



MARCH 2017
GROTON SPORTSMEN'S CLUB
NEWSLETTER



Stonington Clubhouse

421 Al Harvey Road

Stonington, CT 06378-9512

Voluntown/North Stonington Clubhouse

237 Tom Wheeler Road

North Stonington, CT 06359

GSC Website: <http://www.grotonsportsmen.com>

Stonington Clubhouse

(860) 535-2077

Voluntown/North Stonington

(860) 599-5902

Newsletter Headlines

- ***Special Meeting!***
- ***New Club Historian!***

From the President

On February 25 the Club held a testimonial dinner for past president Paul O'Neill.

The dinner was well attended with about 50 tickets sold. Chris Marquette, with help from Bob Butler, Tom Barnhart, Bill Isabella and his wife, Sue Pollock and other Club volunteers, put on a terrific steak dinner which was enjoyed by all. Thanks also to Brian Kennedy and his house committee volunteers for cleaning up the meeting room and getting it ready for the dinner.

Joe Rendeiro recited a poem dedicated to Paul about the cycle of life, well, you had to be there! Paul received gifts from several members, including gifts from current president John Stevens and his wife Pat, past president and current director Frank Fox, and past president Mike Riley; from the Club John Stevens presented to Paul "Clay Delay", a device that allows a shooter to enjoy trap or skeet by himself by using voice or report from a shotgun to activate the clay launching machine.

In this newsletter there is an obituary for deceased life member Norm Boiselle (it was composed by Game Committee Chair Ray Thiel) please take the time to read it. Norm provided the Club with many hours of service and he will be missed.

We are also moving into a new work hours cycle (March 1 to end of February), so start thinking about contacting a Club chair to start accumulating work hours. Please note that work hours are worth \$15.00 an hour.

See you around the Club,
John Stevens
President

April Newsletter Inputs

The Deadline for submissions for the April newsletter is March 20. The normal deadline will resume the next cycle.

Chuck Chenette Scholarships

Applications for a Chuck Chenette scholarship are now available. The student must be a son or daughter of a member of the Groton Sportsmen's Club and a senior in high school going into their first year of college the following fall. For an application, please contact Jeffrey Pollard at (860)235-5714 or jeffp1451@yahoo.com.

Notice! Food to be served on general meeting nights.

On general meeting nights, as long as there is interest and help, the kitchen will provide grinders for a nominal fee.

The March meeting will feature "Haywood's famous meatball grinders".

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Obituary

Norm Boisselle, Life Member and past Club President, passed away in February. Norm, who was 69, had been a Club member since November 1970. He had also lived in the house on the Club's North Stonington/Voluntown property for 29 years. During that time, Norm took care of the pheasants during hunting season, helped maintain the pheasant pens and feeder equipment, and kept an eagle eye on the property so that any problems could be taken care of in a timely manner. He also took it on himself to watch for trespassers on our property, particularly those people that seemed to always wander off the Blue Trail during the years when it crossed through our property.

Norm liked to fish for trout in the Club's pond and made sure everyone followed the rules. If you asked nicely, he'd share his secrets for catching trout. Although Norm's health declined over the last few years, he could frequently be seen riding down to the pond on his side-by-side UTV to try to catch a few fish that he'd smoke and share with people that visited the North Stonington/Voluntown property. Norm also was a great cook. There were countless winter days when he'd bring a large pot of stew or clam chowder into the clubhouse for the tired and hungry bird hunters.

He will be greatly missed.

Notice! Club Historian appointed.

I have appointed Richard Taylor as Club historian. If you have any artifacts (photos, memorabilia, etc) that belong to the Club please forward them to Richard. If you have items you wish to share that are your personal possessions please talk to Richard about getting them copied or photographed. Also, please contact Richard if you have interesting facts or historical accounts of the Club's past.

Just a note about Richard's family ties to this Club. Rich's family involvement goes back to the 1930's starting with his Great Grandfather Willard Burnham Taylor. He is Don Taylor's (member since 1973, former Club president and treasurer) and George Taylor's (member since 1963, former Club Secretary, indoor range chairman and active skeet team member - and current team captain - for many years) nephew. That makes him a third generation member! He is also skeet chairman Bill Vorra's (second generation member) cousin.

