



NIANTIC SPORTSMEN'S CLUB INC.

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

Coming up!

April 2008

- Youth Scoped .22 Gallery Night – April 10
- Meeting Night Prime Rib Dinner – Friday, April 11
- Fly-tying for Juniors – Sunday, April 13
- Last Sunday Breakfast of the 2007-2008 season, April 13
- BBQ Rib and Boneless Pork Dinner – Saturday, April 19
- Family .22 Rifle Outdoor Event – Sunday, April 20
- 3D Archery – Sunday April 27
- Indoor Range Refurbishing – Dates to be Posted

May 2008

- 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

Come on Down!

The Skeets Is Runnin'!

The skeet winter league season is coming to a close with two weekends to go. The last

matches end in mid-April, so come to watch a shootoff to see the excitement of skeet-shooting competition at 9 a.m. Sunday mornings.

Thanks go out to all the members who helped unload the ten skids of clay pigeons that were delivered in early March.

Remember: summer skeet season is just around the corner so get ready! Come as a single or organize your own team. No experience is necessary; it is an informal and fun time. The matches are on weekday nights at 5:30 p.m. "Come on Down!" For more info contact the club Commissioner at 434-2336.

Found...Is It Yours?

A nicely sharpened small knife has been found in a cloth case. Describe it at the Lounge, and claim it if it's yours.

FNRA Banquet Will Be on May 8

The annual Friends of NRA banquet will be 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.

In addition to camaraderie and updates by NRA and regional experts, the evening features a large array of door prizes, games, and auction items. The 2008 Gun of the Year

BBQ Rib Dinner!



**SATURDAY
APRIL 19,
2008**



5 p.m. — Happy Hour
...New England Clam Chowder,
Cheese and Crackers, Pepperoni

6 p.m. — Dinner
BBQ Ribs 'n'
Boneless Pork Shoulder
...Red Bliss Country Potato Salad, Cole Slaw,
Tuscan Bean Salad, Baked Beans, Garden Salad,
Rolls and Butter, Coffee,
and Strawberry Shortcake Dessert

Tickets available in the Lounge:
\$18 in advance and \$25 the day of the dinner
...and it's All You Can Eat!

tickets will be drawn, along with those for several other quality arms. All are specially marked and numbered to celebrate the FNRA program. Additionally, a wide range of art, hunting accessories, and merchandise will be auctioned, raffled, or given away.

A banquet ticket is \$40. A Benefactor ticket is \$100 and will get you the dinner, a listing in the program, and \$100 worth of tickets for the bucket drawings. A Sponsor ticket costs \$200 and gets two dinners, a listing in the program, a supplement offer of \$40 for \$200 worth of bucket tickets, a hat, lapel pin, decal, and Traditions Magazine – as well as the inspiring 2008 NRA sculpture of Col. Teddy Roosevelt

continued on pg. 2

Meeting Dates

Executive Meeting
Tuesday, April 8, 7:00 pm

Regular Meeting
Friday, April 11, 7:00 pm

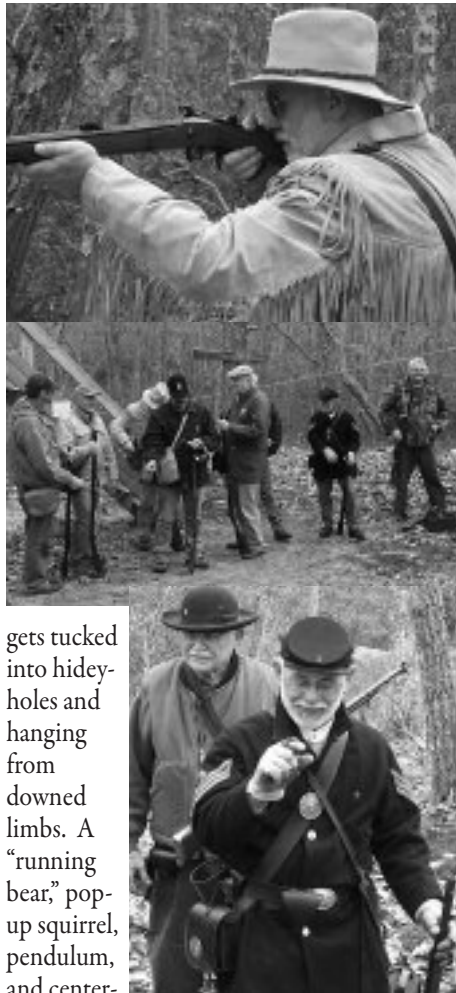
FNRA Banquet...from page 1

for your mantel.

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).

