



APRIL 2026
GROTON SPORTSMEN'S CLUB
NEWSLETTER



Stonington Clubhouse
Voluntown/North Stonington Clubhouse

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Stonington Clubhouse (860) 535-2077 Voluntown/North Stonington (860) 599-5902

Newsletter Headlines

- ***Spring Field Day April 19th***
- ***Notice of Special Meeting***
- ***Gun Dog Seminar***

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

Update from the President:

Notice of Special Meeting

There will be a special meeting called during the April 2026 Membership Meeting to change a topic in the by-laws and to approve a budget for the Scholarship Committee that was not completed in the beginning of this fiscal year. ***See last page of the newsletter mailing for full review.***

- The first is to modify Article VI, Section 5, and Article XIII, Section 5, to enable new members to buy out unworked work hours at a rate of 1.5 times the annual rate.
- The second is to approve a budget for the Scholarship Committee.

Budget Request: Committee Chairs, please remember to submit your 2026/2027 budgets to the Financial Secretary before the April BOD meeting. Include as much detail as possible so we understand what you need for funding.

Be Considerate—Spring is here, and the ranges are getting more use. Please be considerate and police your brass and remove your targets when you are done shooting. There isn't maid service on the ranges. And most important, make sure you and your guests sign in and out of the range log.

From the Education/Instruction Committee Chair: Stonington PD Training:

The Stonington Police Department will be conducting training during the week of March 30-April 3 at the GSC ranges. SPD will be using the clubhouse meeting room from 0800 to 1600 and the multi-purpose range from 0900 to 1600 for training. SPD will yield to members on the range as needed.

Best Regards, Michael Peterson, GSC President

Volunteers Needed for Spring Field Day April 19th

Spring Field Day] 2026 is right around the corner.

We are looking for volunteers for parking lot attendants to help guide vehicles safely through and hand out maps / brochures, selling of raffle tickets, and people to float through to fill in where needed.

If you are interested in any of these duties or to purchase raffle tickets, please contact Jacquie @ jacquiebeckwith@gmail.com

Thank you!
Jacqueline Beckwith - Hoyt

Outdoor Range Updates

Now that the weather has finally broken for the better range activity will be on the rise. We will also be doing some work in the near future so keep an eye out for the E-blast notices. Here are a few items coming up soon.

- Range cleanup for the April 19 Field Day is tentatively April 14th.
- Adding new reactive targets on the rimfire range.
- Chipping the brush pile on the MP Range

On another note, some members have been “dumping magazines” on the Everett Spear & MP Ranges. This is not only ineffective in perfecting shooting skills but unnecessarily brings unwanted notice from our neighbors. We are asking members to "cease" this activity. Double/triple taps, etc. on targets are fine as well as running the plates.

Thanks
Outdoor Range Committee



Richard “Dick” McGee’s wife has passed away. We send our deepest sympathy to Dick and his family. His friends who he shot clay with send out their sincere condolences. 🙏
Life member George Taylor’s brother passed away. The membership extends our deepest sympathy to George and his family. 🙏

Lastly, Roscoe Merritt is feeling a little under the weather. We wish him a speedy recovery, and look forward to seeing him around the club soon. 🙏.

Richard Giudice
Sunshine Committee Chairman

Game Committee News

Upland Bird Hunting Season Summary

As you probably could have guessed, all the snow we had in January and February had a significant impact on our pheasant stocking program this season. We lost almost 2 months of stocking opportunities. Fortunately, our bird supplier was willing to not make us take our last two deliveries, so we didn’t have to figure out ways to get them all out by the end of our season, which ends on March 31st. We stocked our last birds on March 29th. While our preserve permit expires on March 31st, our dog training permit is still open until June 30th. If you want to release birds for dog training, contact me first.

As we have in the past, we held three events open to the public (the New Hunter Pheasant hunt and the Veteran’s Hunt) and the always popular Pig Roast. The 2025 Pig Roast was very well attended again (despite the rain and wind), nearly filling the storage barn. After a long run, Mark McNeil is stepping down from organizing the Veteran’s Hunt. If you’re interested in taking on this important job, contact Mark or me, and we’ll answer your questions and get you everything you need to know. Hopefully all these events will all return next season. Additionally, despite the greatly reduced number of birds we were able to stock, hunters have donated about 70 birds toward the Game Dinner. The game dinner will be on June 27th this year. Please support this great event.

Thanks for all the support that made the 2025/26 upland bird hunting season a success. Without members' help, we couldn't possibly maintain a program as large as the bird hunting program we have today.

