



April 2018
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

http://www.grotonsportsmen.com	Stonington Clubhouse	(860) 535-2077
	Voluntown/North Stonington	(860) 599-5902

Newsletter Headlines

- **Fishing Season is Here!**
- Work Hours Available in N. Stonington
- Support the CCDL April 14th

Greetings fellow members,

I am pleased to report that, to my knowledge, we did not have any members pass away since the last newsletter.

This past week the club put on its Game Dinner after a short absence. Member Mark McNeil and his volunteers worked tirelessly to put on a tremendous feast. The event sold over 100 tickets with most all purchasers showing up for the dinner. I stopped in to drop off a Ruger 10/22 that was donated by member Greg Archer – in his effort to keep the tradition of raffling off the 10/22 for the Game Dinner a going event - and was pleased to see the number of members helping out. In a future issue, there will be comments

from Mark. Take a look at the photos taken by Club member Andy Bellinghieri within this issue. Many thanks to all who donated prizes, helped to put on the event and to all those who attended.

In the effort to keep going forward in getting the Club into the 21st century, technology-wise, webmasters Cal Stafford and David Sitver have started working on revamping the current website. I have seen the beta and it looks terrific. The website will be presented to the BOD shortly to show what it can do. More details to follow. By the way, David has transferred us to another server that should remedy the issue of Thames Valley customers not being able to sign on to the web page.

With Spring upon us, the Club can expect the use of outdoor ranges to increase. Later in this newsletter, there will information from the Skeet Chairman Bill Vorra concerning the types of ammo and firearms to be used on the skeet and trap ranges. The Outdoor Range Committee will be meeting with the BOD shortly and may have some new information coming forward on upgrades and new procedures.

GREAT NEWS – Tuesday night trap to start May 2, 2018 watch for the announcement from Bill Vorra for further details (times etc.)!

Another piece of good news, one of our skeet teams, The Longshots, won their division! Congrats all!

See you around the Club.

John Stevens

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

Game Committee News

Game Committee Meeting Results

The annual Game committee meeting was held in the North Stonington/Voluntown clubhouse on March 17th. Here's a summary of topics discussed.

1. We decided to order the same number and mix of pheasants and chukar that we ordered for the past season for the 2018/19 season. Our bird supplier did not raise the prices of any birds he sells to us so no additional budget will be needed for next season's birds.

2. We discussed a new deer hunting rule regarding tree stands. The new tree stand rule is as follows:

Portable tree stands and ground blinds may be installed on Club property after August 1st. Portable tree stands and ground blinds may be installed prior to August 1st with verbal permission from the Game Committee Chairman. All portable tree stands and ground blinds installed on Club property must be clearly marked (visible from the ground) with the owner's name, membership number and the month and year they were installed. Hunters using tree stands must use a fall arrest system (e.g. a full-body harness) manufactured by Treestand Manufacturers Association (TMA) standards. Hunters use tree stands at their own risk. All tree stands and ground blinds must be removed by March 31st. Members are encouraged to thoroughly inspect their tree stands and repair/replace any worn or rusted parts prior to installing them on Club property each season.

This new rule applies starting with the 2018 fall deer hunting season. Although the rule doesn't immediately affect existing tree stands, all hunters that have tree stands on Club property are encouraged to take their stands down, inspect them for rust and wear and re-install them later this year. You will also need to label your stand in accordance with the new rule before the using it this year.

3. We discussed a new deer hunting rule regarding baiting: The new baiting rule is as follows:

The use of artificial attractants (i.e. bait) is not allowed on Club property during the deer hunting seasons. Artificial attractants include but are not limited to:

- a. Minerals or chemicals that are intended to be eaten by deer (e.g., salt licks) and,
- b. Artificial or natural foods scattered, distributed or deposited (e.g., hay, grain, fruit, nuts) that

may be eaten by deer.

