

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



April Newsletter

April 5, 2025

President's Notes

As we head into a busy month at the club, we wanted to remind everyone about two important upcoming events.

First, we'll be discussing a potential shift to quarterly membership meetings at our next meeting on Wednesday, April 16th at 7PM—your input is essential, so please try to attend.

We'll also be holding a spring work bee on Saturday, April 19th, and we'd love to see as many hands as possible to help get the grounds in shape for the season. These gatherings are a great way to stay involved and strengthen our club. Looking forward to seeing you there!



Mark Brennan, President

Email Address Reminder

Have you been receiving email from the club regularly? No? Have you changed your email address recently? Remember that your FCSC email is being sent to the last address you recorded with the club. If you change your email address, please be sure to notify the club. Send an email from your new email address to [<steven.podlesny@gmail.com>](mailto:steven.podlesny@gmail.com) to be sure that the club updates your email address, and you will continue to receive the Newsletter and other FCSC communications. Steve Podlesny

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The Welcome Wagon

In March we welcomed the following new members: Chris Bonnett, Chris Omasta, Pat O'Bryan, and Dan Churchill. We hope that our new members will enjoy our facility and our fellowship. Come join us at the general meetings and get involved. Watch our website calendar for upcoming events:

<https://fclsc.org/calendar>. Our new

shooting programs will resume in April. Get your target gun ready and come out and compete for the Champion's Cup. We have a great Practical Handgun Group if pistols are your thing, and the skeet program is great if you like shotgun. Please remember to wear your badge when visiting our club, follow all safety rules, and pick up your brass when you shoot. Welcome!

Larry Kleinschmidt



GOAL GUN LAW SEMINAR

In order to continue to provide programs of interest to our membership, on Tuesday night, April 1st the Franklin County Sportsman's Club was visited by Jon Greene of GOAL, who outlined the Chapter 135 gun law changes effective October, 2024. We had 35 members in attendance, and all expressed their satisfaction with the presentation and information/ handouts presented. These new provisions became the law of the land on this date, due to our Governor, who I'm sure was only looking out for our well-being, when signed an executive order; she was fearful the citizens of Massachusetts would gather the necessary signatures to stop the implementation of these changes. Thankfully, 96,000 citizens of Massachusetts saw these new gun laws would, once again, do nothing to stop crime, but infringe on our Second Amendment rights. Thankfully, we now have a question

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added to the November 2026 ballot, allowing the people to vote. You would think this would be the democratic way of dealing with issues, but the dictator felt otherwise.

This two-and-a-half hour presentation was very informative and upsetting as many of the changes now make the law-abiding gun owners of Massachusetts criminals. Thank you very much, Governor. Thankfully, a majority of these changes are not going into effect until a later date or are so unenforceable that the Colonel of the MA State Police has no idea how to enforce them. I'm sure they will find a way to limit Second Amendment rights soon enough. To be totally honest, a few changes will benefit Massachusetts gun owners, but not many. One item of interest is that the sale of ammunition is now legal by one LTC holder to another LTC holder. This was not allowed before. One item everyone should know now is that large capacity magazines and feeding devices manufactured prior to September 14, 1994 cannot be carried / possessed on a public way. They must be transported unloaded in a separate locked container. Simply if you carry a firearm, the magazine must not be able to exceed 10 rounds capacity – pre-ban or not. Pre-ban status does not apply anymore.

Starting in October 2026 every firearm you have in your possession must be registered with the state firearms registration system. If you have a passed-down firearm from your father or grandfather, they want to know about it. All firearms purchased in NH, or other firearm-friendly states, will also need to be registered. If, for some reason, the police have to come into your home and find a non-registered firearm, you will be in trouble.

Jon mentioned multiple times the safe storage of firearms, whether you have children or anyone else in the home. Store them properly in a locked gun safe or other approved storage device. There have been multiple individuals who have gotten in hot water for gun storage issues in the eastern part of the state. Bottom line, lock them up.

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If you are interested in getting more information on the Chapter 135 changes, go to <https://malegislature.gov/> or <https://www.mass.gov/> .

Steve Podlesny

FCSC Membership Meeting Minutes Posted on the Website

Our secretary, Bob Gosselin, is now posting the minutes of our general membership meetings to our website. To read the minutes you need to find them in the Members Only area of the website. Log into the Members Only Section here:

http://fcsc.webworksserver.com/login.cfm?return_url=%2Findex%2Ecfm%3F

You will need your login name and password to get in. Once in this area, click on “General Area”; from there click on the “Documents” area, then pick the file you want to review from the list. Be sure to log out when you are finished.

