



NIANTIC SPORTSMEN'S CLUB INC.

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

Coming up!

February 2009

- Meeting Night Prime Rib Dinner – Friday, February 13
- Sunday Breakfasts – February 1, 8, 15, 22
- Blackpowder Trail Shoot – Sunday, February 15
- NSC Annual Game Dinner – Saturday, February 28 (*Note: no breakfast following Game Dinner*)

March 2009

- Sunday Breakfasts – March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- Corned Beef and Cabbage Night – Saturday, March 7
- Meeting Night Prime Rib Dinner – Friday, March 13
- Interleague All-Star Pistol Match – Sunday, March 29
- 3D Archery Match – Sunday, March 29

Finance Clarifications and Reminders...

All Regular members are required to submit \$200 for 2009 dues. If a work chit for at least four hours of service accompanies your payment, \$40 worth of NSC Bucks will be issued with your new membership card. For those who only sent in \$160, please remit the \$40 as soon as possible to remain in good standing. You may bring your payment to the February

meeting if you wish.

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 over a five-year period.

All Life and Senior members are required to submit a \$40 special-assessment fee. If a work chit accompanies your payment for four hours of service, \$40 worth of NSC Bucks will be issued with your new membership card.

I plan to have all 2009 membership cards as well as NSC Bucks available at the February meeting.

The door and lock combinations will be changed on or about March 1.

– *Judy LeBlanc, Financial Secretary*

St. Pat's Dinner on Saturday, March 7

Corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, appetizers, dessert...a great evening in honor of traditional St. Patrick's fare is set for Saturday evening, March 7. A \$15 ticket will bring you opulent servings, and fun conversation. Tickets are available in the Lounge – and are limited to 100 diners, so get yours early.

Trail Shoot to Test Muzzleloaders' Skills

The scene: It's halfway through February, and once again the larder's a bit thin. Last fall's potatoes and yams, a few dried vegetables, some put-up preserves in jars – but not too many, and they have to last till spring. Time for a bit of hunting in the woods to feed the family! So off you go, into the wild, with a horn of powder and a pouch of freshly cast roundballs to try your luck.

NSC's blackpowder shooters will once

Annual Game Dinner Saturday, February 28

Starts at 5:00 pm

NSC's Annual Game Dinner is on Saturday, February 28. Set aside the time for that Saturday evening of family fun, fine food, and exciting prizes. The evening starts at 5

p.m. with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, and moves on to dinner at 6 p.m. Have a choice item that you'd like to share? Cook it up yourself, or drop it off in plenty of time for our chefs to do their usual great job. Check in the Lounge for details.

And, if you have an item or two that might make a nice donation to the raffle drawings, please leave it off in the Lounge with your name and/or business name.



again experience the challenges of centuries past with a "Trail Shoot" in our woodlands against simulated game targets at varying ranges and angles on Sunday, February 15. Get there early: registration will be from from 9:30 till 10:30 a.m. and small groups will be sent out to engage a dozen or so targets under realistic conditions. Dig out that smokepole and test yourself against the wilderness, and then relax in the warm Lounge and tell stories later. Any type of muzzleloader and sights are welcome. You bring the sharp eye and steady hand!

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Meeting Dates

Executive Meeting
Tuesday, February 10, 7:00 pm

Regular Meeting
Friday, February 13, 7:00 pm

NSC Website: www.nianticsc.org

Muzzleloader Trail Shoot...*from page 1*

Last month, it turned out that the skies were clear and the air was snappy on Saturday, January 10, for the muzzleloaders' "Line Shoot" against tough upside-down-pyramid targets. (The closer you got to the pointy end, the higher your score.) Twelve shooters competed with cap or flint and prizewinners received one club dinner and two breakfasts.

Winter Skeet Features Hot Matches

The skeet season is in its element: snow on the ground, tricky winds, and good matches. But soon it will be spring. Commissioner Bill Boehning observes that it's not too soon to plan for joining an intramural summer-league team, or even setting up a team for next fall's match schedules. No experience is needed for the summer program, so stop in at a Sunday-morning match and see how it's done in the cold weather.

3D Archery Schedule Starts on March 29

The 11 clubs of the Southern New England 3D Archery circuit have set their 2009 schedule, and NSC will host six of those matches. Our club dates are the Sundays of March 29, April 26, May 24, September 27, October 18, and November 29. Signups are from 7 a.m. till 12 noon, with all scores in by 2 p.m. Lunch and refreshments are served. Our contacts are Mead Close (203.988.2782) and Rich Salza (860.608.2897). The full event booklet is available in the Lounge.

Indoor Range Gets New Gas Furnace

In early January the propane furnace on the indoor range began to fail and members voted at the January meeting to authorize a new one; it was installed and up and functioning within days with minimal disruption to the range schedule. Great job!

