

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



July Newsletter

July 1, 2025

President's Notes

It's now officially summer, and we have a lot of exciting events coming up! Among them are a .22 Rimfire Challenge on Saturday, July 12th, and a "Shoot the Smorgasbord" event before the members meeting on Wednesday, July 16th. Be sure to check the club calendar at <https://fclsc.org/calendar> for a full list of events.



As we celebrate Independence Day this month, we're reminded of the freedoms that make our time at the club so meaningful. The freedom to gather, to enjoy the outdoors, and to take part in traditions that have been passed down for generations. One freedom especially close to our hearts is the right to bear arms, a cornerstone of our nation's founding principles and a responsibility we take seriously as sportsmen and women.

Whether you're spending the holiday weekend on the range, at a cookout, or elsewhere, we hope it's filled with good food, great stories, and a renewed appreciation for the land and liberties we all share.

Have a Happy 4th of July.

Mark Brennan, Club President

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



July Newsletter

July 1, 2025

The Siege of Yorktown (Washington defeats the British)

Introduction: This is the first article by our new volunteer writer, Tom Schneider. Great job Tom! We look forward to more articles in the near future.

The Fourth of July is the day we celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The day our forefathers declared our independence from Britain.

The colonists fought for five long, bloody years to secure the reality of independence. The first shots of the war were fired at Lexington and Concord in April, 1775. The news of the bloodshed spread along the eastern seaboard and thousands of volunteers -called "Minute Men"- converged on Cambridge, Massachusetts. This was the beginning of the Continental Army.

Major engagements early in the war included Bunker Hill and the Battle of Saratoga. In 1780, the British shifted their main effort to the South. After defeating the Continental Army in Charleston, SC, the British suffered major defeats at Kings Mountain and Cowpens.

In the summer of 1781 General Washington and General Rochambeau commanded the American and French armies, north of New York City. When they received word that French Admiral de Grasse was moving his fleet to the Chesapeake Bay, both armies began moving south towards Virginia. By late September of 1781 the American and French armies arrived outside of Yorktown, VA. Coupled with Admiral de Grasse's French fleet, army and naval forces completely surrounded General Cornwallis in Yorktown.

After initial preparations, the American and French began their bombardment of the British defenses around Yorktown. On October 14th, Washington began a series of attacks on the British outer defenses. As these defenses were defeated, the American and French armies moved their artillery closer to Yorktown and increased

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



July Newsletter

July 1, 2025

their bombardment of British troops. With no chance of reinforcement or resupply, Cornwallis asked Washington for terms of capitulation on October 17th.



George Washington at the surrender ceremony

The defeat of Cornwallis at Yorktown proved to be the last major land battle of the Revolutionary War in the North American theater. The defeat at Yorktown prompted the British government to negotiate an end to the conflict. The Treaty of Paris officially ended the war on September 3, 1783.

It's estimated that 25,000 to 30,000 Americans died during their war for independence. That was 1% of the total population of the American colonies during this period. As we celebrate the birth of our great nation, we should pause and give thanks to our forefathers, who gave their lives to earn the freedoms we enjoy today.

Tom Schneider

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 when you leave. 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

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



July Newsletter

July 1, 2025

Mentoring Program!

The next mentoring meeting will be in August. If you would like to be a mentor or a mentee, please let me know at (bobgoss64@gmail.com).

Bob Gosselin

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 Welcome Wagon

In May we welcomed the following new members: Andrew Weber, Tom Sampson, Gabe Sebert and Rich Chenowith.

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>. Get your target rifles 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. We also have a Reloader's Group if you make your own ammo. 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



Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



July Newsletter

July 1, 2025

Monthly Meeting Review

Our June Monthly Members Meeting was held on Wednesday, June 18, 2025. Steve Podlesny provided the facilities report; things are looking good on the club property. We need some weed whacking! If you would like to help us, bring your weed whacker and work on the berms. The tent is now up on the shooting platform behind the warming hut and the safety light has been installed there. The planned CPR course was discussed. It was decided that this course will be a certificate course, and there will be some level of member co-pay to help the club with the cost.

Holly Lee spoke about the upcoming Rimfire Challenge. The date is set for July 12, 2025. There will be three intro sessions: Tuesday, June 24 from 4PM–6PM, Sunday, June 29 from 11AM–1PM and Wednesday, July 2 from 11AM–1PM. You will need a .22 pistol and a .22 rifle with 5 magazines each, and about 150 – 200 rounds of .22 ammo in order to participate.

Larry Kleinschmidt is looking for someone to take over the editing of the monthly Newsletter, as he plans step down from the editor's job at end of the year. A motion to have the BOD consider making the editor job an elected position passed. Scott Conti stated bi-laws would have to be amended to do so.

A committee was established to develop a summer picnic for the club. That committee consists of Justin Sessions, Julie Page and Tracey Crowningshield.

Cliff Wilkinson brought up the need for more certified range officers.

