May 2008

Incorporated 1955

NIANTIC SPORTSMEN'S CLUB INC.

P.O. Box 122 • Plants Dam Road • Niantic, Connecticut 06357 • 860-739-5322

Coming up!

May 2008

- Youth Fishing and Camping Weekend: May 3-4
- Indoor Range Refurbishing – Dates to be Posted
- N.L. County FNRA Banquet, Groton Motor Inn – Thursday, May 8
- Meeting Night Prime Rib Dinner – Friday, May 9
- 3D Archery – Sunday, May 11
- N.L. County Pistol League Banquet – Saturday, May 17

June 2008

- Meeting Night Prime Rib Dinner – Friday, June 13
- Last Newsletter until September

Big Fun at .22 Turnout

Those .22's targets seem pretty small at 50 yards! Even so, a sizable turnout of members and their kids tested their hunting and plinking rifles side-to-side with top-end target arms at a fun .22 Long Rifle gathering on Sunday, April

continued on pg. 2

Meeting Dates

Executive Meeting
Tuesday, May 6, 7:00 pm

Regular Meeting
Friday, May 9, 7:00 pm

Big Fun at .22 Turnout...*from page 1*

20. The match displayed lots of variety and lots of skill, and a batch of winners took home small cash prizes. More of these target events are in the offing, so keep alert for the Newsletter and club postings.

Skeet in Summer Beats the Heat

The Winter Skeet season is now ended and we are looking forward for the summer schedule to begin! The skeet range is now open all day Saturday and all day Sunday. There are no scheduled meets, including any weekdays. The skeet range opens at 9 a.m. and closes at darkness – but there can be no shooting before 9 a.m. There is a signup sheet in the skeet house for the Summer League. All members and their families are welcome – it is an informal and fun time to learn and compete and get to know the ins and outs of shooting the fast-moving clay birds! The Summer League will start in June and starting time will be 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, but no weekends. If you need more info, call Commissioner Bill at 860.434.2336.

Members Vote to Stabilize Barn Structure

At the club's April 11 meeting, members voted to proceed with the stabilization of the structure of the historic, landmark barn on the 70 acres of club property that was acquired in December, 2003. While fundamentally sound and quite capable of housing future programs, the barn and outbuilding have a number of structural weaknesses that make them vulnerable to weather; the board and members agreed to undertake professional repair and restoration as needed.

Fishing Derby and Potluck Campout Planned for May 3-4 at "Stone's Pond"

Members and their 12-and-under kids and friends are invited to the 2008 Stone's Fishing Derby from noon, Saturday, May 3, through Sunday, May 4. There's fishing, a potluck supper, and optional overnight camping. For information contact Brenda and George Stone at 739-8193.

The youth program will finish up for the 2007-2008 season at the end of May, resuming in the fall for the 2008-2009 program year. Juniors ages 8 to 18 can join at any time. A parent/adult must attend with the Junior — just show up on Thursday evenings. Here's the general schedule so you can put it on your fall calendars:

- 6:30-8:30 p.m. 1st and 3rd Thursday: indoor range – Jay Cole
- 6:30-8:30 p.m. 2nd and 4th Thursday: indoor archery – John Dube

On months with "fifth Thursdays," special events are planned.

NSC Ends Pistol Season with a Strong 18-9 Finish

Niantic's pistol league shooters finished the 2007-2008 winter season in the New London County Pistol League with a solid fourth overall and first in the second division of the ten-team league. The team average of 1373.67 was very close to the third-spot Nutmegs team, which averaged 1379.41 over the 27-match schedule. The Pachaug Outdoor Club took first place, and E&B Sporting Goods was second.

NSC competitors Peter Edmondson and Chris Peterson qualified to represent the league in the annual Interleague All-Star Match. The March 30 event was held in Manchester and puts together "best of the best" teams from the five statewide bullseye-match leagues. New London narrowly lost to the Metropolitan Revolver League of Hartford; the result was 8550 to 8499 out of 9000 possible points.

Next year, the E&B pistol team will be calling NSC its home range under an agreement with the NSC board. E&B has consistently fielded some of the state's best marksmen, including Steve Wheeler, who beat the current state champion in the Interleague All-Star match by one point.

Many NSC team shooters continue to practice at NSC's Indoor Range over the summer, and to compete in area summer leagues. Coaching is readily available for new shooters, so join right in!

FNRA Banquet Is on May 8

The annual Friends of NRA banquet is on Thursday, May 8, starting at 6 p.m. at the Groton Motor Inn. This is a charitable event; part of any money which you spend is tax deductible. Proceeds are used to fund firearms training, safety, and competition programs within the State of Connecticut. For further information, see posters and mailers around the club, or contact Steve Rocketto, Chairman, 928 Old Colchester Road, Oakdale, CT, 06370; telephone 860.848.9578 (srocketto@aquilasys.com).

