



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 24 | ISSUE 3 | SEPT 2024



FALL FOWL-IAGE

Hunting Season Starts - September 2nd.
See page 5 for more Opening Date listings!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Members, We have had an amazing summer at the Fin. Numerous events, shoots, and dinners. All of our programs have worked extremely hard, with a lot of member participation. Which is absolutely wonderful to see. It takes our members being involved to keep our club moving forward. Our sporting clays program did a great job at their shoots over the spring/summer months. Our pheasants are growing and are almost ready for the upcoming season. The grounds have seen many improvements over the past few months as well, some problem trees removed, road repairs and a lot of grass cut! All of our programs and Chairman have done a lot this year. I can't say enough how much all the member support and effort means to myself, and the club as whole. Everyday we are making improvements. Let's all keep that up over the next year and continue making the Fin one of the best clubs in Connecticut. As I have said before, the more you as a member put into our club, the more you will get out of it. Good luck to our members hunting in the upcoming seasons, and good luck to our Fin winter league skeet teams in the ECSC skeet league.

President Jones

MEMBERSHIP

So far to date the club has added 113 members. The club's membership categories are as follows: Regular 373; Associate 365; Junior 13; 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 2025 invoices in mid-November. If there are any discrepancies, please let me know.

Regards,

Bob Hruskocy, *Membership Chairman*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 14	Annual Chicken BBQ , tickets at the bar.
Sept. 21	Club Shotgun Championship . There is a sign up.
Sept. 28	Larry Shewokis Memorial Skeet Shoot . There is a sign up.
Sept. 29	First Sunday for Winter League starts . Be aware that the fields will be full on every Sunday for matches. Teams practicing on Saturdays
Oct. 1st	Executive Board meeting at 6:30 pm.
Oct. 8	Membership meeting with Annual Elections at 7 pm. Regular and Life members only can vote. Must have your ID card to get a ballot.
Nov. 5	Executive Board meeting at 6:30 pm.
Nov. 12	Membership meeting at 7 pm.
Dec. 3	Executive Board meeting at 6:30 pm.
Dec. 10	Membership meeting at 7 pm.

OCTOBER ELECTIONS

Members, during the September membership meeting, the following members were selected by the Nominating Committee for the 2024/25 year Officers and Executive Board members.

President: David Jones

Vice President: Dick Palmer

Treasurer: Tom Hoagland. Nominated from the floor Robert Brooks by KT

Secretary: Kevin Theriault

Executive Board: Matt Halloran; Wayne Mather; Jon Mosely; Troy Quick; Glen Heinonen; Jarrett Meacham; Shawn Covell; and Steve Alexson

The above members will be voted in on October 8th Membership Meeting.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Our committee has been very busy over the summer, Brush Hogging in front of the Skeet fields, having some dead and dangerous trees removed, and keeping our lawns and fields cut. A big shout off to Jon Moseley, Jim Hooper, Rojo Mullins, Gary Charron for their efforts in keeping our club grounds looking the best.

Dick Palmer Chairman

NEW SIGNS

Need to personally thank you Mike Sobol for his skills in creating the Club's logo sign, and the newest the broken clays and archery arrows/target sign.



NEW SHINGLES FOR THE PAVILION AND CLUB HOUSE ROOFS/CHIMNEYS

Members. The Executive Board has been receiving quotes for new shingles on both the Clubhouse and Pavilion roofs, the shingles are at the end of their life expectancy. The pavilion already has a hole through the roof, which needs immediate attention, so not to have the elements damage any additional sheathing. This roof is original from day one.

We are also looking to place a cap/cover on our chimney in the bar, need to install a new chimney for the furnace. The hall fireplace chimney we want to remove the chimney to the roof line, block the flu and then sheath the opening. This will then make the fireplace non-functional. We also have that huge maple at the corner of the pavilion, that needs trimming so not to cause any damage down the pike.

5 STAND

5 Stand had another great year! 8 shoots were held with around 9,000 targets thrown. All but 1 shoot had amazing weather!

We were also able to purchase a new Laporte trap for the field that has come in, and will be introduced to the course in the 2025 season. The 8 trap menu provides a variety of presentations to mimic hunting scenarios, and give us some unconventional shots to test our skills (and patience at times). Looking forward to opening back up next spring, with a few changes and ideas. Double teals anyone? Wouldn't that be fun? Thank you to everyone that helped and participated in the shoots this season. David Jones, 5 Stand Chairman Club Championship Members, The 2024 Club Shotgun Championship will be held Sept. 21st. To date we have 60 shooters signed up. Registration will be available until 8:30am the morning of the shoot. \$45 for 125 targets of all the clay games we can play at the club. Not sure where else you could find that in New England. Hope to see you there, good luck to all the shooters!

The 2nd Annual Jim Davidson Shotgun open was held on July 6th. We had 54 shooters for the event and numerous members helping throw targets and scoring. At the end of the day, the top shooters were: #1 Alex Vierra; #2 Scott Shirshac; #3 Brandon Jones; #1 Women – Leah Mucha; and High Gun Side-by-Side – Mike J Sobo. This is a great event to spend a day breaking clays and remembering our friend Jim Davidson who gave so much effort and knowledge to our club and its members. The 3rd Annual shoot will be held in 2025. Hope to see you there.

David Jones, *5 Stand 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.

SPORTING CLAYS

Sporting Clays season has arrived. Our first shoot was very successful, thanks to all of the trappers and shooters. I want to By the time you are reading this the 2024 sporting clay season will have ended.