Larry Kleinschmidt

Members to Vote on Monthly or Quarterly Membership Meetings

At our next Membership meeting on Wednesday, April 16, we will discuss changing the membership meeting schedule from monthly to quarterly. Our monthly meetings have been sparsely attended lately. We need to discuss this issue and decide if a schedule change is warranted, and if there is anything else we can do to improve membership attendance. Please join us and make your preferences known.

Larry Kleinschmidt

Clubhouse Security

When you visit the Club, you are welcome to use the clubhouse, but please remember to turn off the lights, lock the building and set the alarm system on your way out. Please set the alarm system when you exit the building; if someone else is using the building when you leave, make sure that person understands that they must lock up and set the alarm when they leave.

Larry Kleinschmidt

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Work Bee Saturday, April 19, 2025

We have a work bee coming up on Saturday, April 19th ! We have lots of stuff to do this spring: our target frames need a lot of help, and the grounds have a lot of winter damage. There is still some painting needed on the new pavilion that we built last fall.



According to the club rules, if you can't show up and help, then a donation of 40 dollars will suffice and help us provide the necessary materials we need to maintain our facility.

We will have a morning of work followed by hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch. Please come over and give us a hand, we need your help.

Larry Kleinschmidt

We Need Your Help

As you know, the FCSC is operated *completely* by member volunteers. We have no paid help! As we endeavor to maintain our club as one of the top ten clubs in Western Massachusetts, it is necessary for all of us to help out. Please volunteer your time to help us keep our club in top shape.

Steven Podlesny

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Newsletter Writers Bio – Larry Kleinschmidt!

We are featuring a brief bio for each of our Newsletter Crew. This month we will feature Larry Kleinschmidt. Here's Larry in his own words:

I was born in South Dakota, and raised on a farm. I learned all the “crafts” of farming, and of course, hunting and fishing to supplement the menu for myself and my six siblings. The farm was small and could not supply the needs of the family, so in 1964, Dad moved us “to town,” Pierre, SD. I began college at Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD, then dropped out in 1967. At that point the Army was in need of help in Vietnam, and I was immediately drafted. I trained at Ft. Lewis, WA, then at Ft. Sill, OK, and then traveled to Vietnam in May of 1968. I spent 14 months there running 8-inch and 175MM cannons.

I was married after the service, raised three daughters and got divorced. I went back to night school (with help from the GI Bill) eventually achieving my BSBA at Salem State in MA, and later obtaining an MBA from Clark University in Worcester, MA. I spent 20 years working for GE, then 10 more in a smaller company in New Hampshire. I am re-married and living in S.Deerfield nowadays. I enjoy the shooting sports, mostly rifle-related.

Larry Kleinschmidt



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Skeet & Trap Shoot Reminder

We shoot skeet on both Saturday and Sunday mornings this time of year. Please come over and check it out. Shotgun is fun! Please be aware that due to the increasing cost of clay birds, it has become necessary to increase the cost of a round of skeet or trap to five dollars.

Larry Kleinschmidt



Shooting Range Etiquette

Safety on our rifle range depends upon many behaviors. One of these is maintaining line-of-sight from end to end of the firing line. It is important that everyone on the line be able to observe all other shooters on the line. There is a grassy patch between the main firing line and the wooden platform which extends the firing line. That patch of grass may seem like an inviting place to park, but parking there obstructs the vision of other shooters on the line. We need to maintain line-of-sight on the firing line from one end to the other. Please park your vehicle in the parking lot *in front of* the rifle range. Parking there will help us maintain maximum safety for all shooters on the firing line. Thank you.

Larry Kleinschmidt

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Coming Events

The Basic Home Firearms Safety Course will be offered on Saturday, April 5, from 9AM to 1PM. The Practical Handgun Group will meet on Saturday, April 5, from 12:30PM to 2:30PM. The UMASS Police will be on the range on April 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 from 8:30AM to 1:30PM. The FCSC Board will meet on Thursday, April 10, from 7:PM to 8:30PM. The FCSC Membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 16 from 7PM to 8PM. At that meeting we will vote on a monthly or quarterly meeting schedule. Skeet will be shooting on Saturdays and Sundays at 10AM, as usual. For the Rifle Events schedule, please see Steve's article below. Please mark your calendar, the schedule for the year is there. The first events for this season are scheduled for Saturday, April 26th and Sunday, April 27th. Come and join in the fun.

The pistol and rifle ranges are open for your enjoyment daily. Keep up with our events on the FCSC website calendar: <https://fclsc.org/calendar>

Larry Kleinschmidt

Range Reminder

Please remember the ranges are for use by everyone. If you bring items to shoot, please clean up after you are done. I'm sure you've seen the signs, "PICK UP YOUR BRASS." Please take the time to police your brass and targets. The people who come after you shouldn't have to pick up your brass and take down your used targets. We have a beautiful facility; please pitch in to help us keep it that way. Thank you.