Trail Shoot Tests Muzzle-Boomer Skills

Thirteen shooters set out in twisting trails in the New England woods under grey, early-spring skies March 16, and faced clever tar-



gets tucked into hidey-holes and hanging from downed limbs. A "running bear," pop-up squirrel, pendulum, and center-

hole gongs made things interesting, while shooting points included a tree-platform firing point. When the white smoke cleared, Ron Michaels had scored a winning 12 hits, followed by Steve Wardlaw with 11, Stan Bowdish with 10, and then Art Womack and Carl Rood also tied with 10 each. The participants complimented the organizers – Tom Snow, Craig Grimord, and Stan Bowdish – for their great work. More blackpowder, muzzleloader matches are planned; try it out...it's a small sample of what our flint-and-percussion forebears experienced!

Little Rifle, Big Fun

Those .22's: gotta love 'em. Who didn't learn to shoot on the .22 Long Rifle cartridge, whether at Scout camp, a carnival arcade (remember those?), or in the neighbor's backyard, closely supervised. Maybe you even went on to the squirrel-stew phase...and more.

Here's your chance to revive those old skills – and teach them to a young relative or friend. On Sunday morning, April 20, starting at 10 a.m. until about noon, NSC will sponsor a 50-yard .22LR rimfire shoot with family-fun targets. Any .22LR rimfire, any sights. There will be a small entry contribution, and classes for youth and adults.

Where's that Remington pump, Winchester lever, Ruger auto, or Marlin bolt? See you there! Contact Stan Bowdish for more information.

Youth Pistol Night Teaches Safety and Skill

The youth program's March 6 pistol night attracted 16 members of our youth program and their parents, and the kids were shown the skills and respect inherent in pistol marksmanship. It was a fast and full evening. And, on March 11, John Dube led his Scout troop through the intricacies of winning their archery merit badge...with instruction by experts.

An April 10 scoped-.22-caliber gallery night is coming up soon; it's always a favorite as the kids learn to hit extremely small targets like playing cards (edge-on!) and rubber bands. Brian Owen will teach a fly-tying class on Sunday, April 13, beginning at 10 a.m. for junior members.

Thanks go out for recent ammo donations by Clay Caras, Mike Schaeffer, Tom Snow, and North Cove Outfitters. The youth received another donation of a Savage youth rifle by Stan Bowdish – very generous and very much appreciated; it's being put to good use! At least two more donations are anticipated. Coming up are a skeet night and a muzzleloading night.

The program does not meet during school vacations/holidays and will finish up for the 2007-2008 season at the end of May, resuming in the fall. Remember, 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:

- 6:30-8:30 p.m. 1st and 3rd Thursday: indoor range – Jay Cole

Note: Please do not plan to use the range at this time!

- 6:30-8:30 p.m. 2nd and 4th Thursday: indoor archery – John Dube

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

Members Approve Moderate Dues Increase And Big Annual Raffles for Capital Strength

Members at the well-attended March 14 monthly meeting voted to approve annual cost-of-living dues increases, plus the creation of an annual raffle program which would feature substantial prizes and mandatory ticket sales. The dues-and-raffle program is part of a more general "enhancement" designed to keep the club in the black – and flexible financially. The club's electric bills will soon be reduced with an investment in energy-saving fixtures and lamps, based on a recent professional survey. A new system for recording and rewarding work hours will be instituted with "Club Bucks" that are redeemable at any NSC function, including the Lounge and meals. Details will be submitted in the coming months by a committee working under the club's executive board.

Indoor Range Schedules Refurbishing

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. At the end of April and 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.

Game Recipes Welcome for Newsletter Features

Members are invited to share their home-tested recipes for meals based on wild game. We'll print them in an occasional column...and may try them out at our dinners. Email them to the Newsletter (nscnewsletter@snet.net) or to Michael Scott (msscott@courant.com), or leave them in the Lounge.

Big Boars Fall to NSC Hunters

A full day's hunt in Aurora, Maine – just about 30 miles north of Bangor – landed two hunters some 580 pounds of Russian Boar. The hunters were NSC's Brad Wolff of Ivoryton and



his buddy Dan Vautrain of West Springfield, Mass. (Dan's a familiar face at the club and filled up happily at our recent game dinner.) The March 14-16 trip (a day up, a day in the tree stands, a day back) was hosted at the Hillside Game Ranch, where owner Scott Beede owns 888 acres of dense woodland.

A club member for five years and the proud "meat man" in Tony Cutone's Sunday kitchen crew, Brad reports that "It's a real nice place with terrific food – the lodge sleeps 20 people. This was my third trip up there in six years. You can shoot out of tree stands, or use guides and Australian shepherd dogs.

"My pig weighed in at 300 pounds; Dan's pig weighed in at 280 pounds. Mine had a solid 1 1/2 inches of fat, pretty much everywhere except on the legs, and netted 190 pounds of meat."