The use of bait is allowed outside the deer and spring turkey hunting seasons as a means to attract wildlife for scouting purposes (e.g. to a trail camera site). Bait used for this purpose must be totally consumed or removed prior to the deer or spring turkey hunting seasons.

This new rule is in effect immediately. Bait must be totally consumed or removed prior to the 2018 spring turkey hunting season which starts April 25, 2018.

If you have any questions regarding these rules, please contact me (Ray Thiel, prma1@comcst.net or 860-564-24430 and I'll do my best to address your questions.

4. There was a proposal to allow family members to hunt on the Stonington property similar to a rule change that was implemented last year that allowed family members to hunt on the North

Stonington/Voluntown property. Since this idea wasn't on the agenda and therefore, the membership couldn't have known that it was to be discussed, a decision to implement this idea (or not) wasn't made at the meeting. However, in order to allow family hunting during the Spring 2018 turkey hunting season, I am soliciting feedback from the membership. Please read the deer and turkey hunting rules (on the Club's website and posted in the North Stonington/Voluntown clubhouse) and see how hunting by family members was addressed. If the feedback supports allowing family members, family members will be allowed to hunt turkey in Stonington this year and those rules will be updated.

Please let me know whether or not you support allowing family members to hunt (with similar restrictions to those for family members hunting in North Stonington/Voluntown) by April 18th.

This will give me time to read all the feedback (either by e-mail or by phone) and change the rules if that's what the feedback supports.

Bird hunting Season Closed March 31st

Our 2017/18 pheasant and chukar hunting season closed on March 31st. We had another successful and safe season. We harvested 70% of the birds stocked. We had 625 hunter visits, including 36 visits by guest of Club members. We also had just over \$2100.00 in donations mainly from the Bird Dogs For Veterans hunt and the Annual Youth Pheasant hunt. Our total income was \$8,150.00. Thanks to everyone that helped with the Veterans and Youth hunts and thanks to all the members that volunteered to stock birds during the past season.

Remember that while the preserve hunting season is closed, our regulated dog training permit is still available to use. We have an approximately 10-acre area behind the pond where you can bring plant birds (you need to supply your own birds) and work with your dog to find and if you choose to shoot the birds you plant, retrieve the bird. You need to contact me to reserve a time to use the dog training area.

Thanks again for a safe and successful bird hunting season.

Ray Thiel, Game Committee Chairman

Archery Committee Update

The archery committee is busy getting ready for the big tournament being held at the Voluntown/North Stonington property on May 5/6. There is a sign-up poster hanging in the meeting room of the Stonington house with several slots still



open. Also needed are people willing to help ready the course for the

tournament. Those interested and able please contact archery Committee Chairman Pete Trahan at 860-235-2082.

April Menu

Burger and fries and/or Chicken fingers \$7 or \$10 for a combo!



Skeet Committee News

Members,

I want to send out a reminder to everyone using the skeet fields. There's been some question as to what ammo is allowed on the fields. **Please only use #9 #8.5 #8 and #7.5.**

These fields are for use with conventional skeet and trap guns, not rifles or handguns with snake shot.

I would also ask that anyone bringing a guest(s) be sure, upon arrival, to have each guest login on their own line along with filling out one waiver each.

The hosting member is responsible for their guest(s) and their actions.

Anyone that has not been instructed on the skeet fields and machine use, please be sure to reach out to me and I'll be happy to show you how to use the equipment correctly and safely.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

My contact info, [860-535-1037](tel:860-535-1037) or by email at billvorra@yahoo.com

Thank you and stay safe,

Bill Vorra

Skeet committee



Tuesday Night Trap!

Tuesday Night Trap will start on the first
Tuesday in May
and run through the last Tuesday in August.

Nominations Committee News

Club President John Stevens has asked Don Buchanan to chair the nominations committee for the upcoming elections. Don has accepted and can be reached at 401-213-6183 or you can find him at the Wednesday member meetings or during Sunday breakfast.

