



# ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 23 | ISSUE 3 | SEPTEMBER 2023



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Help Teach a New Generation  
About Hunting and Trapping,  
its Honor and its Tradition.

See how on page 4

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Members, Fall is right around the corner. With that comes the many hunting opportunities as the seasons open. I hope all of you get out to enjoy the beautiful outdoors Northeastern CT has to offer. Also with September comes the end of the term for our Board members and Officers. I would like to thank my fellow board members and officers for their dedication and time, as we continue to make the Fin the best club it can possibly be. A lot effort goes into the day to day operations of the club, our members and officers have done a great job this past year. With that, I would also like to thank our chairmen. There were dozens of events put together over the course of the summer. All have been well received and our members have shown up to help out and attend these events. I can't say enough about the support I have seen around the club this past year. Be safe everyone and Good Luck to our Fin Teams in the ECSC Winter League.

David Jones, *President FFF*

# ELECTIONS

Members, please remember that the Annual elections are on Tuesday October 10th at the regular membership meeting. The nominations are closed at the September Membership meeting for the Officer's and Executive Board positions.

Only Regular, Life, and Meritorious Life Members are eligible to vote and **MUST** have their membership cards to receive a ballot. You will be voting for the 4 Officers, and 9 Executive Board positions.

# REMINDER

When Hunting Season starts and stocking takes place on Saturday and Wednesdays, **All Ranges are CLOSED till 10 am.**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>September 5</b>	<b>Executive Board Meeting.</b> 6:30 pm
<b>September 9</b>	<b>Ducks Unlimited Sporting Clays Shoot.</b>
<b>September 10</b>	<b>Fin's last Sporting Clays Shoot.</b>
<b>September 12</b>	<b>Membership Meeting</b> and nominations for Officers and Executive Board.
<b>September 16</b>	<b>Annual Chicken BBQ.</b>
<b>September 24</b>	<b>Annual Club's Shotgun Championship.</b>
<b>September 29</b>	<b>Fish Fry.</b> 1 pm – 6 pm. Friday lunch. Fish, Fries, clams, fritters.
<b>October 3</b>	<b>Executive Board Meeting.</b> 6:30 pm.
<b>October 7</b>	<b>Painting with Vickie.</b> Pre-registration and a small fee is required. 3 pm – 6 pm. This is awesome!
<b>October 10</b>	<b>Membership and Annual Election for Officer's and Executive Board.</b>
<b>October 14</b>	<b>Larry Shewokis Memorial Shoot.</b> See Frankie Decker.
<b>October 21</b>	<b>First Day of Hunting and Stocking "A" group.</b> <i>All ranges are Closed until 10 am, Wednesday &amp; Saturday's.</i>
<b>October 28</b>	<b>Swap Meeting.</b> 8 am. See Huff for details. Guest Bartender. 5 pm
<b>November 4</b>	<b>Set Back.</b> Saturday afternoon at 3 pm.
<b>November 7</b>	<b>Executive Board Meeting.</b> 6:30 pm.
<b>November 11</b>	<b>Chowder Cookout.</b> See the bar or Vickie for information.
<b>November 14</b>	<b>Membership Meeting.</b> 7 pm.
<b>December 5</b>	<b>Executive Board Meeting.</b> 6:30 pm.
<b>December 12</b>	<b>Membership Meeting.</b> 7 pm.



# THE 2023 PHEASANTS HAVE ARRIVED

## MEMBERSHIP

So far to date the club has added 86 members. The club's membership categories are as follows: Regular 362; Associate 354; Junior 16; and Life 163.

For those that have not completed your 10 hour work requirement, you have until September 30th to do so. If you have not completed your work hours and are planning on hunting, you need to pay for your hours at the bar. You can email me to see if I have your hours recorded. Also if you did not purchase your Spring Raffle tickets, you need to pay for those before you will be issued a hunting badge. I will be mailing the 2023 invoices in mid-November. If there are any discrepancies, please let me know.

