

NIANTIC SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

Incorporated 1955

INC.



Fall 2011

Coming up October-December!

October 2011

- Sunday breakfasts begin – October 2
- Meeting Night – Friday, October 14
- Youth Program Begins: October 6 (Thursday Evenings alternate between rifle certification and archery skills; competitive shooting coaching on other nights as available)
- Officer/board nominations for 2012
- Winter Skeet Schedule begins – Sunday, October 9
- Coalition of Connecticut Sportsmen 11th Annual Awards Banquet, Aqua Turf – Sunday, October 16
- Skeet Beginners' Instructional Class – October 22
- Annual NSC Pig Roast – Saturday, October 29

November 2011

- Meeting Night – Friday, November 11
- Officer/board elections for 2012

December 2011

- Meeting Night – Friday,

December 9 (officer/board nominations)

- Annual Holiday Party – Friday, December 16
- Dues for 2012 membership due – December 31

Nominations Open for October 14; Elections to Come on November 11

All club officers are up for nomination and five board slots are open for additional nominations at the October 14 meeting.

Members may nominate from the floor at the meeting, or contact anyone on the nominating committee: John Sasman, Walt Kukta, John Stratton, John Santos, John MacDougall.

Officer nominees so far are: President, Matt Fleisher; Vice-President, John MacDougall; Recording Secretary, John Santos; Financial Secretary, Judy LeBlanc; Treasurer, Andy Lindelow. Executive Board nominees so far are: Jack Doughton, Peter Edmonson, Ron Michaels, Frank Zito, Jack Cutillo. The November 11 meeting will elect the officers and board for 2012-2013. The election slate will be sent to members by email and by postings in the Lounge.

Outdoor Range Improvements Result of Good Volunteer Work

The outdoor range has been groomed and work has continued on its drainage and berms...the field gets greener and greener as the fall and winter comes on. The outdoor pistol

range also continues to improve with a new, gazebo-style, tent and range tables, and with raised and grass-seeded berms. Many thanks to the precision-shooting Over the Hill Gang and its

helpers under chairman Stan Bowdish. The winter panels were removed for the summer at the range building by Walter Beauchamp, Dave Yuhas, Duncan

Gifford and they'll be put back up as the weather turns later this fall.

Victor Frausini donated the shaped carpets for the shooting benches (Thank you, Victor!) Richard Kocielo donated the lollipops for the family .22 rifle shoot that was held on June 26. Helping us were Range Officer Ray Falkner, Craig Grimord, Holly Foster, and Jack Doughton. We had 21 shooters. The winner in the first round was Walt Kutka in a shootoff with Mark Sullivan and winner in the second round was Al Cocola. George and Morgan Stone also competed in shootoffs.

The range berms have been dressed with loam by Frank Zito's equipment operator, Mike O'Neil, and club member George Stone. The berms have also been re-seeded and fertilized. The grooming of the range grounds has been kept up with the help of John Cutone and Jack Doughton. Most of the summertime range improvements have been made between berms at 100 and 200 yards.

Howie Beers has restocked our target frames that sell for \$15 in the Lounge. Howie has made hundreds of these well-constructed frames for years, a very appreciated donation to the club.

The last snowstorm of a long winter destroyed the canopy and it was replaced while we wait for a permit for a more permanent structure. If the permit is not approved, we will cover the ground surface with a material that will make it easier to pick up spent casings. We can hope that the current, improved canopy will withstand the next winter's storms. The metal target frames were re-

moved from the outdoor pistol range because of high maintenance problems.

Coalition Awards Banquet Will Be on October 16

Keep your eyes out for the posters on the Eleventh Annual Awards Banquet of the Coalition of Connecticut Sportsmen on Sunday, October 16, at the Aqua Turf Country Club in Southington...and maybe win a few of the excellent prizes and auction items! The benefit is the primary support of the coalition's programs to honor sportsmen's legislative supporters and activists in Connecticut. The banquet is a good time and a good cause, especially in an election year. In addition to postings on club bulletin boards, see the website at www.ctsportsmen.com for forms and current information.

