

NIANTIC SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

Incorporated 1955

INC.



Spring/Summer 2011

Coming up April-August!

April 2011

- Last Sunday Breakfast of 2010-2011 season – April 17
- 3D Archery Matches Begin – Sunday, April 17 (Outdoor rifle range closed during matches; next 3D matches: June 19, August 21, September 4, October 2)

May 2011

- Signups for Summer Skeet in the Lounge and Skeet House
- Summer Pistol, Monday evenings
- Summer Skeet Introductory Clinic – May 21
- Muzzleloader Field Shoot on Rifle Range – Sunday, May 22
- NSC Club Spring Cleaning – Watch for Bulletins
- Friends of NRA Banquet – Thursday, May 13

June 2011

- NSC Kids: Stone's Pond Fishing Derby and Camp-Over – June 4-5
- Summer Pistol, Monday evenings
- 3D Archery Match – Sunday, June 19

- .22 Rimfire Lollipop Fun Match – Sunday, June 26
- Summer Skeet Schedule begins

July 2011

- Summer Skeet; Summer Pistol

August 2011

- 3D Archery Match – Sunday, August 21

- Summer Skeet; Summer Pistol

September 2011

- 3D Archery Match – Sunday, September 4
- Meeting Night – Friday, September 9

October 2011

- Meeting Night – Friday, October 14
- Coalition of Connecticut Sportsmen
- 10th Annual Awards Banquet – Sunday, October 16

Club Spring Cleaning Set for May; Keep Alert for Date

Last fall's big cleanup was a great success. Now, with a long and snowy winter behind us, it's time for another cleaning and straightening. Earn your four hours and show up with gloves, rakes, leafblowers...and whatever else will help you pitch in and spruce up the club. The date will be chosen next month. Things get started about 9 a.m. and should conclude about midday. Good eats are promised afterward! Club improvements to interior and exterior facilities will continue through the warmer weather. Help out where you can, and treat the club as if it's your own property—with care and attention.

Stone's Pond Hosts Fishing Derby and Camp-Over for Kids and Adults

Bring your tents, sleeping bags, potluck eats, fishin' poles! The annual Stone's Pond fishing derby and overnight campout will be at noon Saturday, June 4, through Sunday morning, June 5. Call 860.460.4210 for more information,

directions, details. It's a great time—kids must be accompanied by an adult to share the fun.

Game Dinner Was a Great Time for All

NSC's annual Game Dinner February 26 attracted a full house of hungry and cheerful participants, who all went home full and happy with the fun of sampling a dozen well-prepared game dishes and the excitement of many drawings and donated prizes. This dinner is a grand and enduring tradition, and reflects the good-sportsmanship heritage of the club in the harvesting, preparing, and sharing. Another fine job by our chefs, servers, and contributors!

Dinner Donations

The Fisherman magazine...Dave Nicholson
Doug LaFaille
FireWorks Hearth and Home ...Larry Maggi
Mike and Donna Rogers
Lee McNamar
Meat Smoker...Al Johnson
Yankee Peddler and Pawn: tools and Blu-ray player...Chad LaPlante
Cash Home Center: chainsaw...Hugh Durham
Traditions: three muzzleloaders, two scopes/mounts...Tom Hall
Carolyn Ann trip...Pete Fisher
MFLY trip...Matt Fleisher
JMS Automotive Center...John Santos
Ron's Guns...Ron Rando
Budweiser/Levine Distributing ...Kip
Sunbeam Fleet Trip...Bob Wadsworth

Grouse Perch: sportsmen's items...Tom Davis
North Cove Outfitters: sportsmen's items...Brian Owens
Mystic Stainless and Aluminum ...Charlie Marques
Dallas Alarm Systems...Larry Dallas
Dinner Volunteers
Craig Colman
Mike Scott
George and Brenda Stone
Dave and Joanne Palm
Al Cocola
Bill Lang
James "Farmer" Korineck
Desserts and Wrapping Utensils...Jodi and Amy Stone and children Morgan and Jaime
Hall Cleanup...Alex Stone
Hall Setup...Josh Chopp and John Calovis
John and Leanne Santos and children Kylee, Jacqueline, and John

Swap & Sell, Too!

Muzzleloaders Hit Tricky Targets; Invite Shooters to Test Skills

Over the past fall, winter, and spring seasons, NSC's intrepid muzzleloader-shooters have enjoyed several "trail walks" that have re-created the challenges (and fun) that our forefathers and foremothers saw when they picked up their blackpowder muskets and rifles to support their families.