Hillside bills itself as "the largest game ranch in New England" and is open 365 days a year. It offers big-game hunts for exotics such as russian boar, red stag, fallow, elk, and buffalo. All game ranch hunts include two days hunting, the animal, home-cooked meals in a modern lodge, transportation, and guide service. For a closer look at Hillside, the website is www.hillsideguideservice.com.

Archers Set for April 27

Archers in our 3D trail shoots will now have about 16 new targets to test their skills. The targets in the premium Reinhart system reflect the popularity of the club on the eastern woodland archery circuit and make an ever-changing course even better. Bob Clark recently cleared the practice range and installed new targets as well. Copies of the 2008 3D-archery booklet are in the Lounge. Upcoming NSC home-range shoots are on the Sundays of April 27, May 11, 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).

Profile: Jay Cole ...one of a series on club mainstays over the years



– by John Stratton

John Cole – known to NSC folk as Jay – is familiar to us as the coordinator of the club's active Youth program, as a competitive pistol shooter in the New London County league, and as an avid blackpowder and high-power rifle shooter. In his other life, the Westbrook resident also heads the technology-education program at Morgan High School in Clinton, and keeps his students' alert with a wide variety of shop tools and building principles. Need to weld? Use a power saw? He's there. Need to drive a nail...without bending it? He's there too. Now, how about drawing up those plans and doing the math accurately? Sure!

Jay's teaching skills come to the fore with the NSC Juniors. The program stresses safety as the kids learn basic marksmanship, and then extends into the woods and fields with map reading, plant and animal identification, and orienteering. On the water, the kids learn to fish and tie flies. Jay participated in a club youth program very similar to NSC's when he was young, and also shot the NRA qualification program.

Jay's wife, Debbie, is also a competitive Bullseye match shooter (but discretion forbids mentioning who scores best at many matches). Their two children, Jake and Jessica, are attending West Virginia University, Jay's alma mater. Both the kids graduated from the NSC program. The Mountaineers also have one of the best smallbore rifle teams in the U.S., Jay notes...he fired with the team as an undergraduate, when he was a forestry student focusing on the wood-products industry, where he worked before teaching.

Jay likes to walk the land, especially in the Catskill Mountains of New York near Roscoe, and to fish there in the Beaverkill. His grandfather's cabin is now, with Jessica and Jake, into its fourth generation.

Jay believes that youth are the future of the traditional outdoor sports...and is doing his best at creating the new generation of responsible outdoorsmen and outdoorswomen. He's an NRA-certified instructor in rifle, pistol, muzzleloader, and a range safety officer.

"As coordinator of the NSC youth pro-

gram," Jay reflects, "I have had the good fortune to meet and work with great people of all ages sharing similar interests. There is always a give-and-take interaction, a spirit of fun and seriousness.

"I am constantly impressed with the support and generosity of the membership."

Date Set for Pistol

All-Star Match

The New London County Pistol League, the Metropolitan Revolver League of Hartford, the Bridgeport Rifle Club Winter Pistol League, the Revolver League of Connecticut of New Haven, and the Southwest Pistol League of Fairfield will vie for state honors at a one-day Interleague All-Star Pistol Match on Sunday, March 30.

The 90-shot, 900-point match will be hosted by the Metropolitan League at the Metropolitan Shooters Inc. competition range in Manchester. Some 70 competitors will vie for statewide league and individual honors in the nationally standardized "bullseye" format. The Metropolitan league edged out both the league challengers at matches in the past three years, but the margins have been growing closer.

Join NRA via NSC Website

The 2008 election year will require our close attention, both locally and nationally. Candidates seem eager to talk about "supporting" the Second Amendment – but then vote against its freedoms and reveal their profound anti-sportsmen records. We'll be very dependent on NRA and other pro-sportsmen organizations to get our point of view to the candidates, and to extract clear information from them that we can use in making our personal voting decisions.

In February-March, the program tallied at least 13 new NRA members and four renewals: keep 'em coming!

If you have questions about NRA positions, contact our in-club recruiter, Bob Sutcliffe, at 860.964.0580. The NRA is our united voice in this election year. 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 now on our NSC website.

Breakfasts Wind Up in April; Dinners Continue into June

The last breakfast of the 2007-2008 Sunday Breakfast season will be April 13; members thank Tony Cutone and his cheerful staff of volunteers for fine foods and great service over the fall and winter...and for the funding raised to provide kitchen improvements and other vital club services.

The meeting-night prime-rib and specialty dinners will continue into June,



and other special dinners – like the BBQ Rib and Pork Roast Dinner April 19 – will be served from time to time. Pay attention to postings in the Lounge and in the Newsletter 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:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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

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.

• • •

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

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

**NEXT MEETING: Friday, April 11,
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.

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