

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



January Newsletter

January 5, 2025

President's Notes

With this the final newsletter of 2024, and the end of my term as president of this organization, I've been asked to provide a summary of my eight terms as president and multiple years on the BOD. I have always said that as long as running for office and helping the club to reach greatness remains fun, I will continue doing so. Sadly, I believe I have reached the point of feeling that this has become less fun and more like work. I wish the individuals who have stepped up for the management positions in 2025 all the best, and, if asked I will gladly help in any way possible.

When I first joined the club, it was nothing like it is today. There was no gate and anyone who wished to shoot had access to the property whether a member or not.

We had no pistol ranges and only the 100-yard range with no cover. I can remember our only source of substantial income came from our annual chicken barbeque in August. This fundraiser allowed us to have two nickels to rub together and pay our taxes but not much else. Slowly, over the years, we have developed the property, and provided access control with our gate and security systems. We added three additional ranges and covers to make the FCSC one of the best shooting ranges in Massachusetts. We also, as a result of excellent financial planning and aggressive fundraising events, added acreage to our owned property to greatly expand our borders and land buffers. This coming year we will be farming a part of our property and recertifying our forestry program on the acreage we own to the



Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



January Newsletter

January 5, 2025

southwest of our property. Yes, we have come a long way. My hope is that we do not lose sight of the big picture and let what we have put many hours of hard work and sweat into, fall by the wayside. Only time will tell.

In summation, I have always tried to make decisions in the best interest of the entire organization, and not for any one group. I have participated in all the shooting sports, and I'm familiar with the workings and requirements of all of them. Every one of them has been fun to get involved in. Because I wanted to see things happen, many projects were literally done with my own sweat and blood seeing them through. I have always led by example at the club, and never was I afraid of getting my hands dirty. When I look around at the fine facility we have, I feel great pride knowing I had a large part in making our club what it is today.

I have never blown my own horn, but derived great satisfaction by seeing the results of my work. There is a lot of history at the club and I encourage all of you to get to know that history. I'm more than willing to share my many years of knowledge as member with anyone who asks.

I will remain active in the activities of the club, but on a very limited basis. After all these years it seems fitting that I start to come to the club to shoot and not work for a change. I have participated in all the shooting sports at the club, always considering my shooting skill in the category of "I can hold my own with anyone". I have made many long-term friends while a member of the FCSC and continue to make new friends as of today. I hope others will continue to consider me a friend and that we can enjoy the wonders of the FCSC facility together. The Franklin County Sportsmen's Club is a fantastic facility, and I hope it continues to be so in the coming years.

Steven Podlesny, Past President FCSC

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



January Newsletter

January 5, 2025

Come to the Tuesday, January 7th 2025 meeting and VOTE!

The new year will find us voting in new candidates for the Board of Directors and Executive Board. We will meet on

Tuesday, January 7th to vote and enjoy a potluck dinner. We will also have many handy items to be raffled off, including one rifle! Come join in, exercise your right as a club member to vote for the leadership, and enjoy a fine meal.



Remember Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 6PM! Election meetings are always interesting! Come enjoy dinner, and vote!

Larry Kleinschmidt

We are scheduling a GOAL Gun Law Seminar!

At the request of many club members, and to allow us all to better understand the new Massachusetts gun law, we are going to schedule a seminar with the experts of GOAL. Mark your calendar for Thursday, February 6, 2025 from 6:PM – 8:00PM at the club house. Due to room capacity limitation, we have a strict limit of 50 participants. Due to the popularity of this seminar, GOAL has very limited dates available, and all seminars are held Monday – Friday. With this scheduled date now in stone, please confirm or reconfirm if you will be attending so I can hold your seat. If you are interested in attending this event, please email Steve (steven.podlesny@gmail.com) to let him know that you will attend. No walk-ins will be permitted as GOAL needs a head count before the event to provide seminar material.