The club's trails wind up and down and back and forth, and targets simulate crafty game or are just plain tricky—like splitting your roundball on an axe-edge to break two clay birds, or hitting a "running bear," or a swinging pendulum, or a fast-moving "flying squirrel." Craig Grimord, Tom Snow, and Stan Bowdish—the principal organizers, target-setters, and trail-maintainers—want to thank the participants this past year, and invite others to enjoy the woods and learn new skills on trail walks and traditional matches this coming season.

On Sunday morning, May 22, there will be another new wrinkle:

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Muzzleloaders...from pg. 1

a "field shoot" on the rifle range featuring varied targets...and viewing for spectators. There will also be a "swap & sell" for anything blackpowder/muzzleloading-oriented. Watch for bulletins and posters. In the meantime, get out ol' Betsy, clean her up, check your powder, caps, patches, and balls, and practice a bit.

Last Quarterly Until Fall

This issue of the Newsletter will be the last printed edition until next September...but you will continue to receive the email Horizon bulletin and event posters regularly—every couple of weeks. Horizon is also posted prominently in the Lounge, on the range bulletin boards, and on the club website. Please continue to send contributions to the Newsletter; you may use email, leave notes in the Lounge, or leave telephone messages. There are no general-membership meetings in July and August. And...be sure to let the club know if you have changed your address or email connections.

Summer Skeet Signups Underway

Winter Skeet ended April 10, but don't despair, you scattergunners. Summer Skeet signup sheets will be in the skeet house May 1 and before that in the Lounge. The summer season runs from the middle of June to the end of August with a championship match and sumptuous BBQ to end the season. Commissioner Bill Boehning reminds us that Club members with any skill level can join—including spouses, sons, and daughters and that it's a fine low-key family recreation. All matches will start at 5:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday. If you are a single shooter you will be put on team where everyone is friendly, he says. Each team competes once a week on different days and safety glasses and ear protection are required; a hat is a good idea also.

Bill reminds us that "We shoot in any weather except heavy rain. You must shoot in the Summer League to establish a Winter League average to get on a winter team. The Summer League is strictly for fun and to learn how to shoot skeet properly." For more info, see the Commissioner at the next club meetings or call 860.434.2336 or wildbillsidecutter@sbcglobal.net.

Skeet Clinic to Offer Tips for Early Skill Levels May 21

NSC will hold a clinic on skeet techniques for beginners, novices, and in-betweens (and their relatives) on Saturday, May 21, at the skeet range. Starting time is 11 a.m.—come and learn shooting skills and proper range technique! Bring along a shotgun, shells, and eye and ear protection.

The Winter League season has concluded, so the skeet fields are open every day from 9 a.m. to darkness. The Summer Skeet League will be starting in June, so sign up at the skeet house. All members are welcome—bring your sons or daughters or spouses—and no experience is necessary.

Just a reminder: When finished shooting, refill the machines, close the window, and sweep off stations 1 and 7. There is a broom in each skeet house. For information call Range Commissioner Bill at 434-2336.

Archers Aim for Spring-Fall 3D Matches

The 2011 schedule of 3D matches has started; these matches attract archers from a wide region and are just fine for all levels of NSC shooters as well. Here's the series for 2011: April 17, June 19, August 21, September 4, October 2. Registration runs from 7 a.m. to noon; adults \$10; youth 15 and under, free; all score cards will be in by 3 p.m. New, high-quality targets have been set out and offer interesting and realistic challenges. The events will also be serving

hot dogs and hamburgers. Contact greg_hoagland@yahoo.com or 860.460.0670. Remember that the outdoor rifle range will be closed while matches are underway and will be posted to remind you of that fact.

FNRA Banquet To Be May 12

The eleventh annual Friends of NRA banquet is on Thursday, May 12, starting at 6 p.m. at the Grotton Motor Inn. This is a charitable event; part of any money which you spend is tax deductible: 50 percent of the evening's proceeds directly benefit Connecticut's safety and education programs at clubs and ranges within the State of Connecticut. For further information, see posters and mailers around the club, or contact Steve Rocketto, Chairman, 928 Old Colchester Road, Oakdale, CT, 06370; telephone 860.848.9578 (rocketto@aquilasy.com).

