March 2008

Incorporated 1955

NIANTIC SPORTSMEN'S CLUB INC.

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

Coming up!

March 2008

- Sunday Breakfasts – March 2, 9, 16, 30 (No breakfast on the 23rd, Easter Sunday.)
- Meeting Night Prime Rib Dinner – Friday, March 14 (Lenten menu also available!)
- Youth Pistol Night – March 6
- Muzzleloader Trail Shoot – Sunday morning, March 16
- NSC Incorporation Anniversary – March 24, 1955
- St. Patrick's Day Feast – to be announced
- Connecticut Interleague All-Star Pistol Match – March 30
- Fourth Friday Dinner (pot roast feast) – Friday, March 28
- Nutmeg 2008 Friends of NRA Banquet, Aqua-Turf – March 28
- First 3D Archery Match – Sunday, March 30

April 2008

- Youth Scoped .22 Gallery Night – April 10
- Meeting Night Prime Rib Dinner – Friday, April 11

May 2008

- N.L. County FNRA Banquet, Groton Motor Inn – Thursday, May 8
- Meeting Night Prime Rib Dinner – Friday, May 9
- N.L. County Pistol League Banquet – Saturday, May 17

Meeting Dates

Executive Meeting
Tuesday, March 11, 7:00 pm

Regular Meeting
Friday, March 14, 7:00 pm

Full House, Full Folks, Great Dinner!

The Annual Game Dinner on February 16 saw a packed house of about 220 people and tasty and interesting foods for all. The kitchen crews (and definitely the "hunting crews") had worked to perfection for days, and there was a wide array of quality sportsmen's items to keep the raffles interesting. Foods ranged from venison to bear to squirrel to pheasant to ram to goose to clams to fish...and others! Once again, Laura Pringle did her dessert magic with goodies for all, while the Lounge staff kept the beverages flowing quickly to wash it all

continued on pg. 2

Full House...*from page 1*

down. Con Mucho Gusto!

And thanks and appreciation to our contributors, who included...

Cash Home Center, Ron's Guns, The Grouse Perch, Traditions Firearms, J&B Tackle, Boats Inc., Marine Structures, Sunbeam Fleet, Constantine's Restaurant, Hillyer's Tackle Shop, North Cove Outfitters, Budweiser, Mike Foley, Ray Eustace, Richard Chmiel.

Trail Shoot to Challenge Woodland Muzzleloaders

Once upon a time, our New England woods were the hunting ground for generations of black-powder rifles carried by hardy frontiersmen who fed their families from the New World forests. Likewise, our distant relatives who signed up for the War Between the States became very familiar with the smokepoles made on new mass-production machinery pioneered in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

NSC's own muzzleloaders will tread on the club's twisting pathways on Sunday, March 16, to test their target skills in a realistic, natural setting. Muzzleloading rifles of all types, with any sights, are allowed, for approximately 12 aimed shots at varied targets. Registration is 9 to 10:30 a.m. and the groups will enter the trail in groups of three or four. No participants can register after 10:30 a.m. Face the challenge – and have the fun! Plenty of coaching and expertise will be available.

New "Skeet Fence" Minimizes Clutter

The skeet season is in full swing and doing well, reports Commissioner Bill Boehning. Each team shoots every other Sunday and the season ends in early May.

It's not too early, he says, to talk to your friends and form a summer league team. You need no team experience you will get all the information you need to get started. Singles are welcome, and can be easily placed on a team. Summer will be here before you know it, so get moving!

On January 12 the skeet gang built a fence or blind to cover the orange debris of broken targets behind the low house. Jack Cutillo donated the materials for the improvement, which makes it easier to see the targets coming from the low house window because it breaks up the visual interference from all the orange chips. (Thanks go out to Jack, Al, George, Craig, and Paul. Jack also repaired our skeet house heater; it is definitely needed in these winter months.) The Commissioner also offers a reminder: "When you see that the new cardboard box container at the skeet field has gotten full, do your part and take the cardboard to the burner located at the rifle range and put a match to it. Don't throw the cardboard in the commercial trash container." For skeet info call Bill at 434-2336.

Juniors Score with Kid-Sized Target Arms

"On behalf of all involved with the NSC Youth Program," says coordinator Jay Cole, "we wish to extend our appreciation to Robert Jakubiel for the donation of three Savage youth rifles, to Ray Faulkner for the donation of globe sights for these rifles, and for Ray's continued, tireless support of the youth program.

"Thank you to Rob Grohocki for donating a supply of shooting glasses, and a thank you to Pete Clark and Ray Elmer for putting together information and potential access to a Marlin Youth Rifle."

Jay notes that the program has had a lot of support and also thanks Ron Michaels for assisting as a range officer/coach on rifle nights. The archery youth want to thank Larry and Alan of Alan's Small Engine Service and Fireworks, for their donation of much appreciated archery targets, he said.

Special events coming up include a March 6 pistol night and an April 10 scoped .22 caliber gallery night. Donations are always welcome and will be put to good use. Remember, 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:

- 6:30-8:30 p.m. 1st and 3rd Thursday: indoor range – Jay Cole

Note: Please do not plan to use the range at this time!

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

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

Game Recipes Welcome for Newsletter Features

Members are invited to share their home-tested recipes for meals based on wild game. We'll print them in an occasional column...and may try them out at our dinners. Email them to the Newsletter (nscnewsletter@snet.net) or to Michael Scott (mscott@courant.com), or leave them in the Lounge.

New Membership Cards Mailed

You will be receiving your ID card in the immediate future, perhaps with this Newsletter. Our facilities combinations change in early March, so read your card carefully and do not transfer it or lend it out. Many new cards have already been distributed personally at the February meeting and subsequent club events. The proposed photo-ID system is on hold because of computer-programming problems, but a committee is in place to fix the glitches and train operators.

