



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

Coming up!

September 2008

- Indoor Pistol League Resumes – September 8
- Meeting Night and Prime Rib Dinner – September 12, 7 p.m. (dinners are served starting at 5:30 p.m.)

October 2008

- Sunday Breakfasts and Friday Dinners Resume
- Youth Program Resumes
- Blue Trail Range Fundraiser – Sunday, October 5, 2-6 p.m.
- Meeting Night and Prime Rib Dinner – October 10, 7 p.m.
- Coalition of Connecticut Sportsmen Banquet – October 19

Summer Skeet Sees Successful Season

Our NSC Club Summer Skeet League comes to a close in early September, with the Championship Match on September 8. Commissioner Bill Boehning reports that “We had six teams competing through the summer with great success. We did routine maintenance on the skeet machines in early July and they are working just right. Some of our new shooters have greatly improved in just the short summer season.”

The skeet field is now open to all shooters Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to darkness, with

no shooting before 9 a.m. The winter skeet league starts in mid September and the field will be in use on Sundays — but not all day. Check out the open times that are on the schedule posted in the skeet house and in the Lounge for Sunday shooting. Boehning notes that it is now too late to start a team for the winter league, but there may be an opening or two on an existing team, so be sure to inquire. For any info on skeet, call the Commissioner at 860.434.2336.

Members Make Many Summer Improvements

Little things mean a lot. And so do big things. The club received a lot of attention over the summer by many volunteers. Around the clubhouse, lawns and trails were cut; hedges trimmed; brush removed; roadways repaved. In the kitchen, a new walk-in cooler was delivered, assembled, and installed in a refurbished space; and a new and powerful dishwasher was installed. The cooler is the result of an extended fund drive by the kitchen crews and will provide major energy efficiencies compared to the old one. Outside, a “concrete committee” is studying updating and repairs to the entrance paths and stairs. Continuing energy audits and improvements are underway.

Indoor and Outdoor Ranges Upgraded

Back in 2007, a group had cleared undergrowth and felled trees south of the outdoor range before cutting, splitting, and transporting much of the wood that kept the Lounge warm last winter. In mid-May an excavation team shaped a 25-yard bermed range, a needed improvement to our outdoor facility. Then, covering the berm with hay and screening helped the grass gets its roots in, and the Over the Hill Gang set up

four permanent target holders at the right distances and locations for competition matches. At the established longer distances, berm repairs provided higher and deeper backstops. Meanwhile, Indoor Range work went on as well. Updated lighting was installed, brightening the downrange targets for league matches as well as for informal marksmen. Serious carpentry for the port modernization was started in June by a team led by George Stone, Frank Zito, and Peter Edmondson and they followed up with full-scale efforts on July 12 and 26, joined by crews including Joe Koziatek, Jeff Schwartz, Stan Bowdish, and Larry Dallas. Ceiling work followed on a few weekends. A volunteer painting group then picked up brushes and sprayguns in August and September to round out the job.

Skeet Machines Tuned Up

Our skeet machines are at the heart of a challenging competitive experience – but they require maintenance. Paul Jezierski and Bill Boehning spent a lot of time in June meticulously cleaning and adjusting them to provide reliable clay-bird operations for practice and matches over the summer. When you hear the command, “Pull!” and see the orange bird streak through the air...thank the maintainers.

Junior Program Resumes Soon

The NSC youth program will start its 2008-2009 program year in late September; 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.

Meeting Dates

Executive Meeting
Tuesday, September 9, 7:00 pm

Regular Meeting
Friday, September 12, 7:00 pm



Some Summer Photos: Top from left – Here’s a monster perch caught in July; the new indoor range ports take shape; Lisette Grunwell (standing) and Jennifer Sloan (prone) practice for the National Matches at Camp Perry; Bottom from left – blackpowder aces steady down for traditional targets; fish in stained glass eludes vintage boat.

Supreme Court Makes Historic Decision

June 26, Newtown, Conn. – The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the trade association for the firearms industry, hailed today’s [June 26] United States Supreme Court 5-4 decision written by Justice Scalia that determined authoritatively that the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees an individual right to keep and bear arms.

“Today’s decision by the U.S. Supreme Court is a major victory for all Americans,” said NSSF President Steve Sanetti. “The Heller decision reaffirms the wisdom of our founding fathers in creating the Bill of Rights to protect and preserve individual rights, the cornerstone of our democracy. Furthermore, this decision solidifies an historical fact, the commonsense understanding that governments have powers, not rights – rights are reserved exclusively for individuals.”

The importance of having a uniform and legally accepted definition of the Second Amendment is particularly important to the firearms industry, as noted by Sanetti. “The products that our industry manufactures are the means through which our Second Amendment rights are realized. Clearly sportsmen, hunters, responsible firearms own-

ers and the industry are all heavily vested in this groundbreaking ruling.”

Coalition Awards Banquet Will Be on October 19

Keep your eyes out for posters and information on the annual awards banquet of the Coalition of Connecticut Sportsmen this Sunday, October 19, at the Aqua Turf Country Club in Southington. Maybe we can get together a full table representing the NSC... and maybe win a few of the excellent prizes and auction items! It’s a good time and a good cause, especially in an election year. (See the website www.ctsportsmen.com for current information.)

