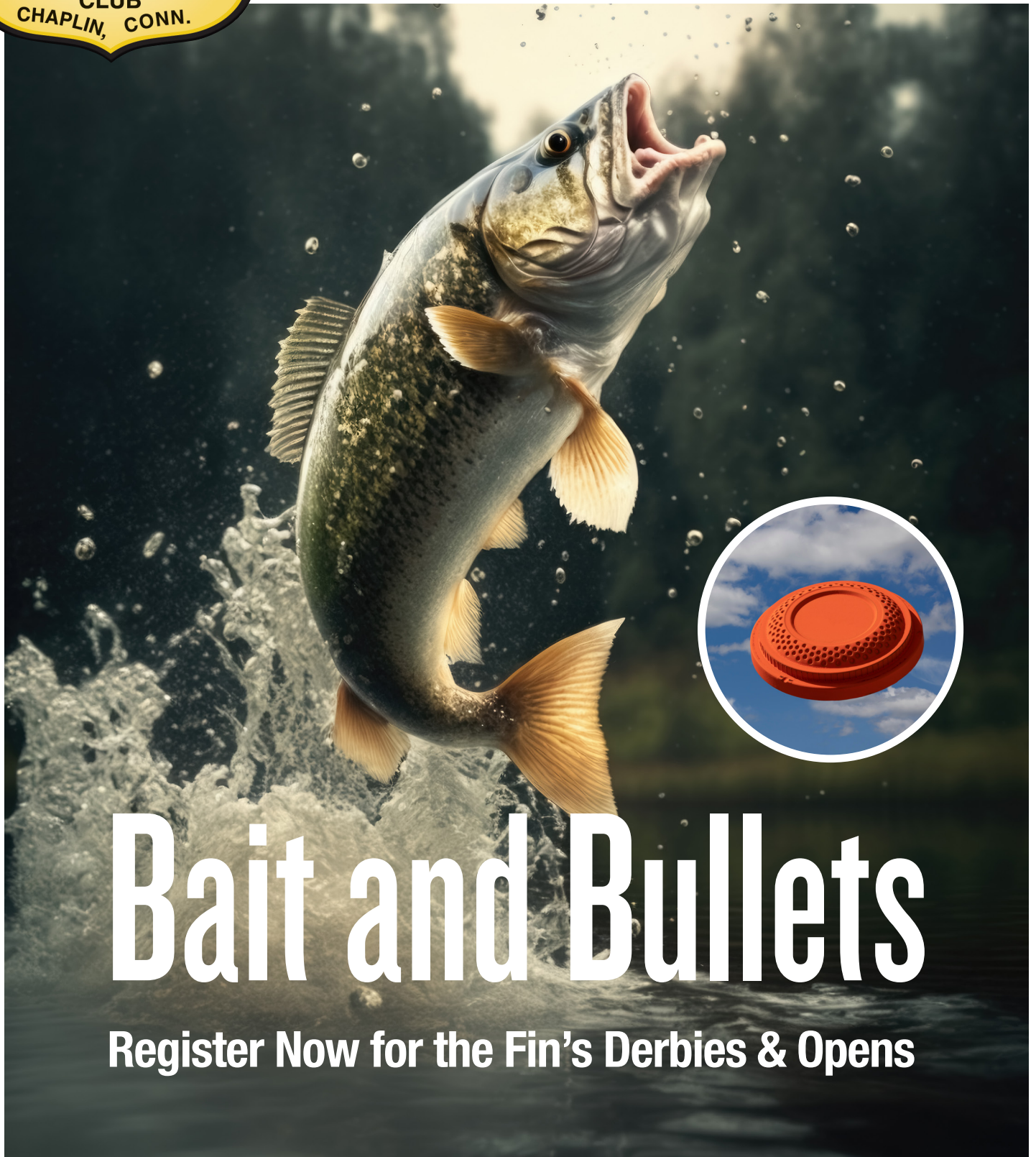




ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 24 | ISSUE 1 | MARCH 2024



Bait and Bullets

Register Now for the Fin's Derbies & Opens

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Members, I hope the winter months have treated you all well, and Spring is almost here! With that comes the many events and work parties that occur at the Fin during the spring and summer months. I encourage you all to participate. As we continue to say to all members you will get out of the club what you put into it. The more you can attend work events, or shoots, the more you will be able to network with fellow members and enjoy all the benefits our club has to offer. Thank you to all those that attended and worked the events over the past few months. The winter can be a slow time for the club, but these hall and bar events keep things moving forward into the spring. Watch your emails for information on shoots, work parties and other club events that will be coming up over the next few months. Thank you all for supporting our club! Stay Safe –

President Jones

MEMBERSHIP

**Currently, the club membership has:
Regular - 346; Associate - 339;
Junior - 13; and Life - 165.**

The club added 93 new members in 2023. However, there were 89 people that did not renew their membership to the club this year. If you know of anyone that is interested in becoming a member, I can email you an application or you can download one from the club's website. That information is under the Members Only Section. Just a reminder the user name and password are case sensitive.

User name: fffclub
Password: chaplin

We have added additional information to that section as well. If your email has changed, please send me the updated address. I send out several emails during the year about work parties and events.

Don't wait until September to get your work hours completed. Remember the non-completed work hour fee is now \$20.00/hr.

I will be holding a Range Safety Seminar sometime this Spring, this will cover the use of the Skeet & Trap machines as well as the rules for the pistol/rifle range.

Regards