Recent Highlights:

—Improvements to the air-handling system of the Indoor Range



were completed March 12: the system was praised by shooters. A great job by skilled tin-knockers Josh Chopp and John Calovis! Other, continuing, improvements are planned for later in the year. —Historical Note: The NSC was formally incorporated in "the Village of Niantic, Town of East Lyme" on March 24, 1955. —A fireplace insert for the Lounge was approved at the January 14 meeting and was installed by club member Larry Maggi and his staff from Fireworks Hearth and Home fireplace center on Bridge Road in Had-dam on Rt. 82. Now we bask in smoke-free warmth—and wood-saving efficiency! See more at

www.fireworksct.com.

—Brenda Stone, a longtime behind-the-scenes, hands-on supporter of the club and its activities, was voted to Honorary Life Membership at the January 14 meeting. Brenda joins Helen Younger and the late Tina Poulos (owner-operator of the Morton House) as NSC women who have been elected Honorary Life Members over the years. Congratulations!

—The March Conservation Education-Firearm Safety Course registered 30 students for certifications; 18 were NSC affiliated. There were five "no-shows," none of whom had club affiliation. A total of 25 students successfully completed the 16 hour course; six of these were juniors. Club members and CEFS Instructors Rick Youmans and Bill Hart did a great job teaching and assisting throughout the entire course, which was coordinated by Ray Falkner. Skeet Commissioner Bill Boehning cheerfully provided needed expertise on the skeet field. The CEFS team wishes successful and safe hunting to all graduates!

—Youth Program Archery has been coached by J.L. Kopcha and Frank Hull on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Youth archery thanks member Ben Carbone for his generous gift of a fine compound bow and matching arrows...perfect for the program!

—Congratulations to NSC members who attended the 29th Canadian Airgun Grand Prix in Toronto... competitors were Kent Lacey, Lisette Grunwell-Lacey, Nancy Dubicki, Gary Baier, and David Fontaine: great shooting in the big leagues of the air-pistol world!

—Three NSC blackpowder shooters ventured North to the annual



Southern Vermont Primitive Biathlon on February 12-13, where snowshoes are welcome on the

snowy trails and the course is about a mile-and-a-half of up-and-down forest paths. Craig Girmord, Tom Snow, and Stan Bowdish did the honors in the "woods walk" class and came in pretty well out of the two-hundred-or-so competitors. Contact them for info on more in-the-woods muzzleloader events in New England.

—NSC's Al Cawthra journeyed for the third year to the March 26 19th Annual Sgt. Alvin C. York Memorial Black Powder Shoot in Pall Mall, Tennessee; it is the largest single-day muzzleloader shoot in the world. 189 black-powder experts were on hand and Al placed a very respectable 81st with his .45 roundball "chunk gun," so named because one fires prone at 65 yards over a "chunk" of wood. Next year he's been promised a side trip over to nearby Yellow Door, where World War I hero York (1887-1964) contemplated whether he—a pacifist—should enter the Army back in 1917. He did, and the rest is history.

—Looking Ahead to September... Youth General Schedule and Coach Contacts. The program meets from 6-9 p.m. every Thursday with skills taught on alternating Thursdays. Competition Shooting Team, Lisette Grunwell; Indoor Youth Rifle, Jay Cole, Ron Michaels; Indoor Archery, J.L. Kopcha and Frank Hull.

—The Fifty-sixth Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Niantic Sportsmen's Club was on March 24, 1955.

Club Pistol Teams Fare Well as Season Closes

Match seasons don't get any tighter. All through winter 2010-2011, NSC's pistol team (22-2) had been neck-and-neck with the Pachaug Outdoor Club (22-2). Similarly, all winter the NSC-based N2 Pistol team (14-10) had been close to third place against the Nutmegs Pistol team (18-6). Average-wise, Pachaug had nominally led the league, but only by tenths of a point, and N2

was only about six points behind Nutmegs. For NSC, it all came down to a season-ending special shoot-off on April 4 at the "neutral" Mystic Rod and Gun Club. The result: Pachaug 1405-34x; NSC 1395-24x. Ow! Tie-breakers are like that...but it was a close match, well shot, with good people.

The NSC team was ably led by Myron Kavalgian for the past two years; next year's captain will be longtime competitor Gary Baier. The N2 team captain is Amber Sneddon, who will continue her leadership next year. There will be team openings in the fall, so practice up and get in touch with them to join the roster.