**REMEMBER: Effective Oct 1, 2022, the work hour amount is \$20.00/hr.** If you are a new member in 2023, you cannot pay for your hrs the first year. If your work obligation is not met, you will be removed from the club's membership

Bob Hruskocy, *Membership Chairman*

## HOUSE & GROUNDS

Like to thank John Fitch for his work as the Club Permittee as he is stepping down from that position. The new Permittee will be Dick Palmer.

Please read your emails as to the date to split and stack the Club's firewood. Many thanks to Rojo Mullins, Jim Hooper, and Jon Mosely for the brush hogging and driveway maintenance.

A big thank you to Shawen Covell for replacing the attic folding stairs and installing a wooden screen door in the kitchen.

## CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2023 Club Championship is being held September 24th. The squad board is available in the bar for sign-ups. Shoot only sign-ups are open until 830am the day of the shoot. This is the one and only time you can shoot every clay event the club has to offer in 1 day. It's a very cool opportunity! Hope to see you there.

David Jones

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Help future generations of hunters and trappers to continue to participate in our rich hunting and trapping heritage by becoming a Connecticut Conservation Firearms Education Instructor and pass your love of the outdoors on to our deserving youth today.

The Fin Fur and Feather club hosted a Bow Hunting class for the club members and the general public on March 18th 2023. The date that the class was posted was February 26th. At 12:34 AM on the early morning of February 26th the class was already full!!! The CE/FS program has never witnessed this phenomenon before. In 34 seconds, the class was full. Needless to say, the public was in shock. The phone calls came into the registration office (as well as to the instructor's personal phones; don't worry I'm going to address that shortly) and the expected frustration ensued for many weeks.



This was the first Bow Class that was scheduled since before the pandemic and it was very much overdue. When the public inquired why the class was limited to only 40 seats they were told that in order to execute an 8 hour class safely and thoroughly that 40 seats was the maximum capacity. When they asked why there aren't more classes in a year they were told very simply that we don't have enough volunteers to conduct more classes. Plain and simple; fewer instructors, fewer classes.

In the December 2008 Fin Fur and Feather Club Newsletter I submitted a letter urging the club members to volunteer their time and join the CE/FS program. I recruited about a half a dozen people and they were a welcome addition to the existing team at the time. Since that time, we have lost some instructors to happier hunting grounds in the sky, some have moved away; and the Pandemic took a big toll on participation.

Well, its time to reach out to the club members again and ask that you please consider joining our team and reaping the benefits of knowing that you helped instill the proud tradition and heritage of hunting and trapping in our club's future generations. I have had the satisfaction of seeing the pride in the faces of many of your children over the years as they came up to the front table to accept their CE/FS patch, shake their hands, and send them on their way to the exciting tradition that is hunting and trapping in Connecticut.

So, what do you say? Can you volunteer some of your free time to help insure that the hunting and trapping tradition will continue to improve our numbers in our club, our state, and our country? If you are worried about the process of handing the materials and information that we use in the classroom and the field, don't be. I am a Master Senior Instructor with the CE/FS Program and have 22 years of experience. I will be right there with you as will all the other Chief and New Instructors on our team. We will be there helping and guiding you along the way and we look forward to you sharing your particular special talent that will bring a fresh perspective to our teaching panel.

I hope you help us with this worthy cause. The future of hunting and trapping will be safer and stronger with your participation. You can reach me at {860-208-5188 – please leave a message or your # will be blocked} or approach me when you see me at the club.

Thank You

Kevin Segar,  
*Master Senior Instructor, CE/FS Program , Area 11*

P.S. Please do not call the instructors about the registration process, we have no pull or influence over this part of the program. The CE/FS has paid personnel that handle that. Call them at (860-424-3105).

## 5 STAND

The 2023 5 Stand season is coming to end. We have had wonderful weather for all but 1 shoot this year. Turn out for every shoot was very good, the course and machines worked flawlessly all year. In total there were 8 shoots held, roughly 12,000 targets will be thrown at 5 Stand this year following the Club Championship. That's a good year! We had some great scores as well, a small handful of 24's, some 23's and numerous 20-22 scores by members and non-members. 3 Course designs and 4 different menus were used this year. As always the season has to come to an end at some point. We look forward to seeing you in the spring of 2024.