Youth and Coaches Are Champions in Camp Perry 2011 Smallbore Matches

— by Kent Lacey

The best smallbore-rifle shooters in the country arrive at Camp Perry, Ohio, in late July to compete for the NRA sponsored National Championships. The championships evolve around one day of shooting with iron sights only; then another day with any sights allowed; and a third day that is reserved for the four-man team competitions.

Weather on the shores of Lake Erie often plays a large role in the outcome, and this year the weather was a much larger factor than normal. Iron-sights day had temperatures well over 100 degrees F, with high humidity to match. It was an endurance contest. Day two, any sights, was much better with temps only in the 90's. When the two days of individual competition were over, our own Niantic Sportsmen's Club was well represented on the awards stage.

An NSC junior-team member, 14-year-old Eric Sloan, won

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Youth and Coaches... from pg. 1
the Sub-Junior National Championship by a wide margin, firing a strong score of 2318-84x. Eric was awarded many nice prizes including a competition air rifle valued at \$900.



Eric's coach is Lisette Grunwell, and she herself has been a contender at Camp Perry in recent years. This year Lisette put together her finest performance ever, shooting a score of 2369-161x. This score earned Lisette the honor of being the best female rifle shooter in the United States as she received the gold medallion as Woman National Champion. Her X-count of 161 was the highest recorded by any shooter at Camp Perry. Lisette finished a few points behind three male shooters, and next year her goal is to finish in first place overall. (The U.S. Army's match shooters had best watch out!)

Emily Britt, a 16-year-old mem-



ber of the NSC junior team (officially called the 10-X Terrors) shot very well in the always-competitive Intermediate Junior class with a total score for the two days of 2292-71x. Not only was the heat oppressive, but lightning, heavy rains, and deer on the rifle range caused many delays. Emily won many class awards in

about the sport of competitive smallbore rifle shooting.

In team competition on the third day of rains, lightning, and winds, the Niantic 10-X Terrors finished first in their category of local clubs. The two team matches are fired with iron sights, and then with any sights. In the iron sights match the team fired a score of 2298-82x. Team members are Jacob Lathrop 569, Emily Britt 564, Eric Sloan 577 and Lisette Grunwell 588. After a short break, the sun came out to challenge the shooters as they went back to the firing line to shoot the team any-sight match. Again the



her IJ Sharpshooter class, finishing in eighth place out of 33 shooters.

Seventeen-year-old Jacob Lathrop competed in the Marksman class of the Intermediate Junior category. His total of 2225-41X was well executed, as Jacob fired iron sights both days of the competition. This was Jacob's first trip to Camp Perry and his eighth-place finish out of 50 shooters was very impressive. Jacob is very eager to return to Camp Perry next year. A side note: There is something about standing on the long firing line, shoulder-to-shoulder with 200 other shooters, that gets into your blood. Jacob shared a firing point with William Beard, a former Olympic Team member for the United States. Jacob and his father, Don Lathrop, both enjoyed talking to Mr. Beard and learning so much more

10-X Terrors won their category with a super score of 2330-89x. Member scores were: Jacob Lathrop 562, Emily Britt 586, Eric Sloan 586 and Lisette Grunwell 596.

These four members of the Niantic Sportsmen's Club Three-Position Smallbore Rifle Team performed like the champions they are. It is a most amazing feat for a local gun club to win two National Championships in one year at Camp Perry. In the last three years, individual members of the Niantic smallbore rifle team have won a total of 12 National Championship awards.

**Words from the Towers...
Summer Skeet a Success,
Winter League Begins,
Beginners' Class Set**

The winter skeet league started October 2 and spectators are wel-

come. NSC is fielding seven teams in the 60-year-old league. Our skeet field is now in use Sunday mornings from October through April, but open for general skeet at all other times, 9 a.m. to dusk. Before the season, maintenance on the low-house machine was conducted with the help of Chuck Savage, Bob Missel, Chip Berry, Bob Prentice, John Sasman, Fred Douglas and Bill Boehning.

A beginners' skeet informational, safety, and skeet instructional class is on Saturday, October 22, at 11 a.m. All members, spouses, and children are invited to experience shooting on the field; a shotgun, box of shells with #9 shot, and eye/hearing protection are required; children capable of handling a shotgun may participate if they are age 10 or older.