In Niantic, March 13...

Hartford's "Met" Pistol League Wins Seventh Annual All-Star Interleague Challenge

Hartford's Metropolitan Revolver League has done it again, albeit by a narrower-than-ever margin.

The "Met League" narrowly defeated the New London County Pistol League to win 8547-215x over New London's 8526-197x in the Sunday, March 13, "best of the best," all-star tournament to determine both statewide and



regional supremacy in pistol bullseye shooting. It's the seventh such annual match. The 21-point margin amounts to 2.1 points per scored contender—a difference that is a hairsplitter in the closely contested world of indoor-match competition that is conducted during the year by five leagues across the state. In several segments of the match, totals were even closer and in one area, rapid fire, New London actually won by 6 points and 4x.

This year, the 900-shot, 9000-

point match was hosted by the NSC. Seventy marksmen competed in the nationally standardized "bullseye" format. Each league's best shooters represent their state region, and the top ten scores from each league count for the aggregate team score in the all-star match. The Metropolitan League has continued to edge out the league challengers in all the matches so far, but the winning margins have been shrinking down to a just few points per shooter, as proven again this year.

Lollipops Will Challenge .22LR Shooters June 26

Once again, colorful lollipops will challenge the sights (and nerves) of .22 rimfire rifle marksmen as they settle down to try to hit the small targets out at 50 yards. Younger shooters are invited, and there will be three classes: Offhand, any sights; Benchrest, open sights; and Benchrest, scope sights. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sunday, June 26, on the Outdoor Range. See posters for details!

March 19, 2011:

A Letter of Thanks...

To: Matt Fleisher, President, NSC

Dear Matt:

The 2011 Interleague All-Star Match held at the Niantic Sportsmen's Club March 13 was a great day; all the shooters and match staff had fun and enjoyed your facility as we did in 2009. On behalf of the New London County Pistol League, the host league, and also the Metropolitan Revolver League of Hartford—Thank You! We thank you for making the facilities available to us and your members for their great support coordinating the event and supporting our shooters during the match.

Special recognition and thanks goes to several of your members: Frank Zito did a great job coordinating NSC support, preparing the pistol range, and setting up the range and hall for our match; Jeff Schwartz prepared and coordinated our match protocol and

called many relays for us; John Stratton has again done an outstanding job developing press release material for the All-Star Match. Publications were in The Day 3/14/2010; J.L. Kopcha prepared our menus and score cards in addition to weighing triggers and supporting range officers; Farmer, Amy, and Jodi were always there when something was needed. Your kitchen and service crew were again excellent. Shooters complimented the food and it was served with friendly smiles. Thank the members working behind the scene who contributed to a great day of competition!

Since the 2009 All Star Match you have made significant improvements in the range appearance, ventilation, and sound system. The range looks better each year—well done! When the opportunity comes the All-Star Match participants look forward to visiting the Niantic Sportsmen's club again.

Sincerely,

Steven Wheeler, NLCPL Match Coordinator; Wayne Gronlund, President, NLCPL; Lew Chappel, President, MRLH; J.P. Stratton, NSC

Summer Bullseye Pistol Features Air, Rimfire, and Centerfire Opportunities

The club is again hosting bullseye .22 and air-pistol competition during the New London County Pistol League's off-season, and new shooters are welcome. The matches are every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. as follows: Air Pistol/Rifle: April 11, 25; May 9 and 23; June 6 and 20; July 18; August 1, 15, 29. On alternate weeks, National Match Course matches—.22 sport pistol, free pistol, centerfire pistol—will be shot April 18, May 2, 16; June 13, 27; July 11, 25; August 8, 22. Get there early and practice, if you like. Winners are named at the season's end based on averages of the top six matches for air pistol and the top 18 NMC matches for conventional pistol. See posters, or contact coordina-

continued on pg. 4

Summer Pistol... from page 3
 tor Dave Fontaine at 203.257.7628.
 The indoor range will remain
 open to the NSC general member-
 ship during the matches.

**NSC Smallbore Competitors
 Take Honors in Key
 Regional Matches**

NSC competitive Youth Program
 shooters were named to Connecti-
 cut All-State Honors in the first
 teams in their age divisions: Emily
 Britt (junior team), Eric Sloan (sub-
 junior team), Jacob Lathrop (junior
 team), Kimberlee Grohocki (sub-
 junior team), Mike Fenn (sub-ju-
 nior team).