Tony Cutone: Chef Extraordinaire

...one in a series of profiles of NSC Mainstays

– by Helen Younger

If you have ever had a meal at the club, you have had some of Tony Cutone's great cooking. He's been a mainstay in the kitchen for several years now, donating time on Thursdays, Fridays, and Sundays as he prepares, cooks, or serves meals.

A native of Connecticut, Tony grew up in Essex, graduating from Valley Regional High School in Deep River. He then went on to serve in the Navy for four years...three of them in the fabled SeaBees (a term derived in World War II from from "CB," or Construction Battalion). He then worked at Chesebrough-Ponds for many years, retiring in 2002. He's been a club member since 2000.

Tony comes from a long-lived family; he helps care for his mother, who is 93, and his father, who is 90.

Highlights of breakfast on Sunday mornings at the club are Tony's really great jellies and jams. For most of them he picks the fruit in season, and they make the best-tasting toppings for toast and pancakes. Credit too must go to his longtime companion, Sue Massey, who helps him with this project to benefit the club. (The jellies are also for sale to members...try them! You'll become a fan because they are awfully good.)

As you can imagine, Tony's hobbies have to do with food. He enjoys baking and usually makes the desserts served at the Friday night meals. When he's not spending time at NSC, he enjoys

gardening, hunting, and fishing. He has a good crew in the kitchen and members often give their four hours of annual service there. The many hours that Tony donates to the club are much appreciated, especially by those who enjoy the "fruits of his labor"...the good meals.

So, here's a big "thank you" to NSC's special chef, Tony Cutone!

Indoor Range to be Refurbished

A few years ago a sizable crew worked hard on the downrange portion of the Indoor Range, and now it's time to take a look at improvements in lighting, ports, and painting. In early May volunteers will be asked to assemble for this refurbishing. Keep an eye on the postings around the club, on the website, and in the Newsletter.

Fleisher Scores in Africa

Club President Matt Fleisher recently returned from a "lifetime hunt" experience in Botswana, Southern Africa, as these photos show. Matt has high praise for the Bush guides and their incredibly keen eyesight and knowledge of the many game species. A great adventure, and great shooting! (And is he planning to return? Yes!)

Fall 3D Archery Matches Begin October 12

With the spring 3D shoots over on May 11 – and tallying well over 70 bowmen for some matches – the archery gang continues to compete informally on Tuesday evenings on the upper field or in the meeting hall. Copies of the 2008 3D-archery booklet are in the Lounge. The fall NSC home-range shoots are on the Sundays of October 12 and November 23. Remember that the Outdoor Range will be closed from 7 a.m., when the matches start, until about 2 p.m., when all scores are in. Contact Mead Close (203.988.2782) or Rick Salza (860.608.2897).

Douton Crafts New Weathervane

The Outdoor Range has a crisp new weathervane to tell those persnickety precision marksmen which way the wind is blowing. Crafted by Jack Douton in the shape of a target rifle, the vane is on top of the range enclosure. It's a nice job – and it lets us blame the wind for those wide shots!

Charlton Heston's Legacy

– excerpted with permission of Michael McNeil, Sioux City (Neb.) Journal

When Charlton Heston died, not only did Hollywood lose an icon, the world witnessed the passing away of a man worthy of respect outside of his acting credentials. With the exception of a few extreme-loon bloggers, the much-deserved tributes poured in.

Heston will be remembered by many for his legendary performances...Heston's most celebrated movie roles were Biblical epics. Mr. Heston played John the Baptist in 1965's "The Greatest Story Ever Told." The 1959 movie "Ben-Hur" earned him an Oscar for best actor. Not only did the actor leave us with memorable performances from "The Ten Commandments," "Ben-Hur," and "The Greatest Story Ever Told," but who can forget the classic lines from "Soylent Green" ("Soylent Green is people!") and "The Planet of the Apes" ("Take your stinking paws off me, you damned dirty ape!").

Heston was a passionate man. Passionate about his acting and the causes he believed in. He campaigned for presidential candidates Adlai Stevenson and JFK. In later years, for Ronald Reagan and both Bush presidents. He accompanied Martin Luther King, Jr. in the 1963 civil rights march in Washington, D.C. He served as president of the National Rifle Association (NRA) from 1998-2003. He resigned in 2003 after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

He also leaves a legacy as a fiery orator. In a 1997 speech, he denounced a culture war he said was being conducted by a generation of media, educators, entertainers and politicians...Strong stuff. Chuck Heston was not known for mincing words.

