

# Franklin County Sportsmen's Club

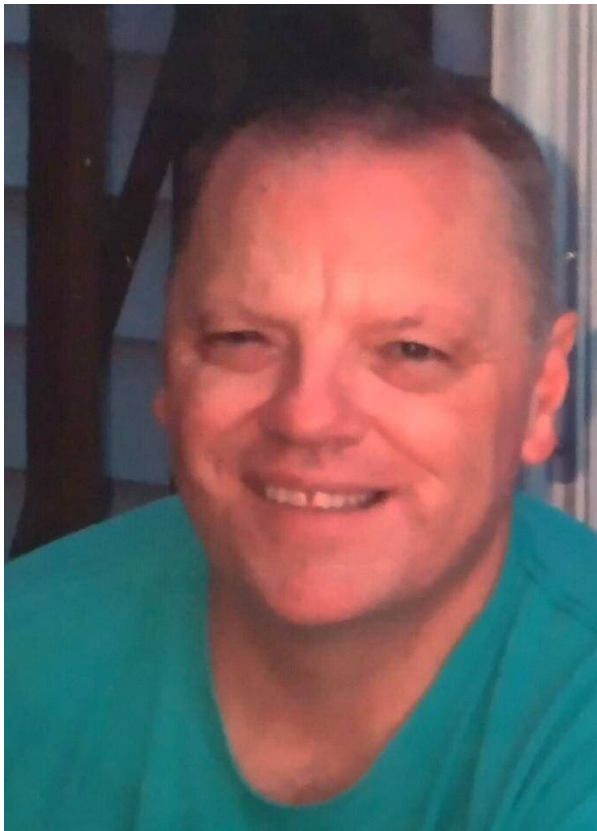


## *July Newsletter*

July 3, 2024

### **President's Notes**

It's officially summer time in New England, and there are many events on the Franklin County Sportsmen's Club calendar (<https://fclsc.org/calendar>). Please give it a look and find something you're interested in and come down and get involved. As I have always said: "the club is only as much fun as you make it". Whether it is skeet, trap, handguns or rifle shooting, it can all be done at the club and, if you wish, in an organized event. The main objective is always to get involved, meet people with similar interests and have some fun. Hope to see you soon.



**PICK UP YOUR BRASS!!!** I'm sure you have seen signs on all the ranges asking for you to do this. Besides making the ranges presentable and neater, the brass we collect is sorted and sold to generate a significant income for the club. As of this June we had collected, over a two-year period, over 3,000 pounds of brass which we sold, making the club enough money to pay for the construction of the new rimfire range avilion, or the soon-to-be-constructed plate range pavilion. Please continue to help the club and police your brass. In addition, I would like to acknowledge a long-time club member who is mainly responsible for this income that benefits the club. The club thanks Greg Isles for his many hours spent

collecting, sorting and watching the commodities prices to determine the best time to sell. Thank you, Greg Isles!

Steve Podlesny

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### Independence Day Celebration and Meaning

As you sit down in your lawn chair and enjoy that hamburger and potato salad, take a moment and feel the energy of the land your feet are planted on. This part of the world we live on is rich with the history of our great country. Just over 250 years ago the radical, treasonous folks of Boston and the surrounding areas began the rumblings of revolution. Troops and equipment came from upstate New York through our beautiful landscape to make their way to Concord and Lexington and Boston. Men with a strong desire to do what was right for the folks of this land and for the God-given rights that all men should have without question or taxation. Those rights are given with responsibilities to be good stewards of our land, our religious beliefs, our community, and our families.



*The Declaration of Independence*

Those radicals sought to bring out a “More Perfect Union”. This country, that is only 248 years old, is still very young compared to many other countries in the world. We have growing pains and arguments like adolescent siblings about silly things. In the end we are still an amazing experiment in society, still hell-bent on making that “More Perfect Union”. We

should all take a step back from the day-to-day drama and be thankful for this amazing life, our incredible families, our beautiful country, friends and neighbors.

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So, let's pay tribute, have a Sam Adams in commemoration to those heroes, and count our blessings and enjoy our independence! Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!!

