



# NIANTIC SPORTSMEN'S CLUB INC

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

## Coming up!

### March 2009

- Sunday Breakfasts – March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- Corned Beef and Cabbage Night – Saturday, March 7
- Meeting Night Prime Rib Dinner (with Meatless Options) – Friday, March 13
- Italian Night – Friday, March 27
- Interleague All-Star Pistol Match – Sunday, March 29
- 3D Archery Match – Sunday, March 29

### April 2009

- Smallbore Rifle Championships, Indoor Range – Saturday, April 4
- Meeting Night – Friday, April 10

## A Note from NSC's President...

Dear Members,

I have a few items that I need to bring to your attention. The first is that I want all members to know that the club is doing very well financially, and that we will reach our maximum membership in the very near future.

The other item that we need to pass along concerns some pending legislation. Some of you may have already received the orange Legislative Alert postcard from the NRA-ILA warning of a proposed bill sponsored by Attorney General Richard Blumenthal. Called "An Act Concerning Firing Ranges,"

this proposal, which does not yet have an identifying number, threatens to give the state the power to close down every range in Connecticut except those used exclusively by peace officers. This proposed bill may be a consequence of an ongoing battle against Blue Trail range, but the statewide implications are broad, and sweeping.

In a nutshell, the proposal requires that range owner/operators register with the Department of Public Safety. The DPS Commissioner could revoke the registration, shutting down the range by simply declaring that the range poses a threat to public safety. This is an extremely vague provision, and gives much latitude to make subjective judgments – possibly giving in to public emotion and media pressure rather than sound scientific and rational decision-making. The range registration could be revoked and the range shut down for other reasons as well; for example, if the noise level at the property boundary were to exceed 60 decibels, which is the sound level of normal conversation!

(In the meeting to discuss this and other legislative actions on Sunday, February 15, at Rockville Fish and Game, a meter at the back of the room measured the voice from the speaker at the front of the room, without a microphone, at 64 db! If she had been speaking at that same distance from the club's boundary, Attorney General Blumenthal could have shut Rockville down right then and there!)

Obviously, I'm trying to make a point here. And the point is this proposal is not "honest" legislation. It appears to be crafted to permit the closing down of almost all shooting ranges. If safety were the real issue, then why are ranges used exclusively by peace officers exempted? It's time we make our position known to our legislators and stop the threat.

This proposal is still at an early stage and



does not yet have a number assigned. Several other potential laws are in different stages of review. So what can we do? Some actions you can, and should, take: **call, e-mail, or write your representatives.** We learned at the Rockville meeting that phone calls, surprisingly, have the most impact. But use any and all methods that you are comfortable with. When you do contact your representative, be sure to identify yourself. Your opinion has more impact when the representative knows you live in their district and you hold a vote that is meaningful to them. Also, be sure to identify the bill (with its number – in most cases it will have one) and to clearly say up front that you **OPPOSE** (or, in some cases, **SUPPORT**) the bill you called to speak to them about. Then give your rationale for why you have that position. I found that outlining elements of the bill and then writing some "bullet points" of why that element is bad (or good) helps guide my conversation when I'm talking with the representative or their assistant.

### Important People to Contact:

Your State Senator

Your State Representative

Governor M. Jodi Rell

Andrea Stillman (Co-Chair of the Public Safety and Security Committee)

Stephen Dargan (Co-Chair of the Public Safety and Security Committee)

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### Meeting Dates

Executive Meeting

Tuesday, March 10, 7:00 pm

Regular Meeting

Friday, March 13, 7:00 pm

NSC Website: [www.nianticsc.org](http://www.nianticsc.org)

### *Note From NSC's President...from page 1*

Eileen Daily (Vice-Chair of the Public Safety and Security Committee)  
Ed Jutila (Vice-Chair of the Public Safety and Security Committee)  
Attorney General Blumenthal (This is extremely important for this specific "range safety" proposal since it originates from his office, and he should be made aware of the degree of dissatisfaction he is creating and the implications this has among voters, and its impact on his future political aspirations.)

You can find your representatives, and other very important information, on Bob Crook's Coalition of Connecticut Sportsmen website: the link is [www.CTSportsmen.com](http://www.CTSportsmen.com). To find your reps, click "Legislation," then click "How to Find Your Legislators" about two-thirds down the page. You can then either select your own town, or click the "By Zip Code" link.

I feel very strongly about this proposed legislation. It could put us out of business very easily. So please make the calls, send the emails or write the letters. And, also, please join the NRA.