But the past summer was a busy one: Starting off, the "Introduction to Skeet" clinic on May 21 attracted 18 newer shooters to coaching provided by Bill Boehning and Tom Bateman. Instruction provided information on safety, procedures, and machine operation, as well as tips on actually hitting the fast-moving clay birds.

New underground electrical piping from the skeet house to the new power poles was installed by a club work party on May 14. The group consisted of John Morin, Bob Florin, Bob Missel, Glenn Stadnick, Rick Taylor, and Bill Boehning, and excavator operator Joe Albuquerque. John Sasman installed an all-weather connection box the following week, and power lines will be connected soon. Several other members joined in to make this a very effective club-volunteer effort using the professional skills of our diverse membership (as well as some rake-and-shovel and rock-handling efforts!). The summer skeet season of eight teams, totaling 45 members, ended up with a rainy Tuesday, September 6, bratwurst BBQ with hot dogs, hamburgers, chili, salads, desserts. Yum!

For more skeet info, call 860.434.2336 or email wildbillsidcutter@sbcglobal.net.



NSC smallbore rifle competitor Lisette Grunwell and Troy Bassham work on a .22 rifle at the Niantic outdoor rifle range; they are re-torquing the bedding screws in the rifle stock. Troy was a member of the Army Marksmanship Unit for years medaling in world competition. Shortly after leaving the Army he won the National Championship at Camp Perry, Ohio. Troy's dad, Lanny Bassham, won silver and gold in the Olympics shooting rifle. They both work together in their company, Mental Management Systems, teaching athletes in golf, tennis, shotgun, rifle, archery and other sports how to build a mental game that will help them become champions.

Youth Program 2011-2012 Starts First Thursday in October

NSC's Youth Program offers archery, two opportunities in rifle shooting, and a hearty batch of training and orientation in traditional skills and teamwork.

The ongoing NRA Rifle Qualification course (self-paced for beginners and experienced shooters alike) meets on the first and third Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. with Jay Cole and Ron Michaels as the primary coaching staff. The qualification program is safety-oriented, and follows key NRA national programs, starting with "First Steps" certificate for safety and basics and extending through the NRA Rifle Qualification Course.

Every Thursday evening the competition-shooting team for more experienced shooters meets on the indoor range from 6 to 9 p.m. with Lisette Grunwell, Kent Lacey, and Gary Baier as the primary coaches.

Archery with J.L. Kopcha and Frank Hull meets on the second and fourth Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the indoor archery range. A variety of interesting targets encourage friendly archery competition while building lifetime skills. Please contact youth coordinator Jay Cole for more information at jcoleeiii@yahoo.com.

Cole always emphasizes, "In any part of our programs, if anyone would like to share skills and expertise and run a youth event—by all means please speak up and join in! Junior members may join and participate at any time. We recognize that young people sometimes have intense schedules, so they do not have to participate every week, because activities are self-paced. However, a parent or other adult must attend with their Juniors, and are welcome to help out and learn along with them."

Youth General Schedule and Coach Contacts:
6-9 p.m. every Thursday, Competition Shooting Team, Lisette Grunwell • 6:30-8:30 p.m. First and Third and Thursday, indoor rifle, Jay Cole, Ron Michaels • 6:30-8:30 p.m. Second and Fourth Thursday, indoor archery, J.L. Kopcha, Frank Hull

Muzzleloaders Held Fall Field Shoot; Plan Trail Walks over Winter

A September Field Shoot on the outdoor range kicked off the 2011-2012 muzzleloader schedule and a wintertime regimen of trail walks will follow. The popular events test members' skills on a variety of targets at differing distances, and imitate the challenges faced by our ancestors as they walked the woods and pastures of New England in search of game to feed their families. There's lots of room for newcomers, so join in and keep alert for notices.

Shooters Learn Bullseye from the Best

An intense two days of lectures in the meeting hall and hands-on training on the indoor range exposed some 40 bullseye pistol competitors to tips and practices of two of the finest pistol shots in the U.S. on September 24 and 25.