Advertising Space, Inserts To Be Available in Newsletter

Free "classified-style" sales-and-services ads have long been available in the Newsletter, though not widely used because of their small size. In response to many requests, additional "display" ads will soon be available in the Newsletter to members at a reasonable cost reflecting their ongoing, commercial nature. The Newsletter and the executive board are working out an ad size/fee schedule which anticipates a total ad content of about a half

page, with suggested standards of preparation for incorporation into the page layouts. Ad design and typography will be provided at extra cost. Full size insert sheets will also be available – at a cost covering their printing, inserting, folding, sealing, and additional postage. When determined, rates and formats will be posted in the Lounge and on the website. The aim is to provide on-target advertising that reaches our 700 sportsmen every month.

NRA Youth Summit Offers Scholarships

The National Rifle Association is currently accepting applications from qualified high school sophomores and juniors to participate in the National Youth Education Summit (YES) from July 6-12. Forty outstanding students from across the United States are chosen each year to travel to the nation's capital. Activities on this year's schedule include: Guest speakers at NRA Headquarters and the National Firearms Museum; competitive debates with other high school students from across the nation; and informative tours at historic sites and monuments in and around Washington, D.C.

In addition to the week in Washington D.C., YES participants compete for \$30,000 in college scholarships. The first round of awards totals \$10,000 and is given at the conclusion of the YES program. The second round, called grand scholarships, offers \$20,000 and involves a second application, available to the participants after they go through the YES program. Entry requires submission of a completed application form, high school transcript, three-page essay on the Second Amendment, one-page personal statement, and three letters of recommendation. Interested students should have their application postmarked no later than March 2. For additional information, visit www.nrafoundation.org/yes, or call 800.672.3888, ext. 1354.

NSC's conservation and legislative bulletin boards cover the highlights of state-level legislation and rulings; take a look at it when you come in, and take note of email addresses and websites. Another very helpful resource is the Coalition of Connecticut Sportsmen's site at www.ctsportsmen.com.

NSC Hosts All-Star Match

NSC will be the host club for the fifth annual Interleague All-Star Pistol Match, to be held this year Sunday, March 29, on the indoor range. The best .22 rimfire "bullseye"

shooters of 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 compete for state honors. The 90-shot, 900-point match will be attended by about 70 competitors. Many of those attending will enjoy our famous Sunday breakfasts that day, and the kitchen and Lounge will be open for light lunches.

Two Pistol Tournaments Set for Winter and Spring

The Connecticut State Indoor Pistol Championship matches will be held February 7 and 8 at the Metropolitan Shooters range in Manchester, and are open to all state National Match Course shooters. The 25-yard competition is coordinated by the pistol division of the Connecticut State Rifle and Revolver Association and a number of NSC shooters have competed over the years, achieving national rankings. Another major match, the 50-foot NRA Open Sectional National Indoor Pistol Championships, are to be held March 14 and 15 at the Bridgeport Rifle Club. Information on registering, directions, or carpooling is available at postings in the NSC range or by contacting pistol captain Myron Kavalgian.

Juniors Shoot Well at Middlebury Match

Niantic Sportsmen's Club juniors and sub-juniors shot very well at the Middlebury, Conn., annual junior rifle match on January 10 and 11. The weekend's snow and ice did little to prevent competitors around the state from attending.



The Sub-Junior Prone match had a field of 40 shooters. NSC's Emily Britt's score of 275 out of 300 medaled with a fourth-place finish and Kimberlee Grohocki fired a 263 out of 300 to finish in eighth place, just four points out of the top medals award to the top five competitors. Eric Sloan was nineteenth at 244.

In the Three-Position junior match, Niantic/Grasso Tech/Quaker Hill's Zach Smith shot a

strong 268 to medal in the fifth-place slot competing with 53 juniors. Just ahead of Zach was Claudia Duksa of the Bridgeport Club with a 275 score. Claudia has won national championships at Camp Perry – including last year – so we know that the competition was tough.

This was NSC's Drew Denno's very first three-position match and with just a few weeks of practice he did very well with a finish in fourteenth place with a score of 247. This was also Sub-Junior Kimberlee's very first three-position match. With only a few weeks of practice, she posted an excellent 238 for nineteenth place. Other Niantic three-position shooters in this match were veterans Emily Britt, 214 for thirty-third place, and Eric Sloan, rounding out the Niantic shooters with a 190 earning a fortieth-place medal. Drew and Kimberlee's scores were not only impressive for first-time position shooting but qualified Drew and Kimberlee for their first NRA American Rifleman Expert award. Kids can earn this qualification by shooting at their club's junior program over several months or by going to matches and shooting a qualification score. They did it the hard way...at a match!