Speaking of help, the new section of the clubhouse is proceeding, and soon the work in the old section of the clubhouse will start. At that point help will be needed. Please pitch in whenever you can.

Annual Game Committee Meeting

We held our annual Game Committee meeting on March 14th. Thanks to everyone that attended. Here’s a summary of what was discussed.

All the snow and cold weather impacted our hunting season in a big way, making comparisons to most past seasons difficult and misleading. The only other season when we had similar weather impacts was the 2014/15 season. We had very similar participation rates this season compared to 2014/15.

Financially, our bird and feed costs and our direct bird hunting income were very close to what was budgeted; however, we didn’t spend all that we were budgeted due to the impact of bad weather. We’ll use some of that surplus to pay for a pen improvement project. We concluded that we would not need to increase the cost of the license or birds for next season.

If you've been to the North Stonington/Voluntown property this year, you've noticed that a lot of logging work has been going on. There will be a lot of work done (headed up by Steve Whaley and the Grounds Committee) to clean up the slash and to make a new road that we can use for stocking next season. Please volunteer to help out with this project.

Remove Your Treestands

Deer hunters are reminded that all tree stands and ground blinds must be removed from Club property by March 31st. You're strongly encouraged to thoroughly check all the parts of your stands and repair/replace any worn or rusted parts before next season. Pay particular attention to the straps and/or ropes that attach you stand to the tree. They're frequently chewed on and can be severely weakened. If for some reason you haven't taken your stands or blinds off the NS/V property by the time you read this newsletter, contact me to make arrangements to leave them out longer. If we find any stands abandoned on the property and we can't identify the owner, they'll be removed.

Thanks again to all the support Club members have provided their support to the Game Committee over the past season.

Ray Thiel
Game Committee Chairman

Legislative Update

CCDL update on current gun bills

The Judiciary Committee has officially passed an amended version of H.B. 5043, "The Glock Ban," out of committee.

Thank you to all that took the few minutes to submit online testimony opposing this bill and especially to those that gave oral testimony. We overwhelmed them—almost 1900 in opposition to their 56 supporting the bill. During the public hearing, we had 48 speaking out against it to their 9 supporting it. While HB5043 is advancing to the house, the good news is the bill that would have redefined "firearm" to include parts (barrels, slides, and upper receivers) is dead! This is the direct result of bringing the fight to their doorstep via oral testimony.

The highlights above are from the current version of the bill. Be cautioned, the language is still subject to change throughout the process; amendments may be raised at any time.

We are also tracking two other gun bills across various committees. The first is a ban on carrying within 250 feet of a "polling location." We are also supporting a bill that would refund the pistol permit fee if the town does not approve the application within the legally required timeframe. Long permit wait times have affected us for too long, and we are proud to do something about it.

Stand by and stay tuned for an action alert to oppose these bills as they move to the House floor. Stay informed by joining CCDL at: <https://www.ccdl.us/join/>

Best regards,
Tom Maloney

North Stonington/Voluntown Ground Update

With the expected rain for the first week of April, the grounds will remain closed to ALL vehicle traffic. The ground is already wet with more expected rain; it won't dry out anytime soon. Those who would like to start cutting firewood for themselves, please contact me prior to cutting as per rules. I will get you to an area that will be accessible to get the wood without damaging the roads or your vehicle. There is plenty of wood for any member needing it for their home woodstoves, etc.

In May there will be a lot of work available for work hours cleaning up the roads and brush from this past winter logging. Reach out if you can help with this project.

June 20-21 there will be a 2-day Foundations seminar held in NS/V, Jennifer Broome from Quinebaug Kennels will be our speaker/trainer for the event. This is available to members and non-members alike. To reserve your spot email Richie Rogers rkogers2526@gmail.com

A big THANK YOU to the five members who helped clean up from the winter madness; they did a tremendous job getting the grass area around the barn cleaned before Archery has their first shoot this month.
Stay tuned for more updates in weekly blasts

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 or by e-mail jeffp1451@yahoo.com

I would like to announce very generous donations to the Scholarship fund; Jack Babcock donated \$500.00 dollars on behalf of his deceased daughter Tami. Jack and his family have always been very supportive of the Scholarship fund and the good that it does helping sons and daughters of club members afford a quality education. Jack was good friends with Chuck Chenette for whom the fund is named after, over the years Jack has contributed to the growth of the fund and continues to do so.

We received another very generous donation of \$300.00 in the fall from another longtime member who donates every year. Their support of this worthwhile cause is greatly appreciated!