Bob Hruskocy, *Membership Chairman*

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Members. With the winter in our rearview mirrors, it's time to start thinking about the Club's Annual Spring Cleanup. We need members with small tractors with bucket loaders, dump trailers, backpack leaf blowers, chain saws, and any other lawn items that would make this clean up go quickly.

We need a couple of zero turn mowers with thatchers.

So, with that said, the clean-up date is April 20th starting at 8 am, meet in the parking lot, sign in for your work hours, usually this cleanup takes about 3-4 hrs, the more members, the easier the clean-up.

Please contact me if you are planning to bring a bucket loader tractor, dump trailer, so plans can be set up to assign tasks.

If it is raining, the rain date will be the 27th of April at 8 am.

Dick Palmer
860-933-4768

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 16th	Corn Beef and Cabbage Dinner at 5 pm, tickets at the bar.
March 23rd	Swap meet, contact Huff for information, starts at 8 am till noon.
March 29th	Fish Fry, clam fritters, maybe cherrystones, starts at noon.
April 2nd	Board Meeting at 6:30 pm.
April 9th	Membership meeting at 7 pm.
April 20th	Club wide Cleanup Day starts at 8 am, need members with backpack blowers, rakes, shovels, tractors with bucket loader, and dump trailers. Call Dick Palmer 860-933-4768
May 5th	Kids Fishing Derby, signing up at the bar is a must.
May 11th	John Shea Biggest Trout Derby, sign up at the Bar is a must.
	Sporting Clays setup starts at 8 am, need to place the traps out in the stations and clean up the shooting boxes. Equipment needed
	Registered Trap Shoot. Fields 2 thru 8 will be in use.
May 19th	Sporting Clays Shoot. Open to the Public and members.

Please make sure your email address is current with the Membership Chairperson.



Saturday, April, 2024

6:00 PM

\$15

Tickets on sale at the bar starting March 17, 2024



FISH COMMITTEE REPORT

All fishermen and women must purchase a badge for \$50.00 which entitles them to fish and hunt.. All Junior members must also purchase a badge for \$10.00. The badges are available for purchase at the bar.