His contact info is as follows: richard.taylorjr1@gmail.com, cell (860) 908-4637.

Thanks
John Stevens

Property at 420 Al Harvey Road

Why do we desire this property? For reducing our risk and for the protection of the Club.

This property is our closest neighbor directly across from the gate. It is only about 100 yards from the 300 Yard Range building, while the house is about 160 yards away.

Connecticut noise regulations are very strict and it is possible that we would exceed the limits with certain firearms on that range. A hostile neighbor at 420 would directly threaten the Club and even if noise levels were within the limits, there could be protracted legal battles on other issues. It could cost the Club's savings to defend ourselves. Several local clubs have had serious problems with hostile neighbors.

The property would be financed with a down payment taken from our savings CD's with a mortgage to cover the remainder. The Club would offer the house for rent to offset the mortgage, taxes, insurance and maintenance. Even so, the Club could incur an annual cost of up to \$15,000. However, the property can be used as loan collateral and it would be expected to appreciate in value as our property at 440 Al Harvey Road has done.

We strongly feel that the Club cannot risk this property being sold to another. For that reason, a Special Meeting is hereby called for the March 15 Regular meeting. Please attend this meeting.

John Stevens
GSC President

Paul O'Neill
GSC Vice President

Special Meeting March 15, 2017

To authorize the President and the Board of Directors to enter into negotiations and to sign a purchase agreement for the property at 420 Al Harvey Road. The Board and the Financial Chair shall determine the best structure of the mortgage and \$5,000 shall be authorized as a down payment.

Pheasant Hunting Season Ends March 31st

Our hunting preserve season ends on March 31st each year. Some years our pheasant stocking ends before the end of March when we run out of birds, but this season we have plenty of birds and barring any unforeseen problems, we should be stocking Saturdays, Sundays right through March 26th.

Pheasants are \$15.00 for your first bird and \$10.00 for your second. Guests are charged an additional \$15.00 (whether they bag any birds or not). Family members don't pay a guest fee. To hunt on our preserve you only need to have passed a certified hunter safety course: no other state licenses or tags are required. An orange jacket or vest AND an orange hat are required to be worn.

We have good habitat and nice birds so if you haven't tried pheasant hunting or haven't hunted in a long time, you should come up on a weekend morning (hunting starts at 9:00 am on days we stock) and give it a try. If you don't own your own dog, there are always people there with dogs that are glad to let you join them.

See you in the field.
Ray Thiel
Game Committee Chairman.

Are You A Good Sponsor?

What is my role as a sponsor for someone seeking membership into the club? This should be a question that you ask yourself before you sign a membership application.

Although, not specifically defined in the Club's by-laws, a sponsor is a very important part of the process for someone seeking membership into the Club. First and foremost, you must be a voting member in good standing. Honorary members are **not** voting members.

One of the definitions of a sponsor, as defined in Merriam-Webster dictionary, is: "**one who assumes responsibility for some other person or thing.**" I am sure we can find other definitions.

The overall intention of a sponsor with reference to membership should be one that not only verifies the character of the applicant, thus ensuring to the membership of the Club that this individual reflects our principles and values. The sponsor also helps the new member transition into the club. This is accomplished by helping educate he or she the rules of the Club and the Club's by-laws. Keep the prospect advised of his or her standing on the waiting list and when to expect an invitation to join the club. Attend the indoctrination session with the prospect and be a mentor once he or she is voted into membership.

A sponsor should be, at the minimum, an acquaintance of the prospect, who can readily vouch for the individual's character and his or her responsibility with respect to firearms.

Being a sponsor is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly and does not end when you sign a prospect's application.

Be a good steward of our club and shooting sports, by being a good sponsor.

