

# Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



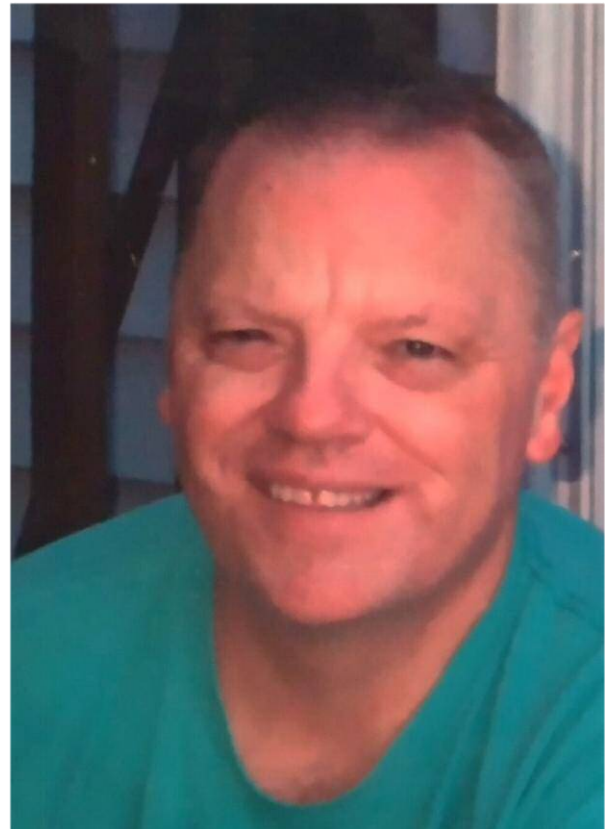
## *August Newsletter*

August 6, 2024

### **President's Notes**

As we head into August, we have seen more events being presented in the last few months and offered to the membership. As a shooting organization, it's good to see members coming out to fire their guns in a group setting rather than just coming alone. I encourage everyone to view our monthly events calendar and come on down to the club and get involved. I guarantee you will be glad you did.

As you should be aware, our annual election of officers and Board of Directors is in January of 2025. It is not too early to give some thought to running for office. If you want to have some direct input on where the club is going or how it is run, this is your chance. As we get closer to January more will come up on this subject.



I want to reassure you that there will be a covered pavilion on the plate range by year's end. We have been in touch with the builder and he believes he will be at the club by the end of August to get this completed.

With energy bills increasing yearly, the club is looking into installing solar panels in the south-facing parking area to reduce our reliance on Eversource for electric power. This will not completely eliminate Eversource bills, but it will surely make a big impact on our expenses. As this is a large investment, we are

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doing research carefully and will get back to you when the officers have made a decision.

Lastly, if you have not already been informed, the Massachusetts Senate and House have supported and passed a gun bill which our governor signed on July 25, 2024.

I'm not going to say there are not some worthy additions to the already existing laws, but really none of them will address the issues we all know, and those are criminals. Fixation on banning our guns is not going to solve anything. I've never seen a gun hurt anyone unless it was mishandled by a human being with the intent to harm. As the new gun provisions are 111 pages long, everyone is still trying to figure out what we are in for. From what I can see from the summary from GOAL (Gun Owner Action League Massachusetts), it is not a bright picture. From my observations of the number of people I have seen in and outside waiting at our local gun stores, it seems as if the number of firearms now in the hands of the population of MA residents has tripled in the last few days. They're doing a great job.

I've seen many comments made lately, but this one seems to stand out "If the government states" you do not need a gun" you truly know you do."  
Steve Podlesny

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### **The Welcome Wagon**

For July, we welcomed the following new members: Trenton Vielbig and Rich Palmisano! We hope you 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>.

We have newly-expanded shooting programs this summer; check them out. 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



### **Monthly Meeting Review & Schedule Change Reminder**

So, you're a member of the FCSC, what now? We all know about the ranges and the activities that are happening. We know the ranges are clean and well maintained. How does that happen? It happens through the efforts of a few members who put in a lot of extra time and effort. Being an engaged member of this community means different things to different folks. However, in the end we should all want to contribute to the overall wellbeing of our club.

At the most recent club meeting (July 17, 2024) there were sixteen members present. Six of those members were on the Board of Directors and Executive Board. That was less than 2 ½ percent of the membership in attendance. As a member of the club, it is important that you have an opinion and a voice as to the direction of this organization. We all have a say in the present and future of the club. If we do not use our voice, the direction is left to those who use their voice to choose how the club operates.