Holding club events prior to the membership meeting was discussed. Cliff would like to see a "show and tell" event with live fire, possibly for the July meeting. Members providing arms can be reimbursed by the club, or by donation of the participants, for ammo used. This idea resulted in the scheduled "shooting smorgasbord," which will happen at 6PM on Wednesday, July 16, just before the membership meeting. Live fire will be included in this event. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09PM.

Thanks to our Secretary, Bob Gosselin for these notes.

Larry Kleinschmidt

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



July Newsletter

July 1, 2025

Skeet & Trap Shoot Reminder

We shoot skeet on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday mornings this time of year. Please come over and check it out.

Shotgun is fun! The cost of a round of skeet or trap is five dollars.

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

Steve Podlesny

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



July Newsletter

July 1, 2025

Range Reminder

Did you know that the sale of brass is a major source of income for FCSC? 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



Search for a New Newsletter Editor

I intend to give up the responsibility for the Newsletter at the end of December, 2025. The last issue I will work on will be that of January 6, 2026.

If you have the desire to contribute to FCSC as a Newsletter editor, please contact me at (larrykleinschmidt@comcast.net). During the transition period, I will be available to explain the process we use to produce the Newsletter.

I want to express my appreciation to all those who have contributed to the Newsletter effort over the past two years.

Thanks again.

Larry Kleinschmidt

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



July Newsletter

July 1, 2025

Coming Events

We will hold a Rimfire Challenge Intro Session on Wednesday, July 2 at 11AM. We have skeet every Thursday, Saturday and Sunday in July. UMASS will be training on the 50-yard range from 8AM to 3PM, July 7 – 11. The Board of Directors meets on July 10, at 7PM. The new Rimfire Challenge will be held on Saturday, July 12 from 8:30AM to 12PM. The Practical Handgun Group will meet from 12:30PM to 2:30PM on both July 12 and July 26. UMASS will be on the 50 - yard range on July 16 from 8:30AM to 2PM. The Shooters Smorgasbord will also be held on July 16, from 6PM to 7PM, followed by the general membership meeting that evening from 7PM to 8PM. The Rifle range and the 50-yard range will be reserved from 5PM to 6PM on July 16, to allow for set-up time for the Shooters Smorgasbord. The 22 Rimfire Shoot will take place on Sunday, July 20 from 10:30AM to 12:30PM. On Sunday, July 27, we will have the .223 100-Yard Shoot at 10:30AM followed immediately by the 200-Yard Open Shoot.

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

Thanks to Contributing Writers! (Update)



I'd like to thank Tom Schneider for his Fourth of July article, Holly Lee for the Rimfire Challenge item, Kris Walter for the Shoot The Smorgasbord article and Justin Sessions for help with the Summer Picnic item. The extra help is appreciated. And to the Newsletter Team, thanks for your ongoing monthly efforts.

Larry Kleinschmidt

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



July Newsletter

July 1, 2025

Rimfire Challenge Update

Event Date: Saturday, July 12, 2025

Time: 8:30AM for Safety Briefing (must be present to participate)

We expect first shots by 9AM, done by 12 noon.

***** See below for optional Rimfire Challenge intro sessions. *****

Tim Hausler, Match Director of the Mystic Rod and Gun Club in CT, has generously offered to be Match Director for our first event. He'll be making the long drive up to share his expertise and enthusiasm, and donate some steel targets as well!

It's important that we give Tim an accurate head count for his planning.

Email hollingtonlee@gmail.com to reserve a spot and include your mobile number so we can notify you of any issues or changes.

For the event, you must bring both:

- A .22lr pistol, a minimum of **5 magazines** and **ammo** (~200 rds) *AND*
- A .22lr rifle, a minimum of **5 magazines** and **ammo** (~200 rds)

(Each should be in a separate case -- soft cases preferred)

-- Always wear your badge (the event is open to FCSC members only)

-- Always wear eye and ear protection, of course

-- We expect to have 3 stages set up

***** OPTIONAL: Rimfire Challenge intro sessions *****

We had a good turnout for June 29. There's just one left.

Meet at the Rimfire Range for a fun, no-pressure introduction.

Dates: ~~Tuesday, June 24 from 4-6pm~~

~~Sunday, June 29 from 11-1pm~~

Wednesday, July 2 from 11-1pm

Holly Lee

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



July Newsletter

July 1, 2025

Shoot the Smorgasbord

Want a chance to shoot a bunch of different rifles and handguns? We'll have a selection at the rifle range and the 50-yard range on:
Wednesday, July 16, 6PM – 7PM.

Only club members 18 years and older can shoot and you must provide your own eye and ear protection.

Each shooter gets up to 5 rounds per gun. A donation is requested to offset the cost of the ammo provided. Come for the shooting, stay for the members' meeting afterwards.

