



NIANTIC SPORTSMEN'S CLUB INC.

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

Coming up!

November 2008

- Meeting Night and Prime Rib Dinner – November 14
- Board and Officer Elections – November 14
- Sunday Breakfasts – November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
- 3D Archery – Sunday, November 23

December 2008

- Dues for 2009 due December 30-January 31
- Sunday Breakfasts – December 7, 14, 21, 28
- Meeting Night and Prime Rib Dinner – Friday, December 12
- “Iron Sights” Club Pistol Match – Monday, December 15
- Holiday Party Potluck – Friday, December 19

January 2009

- Meeting Night and Prime Rib Dinner – Friday, January 9
- Youth Pistol Night – Thursday, January 29
- Dues due by January 31

Board and Officer Elections Will Be at November Meeting

Five positions on the club executive board are open for voting at the November 14 meeting, as are the club officer slots. Ballot forms are in this Newsletter and at the Lounge. The

Meeting Dates

Executive Meeting
Tuesday, November 11, 7:00 pm

Regular Meeting
Friday, November 14, 7:00 pm

NSC Website: www.nianticsc.org

new board will become active at the January 2009 meeting.

Winter Skeet's on the Wing

The winter skeet season has started and the skeet field will be in use on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. There is a schedule posted in the Skeet House and in the Lounge. At all other times the rest of the membership is welcome to shoot: the range is always open on Sundays after 1 p.m.

If you are a new member, or unfamiliar with the operation with of skeet machines, you should hook up with someone to show you how to turn the machines on and off properly. Come and see the league matches and get involved, bring a hot dish for the shooters, and learn all about the skeet happenings. Check out the Eastern Connecticut Skeet Club (winter league) website at www.ecsc-skeet.com. For any info on the skeet field contact Commissioner Bill at 860.434.2336. Good shooting!

NOTE: Local availability of professional skeet-machine repair services has diminished drastically. We urgently need a dedicated corps of experienced electrical/mechanical volunteers who know, or who are willing to learn, the machines and maintain or repair them. The skeet houses also need regular housekeeping. Please contact the Commissioner.

Walkway Project Was Generous Gift

Occasionally, long-range club projects have to be deferred for financial reasons. In some cases, members step forward with funding and skills. Our new front walkways are one example, improving our club's safety, access, and attractiveness. Longtime member Bob Jakobiell provided the funding, and Tony Morgan did the concrete work after excavation by Scott LaPlante. Thanks for stepping up – we all benefit from your help!

NSC Holiday Potluck Set for December 19

The annual club potluck Holiday Party will be on Friday evening, December 19. Take a break from the holiday stresses with your friends and guests...and bring something good

to share:

Cocktails begin at 5 p.m.; dinner is underway at about 7 p.m. Jingle, Ho Ho Ho!



Chet Scores with Half-Tonner!

All that practice on the NSC outdoor range and all that good advice from fellow NSC hunters paid off with a 1,000-pound bull moose hunted successfully in northern Maine in late September.

Chet D'Agostino's .300 Win Mag proved enough gun at 165 yards across an overgrown clearcut, following an intense half-hour of close observation of the massive black creature. It faded in and out of the brush and scrub, its huge bulk disappearing in draws and crevices in the swampy lowlands. Spotting it was “Hard on the nerves,” Chet says. In fact, for the first time he can ever remember he had a whopping big case of buck fever, which was evident as he tried to catch his breath while watching the huge bull.

Still, when the angle was there, quartering away, he took aim back behind the front leg. Chet was ready with his rifle and cross-stick bipod, trying to be calm and to aim carefully through the scope—

continued on pg. 2

Chet Scores...from page 1

which he'd completely forgotten to increase in power from the 2x he'd had it set on. Then he squeezed, rocked back with the recoil...and saw the moose take one or two short steps before going down to a one-shot, humane kill. The creature weighed more than 1000 pounds, yielding more than 400 pounds of good meat for his tables, and a huge set of antlers for his home.

But now there was a new problem: getting the big moose home. Chet, his guide Matt, and Chet's wife, Susan, were an hour's trek on foot, and another hour's drive by truck from his camp lodge, run by Libby Camps Wilderness Lodge and Outfitters based in Ashland, Maine. Libby's people have faced the situation before.



But like all "situations," every one is different.

Chet's guide was on the radio quickly—as excited as Chet, since Chet was his personal first moose-hunting client too! He rounded up three friends with heavy pickups who were about an hour away, not far by woods-road standards. Once as close as possible by overgrown logging tracks, the three pickups could get sort of nearby...near enough for a couple hundred yards of stout line to be threaded to the moose through a "snatch-block" pulley on the ball hitch of the second truck, which remained at a stationary location in line with the moose.