David Jones, *5 Stand Chairman*



*Those targets are fast, Go Brandon.*



*Shooting out of layout blinds*

## SKEET REPORT

On August 11th, 12th, and 13th the Fin hosted the NSSA Zone 1 Skeet Championships. This shoot covers all of New England & New York. We had a total of 223 entries and according to the comments from the Shooters, referees, and guests the shoot received an excellent rating. This is a result of the hard work and preparation by our dedicated FFF members who performed brilliantly. Thanks to all members who worked at this event, this is certainly a feather in the Fin's cap!

Congratulations to our Fin Shooters that placed in the events, they are;

- **Chris Knight:** Doubles B-2, 28 ga Runner Up, 410 C-2
- **Kyle Hooper:** 28 ga AA-3, 20 ga B-1

**The Winter league is due to start Oct 1st.** The Fin is well represented with 8 Teams from Div 1 through 6. Good luck to all. A reminder to all shooters that the fields will be extremely busy onward through April. **We also have the Larry Shewokis 50 Bird shoot on October 14th,** non-registered. All shooters are welcome.

All members are advised to shoot safely, and please exercise strict muzzle control. Be sure to operate the skeet/trap machines/release cords properly and please refill the machines with targets when done.

Thank you.

*The Skeet Committee*

**Don't forget to pay for your rounds through the drop box by the bar entrance or inside through the bartender!!**

## TRAP

I want to thank all those that have helped throughout the year with Trap. Want to welcome all the new shooters, hopefully you are enjoying yourselves. The Summer Trap League is almost complete. Thanks to those that participated. Just as a reminder, when done shooting, please put all the equipment in the low house on each field. Each field should have 5 speakers, voice box and an on/off switch. If anything is not working, please leave in low house 5 with a note on it. The 4 lower fields (5-8) are for Regular Trap, field 4 is for Doubles, field 3 is for Skap. Please fill up the machines when done shooting, it is very frustrating When the machines are left empty for the next person. With the Winter Skeet League approaching, there will be a lot of activity, please work together so everyone can shoot.

Regards

Bob Hruskocy, *Trap Chairman*

## RIFLE RANGE

Members, over the past couple months the rifle range has been under work, clearing of brush, and unfortunately, the dismantling of the 50 yd range after it suffered a fire from the old telephone poles. We're looking at different options to put this back in operation, but in the meantime, there's been barrier tape blocking the use of the 50 yd target line.

Unfortunately, a member or members, have decided that they were tired of waiting for those repairs, and didn't want to use

the provided wooden frames for the 100 yd line. They took it upon themselves to go and paint a target of the concrete blocks and shoot at them. Wow, Forrest Grump was right, you can't fix stupid.

We are taught to be safe, be cautious, and be sure of the background before shooting. Unfortunately, this didn't happen.

Please be safe and follow the signs placed around the ranges.



*Here's the barrier tape indicating do not use.*



*Crafty paint job.*

## HUNT COMMITTEE

Please let me start and say a thank you for all who have been involved so far this year with the pheasant and hunting program. Your hard work doesn't go unnoticed and without your continued support we would not be where we are today.

This is such an exciting time of year. Temps are cooling, Leaves are changing, and daylight is getting shorter. This can only mean one thing. Hunting Season is HERE!!!

Please mark your calendars, as we ask that you purchase your 2023 badge prior to October 1st. September 30th, is the last day to complete work hours for the 2023 year. **If you have not completed your work hour requirement, or paid your Raffle obligations, please do so ASAP.** Unfortunately, if you fail to complete or pay for your outstanding obligations, it will result in the loss of your hunting privileges and your badge. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Happy hunting!

**Before you hunt this year, please make sure that you have all necessary permits and licenses for the game you are hunting. State tags, HIP permits, Federal Duck stamps, and your Fin badge, etc...** Please remember to make sure you are

aware of ALL property lines for club and leased property and if you have questions please reach out and ask. There are nearly 1000 acres of property between owned and leased.

### New This Year

Drain Street Property will be open for hunting this year!!! Please look for further updates for further information regarding parking and area maps.

Maps can be found on FB under files, at the bar or I can email you a digital copy if needed. I encourage members new and old to please review the clubs hunting rules as well as the state hunting rules and regulations for any new changes.