If anyone would like to make a donation to the Scholarship fund, please contact Jeff Pollard at: jeffp1451@yahoo.com or (860)235-5714

List Your Business on the GSC Website!

Are you looking for someone to repair your furnace, fix a leaking faucet, groom your pet or provide you with another needed service?

Look no further than to a trusted member of the Groton Sportsmen's Club.

We are building a list and it will appear on the GSC website once sufficiently populated with member business information.

 GSC Member Professional Services 					
BUSINESS	COMPANY NAME	MEMBER NAME	PHONE	EMAIL	WEBSITE
Plumbing / HVAC	Xxxxxx HVAC	Mark Xxxxxx	123-456-7890		
Plumbing / HVAC	Xxxxxxx Plumbing & Heating	Ernie Xxxxxxx	123-456-7891		
Auto Repair	Xxxxxxxx Foreign Motors	FrankXxx	123-456-7892		
Firearms Sales	Xxx Sports	Warren Xxxx	123-456-7893		
Pet Grooming	Xxxxx Clippers	Jay Xxxxxxxx	123-456-7894		
Submarines "R US"	Electric Boat	Wayne Xxxxxxx	123-456-7895		

To have your business listed, send your contact information to Bill Isabella, b.isabellagsc@cox.net

Include the following:

Business (type), Company Name, Member Name,
Phone Number, Email address, and Website.

Once the data is collected, it will be collated alphabetically and updated as new submissions are received. Don't delay, have your business displayed as soon as possible.

**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	Ray Hooper, 860.705.3270 hoopie1@aol.com
Sunday Breakfast	Every Sunday 7:00 - 8:30 am	Jared Swain (860) 639-5623 jswain@comcast.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Michael Peterson	president@grotonsportsmen.com	860-608-4230
Vice-President	Ed Cullen	vicepresident@grotonsportsmen.com	860-867-7954
Secretary	Jeff Freitas	secretary@grotonsportsmen.com	860-710-2480
Treasurer	Rob Francis	treasurer@grotonsportsmen.com	860-885-4914
Financial Secretary	Joe Carr	financialsecretary@grotonsportsmen.com	401-480-7269
Membership Directors	Wayne Carbone	membership@grotonsportsmen.com	860-857-6426
	Tom Chernesky	membership@grotonsportsmen.com	860-608-3700
Directors-at-Large	Frank Fox	fefox12@comcast.net	860-535-2787
	Mark McNeill	fivemneils@gmail.com	860-460-5173
	Steve Whaley	sandlwhaley@comcast.net	860-941-3860

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

500 Yd Range	Nathan Discuillo	nathandiscuillo4477@yahoo.com	860-961-0377
	Brigham Aldrich	brig22dk@sbcglobal.net	860-373-8991
Archery	Mark Dyer	mark_dyr@yahoo.com	860-334-1664
	William Edgerton	wedgebait@gmail.com	860-213-0070
Education/Instruction	Michael Peterson	peterson5me@gmail.com	860-608-4230
Field Day	Jacqueline Hoyt	jacquiebeckwith@gmail.com	860-235-2665
Financial	Stu Pucci	stp@pgfcpa.com	401-596-1926
	Richard Giudice	rgg427@cox.net	401-741-2148
	David Krupp	davidekrupp@yahoo.com	860-930-9842
Fish	Henry Thacher	stripernic@hotmail.com	401-378-4312
Game	Ray Thiel	prma1@comcast.net	860-564-2443
Indoor Range	Ray Hooper	hoopie1@aol.com	860-383-6887
Kitchen	Jared Swain	kitchen@grotonsportsmen.com	860-639-5623
	Bill Lacey	kitchen@grotonsportsmen.com	860-608-6009
Legislative Action	Tom Maloney	maloneyta@comcast.net	860-625-2412
N. Stonington House/Barn	Bill Salisbury	billofarm123@gmail.com	401-364-8949
	Art Howe	akh284@hotmail.com	860-639-8255

N. Stonington Grounds	Steve Whaley	sandlwhaley@comcast.net	860-941-3860
	Ted Rathjen	tedrath56@aol.com	914-475-6806
Outdoor Ranges	Tom Phelps	GSC.Pres@comcast.net	860-710-2480
	Jeff Freitas	Jefferysfreitas15@hotmail.com	860-710-2480
Scholarship	Jeff Pollard	jeffp1451@yahoo.com	860-235-5714
Skeet/Sporting Clays	Rich Harens	rharens22@comcast.net	860-912-0898
Stonington Grounds	Pete Stajduhar	croat67@icloud.com	860-867-6825
Stonington House/Barn	Brian Kennedy	bkennedy145@comcast.net	860-448-5513
	Scot Cupp	Sbc59@comcast.net	860-235-6682
Stonington Wildlife/Habitat	Ed Cullen	odin.tactical@comcast.net	860-867-7954
	Peter Merritt	pkmer@webtv.net	860-367-6465
Sunshine	Richard Giudice	rgg427@cox.net	401-741-2148
Work Hours	Rich Cooper	gschours@gmail.com	860-333-7189