In the team matches, the Niantic junior team of three sub-juniors did more than hold their own with a 889 out of 1200 for fifth-place finish among 11 junior teams. They beat out top teams from Middletown, Xavier High, and Quaker Hill but could not edge out the established junior teams of Blue Trail, Bell City, Grasso Tech, and Stratford. The Niantic Junior Three-Position Team members were Drew Denno, Kimberlee Grohocki, Emily Britt, and Eric Sloan. Congratulations, all!

NSC Juniors Compete at Statewide Matches

NSC Junior competitors scored well in the "big leagues" in two recent .22 smallbore championship matches.

Kimberlee Grohocki took first in the Sub-Junior and Junior Class in the Four-Position 2009 Mohegan League Championships at Mystic Rod and Gun Club on January 18, scoring a 386/400 in the Sub-Junior Prone Match, and a 731/800 in the Four-Position Match (prone, sitting, kneeling, standing). It was her first "open-class" match.

On the same day, Drew Denno and Zachary Smith fired in the 2009 Junior Olympic Rifle Championships held at Bridgeport Rifle Club, firing both air rifle and three-position smallbore in the Intermediate Junior Class. Shooting alongside several national champions, Denno shot 473/600 with the match air rifle and 474/600 (prone, standing, kneeling), and Smith fired 474/600 in air and 523 in three-position. Many competitors came from across the country, including national-team member and fourth-ranked Sarah Scherer, who is also the sis-

ter of 2008 Olympian and West Point Cadet Stephen Scherer. Others shooters included national-record holders and members of the 2008 Camp Perry National Junior Team Champions; Mike Burzynski, Josie Burzynski (a University of Texas at El Paso sophomore), Remington Lyman, Lenny Smittner, Jacob Costa and multi-year Camp Perry Sub-Junior and Intermediate Junior National Champion Claudia Duksa of Bristol, Connecticut

NSC parents are reminded that youth 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, Ron Michaels
- 6:30-8:30 p.m. 2nd and 4th Thursday: indoor archery – John Dube

On months with "fifth Thursdays," we plan special events.

East Lyme Tidbits:

Comments on Hyman...and on Safeguarding our Native Plantlife

– by Tom Kalal

The Newsletter's January 2009 story on Hyman Salowitz generated several responses. Each response has been greatly appreciated and I am commenting on two of them here.

Amongst our membership is a man named Jeffrey Suntutp; Hyman is his great uncle. He notes that Hyman was not one of four children, but one of seven children – actually the sixth born to the Salowitz family. Sister Harriet (Mr. Suntutp's grandmother) is a 1921 graduate of East Lyme public schools. I was fortunate enough to actually view her graduation certificate. Brother Jack, the youngest of Hyman's brothers and sisters, currently resides in New London.



Hyman Salowitz of East Lyme unlatches the fence to cross the road and return home after feeding his beef cattle – from The Day 9-24-92 story titled "Down on 'Hymie's' Cattle Farm."

Jeffrey shared with me that his Uncle Hymie often paid his farm help with his fabulous spring water, or apples, but rarely with money. A true outdoorsman, he allowed hunters to take deer and other game from his 200-acre farm and woodlot. Hyman made it very clear his farm was to remain a farm, not to be developed with houses.

Hyman's family was devoted and deeply religious. Their farm was often the site of Jewish gatherings and holiday celebrations.

Another reader wished to remain anonymous;

however, this commentator was glad that some of the Salowitz farm is now preserved by the Niantic Sportsmen's Club, but said that if Hymie knew that some of his fields were now houses, "He'd roll over in his grave."

Specifically, this reader also asks: What can be done to prevent the land's overgrowth? I think this reader is speaking of invasive species – also called "invasives."

Invasive species are plants growing in any habitat that are not native to those conditions. Any plant can be an invasive species if it is allowed to grow in the wrong environment.

Let's take one we all know; bittersweet or oriental bittersweet. This plant was imported from the Far East in the early nineteenth century primarily for its decorative value. However, once ensconced in most northern U.S. soil and watered with our average rainfalls, this plant turns into an aggressive monster, entangling our trees and eventually killing them. So, here in northern U.S., bittersweet is invasive. Back home in China, the plant stays low to the ground, is never invasive, and forms a different groundcover.

Invasives are quite numerous. It hasn't been until the last 20 years that we have identified them and made some conscious decisions: to not commercially grow them; to not allow the sale of them; and to provide control recommendations as approved by Connecticut's DEP and the University of Connecticut.

Invasive species can be particularly harmful to forests and fields. In normal, stable, ecosystems all the plants live harmoniously with one another, creating beautiful pastures or stately forests. Plants like bittersweet, Japanese barberry, Japanese knotweed, and multiflora roses will literally overwhelm that environment and push out all the other plant species. This impacts recreational hunters because, as the native species are overgrown, wildlife food and habitat diminish.