August 27th the Fin Fur and Feather hosted a 1-day Archery Hunting Class which certified 37 new archers. A big thank you to Steven Carpenter and Kevin Segar for taking the lead on this class.

Thank you.

Corey

# JIM DAVIDSON MEMORIAL SHOOT



On July 9th the club hosted the **1st Annual Jim Davidson Shotgun Open**. The idea behind this event is to honor our friend and past member. Jim was a pivotal part of clay target sports at the Fin Fur and Feather Club. Jim, along with his wife Nancy and many others worked to set up and open our sporting clays course, and then eventually created our 5 Stand program the way it is today. Without Jim's vision and efforts these programs may not exist within our club. For the event we played Jim's favorite clays games - Sporting Clays, 5 Stand, Modern Skeet and Skap. It was a fun event, trying some of the



games Jim was incredibly talented at shooting. Humbling for many that took to the field.

A few of Jim's friends honored him by shooting Side by Side only - A class within the event to recognize Jim's love for his Side by Side that you could always find him shooting.

**Coming out on top overall for the day, 1st Place Spencer Shirshac, 2nd Place Kyle Hooper, 3rd Place Scott Shirshac. High Gun Side by Side - Mike J. Sobol.**

*Some pictures from the event - and Custom carved trophies made and donated by Mike J. Sobol.*



*This was the last painting event.*

## PAINTING WITH VICKIE

This is an awesome class and fun time. If you had missed the others, you need to sign up. Open to members and guests.

October 7th starting at 3 pm until 6 pm is this class, there is a sign-up deadline and a small fee for the materials. Vickie works as the Sunday Bartender from 9 am to 2 pm, if you have questions, or sign up anytime when the bar is open.

## FAMILY PICNIC

I would like to thank everybody who helped make this year's family picnic a huge success. Without all the members stepping up to help me, I could never have made this happen. We had 350+ people attend, which was great. We tried something new with the ice cream sundae bar and that was a huge hit so will be continuing to bring that back next year. Again, thanks to everybody that was involved. Hope to see you August 2024.

Kevin Theriault, *Family Picnic Chairman*

## Glenn M. Heinonen

WWII Historian

Collector of Military Memorabilia

1-860-423-8144

Wanted: Military Uniforms, Patches, Insignia, Helmets, Weapons, Equipment, Souvenirs, Etc. From WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam.



## FIN, FUR AND 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.*

### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Dave Jones, President 860-230-5975  
Dick Palmer, Vice President 860-933-4768  
Tom Hoagland, Treasurer 860-208-4477  
Corey Curtis-Gray, Secretary 860-576-1214

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Glen Heinonen 860-559-5021  
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Matt Halloran 860-428-1818  
Troy Quick 860-933-2585  
Bob Frankland 860-690-4149  
Kevin Theriault 860-428-5519

### ALTERNATES

Steve Alexson 860-218-8373  
Shawn Covell 860-428-0041

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

#### ARCHERY

Jim Dowd 860-537-2986

#### BAR

Bob Frankland 860-690-4149  
Erin Jones 860-230-4015

### BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Dick Palmer 860-933-4768

### CHILDREN'S FUND

Vacant

### COMPONENTS

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### FAMILY PICNIC

Kevin Theriault 860-428-5519

### FISHING

Troy Quick 860-933-2585

### FIVE-STAND

David Jones 860-230-5975

### HUNTING

Corey Curtis-Gray 860-576-1214

### KITCHEN

Steve Alexson 860-218-8373

### MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hruskocy 860-569-1592

### MERCHANDISE

Sue Lataille 860-338-4521

### NEWSLETTER

Dick Palmer 860-933-4768

### PERMITTEE

Dick Palmer 860-933-4768

### PHEASANTS

Don Baiger 860-617-3399

### PISTOL/PRACTICAL PISTOL

Paul Arildsen 860-508-1132  
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### RAFFLE

Bill Neff 860-573-1126

### RIFLE

Peter Mathewson Sr. 860-456-8588

### SHOTGUN

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Bob Frankland 860-690-4149  
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### SKEET

Bob Frankland 860-690-4149

### SPORTING CLAYS

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### TRAP

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