MEMBER SERVICES

Claygrinders	Scott Davidson	s.j.davidsonhome@sbcglobal.net	860-230-7731
Club Apparel and Novelties	Steven Shakeshaft	slshakeshaft@snet.net	860-535-0557
	Bret Tassias	bdt@tvconnect.net	860 536-6072
Club Historian	Richard Taylor	richard.taylorjr1@gmail.com	860-908-4637
Club Photographers	Andy Bellinghieri	andy@accessaba.com	860-536-4445
	Joe Baril	cjboa@comcast.net	860-908-4242
Club Videograher	Joe Baril	cjboa@comcast.net	860-908-4242
E-Blast Coordinator	Laura Holly	lholly@comcast.net	508-397-9071
	Tom Chernesky	TChernesky@comcast.net	860-608-3700
Election Committee	Pat Townsend	patrick.townsend06@concast.net	860-460-6328
Facebook Coordinator	Dan Sawyer	djsawyer66@gmail.com	860-460-4125
Kitchen Supervisor	Bill Lacey	mice83@aol.com	860-608-6009
Media Coordinator	Laura Holly	lholly@comcast.net	508-397-9071
Newsletter Coordinator	Mark Bevington	newsletter@grotonsportsmen.com	860-861-2944
Newsletter Print/Mail	Anne Wurzbacher	Anne_wurzbacher@yahoo.com	860-501-0021
	Loretta Cox	loretta7770@gmail.com	860-334-6430
S. Property Manager	Michael Kennedy	mknndy581@yahoo.com	860-373-8671
Safety/First Aid	Theresa Hersh	thersh@stoningtonambulance.org	860-867-7227
Stonington Watchman	Esteban Vargas	x.iii.esteban@gmail.com	646-463-1113
Waiver Collect/Distribute	Ryan Rodgers	ryanrodgerst@gmail.com	860-705-3208
Web Masters	David Sitver	david@sitver.com	845-596-4167
	Tom Barnhart	n1sxu55@gmail.com	860-961-7296
	Charles Estabrooks	charles@estabrooks.org	401-742-3324

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Email Us:
newsletter@grotonsportsmen.com

Notice of Special Meeting

There will be a Special Meeting called during the April 2026 Membership Meeting to change work hours by out rules in the By-laws for new members.

The special meeting is to modify Article VI section 5 and to Article XIII section 5 to enable new members to buy out unworked work hours at a rate of 1.5 times the annual rate.

See below for the EXACT WORDS and change tracking.

ARTICLE VI: QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS AND PRIVILEGES

Section 5. (fourth paragraph only)

All new members shall **join** a Club committee and be required to participate in Club/Committee Activities. New members **that joined before April 1st, 2026,** shall not be afforded the Service Hour Buy-Out option (Article XIII, Section 3) until they have performed the prescribed work hours in accordance with Article XIII, Section 5.

ARTICLE XIII: MEMBERSHIP WORK-HOURS

Section 5.

All New Members are required to perform the prescribed work hours as defined herein.

The number of work hours shall equate to the pro-rated work hours calculated by monthly quarters upon joining the Club plus the following year's work hour requirement, March 1 through the following February.

The New Member's total workhour performance period encompasses the quarterly portion(s) of their membership prior to March 1 plus the following work hour period from March 1 through the following February.

For new members that joined before April 1st, 2026, ~~the~~ Buy-out option defined in Section 3 above shall not apply until New Members have completed the total prescribed work hours during this period. Failure to perform the prescribed service hours shall result in loss of membership unless the member has received a waiver in accordance with Article XIII, Section 2.

Loss of membership due to the failure to complete requisite work hours in the quarterly segment of the new member's membership shall be immediate based on the February work hours report. Discharged members will not qualify for a pro-rated dues refund and are liable for the cost of hours not worked. Should they apply for a new membership, they will be responsible for unpaid work hours prior to acceptance.

For new members that joined after April 1st, 2026, failing to perform their prescribed work hours in their trial year and first full year thereafter shall have the option to Buy-Out those work hours at 1.5 times the annual hour rate, and will be billed accordingly as per Article XIII, Section 4.