Steven Podlesny



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UPCOMING RIFLE SHOOTS

Well, I hope everyone made it through the winter with little wear, because we will be starting the season's rifle-shooting events beginning in April and into October 2025. Please check the club's calendar for the specific dates, which will all be at the end of each month.

Last year we started having 22 rimfire shoots at 100-yards which we will continue running this year, as I've heard of many members purchasing rifles over the winter to participate. I want to be sure you have a place to use them. We will also continue the yearly .223 100-yard events and shooting at 200 yards directly following the .223 shoots for those who wish to see how your rifles shoot at longer distances.



The purpose of organizing these shoots is not just for trophies, but for giving the membership a place to get involved with fellow members and enjoy the shooting events and have fun.

Hope to see the old and some new faces this year, as past years have been a lot of fun. If you have any questions on any of these rifle events, please reach out to me directly at Steven.podlesny@gmail.com

Rifle Competition Schedule

April 26, 2025 - Saturday (the only Saturday) @10:30 first 22 rimfire shoot

April 27, 2025 - Sunday @10:30 first .223 and then the 200-yard shoot

May 18, 2025 – Sunday @10:30 – 22 rimfire

May 25, 2025 – Sunday @10:30 – .223 and 200-yard shoot

June 22, 2025 – Sunday @10:30 - 22 rimfire

June 29, 2025 – Sunday @10:30 – .223 and 200-yard shoot

July 20, 2025 – Sunday @ 10:30 – 22 rimfire

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July 27, 2025 – Sunday @ 10:30 – .223 and 200-yard shoots
August 24, 2025 – Sunday @ 10:30 – 22 rimfire
August 31, 2025 – Sunday @ 10:30 .223 and 200-yard
September 21, 2025 – Sunday @ 10:30 – 22 rimfire
September 28, 2025 – Sunday @ 10:30 – .223 and 200-yard shoot
October 19, 2025 – Sunday @ 10:30 – 22 rimfire
October 26, 2025 – Sunday @ 10:30 – .223 and 200-yard

Practical Handgun Group

Huzzah, Practical Handgunners Group. We met on Saturday, March 22nd.

The course of fire was 6 steel plates at 10 yards. At the beep placing 1 shot on the first 3 plates, reload and firing 1 shot on the next 3 plates strong hand only.

After running the drill 3 times, we increased the

difficulty to 2 shots per plate reload at number three, and 2 shots strong hand only for the last 3 plates.

It was a very nice day, with five shooters in the group. One new woman joined us to practice her skills and was impressive. We hope she returns for more of our sessions.

Our group is open to FCSC members who wish to improve their skills as safe shooters. We ask if you would like to join us that you have a durable safe holster, and at least one mag carrier, and a good belt to attach them to. We also require eye and ear protection always.

Gary Braff



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FCSC Hunters Corner

We want to recognize and include our hunters in our Newsletter. We have had no input from our hunting members this month. If you had a good hunt and want to share the experience with our members, please contact larrykleinschmidt@comcast.net . We want to include your story and a photo or two of your hunt!

We are looking for a writer to tackle hunting subjects for our monthly newsletter. The articles will cover actual hunts by members and hunting advice of interest to the membership. Contact me (larrykleinschmidt@comcast.net) if you are interested in this work.

Here's a link to the Massachusetts Hunting and Fishing Seasons information:
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/2024-hunting-season-summary/download>

Larry Kleinschmidt



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How to Deal with Snake Bite!

In the United States approximately 7,000 to 8,000 people are bitten by venomous snakes yearly, with about five dying.

In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on average there are two people bitten by venomous snakes annually. There are only two known species of venomous snake in Massachusetts, the Copperhead and the Timber Rattlesnake.

There seems to be a lot of “old wives’ tales” about treating a venomous snake bite. From an article in the magazine “Sports Afield” from 1970 the list of dos and don’ts looks very similar to the list from the “ASCLEPIUS Snakebite Foundation.” It is almost identical 55 years later. The big differences are calling 911 with your cellphone (neither of which existed in 1970), and they no longer recommend refrigerating or putting on ice the body part that was bitten.

Snake bite Prevention: Wear protective footwear. Avoid areas where snakes live, and don’t handle snakes.

Snakebite effects

- Snakebites can cause paralysis, bleeding disorders, kidney failure, and tissue damage.
- Children are often more severely affected than adults.

