



NIANTIC SPORTSMEN'S CLUB INC

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

Coming up!

June 2008

- Meeting Night Prime Rib Dinner – Friday, June 13
- Last Newsletter until September; website remains active
- Pistol Range Refurbishing (to be announced)
- NSC Email Poll

September 2008

- Meeting Night: September 12, 7 p.m.

October 2008

- Breakfasts and Dinners Resume
- Meeting Night: October 10, 7 p.m.
- Coalition of Connecticut Sportsmen Banquet – October 19

Come on Down for Skeet

Summer Skeet season is up and running; signup sheets are at the skeet house or in the Lounge. You can register as a single person or make up a team of five. The summer league is an informal and fun time to shoot; it starts in June and it's not too late to put your name on a roster. The matches begin at 5:30 p.m. and you shoot once a week, Monday through Thursday. No experience is necessary.

In the just-ended Winter League, John Morin was once again the top shooter in the club with a 48.69, and Paul Jezierski was a

close second with a 48.38.

So...“Come On Down” for the summer – for info call the Commissioner at 434-2336.

Range Improvements on Track

In mid-May a team dug into the already-cleared outdoor-range woods to make a 25-

yard bermed range, a needed improvement to our outdoor facility. Last year's work in cutting, splitting and transporting wood made this phase a job for an excavating team. The work was undertaken with time and equipment by a crew from Zito Builders, under the direction of outdoor-range leaders Jack Douton and Stan Bowdish. The crew included Mike O'Brien, Frank Zito, and Chris Barnhart. Next, it's a liberal coating of wood chips and grass seed – any volunteers? Well done, all!



Meeting Dates

Executive Meeting
Tuesday, June 10, 7:00 pm

Regular Meeting
Friday, June 13, 7:00 pm

Blackpowder Fired Up by Tradition

Once again the white smoke and muffled boom of blackpowder rifles sounded on the outdoor range, as 14 competitors tested their offhand-marksmanship May 18 on paper targets (featuring outlined jug bottles and bowl-



ing pins), and also tested their shootoff skills on clay birds at 25 and 50 yards. Organized by Al Cawthra and Stan Bowdish, the match was a chance to taste the challenges of preparing and shooting a percussion or flint muzzle-loader while picking up tips from some of the club's experts. The morning's matches included bottle targets (of paper), won by Al Cawthra, and a one-shot shootoff to determine the clay-pigeon winner, taken by Clay Caras. Many other precise shots on small targets made it a great day of skill and learning.

Dinners Continue into June

Meeting-night prime-rib and specialty dinners conclude in June, but

there may be other special events that pop up. Pay attention to postings in the Lounge and on the website for these dining treats. Special menu items are often posted in advance in the



Lounge, which is smoke-free during food-service hours.

Twain on Colt...

Mark Twain, who lived in Hartford, CT, from 1871 until 1891, was fascinated by the Colt Patent Fire-Arms factory. When he visited the Colt armory in 1868, he wrote this admiring account: "It comprises a great range of tall brick buildings, and on every floor is a dense wilderness of strange iron machines, a tangled forest of rods, bars, pulleys, wheels, and all the imaginable and unimaginable forms of mechanism. It must have required more brains to invent all those things than would serve to stock 50 Senates like ours."

Gone Fishin'— This young lady holds a nice catch from the May 3-4 fishing derby at George and Brenda Stone's pond. The weekend included a potluck supper and optional overnight camping.



Junior Program will Resume in the Fall

The NSC youth program will start its 2008-2009 program year in September, so do your long-range planning now. 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 Pistol Competitors Take League Awards

Chris Peterson, Peter Edmondson, and Deb Cole of NSC's Pistol Team came away

with individual awards in the .22 Indoor National Match Course at the 55th Annual Banquet of the New London County Pistol League. Peterson was first in the Distinguished Expert class with a 284.30 average over the 27-match schedule; Edmondson was first in the Expert class with a 278.60 average, and Deb Cole placed fourth in the Marksman class with a



254.47 average. Peterson also joined the "290 Club," having shot a 290 score out of a possible 300. Edmondson and Myron Kavalgian also received awards for League Achievement for improving their averages by a significant amount, and Peterson was cited for a Team Achievement award. Perfect Attendance awards were won by Peterson and John Stratton, and perfect targets (100 points out of 100 possible) were achieved by Edmondson, Matt Thompson, and Myron Kavalgian. This year's banquet was held at Wright's Mill Farm in Canterbury.

NSC's .22 bullseye team practices informally over the summer and some members compete in summer-evening leagues at Quaker Hill and Mystic – the schedule information is posted in the indoor range. The fall-winter league season starts on September 8 with a home match. Historically, the league's first match was November 12, 1953; Ettore Avena, then of the Yankees Pistol team, was the high shooter with a 236. The league received its state charter May 23, 1955.

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).

Join NRA, Save Freedoms

Soon it will be fall and electioneering will be in high gear and pushing the redline. NRA's Institute for Legislative Action alerts are a few clicks away at www.nra.org and have the most up-to-date info available. And, closer to home, go to www.ctsportsmen.com for Bob Crook's excellent website. The Coalition of Connecticut Sportsmen is dedicated to the protection, promotion and preservation of hunting, fishing, trapping, and the scientific wildlife management programs which support them; Right to Keep and Bear Arms Constitutional provisions; boating; land use; and other sportsmen's help through legislative lobbying, legal defense in the courts, and political action.