Steve Podlesny

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



January Newsletter

January 5, 2025

Monthly Meeting Review & Schedule Change Reminder

The last quarterly meeting of 2024 was held on December 18th. Minutes of the prior quarterly meeting were reviewed and the current financial statement was presented. Discussion followed concerning our club insurance policy. The current insurer cancelled and we had to find a replacement policy quickly. The new policy is bit more expensive due to the uncertain conditions in the Massachusetts gun laws. We discussed the coming purchase of clay pigeons; the current supply will run out next summer. The next purchase has to be made in the summertime, as the truck cannot get up to our building in fall or winter. Purchase of new skeet machinery was reviewed; the new machines will be approved and purchased this coming spring. We also discussed the addition of a card access system for skeet. That would eliminate the need for an attendant for skeet shooting sessions. The question of adding an indoor shooting range came up. Our research indicates that it would be prohibitively expensive to purchase and to operate. President Steve Podlesny gave his review of the past year as he is stepping down from the presidency. He received much thanks and a grand round of applause!

Please remember that we are on a quarterly schedule for general meetings. Watch the calendar for the date of the next meeting.

FCSC website calendar: <https://fclsc.org/calendar>

Larry Kleinschmidt

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 addressed to [<steven.podlesny@gmail.com>](mailto:steven.podlesny@gmail.com) to be sure that the club updates your email address,

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



January Newsletter

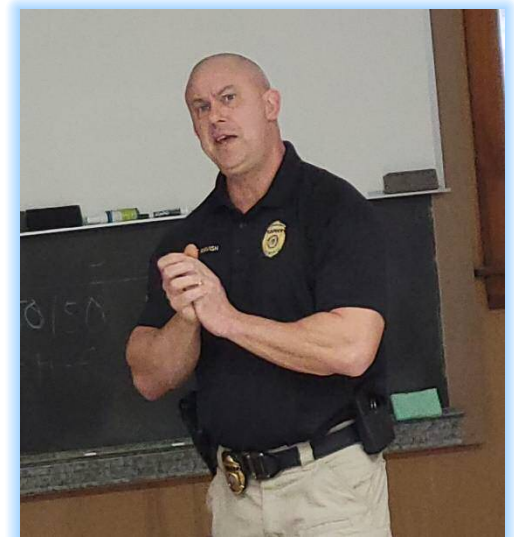
January 5, 2025

and you will continue to receive the Newsletter and other FCSC communications.
Steve Podlesny

Active Shooter Seminar

On Saturday, January 18th, 2025, at 2:00PM, FCSC will offer a Seminar on Active Shooter Survival! This seminar will be presented by Sgt. Brian Ravish, Deerfield Police Department. We offered this seminar last February. It drew a lot of interest and was well attended, so we are offering it again.

Sgt. Ravish has a long career in police work, having been an officer in Sunderland, Hadley, Bernardston and currently in Deerfield. Sgt. Ravish is a certified firearms instructor teaching at the Police Academy and training the Deerfield Police Force. He is also the School Resource Officer for the Town of Deerfield. In his current position Sgt. Ravish is in charge of Active Shooter planning and training for the Deerfield School System.



We expect this event to be very popular, so if you plan to attend, we would appreciate it if you would confirm your seat with Steven.Podlesny@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Larry Kleinschmidt

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



January Newsletter

January 5, 2025

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

The Meaning of Christmas

Christmastime brings so many memories for me. Having made many trips around the sun I have so many amazing memories. I have been fortunate to have a great family as a child and then truly great kids and spouses. Yup, spouses, plural. My first wife died several years ago. She was an amazing woman who loved the holidays and would have all her shopping done by August for the holidays. She was an amazing partner and mother, and I am so thankful for our twenty-three years together. My two kids are now grown and doing great things. I found a love for the holidays through them that I never thought possible.

My current wife gave me a renewed love for Christmas and the holiday. She also loves to have her shopping done by August and celebrates with family and carols and has the excitement of a young girl that is contagious.