Fish stockings will take place on the following dates:

- **1st stocking** - March 14 th (Weather Permitting)
- **2nd stocking** - April 11th
- **3rd stocking** - May 2nd

The stocking will start around 4:30pm each day and we would appreciate any volunteers who can make it. Buttonball Trout Hatchery located near the club will supply the fish. The fish will be in good shape since they only have a short trip from the hatchery to our ponds. Brook and rainbow trout will make up over 90% of the fish stocked, with 12-14" fish the minimum size with a good number of 16"+ fish added as well. Brown trout will make up the remaining percent of fish stocked at the last stocking as they are more temperature resistant.

FYI - The upper pond will be CLOSED from may 2nd until May 5th, the day of the Kid's Fishing Derby. The Fly Pond will be closed IMMEDIATELY following the Kids Fishing Derby and will reopen after John Shea's Biggest Trout Derby on May 11th.

The Kids fishing derby will be held Sunday, May 5th from 9am - 12 noon at the fly pond. Signup sheets for kids who will be attending will be located on the message board in the bar. The maximum age limit for participants is 15 years of age. Members who don't have children within this age limit can bring a relative (niece, nephew, grandchild) instead. Lunch will be provided free to the children and the kitchen will be open for adults to purchase food and drinks.

We are seeking donations so we can purchase additional fish and prizes for the derby. There will be a sign up sheet located in the bar. Please donate and help make this event fun for all participants! All ponds open for fishing (catch and release) on March 16thth at 8am

Middle and skeet pond open for fishing (catch and keep) with 2 fish limit on April 13th at 6am. Upper pond opens for fishing (catch and keep) on May 11th after John Shea's biggest trout derby.

Upcoming Events

- Corned Beef Dinner, Saturday, March 16th
- Kids fishing derby sunday May 5th
- John Shea Biggest Trout Derby, Saturday, May 11th

SPORTING CLAYS

Sporting Clays season is right around the corner, and I want to encourage everyone to come and shoot the course. Sporting clays is a shotgun game where you walk through the woods and shoot at clay targets that are presented in various hunting scenarios. No experience is necessary and good fun is had by all.

The sporting clay program is labor intensive. I need trappers to sit on the machines and throw the targets when the shooters yell pull, it's that easy, simply push a button or pull a lever to release the target. Once again there is no experience necessary, I teach every trapper what to do the morning of the shoot before it gets started. Trappers show up at 8 AM and the shoot is usually done by 2 PM at which time I buy lunch for all of the trappers. I need 15 trappers for each date. I strongly encourage you to check your calendars and sign up to work early. Plan your shooting and plan your work hours!

As you know 10 work hours are mandatory and are billed at \$20 per hour, save yourself the \$200, work the hours and spend the money on shells. I give 6 hours per shoot. You must email me to get on the list of trappers as I need to coordinate the help in advance the more notice the better.

I am looking forward to working and breaking some clays with all of you. Thanks.

Matt Halloran 860-428-1818
birdhunter312@gmail.com

2024 SEASON DATES:

May 11 Set up course at 9AM

May 19 50 target shoot

June 23 50 target shoot

July 14 50 target shoot

August 11 50 target shoot

September 7 100 target shoot
Ducks Unlimited - register with DU

September 8 100 target **Fin** shoot
open to all shooters
put away the course afterwards

- Shoots are open to both members and non-members.
- No pre-registration required (except Sept 7)
- Registration 8:30 - 11:30, shooting starts at 9:AM
- Cost is \$20 per round (50 targets)
- Lunch will be available to purchase afterwards.
- 213 Chewink Road Chaplin CT



SKEET REPORT

The ECSC Winter Skeet League is winding down and we have 2 or 3 matches left. The Fin has several teams poised to win Honors with Div. 3 the hottest competition. All three Div.

Teams: The Hotshots, Station 9 and The Young Guns are all at the top of the leader board. Good Luck to all of our teams. We also have some Fin shooters vying for individual top gun honors and will post results via email.

Remember: Safety on the skeet/trap field is of the utmost importance! Safe firearm handling and field/range rules are to be strictly followed! Eye and ear protection is required for all shooters, referees and spectators or anyone in close proximity when the fields are operational. Please be careful, we do not need any accidents.