Nominations cut off date is the June meeting. Nominations will also be accepting from the floor at that June meeting.

Thanks,
Nomination Committee

Help Build the Club's Archives!

It has been 80 years since the Groton Sportsmen's Club was founded in 1938 by a small group of raccoon hunters who first met at the Sportsmen's Bar on the corner of School Street and Thames street in the City of Groton.

We would love to capture and record as much historical information about our club's 80 years as possible. Please search your archives and files and share pictures, old newsletters, memorabilia, etc. with us.

If you want to donate it to our historical files, great, but if you want to retain the information for your own records, please allow us to copy and return to you.

Please speak with Richard Taylor, Club Historian, or contact him by phone 860-908-4637 or by email richard.taylorjr1@gmail.com

Game Dinner Success!

Great pictures from this year's game dinner and for fun one from the 1970's courtesy of John Stevens.





Game dinner circa late 70's

Swede, Joe Mihalic, Jimmy Stewart and Pete Donahue with Fred Zepperri in the middle.

Work Hour Opportunities Available In North Stonington/Voluntown

There are several opportunities to get some work hours on the North Stonington/Voluntown property:

1. After the last few storms there's a lot of storm-related debris on the North Stonington/Voluntown property to collect and haul away.
2. We need to clear some trees new the south end of the pheasant pen to provide more sun to help melt snow and dry out the water that always collects there. The firewood shed also needs to be refilled.
3. Material that was previously stored in the shelter that was destroyed in one of the storms needs to be moved to the new storage shed and the shelter itself needs to be dismantled and carted off. The old metal shed in the parking lot needs to be taken away

as well.

4. The chains on the Toyota need to be removed.

5. There is some painting that needs to be done (if it ever warms up this year!).

I'm sure there are other things that Bill Salsibury and I could use help with as well.

Contact Bill (401-364-8949, billfarm@cox.net) or Ray Thiel (860-564-2443, prma1@comcast.net) and we'll get you started. Even if you don't have lots of time to pitch in, every little bit helps.

Thanks, Bill and Ray

Outdoor Range Committee News

As Springtime comes the use of our Outdoor Ranges increase. Please follow all the rules posted at each range including the following:

- Sign in before shooting, including each guest (use your membership number with their name). This is 'Mandatory'.
- If your guest is immediate family (mother, father, child, grandchild) please indicate "Fam" after their name.
- Donations seem to be way down recently, while the log books indicate numerous guests. A small donation for "non-family" guests is appreciated and helps keep the ranges in order.
- STEEL GONG TARGETS – When a steel target or chain is broken please contact one of the Range Chairmen. The targets do wear out and the chains eventually get shot, it's normal wear & tear.
- PAPER TARGETS – If you see paper targets on the ground or ready to fall off the pallets, please put them in the trash.
- BIG BORE RANGES – There is "No Rapid Fire" allowed on any of the Big Bore Ranges (100, 200/300 yard ranges) This is posted in the rules at each range.
- COMBAT RANGE – The Pistol Plate Rack reset rope should be hung from the hook on the table leg, not left lying on the ground.
- If you see anything that doesn't seem normal at a range, "Report It" to one of the chairmen.

Much thanks to the member(s) who recently dropped off much needed pallets.

When the weather stabilizes a little we will begin a few range upgrades as well as much needed grooming. We will keep you posted via E-Blast messages.

Enjoy the Outdoor Ranges.

Outdoor Range Committee

Fishing Season is Here!

Well, it's that time of the year to break out the Trout rods!

Opening Day- The opening day is 4/7. Fishing Permits are required to fish which will be available during stocking, opening day or at the kitchen in the Stonington clubhouse. There are envelopes in the NS clubhouse which can be filled out and put in the box inside the door. A permit will be mailed to your house.