Are there lists of invasive species? Absolutely; the University of Connecticut works very hard to provide information and research on control methods. Some common species in addition to those listed above are Norway maple, "Tree of Heaven," black locust, and autumn olive. When I was in agriculture school years ago, the olive was considered a beneficial plant, and thus many highway medians are full of them. Little did the planners know the invasiveness of this plant. This information can be gained through the internet or your local extension service office, noted below.

How did they get here? Numerous ways. Some were intentionally planted, such as the autumn olive and the Norway maple, but there are many other methods. In every cup of soil lie at least a hundred dormant seeds of nearby plants. Some seeds lie in dormancy for years. However, when they are brought near the soil surface where warmth, moisture, and light penetrate, germination proceeds. This process goes for all seeds – good and bad. But invasives are prolific seed producers, capable of thousands of seedlings per year.

Also, in a normal environment, there is a natural weed barrier. In a pasture it is the thick stand of grass and thatch and dead grass blades. In a nor-

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East Lyme Tidbits...from page 3

mal forest there is a barrier of usually four inches or more of partially decomposed leaf matter; this is natural weed control.

Whenever this barrier is disturbed, you can get invasives. Commercial logging and ATV's are particular culprits. Although they have their benefits, they are a detriment to invasive-species control. They dig up the earthen floor, exposing more seeds to water, warmth, and light. Consequently most invasives begin along manmade trails, paths, and roads.

When we humans walk in the woods, we should avoid walking on barren earth for just that reason – for we too have an impact on invasives. Other ways these stubborn plants get started is seed distribution by animals that consume the fruits and berries, and by wind, water currents, and sometimes by fire.

Two invasive species new to New London County are "mile-a-minute" vine and giant hogweed. Hogweed grows to 15 feet when in flower and looks a bit like a dill flower. Mile-a-minute vines coat everything in their path, killing anything they smother. This plant can grow six inches in an hour. Leaves are triangular with bright blue fruits. Both species will grow in dry or damp soils, in sun or part shade. They are highly adaptable to most environments.

How do we control invasives? First and foremost is to care for our natural environments. Avoid creating any artificial conditions that would allow for barren earth. Definitely do not allow random-trail ATV's, and limit logging to recommended forest-practice standards. Maintain vegetative buffers along streams and forest edges.

We can mechanically control invasives by hand-pulling and physically removing the plants. This is most effective in the winter months or a particularly dry period to reduce seed germination. Repeated mowing and trimming will prevent seed production and can in itself eliminate certain species. Herbicides such as Roundup and Crossbow are extremely effective. These should be applied by licensed applicators following label directions for the species desired.

Biological control is the last option. Many pests are controlled through their natural predators – gypsy moth through a virus, adelgid through a cer-

tain aphid. Some insects also control invasive species. Usually this insect is imported from the invasive's country of origin and can present problems of its own, so we must proceed very cautiously. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven commits millions of dollars to research on biological control.

In conclusion, let's identify and treat our different environments with respect. If an invasive does get started, let's get rid of it before it spreads. Along Bridebrook Road, we absolutely have some invasives that would well be worth eradicating.

Useful links to some invasive-species sites:

USDA Forest Service

www.na.fs.fed.us

www.invasive.org/eastern/biocontrol/26MileAMinute.html

www.nps.gov/plants/aillen/fact/pope1.html

University of Connecticut

www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg/invader

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

www.ct.gov/CAES/site/default.asp

Invasive Plants of New England

<http://nbii-nin.ciesin.columbia.edu/ipane/ctcouncil/members.htm>

NSC's Wholesome 'n' Tasty Sunday Breakfast Menu

1. Two eggs, homefries, choice of meat (sausage, ham, bacon), toast
2. Three eggs, homefries, choice of meat, toast
3. Texas toast with choice of meat
4. Great Big pancakes with choice of meat
5. Kingsized blueberry pancakes with choice of meat
6. Eastern omelet, homefries, toast
7. Western omelet, homefries, toast
8. Bacon, sausage, or ham cheddar omelet, homefries, toast
9. "The Mess"...bacon, sausage, ham, peppers, onions, homefries, all "messed up" with scrambled eggs (Yum!)



10. "The Combo"...two eggs, two French toasts or pancakes, choice of meat
11. Egg sandwich...two eggs, choice of meat on a hardroll, homefries
12. Spectacular Super Specials [as available on that particular day].
Sideorders available...Corned beef hash; extra sausage, ham, bacon; coffee (free); juices and other beverages

Club Notes

- Continuing Reminder: It is the responsibility of membership applicants to be present at the meetings for the read-in and vote-in process.
- NSC Website: www.nianticsc.org
- Newsletter email – nscnewsletter@snet.net

NEXT MEETING: Friday, February 13, 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.

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AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO:

NIANTIC SPORTSMEN'S CLUB, INC.

P.O. Box 122 • Plants Dam Road

Niantic, CT 06357

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