Archers Set 2008 Schedule

Archers in our 3D trail shoots will now have about 16 new targets to test their skills. The targets in the premium Reinhart system reflect the popularity of the club on the eastern woodland archery circuit and make a good, ever-changing, course even better. Copies of the 2008 3D-archery booklet are in the Lounge. The NSC home-range shoots are on the Sundays of March 30, April 27, May 11, 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).

Profile: Jack Douton

...one of a series on club mainstays over the years

– by Helen Younger

Jack Douton recently retired as chairman of the Outdoor Range committee after more than ten years. He and a large crew of volunteers spent many hours upgrading the range into one of the best in the region.

Jack's been a member of NSC for about 14 years. He grew up in the Pleasure Beach area of Waterford, and spent four years in Naval Air before coming back home. He spent the next 25 years as owner and captain of the charter fishing boat Dot-E-Dee and opened the J&B Tackle Shop, which is now owned by his son, Kerry. Three Douton generations are involved: Jack is a master at repairing fishing rods and reels and his grandsons, Kyle and Evan, work with their father in the shop and aboard the Dot-E-Dee with fishing parties.

Jack's wife of 56 years, Dorothy, schedules the fishing-party reservations. (Could the Dot-E-Dee be her namesake?)

One of Jack's hobbies is woodworking, and he's a good cabinetmaker. He's just built a set of steps so that "Buck Shot, his old canine pal, can get up to his place on the bed more easily.

Jack's a member of the club's Over the Hill Gang, which meets every Friday morning: the group shoots amazing scores, and then meets for lunch in the Lounge and "shoots the breeze" a bit too. (New members are always welcome!)

Jack gets a big vote of thanks from all the club membership for his years of service, both on and off the range!

Duds

We've all had them. Aim breathe aim squeeze aim squeeze...click!

Frustrating. Eject. Dud. Another one.

If it's your own reload, well...it must be that bad batch of primers. The ones that don't quite seat right. Right? If it's the factory... well, quality standards have gone all to heck in the past few years. Plus this is the old stuff from the basement next to the furnace, maybe. And rimfires? Tell me about it!

Still, there's always that other possibility. Chamber's not clean, hammer-spring's light, too much old lube in the action. Always had that problem, whatever it is.

Whatever, it joins the tin can full of other ones, Duds. But, maybe...

Wipe it off, give her another try. BOOM! Ten-ring.

Just needed another chance, is all. Another tap on the primer when conditions are made right.

Of course, some never do go off. But a good many do. Look at the causes, and make them as right as you can. There's always another chance.

Look at the kids. They're working out, aren't they?

–Actaeon

Date Set for Pistol All-Star Match

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 vie for state honors at a one-day Interleague All-Star Pistol Match on Sunday, March 30.

The 90-shot, 900-point match will be hosted by the Metropolitan League at the Metropolitan Shooters Inc. competition range in Manchester. Some 70 competitors will vie for statewide league and individual honors in the nationally standardized "bullseye" format. The Metropolitan league edged out both the league challengers at matches in the past three years, but the margins have been growing closer.

Be Alert to Too-Clever Election-Year "Promises"

The 2008 election year will require our close attention. Candidates seem eager to talk about "supporting" the Second Amendment – but then vote against its freedoms and reveal their profound anti-sportsmen records. We'll be very dependent on NRA and other pro-sportsmen organizations to get our point of view to the candidates, and to extract clear information from them that we can use in making our personal voting decisions.

If you have questions about NRA positions, contact our in-club recruiter, Bob Sutcliffe, at 860.964.0580. The NRA is our united voice in this election year. 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.

Special Lounge Dinners, Breakfasts Attract Members and Their Guests

Prime-rib dinners are offered on meeting nights from 5:30 to 7 p.m., and on the Fourth Friday of the month. The Friday, March 14, meeting-night dinner will have a non-meat choice in recognition of Lent – in addition to the prime rib and hamburger choices on the menu. The Fourth Friday selection for March 28 will be a pot roast feast. Other special-dinner events are in the planning stage for April.

Full-service family Sunday breakfasts are served between 7:30 and 10 a.m. (except for some Sundays following major club events). The can't-be-beat prices run about $6, plus a little bit more if you choose sideorders or specials.

Our informal Friday lunches are cooked from noon to about 1:30 p.m.; and our Friday dinners on the second and fourth Fridays are ready from about 5:30 to 7 p.m. Lounge hours are every Tuesday evening from 5 to about 10 p.m., Friday from noon to about 11 p.m., Saturday from noon to about 6 p.m., and Sundays from 7 a.m. to about 6 p.m. Special menu items are often posted in advance in the Lounge, which is

continued on page 4

Dinners, Breakfasts...*from page 3*

smoke-free during food-service hours.

Remember that the kitchen crews always need hands-on help preparing, serving, cooking, and cleaning. The prime-rib dinners on meeting nights also welcome help starting in the late afternoon.

NSC's Wholesome 'n' Tasty Sunday Breakfasts

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

Sideorders available...Corned beef hash; extra sausage, ham, bacon; coffee (free); juices and other beverages

12. Spectacular Super Specials [as available on that particular day].

Club Notes

- 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.
- 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.
- The NSC Newsletter always welcomes 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.
- Please be sure that you notify us if you change your your email address. The Newsletter is available on the website in text-only and full-graphics formats. Let us know at nscnews letter@snet.net and include your full name and member number.
- NSC Website: www.nianticsc.org
- Newsletter email – nscnewsletter@snet.net

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.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, March 14, 7 p.m. – Prime Rib Dinner Service Starts at 5:30 p.m.

Officers 2007

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

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AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO:
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31
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