Good Luck,

Henry N. Thacher

stripemic@hotmail.com

Fish Committee



Chuck Chenette Scholarships

Applications for a Chuck Chenette scholarship are now available. The student must be a son or daughter of a member of 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 (860) 235-5714, e-mail jeffp1451@yahoo.com

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.

Jim MacKenzie has signed up to be an NRA recruiter for the convenience of the membership. Members joining the NRA for the first time through Jim will receive a discount relative to the normal NRA membership cost. Jim will be available by email: kelticmac69@yahoo.com or most Sundays from about 10:30 till about 12:00 at the skeet warm up house.

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

Connecticut Citizens Defense League www.ccdl.us

National Shooting Sports Foundation www.nssf.org

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

Tuesday Night Trap

Tuesdays – 5:00 pm (May-August)

Bill Vorra (860) 535-1037

billvorra@yahoo.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

Secretary Bob Butler (860) 501-4792
butler.nvb@gmail.com

Treasurer Stewart Pucci (401) 596-1926
sftp@pgfcpa.com

Financial Secretary Bill Isabella (401) 792-0751
b.isabellagsc@cox.net

Membership Michelle Marceau
mmarceaugsc@gmail.com
Directors Tom Barnhart (860) 961-7296
n1sxu55@gmail.com

Mike Riley, skeeta72@yahoo.com
401-596-1660

Directors-at-Large Bill Salisbury (401) 364-8949
billfarm@cox.net
Frank Fox (860) 535-2787
ffox12@comcast.net

Committee Chairmen:

Fish Henry Thacher (401) 378-4312
strierpernic@hotmail.com

Game Ray Thiel (860) 564-2443
prma1@comcast.net

Stonington House Brian Kennedy (860) 867-7570
bkennedy145@comcast.net
Peter Merritt (860) 536-0598
pkmer@webtv.net
Todd Grace, 860.908.8661
Toddmgrace@gmail.com

Sunshine Richard Giudice (401) 741-2148
rgg427@cox.net

Field Day Wayne Carbone (860) 599-5504
waynescarbone@gmail.com

Club Photographers Nick Casiano, ncasiano@gmail.com
Andy Bellinghieri, andy@accessaba.com

Stonington Grounds Bob Folger (860) 572-9131
folgerrl@gmail.com

Archery Peter Trahan (860) 235-1082

N. Stonington Bill Salisbury (401) 364-8949
House/Grounds billfarm@cox.net

Skeet/Sporting Clays Bill Vorra (860) 535-1037
billvorra@yahoo.com

Legislative Action Warren Speh (860) 536-6640
sptsmnwgs@gmail.com
Tom Maloney (860) 625-2412
maloneyta@comcast.net

Kitchen Sue Pollock (860) 535-4767
susan.dolce@snet.net

Outdoor Ranges Tom Phelps (860) 376-5680
tpoutdoor@comcast.net
Chris Marquette (860) 694-8145
jingles373@yahoo.com

500 Yd Range Jack Discuillo (860) 608-6905
discuillo@att.net

Indoor Range Mike Kopycienski (860) 536-2541

gsc.archery@gmail.com

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** Mark Bevington (860) 861-2944
newsletter@grotonsportsmen.com

Facebook Coordinator Keith Richards (860) 449-3363

Club Historian Richard Taylor (860) 908-4637
richard.taylorjr1@gmail.com

kwrichards6@comcast.net

Club Apparel and Novelties (pins/license plates, etc)

Don Buchanan (401) 213-6183

or see Don at the club on Sunday mornings during breakfast or in the skeet house

Connecticut Citizens Defense League

Presents

Rally For

Your Rights!

A rally in support of your
RIGHT to KEEP and BEAR ARMS!

Saturday, April 14, 2018

11am – 1pm

CT State Capitol – North Side Grounds

For more info visit www.CCDL.us

**Come out and support the CCDL 2A rally at the
Capital, 11:00 - 1:00 Saturday, April 14!**

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MIND AT ALL TIMES!**