Thank You
Your Membership Co-Director,
Tom Barnhart

Annual Game Committee Meeting To Be Held March 11, 2017

The annual Game Committee meeting will be held on March 11th at 11:30 am in the North Stonington/Voluntown clubhouse. There are several things on the agenda already:

- Proposed changes to the Deer and Turkey hunting rules on the North Stonington /Voluntown property that would allow hunting by family members and impose new bag limits.
- Plans for the bird purchase for next season
- Plans for the 2018 Game Dinner
- Veteran's Pheasant Hunt
- Habitat Improvement Program plans

If you want to have input and be part of decisions regarding these items, you need to attend. If you have something you want add to the agenda please contact me before the meeting.

See you on the 26th.
Ray Thiel
Game Committee Chairman

Game Committee Muzzleloader Raffle: Fewer Than 30 Tickets Left!

By the time you get your newsletter, you'll have less than a month left to get your tickets for our Traditions Crush Package Vortek Strikerfire muzzleloader raffle. This is a great raffle prize. The Crush Package includes a camouflage patterned stock, Nikon in-line XR BDC 3X9 scope, a Traditions sling and gun case. The raffle winner also gets a Sportsman's Package Pellet Shooter's Kit that includes the muzzleloading essentials you'll need to get started. A picture of the prize package and a raffle flier are included in the digital newsletter. Tickets are \$20.00 each and are available from Ray Thiel, John Stevens, and Warren Speh. The drawing will be held on March 26, 2017 at noon in the North Stonington/Voluntown clubhouse. Tickets can be sold to the public and you don't have to be present at the drawing to win, but you do have to buy a ticket!

Contact me (Ray Thiel, prmal@comcast.net or (860) 564-2443) if you want to buy tickets by mail. Send me a check for your tickets and I'll fill out the ticket stub information and put your ticket into the bucket for the drawing. I'll also be at the March monthly membership meetings selling tickets assuming we still have tickets available by then.

Ray Thiel
Game Committee Chairman.



Game Committee Raffle Prize Package: Get Your Tickets soon!

Get Fishin'!

Well, it's that time of the year to dust off the fishing poles! With that in mind I would like to invite everyone to come out and join us on April 1, 2017 to kick off the fishing season. "No fooling!"

As always there will be an opening day breakfast served at 6:00 AM and don't forget to get into the Big fish pool! Below are the work party dates and stocking times.

Work Party - There will be a work party at the NS/Voluntown pond on 3/18 starting at 10 am. The rain date is the following Saturday (3/25). Please remember that an orange hat and vest is required for anyone on the club property until 3/31.

Fish Stocking - The stocking truck will be at the pond between 4:30 and 5:00 pm on 3/30 rain or shine. Bring the kids and a camera as everyone helps stock the fish.

Opening Day- The opening day is 4/1. Lines hit the water at 7:00 am sharp. Breakfast starts at 6:00am. Fishing Permits are required to fish which will be available during stocking, opening day or at the kitchen in the Stonington club house. There are envelopes in the NS club house which can be filled out and put in the box inside the door. A permit will be mailed to your house.

Thanks,
The Fish Committee

Spring Field Day

The 2017 Groton Sportsmen's Club, Inc. Spring Field Day will take place on April 30, 2017 between the hours of 9:00 AM thru 4:00 PM. There will be a raffle that will take place at 4:30 PM on the day of the Field Day. You need not to be present to win. Raffle tickets will be available the beginning of March 2017. Work hours can be earned for selling Raffle Tickets. This is a Family orientated event and is a great time for all. It is also a great opportunity to work off some of those pesky work hours that we love so much.

There will be a Field Day set up day that will take place on April 29, 2017. Hours and contact people will be provided later as the Field Day nears.

The ranges will be closed on Saturday the 29th and Sunday the 30th of April. No shooting on any range will be allowed unless it is directly related to the Field Day. Signs will be posted. Please do not show up and ask to shoot on those days as you will be turned away. There will be no exceptions. This includes all Outdoor Ranges as well as the Indoor Range. These range closures have been approved by the Board as well as the Membership at the January General Meeting.

Please contact the Field Day Co-chairmen if you have any questions. Contact information for Wayne Carbone and Mike Isabella can be found on the website as well as in the newsletter.

NRA Recruiter

The Club is looking for someone to take over the NRA recruiting position.