"Better Bullseye" – a clinic hosted by NSC and sponsored by the New London County Pistol League – introduced area match shooters to the skills of Brian Zins and Andy Moody. Zins is ten-time national pistol champion (and a recent shooter in the History Channel's "Top Shot" series). Moody is the author of the Marine handbook on pistol marksmanship and other competitor guides.

They were joined by Dr. Nick Abrishamian, an expert in ammunition loading for match-target handguns and a nutrition advisor for competition readiness. The clinic had been postponed from late August because of Hurricane Irene.

The participants and observers ranged from Connecticut state champions to relative newcomers to the sport. All benefited from the blend of theory and one-on-one guidance, which was offered with good humor – and understanding – at shooters' difficulties as they tried out new methods of physical and mental control.

Coordinating the event were Steve Wheeler, an N2 team member, and Frank Zito, an NSC member and N2 competitor as well. Andy Lindelow, NSC

member and the new president of the New London league, welcomed the participants. Refreshments and luncheons were prepared by Jodi Stone, Jan Fallucco and their NSC-family helpers.

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Dues Payment Procedures

All Regular members are required to submit the full amount of \$200 for 2012 dues. In a departure from recent years, you will be first-class-mailed an invoice with dues instructions; this will be your only personal invoice and it will be mailed from the club in late October. If you do not receive it by mid-November, notify the club by email, a note in the Lounge, or by phoning an officer.

If members participate in a work party or other volunteer activity they should request a work chit from the work party chairperson and send this work chit in with their dues to receive credit for fulfilling their four-hour service obligation. They will receive their \$40 back in the form of NSC Club Bucks which can be spent on any in-club event or service.

Here is an additional reminder to all new members as of January 2007: there is a minimum \$50 per year Land Assessment obligation also due if you have chosen to pay it over a five-year period. For all payments, you must add 10 percent Connecticut State Luxury Tax (Example: \$200 dues plus \$20 Luxury Tax; \$250 dues and Land Assessment

plus \$25 Luxury Tax). Senior and Life Members are also responsible to pay the \$40 work assessment, and will receive \$40 in NSC Club Bucks if they accompany their payment with a work chit. The Connecticut Luxury Tax does not apply to the \$40 assessment for Senior and Life Members.

The plan is to have all 2012 membership cards as well as NSC Bucks available for pickup starting at the February meeting. The door and lock combinations will be changed

in March; you will be provided the new combination with your 2012 membership cards.

MEMBER MEETINGS

Dinner Service Starts at 5:30 p.m.

Meetings Start at 7 p.m.

October: Friday, October 14

November: Friday, November 11

December: Friday, December 9

Executive Meetings are at 7 p.m. the Tuesday before the Friday Meeting

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John MacDougall, *Vice-President*
John Santos, *Recording Secretary*
Judy LeBlanc, *Financial Secretary*
Rick Pape, *Treasurer*
Executive Board
Term 2010 through 2011—Jack Douton, Peter Edmondson, Ron Michaels, Frank Zito, Jack Cutillo
Term 2011 through 2012—Bill Boehning, Stan Bowdish, Al Cocola, Tom Davis, Al LeBlanc, George Stone;
Committee Chairs 2010-2011
Judy LeBlanc—*Finance*;
John MacDougall—*Membership*;
Stanley Bowdish—*Outdoor Range*;
Peter Edmondson—*Indoor Range*;
William Boehning—*Skeet*;
Tom Snow, Craig Grimord—*Black Powder*;
Charles Chambers, George Stone—*House*;
Jay Cole, Lisette Grunwell-Lacey, Ron Michaels, J.L. Kopcha, Frank Hull—*Youth/Competition*;

Greg Hoagland—*Archery*;
Bruce Vandal, Jeff Schwartz—*Conservation*;
Bob Sutcliffe—*NRA Liaison*;
Laura Bradley—*Kitchen*;
Emil Tillona—*Website*;
Tom Davis—*NSC Raffle Planning*;
John Stratton—*NSC Newsletter/Membership Services*
General email contacts
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www.nianticsc.org
Niantic Sportsmen's Club Newsletter is printed quarterly and is distributed by mail and email to club members and their families; it is supplemented by *Horizon*, an email-only bulletin that is updated frequently. Both *NSC Newsletter* and *Horizon* are posted on the NSC website.
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