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Whether that means taking a little extra time to pick up the trash and collect the brass and bring it to the clubhouse; becoming a Board of Directors/Executive Board member and shaping the future of our club, or something in between, it all comes down to this.....We are part of a team. Every person who is part of our group has a talent or skill to help continue to make our club one of the finest in the Commonwealth.

Membership carries responsibility. It is important to attend the meetings. Make your voice heard. There are things that everyone would like to see added to the club. Things that would improve your experience. We cannot make changes/improvements without input from everyone.

Please remember that the old monthly general meetings have been changed to a new *quarterly* meeting schedule. For the remainder of 2024 membership meetings are on the following Wednesdays: September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Tim Houle

### Coming Events

In August we have: (1) Skeet on Thursday evenings, and on both Saturday and Sunday mornings, (2) the 100-Yard Benchrest Event for .22 rifles on Sunday, August 18, (3) on August 21 we have Trap at 5PM, (4) the .223 Centerfire Benchrest Event happens on Sunday, August 25 at 10AM, followed at NOON by the 200-Yard Centerfire Benchrest Event, and (5) Tracey's Basic Home Firearms Safety Course on Saturday, August 31 from 9AM to 1PM. The pistol and rifle ranges are open every day for your enjoyment! Keep up with our events on the website calendar:

<https://fclsc.org/d/0/?thisMonth=6&thisYear=2024&cid=0&tid=0>

Larry Kleinschmidt

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### **My First Gun**

*(This is the third of a series of articles about the first guns club members owned or the guns that first got them interested in shooting. We all have our stories! If you would like to tell your story in the FCSC newsletter, please contact Mark at [mastamand4@gmail.com](mailto:mastamand4@gmail.com)).*

Can a first gun lead to a career? For Tom N. it did. Tom has been a FCSC member for about five years. But he first came to the club when he was 14 or 15 as the guest of his uncle, long-time club member Jon K. Tom remembers that first shooting session. “We shot a lot of .22 that day. Then my uncle took out his Savage .17 caliber rifle and we shot clays at 100 yards. I was having the time of my life! I was surprised and thrilled to hit the clays at that distance!” Tom continued to come to the club as his uncle’s guest several times a year. When Tom was 16, he got his FID card, and his father, though not a shooter, got his LTC so he could go shooting with Tom. For Christmas that year, through the collusion of his father and uncle, Tom found under the Christmas tree the rifle of his uncle’s that he had enjoyed shooting so much. “It was a delightful surprise,” Tom remembers.



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The rifle is a Savage 93R17 bolt action in .17 Hornady Magnum Rimfire, with a five-round magazine. It has a multi-colored thumb hole stock, a scope and an attached bipod. “It has the Savage Arms AccuTrigger,” Tom says. “It has a long take up but a very prominent wall and a crisp release.” The .17 HMR round was developed in 2002 as a varmint and target round. Tom says it is basically a .22 Magnum casing necked down to .17 caliber.

Tom shot his Savage rifle a lot in his teenage years. He went off to college in Wisconsin, then returned to Western MA and ended up enlisting in the National Guard in 2019. Tom says, “I asked for a job working with firearms, and they found me a spot as a 91F Small Arms and Towed Artillery Repairer.” Tom has worked in this job full time since then. The most common firearm he works on is the M4A1 Carbine. But he has worked on everything from old M14 rifles used for ceremonial duties to M26 breaching shotguns.

Tom now owns a number of guns. “My current favorites are my M1 Garand and Beretta 92.” He tries to come to the club once a week or at least every other week. He also has followed his uncle’s example in bringing first-time shooters as guests so they have the opportunity to try shooting. And, of course, he still shoots his Savage .17 HMR rifle, the Christmas gift from his uncle and the gun that started his interest in firearms and led him to a career!

Mark St.Amand

### **Skeet Shoot Reminder**

We shoot skeet on Thursday evening and on both Saturday and Sunday mornings. 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

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### **Silver Trophy Cups for the Benchrest events!**



We now have “traveling trophies” for the Benchrest competitions. This means that the winner takes the trophy home when they win, and brings it back for the next event, at which time the trophy goes to the new winner.