Chet's guide field-dressed the big bull and the heart was carried out in anticipation of a special feast. Then the first pickup was contacted by walkie-talkie to start "taking up the slack slowly" and the long drag began. The moose was dragged out whole, bit by bit over brush and old stumps, and moved very carefully to prevent damage to hide or antlers.

"It's a heck of a way to end a day that started at 2:30 a.m. to get to a moose-lookout before dawn," Chet says of the hours it took to get the animal out of the woods onto a flatbed trailer. Back at the big lodge, photos and congratulations passed around before the drive to the closest official check station in Ashland. With check-in completed, the guide drove the intrepid couple with moose in tow further south to Dixmont, where a reputable butcher and taxidermist would process the carcass to their order.

Chet and Susan say Libby Camps were outstanding in camp location, food, and accommodations. The main lodge where breakfast and dinner meals were taken was everything one would expect in a classic Maine sporting camp lodge, including construction of peeled-pine logs and stone fireplaces all open to the rafters and adorned with quality mounts of Maine fauna like black bears, moose heads, bobcat, lynx, very large brook trout, landlocked salmon, a loon, and even an ancient golden eagle. Table fare was generous and of highest quality with fresh baked breads daily—delicious and greatly appreciated, they said.

Libby Camps (see www.libbycamps.com) year-round base is in Ashland but the camps and big lodge where Chet and Susan stayed were located right on Millinocket Lake in area T8, R9 off the Oxbow Road in North Central Maine. It's "kind of way up there," for we Nutmeggers. There are lots of different hunting and fishing expeditions that are offered; many of the Libby Outpost Cabins are accessible only by floatplane and characterized as "very remote." But then, that's what makes those experiences real adventures!

Pig Roast Attracts 100 Diners

The team of Red Anderson and Don Babcock put in good work at the barbecue cooker, and skilled kitchen and service teams



moved fast in the kitchen and meeting hall to produce a fine annual Pig Roast on October 18. About 100 enjoyed fresh-roasted pork with fine home-cooked appetizers, chowder, cornbread, applesauce, vegetables, and desserts. Drawings and gifts added to the fun...and no one went away hungry. Thanks go out to all our volunteers!

George Wadsworth Remembers...

The Chairs in the Lounge

We take a lot for granted. Most of us probably don't remember the high wooden stools that many a club member sat upon in the 1950's through the 1980's while enjoying a festive or a calming libation. We now have chromed steel frames with and cushioned seats and seat backs, and two of these perches

are even fitted out with steadying armrests.

There's a reason for all this luxury.

One evening years ago, one evening in the middle of animated conversation, a wooden stool collapsed, coming unglued all at once. The wood works back and forth a bit with the seasons, the stool's vital framework slowly loosening. At some point, an enthusiastic gesture can push the joints to the breaking point – and then it's over backward and down in a pile of kindling along with the formerly seated occupant. It happens.

George Wadsworth, one of the club's original founders who served as club president for many years in the early era, witnessed one of these abrupt falls from grace one evening. There was a mighty crash and a batch of naughty words, but it all resulted in – fortunately – no permanent damage to the stool-sitter now sprawled on the floor.

Wadsworth and George Stone surveyed the scene and the two Georges decided on the spot that the club needed new chairs, the better to seat us with in comfort and safety. Wadsworth volunteered to donate them and found a catalog and picked out his favorite style; Charlie Hall, who often surveyed the Lounge scene from a particular stool on the north end of the bar, suggested that his personal perch should have armrests. Wadsworth agreed, and got a matching one of his own.

Soon the Lounge had its new furniture delivered, courtesy of Wadsworth. And the stools are here still, serving well.

And the wooden stools? Both Wadsworth and Stone correctly viewed them as a safety hazard. A little noisy breakup work led to nice warm flames in the fireplace that evening. And peace and contentment ruled again.

Juniors Learn about Shooting Scholarships

NSC's youth got a bit of inspiration recently from a national-champion marksman. On Thursday, October 16, Lisette Grunwell joined coordinator Jay Cole and Ron Michaels for demonstrations and discussions of college-level opportunities for competitive shooters.

Jay reports that "The timing was perfect for Lisette's joining us, for last weekend my wife, Deb, and I had been at West Virginia University to visit our daughter, Jessica, for homecoming weekend and the rifle-team alumni match. WVU's undergraduate shooters are currently ranked second in the nation.