Notice to Mariners: Preferred Method of Backing into Tricky Slip at the Marina

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| — Arrive at Marina After a Pleasant Day on the Water | — Put into Reverse |
| — Wave to Friends on the Pier | — Put into Forward |
| — Align vessel 90 Degrees to Current and Stiff Breeze | — Put into Neutral |
| — Drift Rapidly | — Drift |
| — Rev Engine | — Align Vessel |
| — Put into Forward | — Rev Engine |
| — Put into Neutral | — Put into Reverse |
| — Rev Engine | — Rev Engine |
| — Drift | — Back Rapidly |
| | — Put into Neutral |
| | — Bounce Firmly Off Pier |

- Rev Engine
- Put into Forward
- Enter Current and slew 40 degrees
- Wave to Friends on the Pier
- Remain in Forward and Motor Away, Acting as Though You Were Merely Turning
- Return Later When There is No Audience
- Align Vessel
- Reverse Perfectly into Slip.

Unique law lets police seize guns before a crime is committed

— by Paul Hughes,
Waterbury Republican-American

HARTFORD, August 2 – Using a unique state law, police in Connecticut have disarmed dozens of gun owners based on suspicions that they might harm themselves or others.

The state’s gun seizure law is considered the first and only law in the country that allows the confiscation of a gun before the owner commits an act of violence. Police and state prosecutors can obtain seizure warrants based on concerns about someone’s intentions. State police and 53 police departments have seized more than 1,700 guns since the law took effect in October 1999, according to a new report to the legislature. There are nearly 900,000 privately owned firearms in Connecticut today.

Opponents of a gun seizure law expressed fears in 1999 that police would abuse the

law...Attorney Ralph D. Sherman has represented several gun owners who had their firearms seized under the law. His latest client was denied a pistol permit because the man was once the subject of a seizure warrant. "In every case I was involved in I thought it was an abuse," said Sherman, who fought against the law's passage.

Election Special:

Take a Favorite Liberal Shooting

We have learned to accept that some non-gun-enthusiasts may be frankly anti-gun. They often do not understand — and all-too-often actually fear — gun owners. There may even be some social risks involved in discussing one's interests in shooting sports. In fact, idle conversations in the workplace about guns have been misinterpreted as intimidation of coworkers. A colleague had to submit to a "voluntary" search of a vehicle at work by private security because of their "known interest" in shooting. Gun owners have even been accused of trying to compensate for presumed "anatomical deficits." That's not very nice, or even sensible: but in the voting booth it's One Man, One Vote. Someone's ill-informed or misguided opinion counts, literally, as much as yours.

What to do? The time-honored persuasion technique of getting in their Anti-Firearms Liberal Faces and shouting about the Second Amendment may not be the very best idea to change hearts and minds. They have heard it all before and may just counter with vague ref-

erences to the "militia" interpretation of the Amendment and contemptuously invoke Dodge City's idea of gun control. Arguing can widen the gap and make you (and all of us) seem "scariest" or "crazier," or just more of whatever they have been taught to think about pro-gun people.

Yet there may be another method of winning friends.

Shooting is lots of things, but mostly it's fun; we demonstrate our appreciation of this every time we encourage someone to join us on the range or sign up for the NRA. The total number of people who enjoy shooting, even once in a while — even just once — counts too. Someone who has actually experienced the challenge of target shooting is far less likely to misunderstand gun owners and will be less vulnerable to the inflamed rhetoric of the anti-gun opposition.

So take your favorite Liberal to the range, and treat them kindly as you make our sport more accessible and understandable. You might think of it as a "Liberal Re-Education Program" modeled after the fine work of our Youth Program. Five bucks worth of .22 ammo might just change a state of mind, and a vote.

— *Observers*

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 com-

pete 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).



N.L. County Pistol League Resumes; E&B Team Will Use NSC Range

The New London County Pistol League will begin its 56th season of competition this September 8, with a bit of juggling of team affiliations. NSC .22 Bullseye marksmen will meet on our home range most Monday evenings, alternating with the long-established E&B Sporting Goods team, which will use our range when the NSC team has an away match. Several E&B shooters are also NSC members, and both teams expect an influx of competitors from the newly disbanded Pfizer team, whose parent company is now withdrawing funds for its company sports after more than 50 years of participation. NSC's youth program has been the recent recipient of some 6000 rounds of .22 target ammunition and access-

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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.

N.L. County Pistol League...from page 3

sories donated by at least three members of the former Pfizer team. NSC thanks them for their generosity and support of the future of safe marksmanship skills, and welcomes E&B as it seeks a new team-name for itself! The League schedule is posted in the Lounge and indoor range – NSC members are welcome to join at any time and coaching is readily available.

Join NRA, Save Freedoms

Are you ready to vote for president? NRA's Institute for Legislative Action alerts are a few clicks away at www.nraila.org and have the most up-to-date info available on the candidates. And, closer to home, you can go to www.ctsportsmen.com for the excellent website of the Coalition of Connecticut Sportsmen. It's 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 concerns 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 becoming an NRA Member is on our NSC website.

By the way – are YOU registered to vote?

Club Notes

- "Skeet Simplified," an excerpt from an excellent guidebook, is available on the club website, courtesy of a skeet-shooting member. Hard-copy prints for short-term loan are available in the skeet house. 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.
- 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 clicking on Pistol Permit Renewal in the body of the text. Don't let your permit expire!

- Please be sure you notify us if you change your address or 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, September 12, 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*

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