Larry Kleinschmidt

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### **22 Rimfire Event Results**

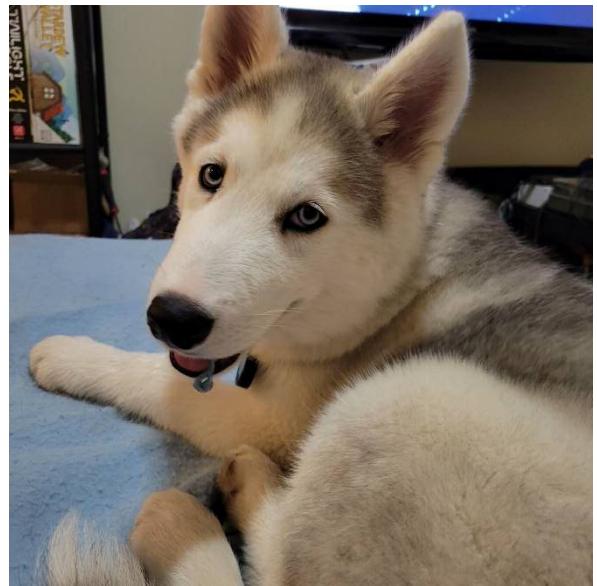
We had a wonderful sunny day with some wind, which is never your friend when shooting a 22 rifle at 100 yards. Even so, 8 club members came out to fire 20 shots for record. Our top gun was Bob Mead firing a Remington Model 40 X rifle and registering a score of 191 out of 200 possible. Good shooting, Bob. We are seeing great interest in this event, and hope to see more people come out to have what has turned out to be a very fun time. The 22 shoots are scheduled once a month and are on the club's calendar of events.

Steve Podlesny

### **Lucky!**

I met Lucky at the club one day while his owner, Ryan Mackenzy, was in a training session. Lucky wears a fine soft coat of gray. He is only about six months old, and he loves everybody! Lucky was born to a Malamute father and a Husky mother. His family roots go back to the snowy north where his ancestors pulled sleds through wilderness country. Lucky has a very mellow personality and is currently taking two courses in his program to become an AKC certified Service Dog!

Larry Kleinschmidt





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### **Skeet & Trap Day Review**

On June 29, 2024, we invited members to participate in an open day event to try the skeet and trap fields. There was a decent turn-out with attendees ranging in age from kids to seniors.

We would like to thank everyone who participated; hopefully you thought it was as much fun as we did. We also need to thank the instructors who stayed to help out. We appreciate your assistance.



There are plans to run another event in the fall for those who were not able to make it. Please watch for that announcement. If you were not able to attend this event, you can also join us any Saturday or Sunday morning from 10AM to noon for our regular skeet hours. The

trap hours are listed on the club calendar,

<https://fclsc.org/d/0/?thisMonth=6&thisYear=2024&cid=0&tid=0>

Peter Fuller

### **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 for the summer.

Steven Podlesny

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### **Lynn Graham shoots a perfect score at the 100 Yard Centerfire Competition!**



The 100 Yard Centerfire Competition held on July 28, 2024, drew eight competitors. There were several high scores, but none like that of Lynn Graham! Lynn took home the silver cup with a perfect 150 score! Congratulations, Lynn.

Larry Kleinschmidt

### **200 Yard Centerfire Competition**

The 200 Yard Centerfire Competition held on July 28, 2024, drew four competitors. This was a “hard luck” event, with two competitors withdrawing for mechanical reasons. Gregg Isles took home the silver cup with a score of 143! Congratulations, Greg.

Larry Kleinschmidt



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### **Specialty License Plates to benefit the Massachusetts Northern Wild Turkey Federation**

I have been asked by Joe Judd to provide our membership with the following information about specialty plates specifically to benefit the Massachusetts Northern Wild Turkey Federation (Mass NWTF).

To get this specialty plate into production, our organization must first process 750 applications/orders into the RMV processing center. Plate production will begin on these 750 plates when this order is completed, and the plates are paid for. The initial cost to reserve a license plate will be a \$40.00 special plate fee, with the Massachusetts NWTF Chapter retaining a \$28.00 donation from this amount. A \$20.00 swap fee will also be required when your plates are ready. A good quantity of two and three-digit numbers remain available for people who might like to reserve a lower number, but these plates will cost a little more to reserve. And after you receive your new plates, with instructions on what to do with your old plates, the plates will simply renew every two years, which is identical to when a passenger plate renews now. That renewal cost will be a \$100.00 registration fee - \$60 for the registration, plus the \$40 specialty plate fee, which comes directly back to the Chapter. You will be notified by the RMV when your plates are ready to be shipped, but please remember, no plates will be produced until we have 750 plates ordered and paid for, and that may take a while longer to accomplish. After that, it will take between 4-6 weeks for the plates to be produced and sent to you. So, patience will become a virtue here, but we will keep folks updated as the project continues.