FIRST AID RECOMMENDATIONS

(By Hypothermia)

- 1** Apply fresh-water ice to the site of the bite as soon as possible. If no ice is immediately available, substitute one of the canned coolants until ice can be obtained. If possible, immerse the entire extremity in ice water until victim reaches the hospital. A cold mountain stream should not be overlooked as a substitute. Most outdoorsmen and campers have some kind of refrigeration in their vehicles, and if a plane or 'copter is summoned to the rescue, the pilot should be directed to bring a supply of ice and a container deep enough for a leg or arm (96 percent of bites are on the extremities).
- 2** Except for the refrigerated part, keep the rest of the victim's body warm.
- 3** The patient should be hospitalized as soon as possible.
- 4** The patient should be induced to drink copiously of fluids that are *not* stimulants.
- 5** The patient, while exerting himself as little as possible, should be reassured that the incidence of death from snakebite is minimal, and that with the proper use of hypothermia, his chances of keeping his extremities are now greatly enhanced.

This brief list does not mention use of the tourniquet. There is still a wide difference of opinion among experts regarding its use, and because it can be damaging, its use by the layman is not recommended. If applied, it should be removed immediately after the application of refrigeration.

**Sports Afield
November, 1970**

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- Venomous snake workers are more likely to suffer long-term injuries than to die from snake bites.
- Wash the wound with soap and water.
- Get antivenom as soon as possible.

Should you run into a snake, back away quickly to get away from them. Enjoy the outdoors, but do it with your eyes open.

Tim Houle

<https://www.snakebitefoundation.org/>



- 1 Back away from the snake and find a safe place to sit



- 2 Remove anything potentially constrictive near the bite



- 3 If you have cell phone reception, call 911 or emergency service # in your country



- 4 If not, plot the safest, most expedient path to help and start hiking out.



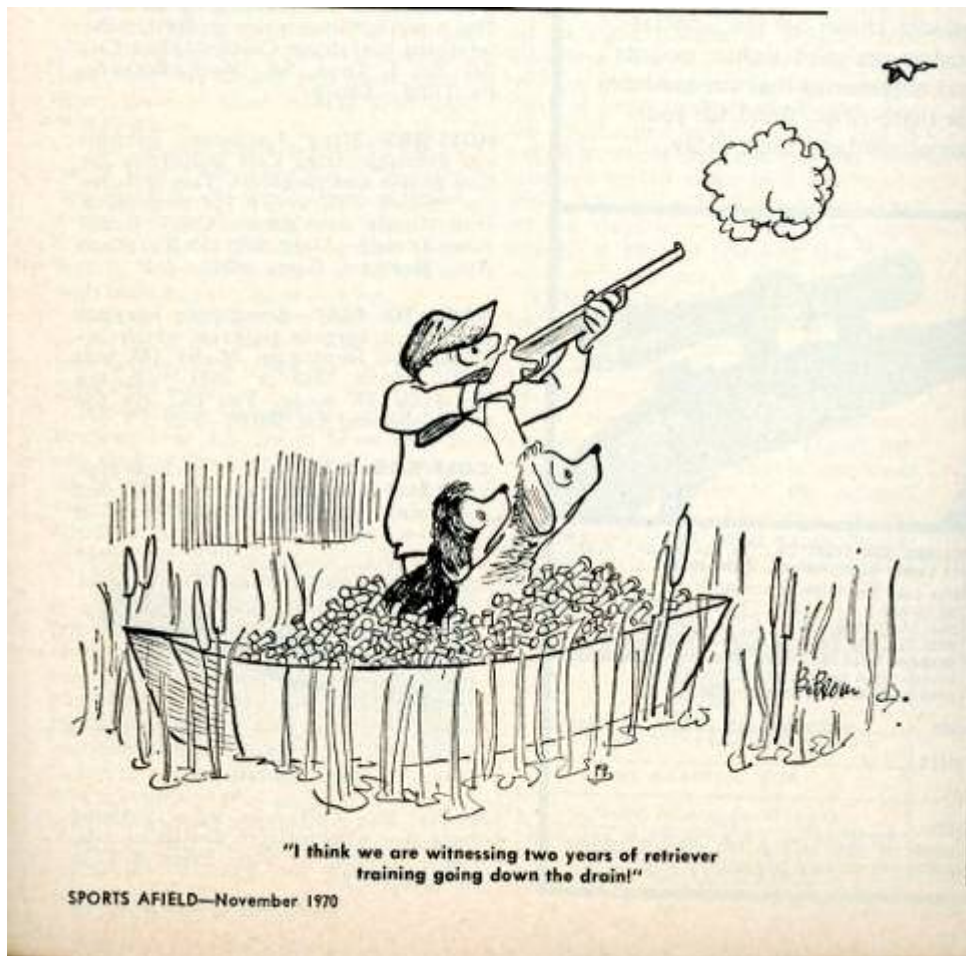
DO NOT USE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tourniquets or lymphatic bandages | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cut and suck |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extraction device | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pressure immobilization |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electrical stimulation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pack extremity in ice |

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