Sincerely, your president,  
— *Matthew Fleisher*

### **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.



### **Skeet Braves Ice and Snow**

The snow and ice have been tough at the skeet range, reports Commissioner Bill Boehning. If you happen to be there when new snow has fallen, clear off the shooting walkways. The cold weather has not stopped our skeet motors from humming perfectly in the high and low houses thanks to our new maintenance program; a completely rebuilt motor is now in reserve in case we hit a problem down the road. A quality vacuum cleaner has been purchased at cost to keep the machines clear of the fine dust that results from their normal operation. We appreciate the work of Larry at the Fireworks Hearth and Home fireplace center (in East Haddam on Rt. 82) for providing the vacuum, and likewise

for his prompt work in obtaining and installing the new heater for the club's indoor range last month. Let's make sure we thank him.

New Skeet shooters are invited to visit the skeet range Sunday mornings to observe matches and learn the procedures to operate the range. For more information, contact Commissioner Wild Bill at 434-2336.

### **Trail Walk Tests 23 Muzzleloaders**

NSC's back trails were mostly free of the recent snowfalls and the sun shone brightly on February 15, 2009. The twelve traditional targets – two of which were worth an extra "bean" for a hit on the center-point – were tucked away hunting-style on the winding paths which crested ledges and settled in boggy valleys.



*Boom! Blackpowder muzzleloaders provide classic smoke and recoil.*

Organizers Tom Snow and Craig Grimord reported 23 shooters of flint and percussion rifles and muskets, the largest trail turnout to date. When the blackpowder smoke had cleared and the crews settled down for a snack of baked beans and hot dogs, the top three winners were: Ron Gresl, with 13 points of a possible 14; Al Cawthra, with 10 of 14; and Steve Wardlaw, with 9 of 14. What's coming up? Keep your eyes out for Lounge and range postings on a traditional-target line shoot, a muzzleloading-revolver and -pistol fun match...and another trail walk.

### **A Couple of Amusing Tales** — *by Helen Younger*

A lot of funny things have happened at the club during its more than 50 years of existence. These two are classic examples...how-

ever, I tell them without identifying those involved so I don't open myself to a lawsuit!

One evening in the early 1960's as a special dinner was being prepared in the kitchen, a local restaurant owner – electing to wear a large cowboy hat – sidled into the Lounge and went to the bar to fill out an application for membership. To help him along with his writing, he had a few drinks. He paid the application fee and then decided to step into the kitchen to see what was going on (big mistake no. 1). One of the volunteers there was known for his low boiling-point in ordinary situations, but he too had had a couple of drinks, which tended to lower the boiling point even further. "Cowboy" began to offer professional advice on just how things should be cooked (big mistake no. 2). "Low Boiling-Point" was soon on high simmer because he fancied himself a good cook (which he was). He got so mad he threw Cowboy out of the kitchen, and for good measure pulled the big hat clean down over his eyes. A few unprintable words were exchanged and Cowboy marched out to the Lounge, got his application and money back, ripped up the application, and never set foot in the club again (big mistake no. 3?).

The second incident also harks back to the early 1960's – it was the first or second pig roast. Two eager volunteers (who are still members and can own up, or remain quiet, as they please) spent most of the day outside turning the pig on the spit over the coals. Such hard work without mechanical assistance left them thirsty, a need which they relieved fairly often. Soon it was time to begin serving the multitudes, and neither the pig nor the cooks were feeling any pain.

Our cooks put the pig on a board to parade it into the building. Unfortunately the board proved too wide to fit into the kitchen, so they chose to walk along the back side of the club to enter the big doors into the hall; it was a trek fraught with rough ground and tangled overgrowth. Halfway along they stumbled, and the pig slid off majestically into the weeds. The cooks scrambled to get everything back onto the board and then to enter the hall with as much dignity as they could, since quite a few plants had come along to decorate the pig, the board, and the two pig-bearers. But it did have one good effect: As the pig finally rested resplendent on the serving table adorned with its own weeds, it was quite a topic of conversation. Pig roasts have fortunately improved.

# Youth Pistol, Rifle Skills Flourish

Youth-program coordinator Jay Cole reports that the January pistol night was a great success, with approximately 20 juniors participating.

"We began with safety instruction – a short course specific to target pistols – with special emphasis on being 'aware and cautious' and keeping everyone focused, with one-on-one instruction to offer marksmanship pointers," said Cole. "All ports were filled and the Pfizer-donated targets and ammo made for a fun evening. Juniors shot .22 rimfire handguns of all configurations including revolvers and semi-autos with open and dot sights as well as target air pistols. Thank you, Pfizer pistol team – and all those who helped out."

