skeet fields in Connecticut. This club can be and should be a major player in American skeet. The Zone shoot brought over 100 shooters to the Fin and the consensus of those who came was that the Fin provided them with a quality shooting experience. It was hectic and crowded here that weekend and then three weeks later with the State shoot we had about half as many shooters again testing our facilities.

The Fin sent many member shooters to the fields and they did very well in garnering medals and honors. Our website lists all winners and Fin shooters who won are marked by a star. Special recognition goes to Andre St. George who was the High-Overall shooter in the Zone 1 championship with a 398/400, and also to Steve Krukoff whose 397/400 was the best in the CT state shoot. Additionally, Andre was inducted into the CT Hall of Fame in recognition of his excellent shooting record over many years, a well-deserved honor. Frank & Connie Mauri were inducted into the Hall of Fame as the John T. Brainard Memorial Award recipients for their many years of service to the skeet game.

A complete report on both the Zone and State shoots can be found on the Fin and CT association – www.ctskeet.com websites. Now to relax a bit, then attend some meetings and prepare for next year. Happy Holidays to all from the skeet shooters of the Fin.

PROJECT APPLESEED MARKSMANSHIP CLINIC

Nancy Davidson.

FIN, FUR & FEATHER CLUB OCTOBER 20-21, 2012

The Fin, Fur & Feather Club in Chaplin will be the site of the "Project Appleseed – 2-Day Marksmanship Clinic" sponsored by the Revolutionary War Veterans Association (a 501(c)(3) organization). Pre-Registration Fees: \$45 for one day or \$70 for both days. Walk-On Fees: \$50 for one day or \$80 for both days. Additional range fee may apply. Women, under 21, or active military shoot for a nominal fee. Range fees apply. Additional details and a registration form are available online in by going to www.appleseedinfo.org/

Contact Fred Vernic 860.942.2151 | fvernic@ctappleseed.com

ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC

Kevin Theriault, Picnic Chairman

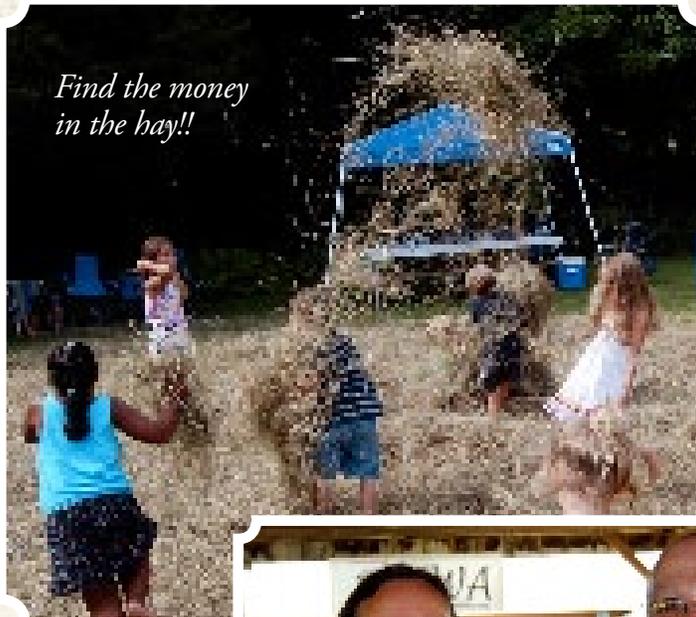
Well another great Family Picnic was hosted at the Fin in August. The food was awesome, the beer was cold, the company was great and the weather was perfect. I would like to thank everyone who helped make this a successful picnic. Without your help this great day could never have taken place. All day I kept getting compliments on a great job. My reply was that I could not have done this without all of the great help. There are too members to list and I'm fearful that I would miss someone. However, you all know who you are. We made over \$2000 for the club and there were 394 people in attendance. I look forward to another great picnic in 2013. Thank you



Three generations of Theriaults ensure the annual Family Picnic's success.



Tables were crowded at the Family Picnic.



Find the money in the hay!!



Nancy Davidson with a trophy for high score at the CWA Sporting Clays event.



Shooting true on the archery course.



Bill O'Hara found a new friend.



Mike Sobol Jr. with trophy for high men's score at the CWA Sporting Clays event.



Pheasant season is ensured by a great crew of workers!



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The Fin Fur Feather Club, Inc is affiliated with the
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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.*

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