At the Rifle Range

Model	Year	Type	Action	Barrel	Feed	Caliber
M1903 Springfield	1903	US Military	Bolt	24"	5 Rd. Int. Mag.	30-06
M1 Springfield Carbine	1953	US Military	Semi-Auto	18"	Ext. Mag - 10 rd.	30 Carbine
M14 Springfield (AKA M1A)	1993	Civilian M14 Copy	Semi-Auto	22"	Ext. Mag - 10 rd.	7.62 x 51mm

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



July Newsletter

July 1, 2025

At the 50 Yard Range - Handguns

Make	Model	Caliber	Action	Barrel	Type	Size
Smith & Wesson	Shield	40 cal	striker	3.1	semi-auto	Micro-compact
Sig Sauer	P322	22LR	Hammer	4.0"	semi-auto	Full
Smith & Wesson	M&P 2.0	9mm	striker	4.25"	semi-auto	Full
Canik	Mete SFT	9mm	striker	4.46"	semi-auto	Full
Sig Sauer	P365	9mm	striker	3.1"	semi-auto	Subcompact
Ruger	Vaquero	45 Long Colt	Hammer	7.0"	revolver	Full
Ruger	LCR	357 Magnum	DAO	1.875"	revolver	Small
Canik	Rival	9mm	striker	5.0"	semi-auto	Full
Smith & Wesson	64-3	38 S&W Special	DA/SA	4.0"	revolver	Full

At the 50 Yard Range - Long guns

Model	Year	Type	Action	Barrel	Feed	Caliber
Ruger 10/22 carbine	2004	wood stock	semi-auto	24"	10 round rotary mag	22LR
Tristar shotgun	2017	synthetic black	semi-auto	28"	5 shell, 3 with blocker	12 gauge

Kris Walter

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



July Newsletter

July 1, 2025

Rifle Events Results

The .22 100-Yard Match was held on Sunday, June 22. We had nine competitors for this event! It was a hot day, with an unpredictable breeze. The winner was Paul Choiniere with a score of 162/200. Our reserve champion is Steve Podlesny with 148/200. Larry Kleinschmidt came in third with a score of 145/200. Paul won shooting an Anschutz rifle; Steve and Larry were both shooting CZ 457 rifles.



We held the .223 100-Yard Shoot on Sunday, June 29 at 10:30AM. It was a sunny day with a slight and variable wind. We had six competitors. The event was won by Sam Trudeau, Greg's grandson, with a score of 143/150! The 200-Yard Open Shoot followed immediately and for that we had four competitors. This event was won by Steve Podlesny with 180/200.

Larry Kleinschmidt

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



July Newsletter

July 1, 2025

Practical Handgun Group



Huzzah, Practical Hand Gunners Group!

We had a great day with all steel on the course. We were set up with 5 larger steels on the left side, 10 to 15 yards out and another 5 smaller steel targets on the right side, 10 to 18 yards out. All shooters were able to show their skills and some were able to excel. Two new shooters joined us; Tom and Jesse.

I need to reiterate that we do this for any member wishing to acquire greater speed, accuracy, confidence, and safety in their shooting skills. We hope to see more members take part in this important part of club shooting practice.

Happy 250th birthday to our Army of the United States of America.

Thank you for all your support!

Gary Braff

Hunters Corner

Massachusetts has year-round hunting for certain animals such as English sparrows, flying squirrels, red squirrels, chipmunks, porcupines, skunks, starlings, weasels, and woodchucks. These may be hunted year-round by licensed hunters, except during the shotgun deer season. We have a large number of game hunting seasons in MA, see information here: <https://huntwise.com/field-guide/state-hunting-guide/massachusetts-hunting-season> . Give it a look!

PS: We are still looking for a volunteer writer to focus on the hunting scene in MA. If you are interested, please contact me (larrykleinschmidt@comcast.net).

Larry Kleinschmidt

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



July Newsletter

July 1, 2025

We need a writer to cover the Shotgun scene!

If you are a shotgun aficionado we could use your help! We have an active shotgun program, but no one to report on it. We need someone who participates in that program to write about the shotgun activities at the club. If you are interested, please contact me (larrykleinschmidt@comcast.net).

Fall FCSC Picnic

Announcing the planned picnic for September! **Join Us for the Annual Club Picnic – September 13!** Mark your calendars! Our annual Sportsmen's Club Picnic is happening on **Saturday, September 13**, right after the Skeet Shoot (official start time TBD). It's a great chance to relax, enjoy some good food, and spend time with fellow members and their families.

The club will be grilling up **burgers and hot dogs** and providing **soft drinks**. We'll have plenty of space to gather, eat, and enjoy the late summer afternoon together. To help us plan, please fill out this quick form:

🔗 <https://forms.office.com/r/8t6g8rDh4Y>

You don't need to fill out the form to attend, but it really helps us estimate how much food to prepare, organize side dishes, and find a few volunteers to help with setup and cleanup. Whether you're shooting earlier in the day or just coming for the picnic, we hope to see you there!

Justin Sessions

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



July Newsletter

July 1, 2025

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Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



July Newsletter

July 1, 2025



From Acadia National Park

Larry Kleinschmidt