Cole adds that Kimberlee Grohocki and Drew Denno were awarded their American Rifleman Qualification Expert Rating at the February meeting;

they received NRA certificates and medals and their personal copies of NRA Smallbore and International rifle competition rule books. Both shooters achieved this level of marksmanship under match pressure. Kim and Drew have been traveling around the state competing as individuals and as a team under the competent coaching of Lisette Grunwell-Lacey, who herself placed in the top ranks of match shooting at recent International competitions in Canada.

Club member Gerry Purvis, who shot for the University of Alaska, has loaned his Anschutz 54-1413 to the junior competition program after hearing about the program and seeing the awards at last month's meeting. This is a generous loan of a pristine rifle for use by a deserving and promising junior shooter: Thank you, Gerry!

Coming up on the NSC indoor range on Saturday, April 4, are the Connecticut State Indoor Three-Position Smallbore Rifle Championships, on Saturday, April 4. It is an honor for the club to be designated a host range for this statewide event.

Blue Trail Range hosted the 2009 NRA Junior Sectionals including events in air rifle, three posi-

tion and four position rifle from January 31 through February 8 in Wallingford. Niantic Sportsmen's Club shooters led by Drew Denno performed well. Denno's dedication, hard work, and hours of practice paid off as the 14-year-old fired a 377 in the four position match and a 354 in the air rifle match. Drew totaled 512 in the three-position match.

Fifteen-year-old Zach Smith fired a personal best 537 score in three-position rifle to earn his first leg toward the distinguished expert award. Emily Britt, the 13-year-old granddaughter of skeet guru Doug Britt, fired her first junior sectional and her first air-rifle match ever for a 319 in the air rifle, a 471 in three-position and a 341 in the four-position smallbore match. NSC's Kimberlee Grohocki

scored a 344 in her first sectional air-rifle match. Kim's three-position total was a fine 486, while the four-position results were 350. Coach Grunwell-Lacey said "the kids handled themselves very professionally while on the firing line, yet were able to relax and socialize with the other junior competitors between relays." The kids also learned about diet and nutrition while shooting through the long hours of the air and .22 matches; they had to avoid the nearby temptations of sugary soda and greasy French fries from the snack bar. Kimberlee accompanied Grunwell-Lacey to Albany at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on February 22 for her first out-of-state USA Shooting Match. She did very well, and the match director there was very impressed!

The parents of the NSC junior shooters were able to meet the parents of other shooters from around Connecticut and ask many questions about outdoor shooting, as well as the National Matches at Camp Perry and equipment options.

NSC youth ages 8 to 18 can join at any time. A parent/adult must attend with the



Youth coordinator Jay Cole presents NRA Expert awards to Drew Denno and Kimberlee Grohocki at NSC's February meeting.

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

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

## Mangia! Another Italian Night!

Our kitchen magicians have scheduled another Italian Night for the evening of Friday, March 27. The cost is \$15 with dessert included. The March meeting night will have a non-meat entree on the menu besides the regular prime rib and burger entrees.

## 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.

## All-Star Pistol Match Coming Up March 29

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.

## 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

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## Sunday Breakfast Menu...from page 3

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

• Finances and Combinations: 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. 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. The door and lock combinations will be changed during March.

• 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 readin or vote-in meetings at about 6:30 p.m. in the club office.

• 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 must produce proof of citizenship when you appear to renew. This ID 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](http://www.ct.gov/dps) by selecting the State Pistol Permit box in the left column, and then clicking on Pistol Permit Renewal in the body of the text. Don't let your permit expire!

• The Over the Hill Gang has built sturdy target frames for your personal, all-weather, marksmanship pleasure; these are on sale in the Lounge or on most Friday mornings at the outdoor range. Members are reminded that any frames which have been set up for permanent use are to be treated carefully. Pin

or staple targets some distance away from the edges of the frames to avoid damage to them.

• Please be sure that you notify us if you change your your email address. The Newsletter is available on the website in full-graphics PDF format at [www.nianticsc.org](http://www.nianticsc.org).

• Safety First on all ranges! Remember that members are responsible for their guests and family members. Children must be closely supervised at all times.

• NSC Website: [www.nianticsc.org](http://www.nianticsc.org)

• Newsletter email – [nscnewsletter@snet.net](mailto:nscnewsletter@snet.net)

## NEXT MEETING:

Friday, March 13,  
7 p.m. Prime Rib  
Dinner Service Starts at  
5:30 p.m. (non-meat  
entree available)



## 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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AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO:

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