Despite his association with the high-profile and much-maligned (and misunderstood) NRA, Charlton Heston was much loved by anyone who met him in person for being kind, generous, polite and gracious. Reading through many columns and comments following his death, I found the writers, even those who disagreed with his politics, reaffirmed what his friends, family and acquaintances attested to. He had a genuine caring and respect for his fellow man. That's a legacy worth more than a hundred Oscars.

Join NRA, Save Freedoms

As predicted by sportsmen-observers, the present slate of national political candidates talk about "supporting" the Second Amendment – but then are revealed to have voted against most of its freedoms. As you watch or read the debates, pay attention to the details, many of which are not made clear at all. NRA and other pro-sportsmen organizations are pressing the major parties to provide statements that will help our personal voting decisions.

If you have questions about NRA positions, contact our in-club recruiter, Bob Sutcliffe, at 860.964.0580. If you are not already an NRA member, pick up an application in the Lounge. There are direct benefits to our club if you do: The NRA yearly membership is $35, but NRA will only charge you $25 and then turn back $10 of that fee to NSC for our use, so it benefits all gun owners and the club as well. Stop in at www.nrapvf.org for current information on many topics. A direct link to NRA Membership is on our NSC website.

Dinners Continue into June

Meeting-night prime-rib and specialty dinners will continue into June, but there may be other special events. Pay attention to postings in the Lounge and in the Newslet-

continued on page 4

Dinners...*from page 3*

ter and website for these dining treats. Prime-rib dinners are offered on meeting nights from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Our informal Friday lunches are cooked from noon to about 1:30 p.m. Lounge hours are every Tuesday evening from 5 to about 10 p.m., Friday from noon to about 11 p.m., Saturday from noon to about 6 p.m., and Sundays from 7 a.m. to about 6 p.m. Special menu items are often posted in advance in the Lounge, which is smoke-free during food-service hours.

Club Notes

- Free junk-car removal...Call Josh at 860.460.2210.

- Skeet Range dollar-chips are available in the Lounge for $20 a batch. Schedules and league standings are posted in the Lounge and you can check out the Eastern Connecticut Skeet Club (winter league) website at www.ecsc-skeet.com.

- Continuing Reminder: It is the responsibility of membership applicants to be present at the meetings for the read-in and vote-in process; if members are sponsoring an applicant, be sure to inform him or her that our meetings are on the second Friday of the month at 7 p.m. Applicants for membership must submit a $100, non-refundable, deposit check along with their application. New membership applications and club brochures are in the Lounge and on the website. NSC's 12-minute outdoor-range safety video is required viewing for new members; it can be viewed before their read-in or vote-in meetings at about 6:30 p.m. in the club office.

- The NSC Newsletter always welcomes photos, short stories, and observations from members...just email them or leave them in the Lounge. The Newsletter thanks the continuing efforts of member Emil Tillona, our webmaster.

- Delicious jams and jellies are available at the Lounge, courtesy of the culinary prowess of Tony Cutone. Pick up a few jars (and return the jars when you've enjoyed the contents). Proceeds go to club programs.

- The last Newsletter before the summer will be in June. There are no Newsletters in July and August, though the website will remain active.

- Please be sure that you notify us if you change your your email address. The Newsletter is available on the website in text-only and full-graphics formats. Let us know at nscnewsletter@snet.net and include your full name and member number.

- NSC Website: www.nianticsc.org
- Newsletter email – nscnewsletter@snet.net

NSC Members! Are you planning a special event?

- Retirement? • Birthday?
- Reunion? • Reception?
- Anniversary?

The NSC Hall is available at moderate cost and minimum hassle for these and other gatherings. The kitchen is available, and Lounge service can be arranged.

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Contact House Committee Chairman Charlie Chambers, or Amy or Jodi in the Lounge for details.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, May 9, 7 p.m. Prime Rib Dinner Service Starts at 5:30 p.m.

Officers 2008
Matt Fleisher, *President*
John MacDougall, *Vice-President*
John Santos, *Recording Secretary*
Judy LeBlanc, *Financial Secretary*
Rick Pape, *Treasurer*

The ***Niantic Sportsmen's Club, Inc. Newsletter*** is printed monthly, except for July and August. Copy deadline is the 15th of each month.

Please contact:
John Stratton, *Editor*, 860.434.2534, jpstratton@snet.net
Judy White, *Graphic Designer*, 860.439.1854, jwhite5506@sbcglobal.net

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NIANTIC SPORTSMEN'S CLUB, INC.
P.O. Box 122 • Plants Dam Road
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