"I had brought back some rifle-team posters and schedules and was talking to the Juniors about scholarships for shooting when Lisette joined us. After introductions, she told us of the college recruiting process and how she had been

continued on page 4

BALLOT

NOTICE OF ELECTIONS, NOVEMBER 14, 2008

Nominations were offered at the October meeting. Five seats on the Executive Board are open and shall be chosen by vote from the nominees listed below. Officer nominations consist of the 2008 incumbents who are running unopposed. Please see the ballot form below or pick one up in the Lounge and mail it in to the Club if you are unavailable to cast your vote in person.

Mail to: Niantic Sportsmen's Club, P.O. Box 122, Niantic, CT 06357, c/o Nominating Committee

Officer Candidates 2009 (running unopposed):

Matt Fleisher, *President* _____

John MacDougall, *Vice-President* _____

Rick Pape, *Treasurer* _____

John Santos, *Recording Secretary* _____

Judy LeBlanc, *Financial Secretary* _____

Executive Board Candidates for 2009-2010 term:

YOU MAY VOTE FOR ONLY FIVE (5 different candidates):

____ Stan Bowdish

____ Al LeBlanc

____ Al Cocola

____ Ron Michaels

____ Tom Davis

____ George Stone

____ Chet D'Agostino

____ Howard Tingué

NSC DUES NOTICE FOR 2009

Your 2009 Dues MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 31, 2009. Please complete the form below and send your payment to: NSC, P. O. Box 122, Niantic, CT 06357

Your yearly dues are \$200 for the 2008 membership year. The \$200 dues are subject to a reduction of up to \$40 for up to four hours of service, payable in NSC Bucks and redeemable in the Lounge and for Club events. These work hours must be attested to by a chit (signed by your work-party leader/officer) submitted by you with your 2008 dues. All Life and Senior members are required to submit the \$40 service assessment fee or perform the volunteer work and receive NSC Bucks. Dues are due January 1, and late after January 31. A \$100 late fee (half the annual membership) will be charged for payments received after January 31.

AFTER 31 January 2009 the following schedule applies: Late Dues – \$300; Service Fee Reduction – \$40

NSC DUES RENEWAL FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2009

Please print clearly; mail or drop off at the Club. Please include email.

Name _____

Mailing address, including Zipcode

Member Number _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Phone _____

Service Fee Reduction Chit Attached _____

Email _____

Juniors Learn...from page 2

offered full scholarships for shooting at seven colleges! I am pleased that Lisette is interested in working with our Juniors, who show a lot of potential.

"Lisette went on to demonstrate her prowess with the Anschutz free rifle and answered lots of questions about equipment. It was really a great evening; her experience, energy, and positive attitude for the sport make Lisette a role model and a welcome addition to the program."

Some coming youth highlights include a "fifth Thursday" on January 29, for the program's annual pistol night – a bullseye competition with one-on-one instruction. The group will use the match bullseye targets and ammunition donated by the Pfizer team. Pistol-league competitors are invited to attend and work with a junior. April 30 will be the annual scoped-rifle night; it's always a favorite when the youth find that they can split playing cards edge-on.

NSC 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," special events are planned.

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. Kingsized 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



The Coalition of Connecticut Sportsmen's annual awards dinner saw several NSC members attending on October 19 in Southington. Back row, l-r, are: Chuck Rowbotham, Ron Michaels, Clay Caras, Bruce Vandal, and John Stratton; front row, l-r, are Tom Davis, Myron Kavalgian, and Jeff and Fran Schwartz. Coalition director Robert Crook hosted the annual dinner, which featured presentations to sportsman-friendly legislators and outstanding state clubs and organizations. The Coalition is the principal legislative voice to preserve the broad variety of sportsmen's traditions in the state.

3D Archery Matches Conclude for 2008

The fall NSC home-range shoots end with the match of 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).

Overcoat Donations Will Keep Needy Folks Warm

Look in the closet: Do you have an old vest, jacket, parka, or overcoat that you don't use any longer? Several area shelters for families and the homeless can use them. Jodi Stone has been collecting coats for these shelters; leave off any extras you might have in the Lounge and she will see that they go directly to local people, keeping them warm over the winter.

It's November: Did YOU Vote?

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.

Please contact:
John Stratton, *Editor*, 860.434.2534,
jpstratton@snet.net
Judy White, *Graphic Designer*,
860.439.1854, jwhite5506@
sbcglobal.net

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO:

NIANTIC SPORTSMEN'S CLUB, INC.

P.O. Box 122 • Plants Dam Road
Niantic, CT 06357

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED
STANDARD
Permit No.
31
Niantic, CT
06357