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Another thing is that we've been in consistent communication with the Massachusetts RMV during this entire process, and that will continue until we meet our goal. And for organizations like ours, meeting our goal, and the potential funding it could bring, becomes essential for allowing us to continue our mission to acquire and protect habitat, while partnering with like-minded organizations who share the same goals and visions as we do. And, of course, the registry is extremely excited about this project, as are we, and they are doing all they can to assist us as we move forward, which makes us feel confident that the number we need will be achieved as the word spreads and more advertising starts to appear, as we expect will happen this fall. The plate is also available now on our new website set up specifically for this license plate. Go to [massturkeyplate.com](http://massturkeyplate.com) to visit the site and find out more. If you know someone who is interested, is a turkey hunter, or just loves wild turkeys and conservation, talk with them, and partner up with us to get these plates on the road! You can also share the following emails [jjontheridge@comcast.net](mailto:jjontheridge@comcast.net) which will get you to the old "Ridge Runner" himself, or [centralmassnwtf@comcast.net](mailto:centralmassnwtf@comcast.net) which is former State Chapter President Keith Fritz.

Joe Judd said, "We'll be happy to accept your application, discuss what plate numbers are available if you'd like to choose a number, or have a broader discussion about the project itself. Thanks again to all of you who have supported this project thus far, and to those of you who will in the future." Massachusetts Northern Wild Turkey Federation ( Mass NWTF).

Steve Podlesny

## **FCSC Guest Policy Explained**

Notice: FCSC is one of a very few clubs who still allows Guests to shoot. The guest policy places a great deal of responsibility on the member who invites a

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guest. That member is responsible for every action that the guest takes during their time at the club. That is one reason why we have a six-month probation period during which the new member cannot invite guests. Currently we have an on-going issue with members inviting guests repeatedly. We cannot grow our membership if the guest policy is used to grant access to the club on an ongoing basis. The BOD is monitoring this issue and considering our options.

FCSC is a private, members-only club. However, as a member of FCSC, you can bring guests to the club, subject to club guest policy. As a club member you are responsible for your guest(s). Since you, as a member, are responsible for everything your guest does while at the club, you can invite no more than two guests at a time. When shooting with guests, only one gun may be used by your party at a time. This restriction assures that you, the member, can supervise everything that your guest(s) does while on the range. Remember, while your guest is at the club, you the member, are responsible for everything they do.

New members may not bring guests during their six-month probation period.

Who is a guest? If you have a single membership, anyone you invite to the club is a guest. If you have a family membership, anyone who is not named as part of your family is a guest. The guest fee is ten dollars per guest per visit.

When your guest enters the club, the first thing to do is have them sign the **Guest Waiver of Liability Form, this must be done before you proceed to the range.** Guest Waiver of Liability forms can be downloaded from the website:



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([https://fclsc.org/files/Guest\\_Release\\_and\\_Indemnity\\_Agreement.pdf](https://fclsc.org/files/Guest_Release_and_Indemnity_Agreement.pdf)).

Also, hard copies can be found on the wall at the back of the clubhouse near the entry door. Once the Guest Waiver form has been completed (one form for each of your guests), put it in an envelope along with the ten dollar fee for each of your guests, and place the envelope in the locked box on the back wall of the clubhouse near the door.

Before proceeding to the range, be sure that your guest(s) are familiar with the NRA Gun Safety Rules. These can be found on the website:

<https://fclsc.org/p/52/Firearm-Safety-Rules>

The Guest Policy is presented on our website: <https://fclsc.org/p/60/Guest-Policy>

Larry Kleinschmidt

### **Clubhouse Security**

When you visit the club, you are welcome to use the clubhouse, but please remember to lock the building and set the alarm system on your way out. We have found that the alarm system has been left unarmed on several occasions recently. Please set the alarm system when you exit the building, or 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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### Range Reminder

**PICK  
UP  
YOUR  
BRASS**

Please remember that 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

### Request for help staffing the booth at the Fair



Hello, FCSC members. I hope everyone is having a great summer! The 2024 Franklin County Fair is fast approaching, September 5 through September 8. FCSC needs volunteers to staff our booth in the Fish and Game Building. This is a fun way to fulfill our 4-hour annual work

commitment!

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If you are interested in working a shift at the fair, please contact Mark at [mastamand4@gmail.com](mailto:mastamand4@gmail.com). We are able to get free tickets to the fair (no free parking) for volunteers. Thank you!

Mark St. Amand

### Crushed Brass Issue

Greg has been finding an unusual danger in the brass he collects. Someone has been discarding brass casings with the neck crushed, AND with a live primer still present in the primer pocket. This makes it very difficult to remove the primer. Greg cannot sell the casing with a live primer in place, so he has to dig that live



primer out of the casing without access through the neck. **Please do not crush any brass that you discard!** It is acceptable to discard brass with live primer in place, but please do not crush that brass as it



creates a very dangerous condition which Greg is forced to deal with as he prepares the casings for sale. Thank you.

Larry Kleinschmidt



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### **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