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. And while you are on the Internet, here are two good causes that you might like to consider:

- www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com The Cell Phones for Soldiers program was started in April 2004. Through generous donations and the recycling of used cell phones, thousands of calling cards to soldiers around the globe.
- www.projectboresnake.org Our troops need these simple, inexpensive boresnake tools to keep their weapons clean. Your tax-deductible donation will help us procure and send these items directly to a U.S. Soldier or Marine. You can also help by identifying a U.S. Soldier or Marine to receive a "Snake Kit." They will send a kit to any named soldier identified as currently serving in Iraq or Afghanistan.

By the way – are you registered to vote?

Wisdom of the Greats

– found on the Internet by an NSC Member

As John Steinbeck (a great novelist of the Depression and a great observer of the American scene; he was criticized by conservatives

for being socialistic, yet attacked by liberals for supporting the government...you decide!) reportedly once said:

1. Don't pick a fight with an old man. If he is too old to fight, he'll just kill you.
2. If you find yourself in a fair fight, your tactics are poor.
3. I carry a gun cause a cop is too heavy.
4. When seconds count, the cops are just minutes away.
5. A reporter did a human-interest piece on the Texas Rangers. The reporter recognized the Colt Model 1911 the Ranger was carrying and asked him 'Why do you carry a .45?' The Ranger responded, 'Because they don't make a .46.'
6. An armed man will kill an unarmed man with monotonous regularity.
7. The old sheriff was attending an awards dinner when a lady commented on his wearing his sidearm. 'Sheriff, I see you have your pistol. Are you expecting trouble?' 'No Ma'am. If I were expecting trouble, I would have brought my rifle.'
8. Beware the man who only has one gun. He probably knows how to use it!
9. I was once asked by a lady visiting if I had a gun in the house. I said I did. She said 'Well I certainly hope it isn't loaded!' To which I said, 'of course it is loaded, can't work without bullets!' She then asked, 'Are

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NSC Newsletter Email Poll

(Please leave in Lounge, mail to NSC, PO Box 122, Niantic, CT 06357, or respond by email to NSCNewsletter@snet.net)

I would like to receive the Newsletter of the Niantic Sportsmen's Club by:

- Email Only _____
- Email AND Regular Mail _____
- Regular Mail Only _____
- Email alert/referral to the club website _____
- Neither Email or Regular Mail:
I will pick up the printed Newsletter at the Club Lounge _____
- Neither Email or Regular Mail:
I will use the Club website to read the Newsletter _____

My preferred Email address (please print very clearly)

Name _____

Member Number _____

Notes:

- Email allows delivery of your newsletter more than a week before conventional mail; it represents a significant savings to the club, and will be able to be printed by you from your own home or business computer, or received remotely through your Internet connections anywhere you travel.
- Email subscribers will receive the newsletter as an attachment in PDF format only. PDF is an exact representation of the printed newsletter, and will allow extra pages, graphics, special bulletins, etc. to be added as necessary.
- Be aware that the emailed PDF formats usually will be the only notifications you receive concerning dues, meetings, bulletins, etc. The club has no way to determine whether you actually receive this material, or whether it has been prevented from delivery by malfunctioning spam filters, limited memory capacity, business or industry email policies, or computer-software compatibility. Financial communications will be conducted through regular mail.
- Your email address must be both current and accurate. If it changes, you must notify us promptly. (Email address servers do not, unlike the U.S. Postal Service, forward emails on to your new address.)
- Printed copies of the Newsletter will be available in the Lounge and on bulletin boards as usual.
- The club will not distribute email lists to other organizations.

Wisdom of the Greats...from page 3

you that afraid of someone evil coming into your house?' My reply was, 'No not at all. I am not afraid of the house catching fire either, but I have fire extinguishers around, and they are all loaded too.' To which I'll add, having a gun in the house that isn't loaded is like having a car in the garage without gas in the tank.

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 last Newsletter before the summer is this one. There are no Newsletters in July

and August, though the website will remain active. Take pictures and record events at the club over the summer and submit them by mid-August. We always welcome 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.

- Pistol Permit Renewal: the Dept. of Public Safety 1) accepts checks or money orders only for the \$35 renewal fee; and 2) requires that you produce proof of citizenship when you appear to renew. This can be a birth certificate, voter registration card, U.S. Passport or Naturalization papers. Legal Alien Residents must provide Alien Registration Number and 90-day Proof of Residency form. Further information may be obtained at the website: www.ct.gov/dps by selecting the State Pistol Permit box in the left column, and then click-

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.

ing on Pistol Permit Renewal in the body of the text. Don't let your permit expire!

- Please be sure that you notify us if you change your email address. The Newsletter is available on the website in full-graphics PDF format. Let us know at nscnewsletter@snet.net and include your full name and member number.
- Safety First on the Range!
- NSC Website: www.nianticsc.org
- Newsletter email – nscnewsletter@snet.net

**NEXT MEETING: Friday, June 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.* Newsletter is printed monthly, except for July and August. Copy deadline is the 15th of each month.

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