Up coming events include: June 2nd Registered 1 Gun Shoot 1, Labor Day Weekend is the CT State Skeet Championship Shoot, and the Larry Sherokis Memorial Shoot is September 29th

Reminder to all shooters: Please pay for all rounds shot before leaving the club grounds and to pay for any extra targets above the normal 25 target round.

Thank you. *The Skeet Committee*

Notes: Please monitor club emails for updates, changes, info and rescheduling.

DIVISION 6 SKEET TEAMS FORMING NOW!

Interested in joining a beginner skeet team, or are you just curious about skeet? Division 6 skeet teams are forming now for next season's Winter league! Come to the next skeet meeting on March 26 at 6pm at the Fin bar! We will be meeting to discuss Division 6 following the meeting. If you are interested, but won't be able to make the skeet meeting, contact Steven Alexson via email at steve@alexson.org.

5 STAND

With the warmer weather around the corner 5 Stand will be getting ready to open in the not so distant future. Typically 5 Stand events start around the end of April, depending how the weather is. There will be a small work party with help needed to clean up around the field, trim back some brush, and general maintenance to get things ready for the season. Watch your emails for a date and time. Thank you! This year's Holiday Shoots will be May 27th, July 4th and Sept 2nd. Other shoot dates will be emailed to members when they become available.

David Jones 5 Stand Chairman

Please watch those emails for weekend 5-Stand shoots

TRAP

The FFF will also be holding a Registered Trap Shoot on Saturday May 11th. Help will be need with scoring and keeping the machines loaded. I will have a work party the week before to prepare for the shoot. An email will be sent with details.

PLEASE remember to let the pump on the machines warm up before shooting in colder weather. This should eliminate wasted targets. PLEASE do not adjust the machines. They are set at a specific height for a reason.

If there are any issues with the trap equipment, please contact me asap. If there is any interest again in a Summer Trap League, let me know.

Regards

Bob Hruskocy, *Trap Chairman*

SPECIAL SHOOT DATES

Jim Davidson Shotgun Open

July 6, 2024

100 target

Club Shotgun Championship

September 21, 2024

Total 125 targets, 25 skeet, 25 Trap, 25 Modern Skeet, 25 Sporting Clays, and 25 5-Stand.

Random Shot of the Month



Dick Palmer with a Feral Boar Hog harvested in Citra, Florida 3-25-24, Estimated 250 lbs. before dressing out.

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.

**TURF WIZARDS
LAWN CARE LLC**

860-933-2848

IN NEED OF A MOW, CALL THOSE WHO KNOW



★ MULCH ★
MOWING ★ TRIMMING
SPRING/FALL CLEANUPS

License No. HIC.0661148 & FULLY INSURED

Call **JOSH QUICK**



FIN, FUR AND FEATHER CLUB, INC

213 Chewink Road
North Windham, CT 06056
860-455-9516
www.finfurfeatherclub.com

PRSRT
STANDARD MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD, CT
PERMIT #834

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
Kevin Theriault, Secretary 860-428-5519

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Wayne Mather 860-942-3385
Glen Heinonen 860-559-5021
Jon Mosely 860-818-1564
Matt Halloran 860-428-1818
Troy Quick 860-933-2585
Jarrett Meacham 860-228-5021

ALTERNATES

Corey Curtis-Gray 860-576-1214
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

Jim Hooper 860-208-0329

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 Bajger 860-617-3399

PISTOL/PRACTICAL PISTOL

Paul Arildsen 860-508-1132
Jon-Paul Mucha 860-874-1291

RAFFLE

Bill Neff 860-573-1126

RIFLE

Peter Mathewson Sr. 860-456-8588

SHOTGUN

Glen Heinonen 860-428-0975
Bob Frankland 860-690-4149
Jim Hooper 860-208-0329

SKEET

Bob Frankland 860-690-4149

SPORTING CLAYS

Matt Halloran 860-428-1818

TRAP

Bob Hruskocy 860-569-1592