We made it through the whole season without getting rained on (amazing). The program took in \$12,500. We threw 30,700 targets and hosted 399 shooters at 6 different events.

I wanted to take the time to thank all of the members that helped make the sporting clay season a success. It takes a lot of help, 108 trappers gave their time and earned 664 work hours and that is not counting the efforts of the 7 members that show up and help at every shoot, they know who they are.

Thank you so much!

PS - if you want to be part of the fun next year keep an eye out for the 2025 schedule, and sign up early.

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

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. 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. In colder weather, the machines need to be warmed up a little more before shooting.

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*

Greetings from Pomfret

Club members enjoying a fantastic morning of goose hunting on private lands in Pomfret.

Hunters were Pat Lefemine, Justin Hackner, Matt Lefemine, Jarrett Meacham, Artie St. Lawrence, and a non-member equals 59 birds.



HUNT COMMITTEE

It's the time that we all have been waiting for, hunting season is here. I would like to remind everyone that it is important to purchase your hunting badges before September 30th and please complete your work hours or pay for them prior to the deadline. You will be able to purchase your badge after September 30th however the badge price increases to \$100

Here is a list of a few important dates:

Sept 2	Opening Day of Small Game and Early Season Goose
Sept 15	Opening Day of Archer Season (private land)
Sept 16	Opening Day Archery (state Land)
Sept 28	Pheasant Fun Trial 9am-1pm
Sept 29	Firearms Hunter Education (seats available)
Oct 12	Pheasant Fun Trial 9am-1pm
Oct 19	Opening Day of Pheasant Season

Please remember to park in only designated areas on club and leased property. Please refrain from driving in any of the fields. It is important that we respect the property, so we keep it for years to come.

ATVs are not to be used on any club or leased property without the board of directors permission. Parking passes should be displayed at all times.

Last, I would like to thank each and every club member who has worked hard this year to make sure we will have a successful hunting season. So many hours behind the scenes to make sure the grounds are brushed hogged and roads and parking areas are cleared. It truly does take a committed team.

Be safe and enjoy the Season ahead!

Corey Curtis Gray, *Hunt Chairman*
860-576-1214

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SKEET REPORT

It's that time of the year again when the eastern Connecticut Skeet Club Winter League is starting up. These matches start on Sept 29th and go on through April. The fin has a total of nine (9) teams this year, and their spread across the four Divisions. That Winter League schedule will be posted on the bulletin board inside the bar.

Labor Day saw the Connecticut Skeet Championships here at the Fin. The shoot went off without a hitch except for Sunday shoot off when the rain came. We received favorable comments about our field condition, target quality, machine reliability, and field personnel. Special thanks to all the members that worked on the shoot, and the members who worked those two weeks prior to the shoot.

Congratulations to all the Fin shooters that participated during the 3 days of competition. Fin shooters did very well, Jarrett Meacham had a perfect straight of 100 to take the 2024 CT. State 12-gauge title, while other members received awards/medals, David Jones, Pat Lefemine, Chris Knight, Kyle Hooper, Justin McBride, Todd Quackenbush, John Mathewson, John Clark, and Dennis Jolley.

Always, always, shoot safely, gun barrel down range, load your gun only when you're ready on that station.

Please pay for your rounds of skeet before leaving the Club grounds, either at the side door when the bar isn't open, or inside, remember to put the number of rounds, your name, number, and the field you shot on.

Thank you

Skeet Committee

PHEASANT COMMITTEE

I don't know how you folks feel, but that colder air is coming in and I am excited about a new hunting season with my best buds! The pheasants are quickly maturing and looking great. The colors and tails are looking beautiful. The 2024 season is soon approaching and a big thank you to the members that have been part of the program, the participation has been fantastic. Without your help the club could not provide the number of birds that we are for the Hunting program.

As a reminder the Hunting program is having the Pheasant Fun Trials on Saturday September 28th 9am-1pm and Saturday October 12th 9am-1pm. Always a fun time and a great time to tune up your pups for hunting season. As a reminder, I will be looking for help replacing the nets around the beginning of the new year. Have a happy and safe hunting season everyone!

Jonathan Moseley, Pheasant Chairman

jmosedipstick@yahoo.co

KITCHEN

Pheasant season is here, and the kitchen needs YOUR help!

Looking for 14 members to cook breakfast on Saturdays during pheasant season. Two members are needed for each Saturday, starting October 19 and ending on December 28. Show time is 5:30 AM and ends around 11 AM. This includes prep and cleanup.

Work two weekends and you get your hours for the year!

Contact Steve Alexson at fffkitchenchair@gmail.com

PICNIC COMMITTEE

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 make this happen. We had 380+ people attend, which was great. The ice cream sundae bar continues to be a great hit. We made some money for the Club, had some great food and made some new friends. Again, thanks to everybody that was involved. Hope to see you in August 2025.

Kevin Theriault

JIM DAVIDSON Memorial Shoot

July 6th was the 2nd Annual Jim Davidson Memorial Shoot, there were about 60 shooters that signed up. Mother nature was on our side at first shot, rain, and more rain. Fortunately, our prayers were answered and the rain went away. After the shoot there was a fantastic steak dinner for all the shooters.

Pictured below even thou everyone got wet, but had great smiles for Jim's shoot.



Pictures above are some of the food venues.



Shawn Peach's group



Steve Sanborn, Chris Knight, & Josh St. Lawrence



Hang Belly hitters – Jim Davidson Memorial Shoot.



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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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CHILDREN'S FUND

Vacant

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