Please contact John Stevens for information at Capitol1918@gmail.com or (860) 908-2626

Classifieds

For Sale - Contact: Tom Phelps tpoutdoor@comcast.net (860-376-5680)

.300WSM Brass: Norma: New in the box 44 (6 once fired) = \$65 (normally \$100)

Win. Used Brass: 79 prepped (50% Nickle), 98 un-prepped (Total 177) = \$45
\$100 for all of it!

.300WSM Dies: RCBS FL Die Set: \$15

Redding Competition Seating Die (micrometer adj.) = \$50 (New cost is \$110)
\$60 for all dies!

7mm Mag Brass: Winchester: New (30), Used (96)

Frontier (Hornaday): Used 92
\$50 for all of it!

7mm Mag Dies: RCBS FL Die Set: \$15

All Brass & 7 Mag. Dies: \$60

Red Dot Powder: 5lbs: (4lb & 1lb containers) \$60

Bullseye Powder: 1lb: \$10 (old can style, powder is still good)

Pictures For The Newsletter Are Always Welcome

We are always looking for interesting and/or informative input for the Club's newsletter, but the pictures we have been putting into the digital newsletter make it all the more fun to read. Summer camping adventures, pictures of big fish or your kid's first fish, or just about any outdoor activity are always great. Photographs of Club activities are also always welcome. You get the idea; more pictures will mean we can give you a more interesting newsletter. Send pictures, stories, or any newsworthy items to Rob Sawyer at rob@thesawyerfarms.com. The more input we get, the better the newsletter will be.

The standard deadline for newsletter submissions is the 25th of the month.

Thanks,

Rob Sawyer

Newsletter Committee

Web Links For Pro-Sportsmen Organizations

The following web links are being provided to make it easier for our members to support these organizations by joining or making donations so that they can continue the battle to maintain sportsmen's rights.

National Rifle Association Membership <http://membership.nrahq.org/default.asp>

Connecticut Citizens Defense League www.ccdl.us

National Shooting Sports Foundation www.nssf.org

TO PROTECT THE FUTURE OF OUR CLUB, PLEASE KEEP FIREARMS SAFETY IN MIND AT ALL TIMES!

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
(VERIFY DATES AND TIMES BEFORE YOU GO)**

EVENT	EVENT DATE	CONTACT / INFORMATION
GSC General Membership Meeting	Third Wednesday - 7:30 pm	Club Officers
GSC Board of Directors Meeting	Second Wednesday - 7:00 pm	Club Officers and Board Members
Indoor range work party	6pm Second Tuesday of Every month	Mike Kopycienski (860) 536-2541
Sunday Breakfasts	Every Sunday 7:00 - 8:30 am	Susan Pollock (860) 329-6046 Susan.dolce@snet.net
Special Club Meeting	March 15, 7:30 pm	Discuss possible acquisition of 420 Al Harvey Rd. Details in this newsletter.
Fishing Work Party	March 18, 10:00 am	North Stonington/Voluntown pond
Game Committee Raffle Drawing at the North Stonington/Voluntown Clubhouse	March 26, 12:00 pm	Ray Thiel, prmal@comcast.net (860) 564-2443 See flier in digital newsletter
Fish Pond Stocking	March 30, 4:30 pm	North Stonington/Voluntown pond
Opening Day of Fish Season	April 1, 6:00 am	North Stonington/Voluntown pond
Ranges closed for Field Day cleaning and preparations	April 29, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Wayne Carbone (860) 599-5504 waynescarbone@gmail.com Mike Isabella (401) 742-2078 cardoc59@gmail.com
Spring Field Day	April 30, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Wayne Carbone (860) 599-5504 waynescarbone@gmail.com Mike Isabella (401) 742-2078 cardoc59@gmail.com

Contact Information For Club Officers And Committee Chairpersons

Officers:

President	John Stevens (860) 908-2626 capitol1918@gmail.com		
Vice President	Paul O'Neill (860) 599-3607 pfo06379@gmail.com	Membership Directors	Michelle Marceau mmarceaugsc@gmail.com
Secretary	Bob Butler (860) 625-1627 butler.nvb@gmail.com		Tom Barnhart (860) 961-7296 n1sxu55@gmail.com
Treasurer	Stewart Pucci (401) 596-1926 stp@pgfcpa.com	Directors-at-Large	Ray Thiel (860) 564-2443 prma1@comcast.net
Financial Secretary	Bill Isabella (401) 792-0751 b.isabellagsc@cox.net		Bill Salisbury (401) 364-8949 billofarm@cox.net Frank Fox (860) 535-2787 fefox12@comcast.net

Committee Chairmen:

Fish	Henry Thacher (401) 378-4312 stripernic@hotmail.com	N. Stonington House/Grounds	Bill Salisbury (401) 364-8949 billofarm@cox.net
Game	Ray Thiel (860) 564-2443 prma1@comcast.net	Skeet/Sporting Clays	Bill Vorra (860) 535-1037 billvorra@yahoo.com
Stonington House	Brian Kennedy (860) 867-7570 bkennedy145@comcast.net Peter Merritt (860) 536-0598 pkmer@webtv.net	Legislative Action	Warren Speh (860) 536-6640 Tom Maloney (860) 625-2412 maloneyta@comcast.net
Sunshine	Richard Giudice (401) 741-2148 rgg427@cox.net	Kitchen	Sue Pollock (860) 535-4767 susan.dolce@snet.net
Field Day	Wayne Carbone (860) 599-5504 waynescarbone@gmail.com Mike Isabella (401) 742-2078 cardoc59@gmail.com	Outdoor Ranges	Tom Phelps (860) 376-5680 tpoutdoor@comcast.net Chris Marquette (860) 694-8145 jingles373@yahoo.com
Stonington Grounds	Bud Brovero (860) 376-8730 lainyandbud@hotmail.com	500 Yd Range	Jack Discuillo (860) 608-6905 discuillo@att.net
Archery	Peter Trahan (860) 235-1082 gsc.archery@gmail.com	Indoor Range	Mike Kopycienski (860) 536-2541 GSCinrange@comcast.net
Scholarship	Jeff Pollard (860) 235-5714 jeffp1451@yahoo.com	Education/ Instruction	Mike Peterson (860) 443-5567 peter5@atlanticbb.net
Work Hours	Peter Davis (860) 535-2526 peterdavis314@comcast.net	Financial	Greg Thevenet (860) 448-2020 gthevenet@aol.com
Newsletter Coordinator	Rob Sawyer (860) 884-0110 rob@thesawyerfarms.com	Club Publicity	Dan Sawyer (860) 460-4125 djsawyer66@gmail.com
Club Historian	Richard Taylor (860) 908-4637 richard.taylorjr1@gmail.com		Keith Richards (860) 449-3363 kwrichards6@comcast.net
Club Apparel and Novelties (pins/license plates, etc) or see Don at the club on Sunday mornings during breakfast or in the skeet house		Don Buchanan (401) 213-6183	

Groton Sportsmen's Club Game Committee Winter Raffle



**Traditions™ The Crush Package Vortek™ StrikerFire™
Muzzleloader with Nikon 3-9x40 Inline XR Scope and Gun Case
Combo – Premium CeraKote/Realtree XTRA®**

- StrikerFire button easily pushes forward until it locks to cock the gun
- Internal StrikerFire system replaces the external hammer
- Creep-free, two-stage TAC2 trigger factory set at 2 lbs.
- Ultralight 28" chromoly tapered fluted barrel with 1-in-28" rate of twist

Nikon 3-9x40 Inline XR scope with range-finding reticle

Traditions neoprene sling and soft case

Traditions Sportsman's Package Pellet Shooter's Kit

Tickets are \$20 each and only 100 tickets will be sold so get yours soon!

Drawing will be held on March 26, 2017 at noon at the GSC North Stonington/Voluntown clubhouse.

Contact Ray Thiel (prma1@comcast.net, 860-564-2443), Warren Speh (sptsmnwgs@juno.com, 860-536-6640) or John Stevens (capitol1918@gmail.com, 860-908-2626) to get your tickets.