My hope is that all of you and your families had an amazing holiday and enjoyed the moments that make this season beautiful and heart filled.

Have a Happy New Year!!



Tim Houle

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



January Newsletter

January 5, 2025

The Welcome Wagon

In December we welcomed the following new members: Ryan Sieber, Devin Desmarais and Nathan Peterson. We hope that all 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 have ended for this year, but they will resume next spring. Get your target gun ready and come 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



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

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



January Newsletter

January 5, 2025

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; 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

Coming Events

We will meet to elect new officers and BOD members on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 6PM and to enjoy a potluck dinner. We will also have many handy items to be raffled off, including one rifle! Come join in, exercise your right as a club member to vote for our leadership, and enjoy a fine meal.



On Saturday, January 18, 2025 at 2PM we will have an Active Shooter Seminar hosted by Sgt. Brian Ravish of the Deerfield Police Department. UMASS will be on the 50-yard range on January 8 and again on January 13. Tracey will teach the Basic Home Firearms Safety Course on Saturday, January 11 at 9AM. Gary and Kris will meet with the Practical Handgun Group on Saturday, January 18th, starting at 12:30PM.

Skeet will be shooting on Saturdays and Sundays at 10AM, weather permitting.

The pistol and rifle ranges are open every day for your enjoyment, again, weather permitting. Note that during this time of year we lose daylight at about 4:30PM, so plan your shooting accordingly. Keep up with our events on the FCSC website calendar: <https://fcsc.org/calendar>

Larry Kleinschmidt

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



January Newsletter January 5, 2025

Rifle Events

The 100-Yard .223 Benchrest Event, the 200-Yard Centerfire Competition, and the 100-Yard Rimfire Competition will resume in April 2025. Get your equipment in shape, practice up and join in the competition. Watch the calendar for event dates. It's great fun!



Paul Choiniere

Recent 100-Yard Champ



Steve Podlesny

Recent 200-Yard Champ



Lynn Graham

Recent Three-Competitions Champ



Greg Isles

Recent Rimfire Champ

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



January Newsletter

January 5, 2025

Practical Handgun Group



The session on Saturday, December 14 was great! We had seven shooters with a five steel plate course of fire. Lots of fun and much improvement. We then reviewed a MANTIS X shooting improvement system. We may have an indoor class with this learning tool in colder weather situations.

Gary Braff

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

A rectangular sign with a white background and black text. The text is arranged in four lines, reading "PICK UP YOUR BRASS" in a bold, sans-serif font.

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



January Newsletter

January 5, 2025

Thanks to our Newsletter Crew!

I want to acknowledge all those who have contributed articles and columns to the FCSC Newsletter in 2024. Once again, we must point out that FCSC has no paid help. All the effort required for reporting, photography, writing and production has been contributed by the members below, and they have made the Newsletter what it is today:

Steve Podlesny, for his monthly President's Notes, which is the primary message of the monthly Newsletter, and Bob Gosselin, Mark Holley, Mark St. Amand, Tim Houle, Steve Crowningshield, Tod Pleasant, Gary Braff, Peter Fuller and Cliff Wilkinson.

Thanks so much for the time, effort and resources you provided. Your work has made the Newsletter a fine monthly information source for our membership. We look forward to your continued help in the new year.

If I have overlooked anyone, please let me know. I have reviewed all the Newsletters issued in 2024 in an attempt to express my gratitude and include all who contributed.

A special thank you is due my wife, Nikki. She volunteered to be our Newsletter editor during 2024. Each month she spends hours polishing up our writing to produce the finished product we enjoy.

Larry Kleinschmidt



Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



January Newsletter
January 5, 2025

Major Projects Completed in 2024



Rimfire Pavilion



Farming the Front Meadow



Clearing the Front Meadow



Steel Plate Pavilion

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



January Newsletter
January 5, 2025

Happy New Year!



**“...AND A CARTRIDGE IN A
PEAR TREE!”**

The Crew of the Newsletter wishes you Happy New Year!