In recent months, the youth
 competitors have been both busy
 and successful. Niantic junior
 shooters fired March 5-6 at the
 Bridgeport Gallery Match located
 in Stratford, Connecticut. In the
 sub-junior category (14 years and
 younger) Mike Finn of Niantic fired
 a 189-7x for ninth place and Ni-
 antic's Eric Sloan fired a 199-13x
 for first place and match-winner
 honors. In the junior match (15 to
 20 years old) Jacob Lathrop shot a
 194-8x for third place, while sub-
 bie Eric Sloan totaled 191-6x for
 seventh place overall, and subbie
 (Sub-Junior) Mike Finn shot 178-4.
 Subbies are allowed to shoot
 against the juniors if they choose.
 Emily Britt discovered the woes of
 having equipment fail when her
 iron sights jammed up so they

could not be adjusted. She shot
 through it, trying her best and fin-
 ished the junior match at 177-3x.



Emily then bolted on her scope
 to the rifle, discarding the iron
 sights, and entered the senior
 match where she showed her real
 potential with a 194-11x score for
 fourth place overall, the best of all
 Niantic junior shooters. Jacob
 Lathrop fired 194-10x for fifth
 place, Eric Sloan totaled 188-8x
 and Mike Finn shot 175-5x as all
 the kids competed against the sen-
 iors. Niantic coach Lisette Grun-
 well-Lacey fired a 198-18x for high
 woman honors and second place
 overall in the senior match.

Coach Lisette Grunwell-Lacey
 said that she "is proud of the skill
 and poise shown by the Niantic
 junior shooters in competition.
 They have come a long way this
 year." The NSC juniors are set for an
 aggressive schedule of matches
 this spring and summer, including
 another visit to the national
 matches at Camp Perry.

Later in March, at the Eightieth
 Anniversary Gallery Matches spon-
 sored by the Connecticut State
 Rifle and Revolver Association at
 Blue Trail Range, Eric Sloan shot a

perfect score of 200-18x to win
 sub-junior honors, while Kimber-
 lee Grohocki won high-girl junior
 (with an outstanding third-place
 overall by score) with a fine 196;
 Emily Britt, shooting in the senior
 class, was NSC's highest junior
 shooter with a 193. Both our sub-
 junior and junior teams came in
 third place in very tough competi-
 tion against very seasoned and
 long standing teams from around
 the tri-state area. Most recently, in
 Rhode Island, Kimberlee won the

three-position NRA junior sec-
 tional, and Emily was high inter-
 mediate junior. And...the team
 took first-place honors.

MEMBER MEETINGS

Dinner Service Starts at 5:30 p.m.

Meetings Start at 7 p.m.

May: Friday, May 13

June: Friday, June 10

September: Friday, September 9
*Executive Meetings are at 7 p.m. the
 Tuesday before the Friday Meeting*

www.nianticsc.org

Officers 2011

Matt Fleisher, *President*
 John MacDougall, *Vice-President*
 John Santos, *Recording Secretary*
 Judy LeBlanc, *Financial Secretary*
 Rick Pape, *Treasurer*

Executive Board

Term 2010 through 2011—Jack
 Douton, Peter Edmondson, Ron
 Michaels, Frank Zito, Jack Cutillo
Term 2011 through 2012—Bill
 Boehning, Stan Bowdish, Al
 Cocola, Tom Davis, Al LeBlanc,
 George Stone;

Committee Chairs 2010-2011

Judy LeBlanc—*Finance*;
 John MacDougall—*Membership*;
 Stanley Bowdish—*Outdoor Range*;
 Peter Edmondson—*Indoor Range*;
 William Boehning—*Skeet*;
 Tom Snow, Craig Grimord—*Black
 Powder*;
 Charles Chambers, George Stone
 —*House*;
 Jay Cole, Lisette Grunwell-Lacey,
 Ron Michaels, J.L. Kopcha, Frank
 Hull—*Youth/Competition*;

Greg Hoagland—*Archery*;
 Bruce Vandal, Jeff Schwartz—
Conservation;
 Bob Sutcliffe—*NRA Liaison*;
 Laura Bradley—*Kitchen*;
 Emil Tillona—*Website*;
 Tom Davis—*NSC Raffle Planning*;
 John Stratton—*NSC Newsletter/
 Membership Services*

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