Tim Houle

### **The Welcome Wagon**

For June, we welcomed the following new members: Michael Gilmore, Karen Gilmore, Gary Newcomb and Brendan Trainor! 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 Schedule Change Reminder**

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: July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Steve Podlesney

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### **Coming Events**

On Thursday, July 4, we celebrate the birth of our nation! Coming up in July at FCSC we have a number of activities and events: (1) Skeet on Thursday evenings, and on both Saturday and Sunday mornings; (2) Practical Handgun training on Saturday, July 6, and Saturday, July 20; (3) The 100-Yard Benchrest Event for .22 rifles on Sunday, July 21; (4) Tracey's Basic Home Firearms Safety Course on Saturday, July 27, and (5) The .223 Centerfire Benchrest shoot on Sunday, July 27 at 10AM, followed at noon by the 200-Yard Centerfire Benchrest shoot. The pistol and rifle ranges are open every day for your enjoyment! There's lots of stuff to do, so come out and enjoy the events. Keep up with our events on the website calendar:

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

### **My First Gun**

*(This is the second 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))*

FCSC member Gary B.'s first gun was given to him by his father when Gary was 60 years old. "I grew up in a household that had no involvement or interest in shooting," Gary says. "My parents, my mother especially, did not want guns in the house." As a boy, like so many other children in Franklin County, Gary learned .22 rifle marksmanship at Camp Apex under the tutelage of the late Paul Seamans. (Paul, a World War II Navy Veteran and expert marksman, who qualified for the 1952 U.S. Pentathlon Olympic Team, was a life-long member of the club and had the first membership card issued by the Franklin County League

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of Sportsman's Clubs. Gary remained in regular contact with Paul until Paul passed away in 2019 at the age of 95.)

The .22 rifles at Camp Apex were Gary's only experience with shooting. When he was fifteen years old, he was surprised when his father told him that his grandfather did own one gun, but his father did not show the gun to him or say anything more about it. Gary says, "I would not see that gun or learn any of its story until I was in my fifties." The gun was a 1935 Walther PPK semiautomatic pistol chambered in 7.65 mm (.32 ACP) with original Bakelite grips. Gary's father was a World War II veteran and had never talked about his wartime experiences. Now Gary learned that when his father was a U.S. Army private fighting in Germany just after the Battle of the Bulge, his father took into custody a German police officer. This Walther PPK was that police officer's service weapon. Like many GIs at the time, his father sent this war souvenir home and held onto it.



"In 2014, when I was 60," Gary says, "my dad asked me to take possession of this gun because they were moving to Florida. My dad said your mother never approved of having the gun and I don't want to take it with us." Gary had an FID card from 1977 but was not a shooter. Now he needed to get his LTC. Once this was accomplished and he had possession of the Walther PPK, Gary joined the club in 2015 so he would have a place to shoot.

Club member Ed C. was instrumental in helping Gary learn the basics of shooting the Walther PPK (Gary warns: "watch out for that slide bite!").

Gary's interest in shooting quickly grew. He bought a S&W Shield in .40 caliber and subsequently several pistols in 9 mm. He worked on shooting skills with former club members Brian N. and Adam W. and current club member Al

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H. Gary took advantage of the advanced pistol classes with nationally known instructors the club has hosted over the years (2016 Bruce Gray, 2017 Robert Vogel, 2018 Steve Anderson). Gary also became involved in the club's Practical Handgun Group, which is open to all members and meets twice a month to work on improving practical pistol skills, especially for concealed carry. In 2021, Gary took over the facilitating and scheduling role for the PHG. Also, harking back to his Camp Apex roots, Gary has participated in the Appleseed Project four times. "This is a two-day training program with .22 rifles based on the original American militia training," Gary says. "It's a combination of Revolutionary War history presentations and marksmanship training."

Although he does not shoot it often, Gary still has his Walther PPK .32 ACP and recently gave an interesting presentation on this handgun as a participant in the FCSC Historical Arms Group. The Walther PPK became iconic as the gun used by 007 James Bond in the spy novels and films. The PPK stands for *Polizeipistole Kriminalmodell* (Police Pistol Detective Model). It was first produced in 1930 as a smaller version of the Walther PP. During World War II, the Walther PPK was issued in Germany to high-ranking military officers and police officers. One of the latter ended up surrendering his PPK to Gary's father.

Gary now owns a number of handguns, shotguns and .22 rifles. But this small, German police service pistol, surrendered in wartime and hidden away for so many years before becoming Gary's first gun, has special meaning for him as a silent witness to his late father's World War II service.

Also, Gary likes his martinis shaken, not stirred!

Mark St.Amand

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### **22 Rimfire Event Results**

The 22 Rimfire Benchrest shoot was held on June 22, 2024, in the pouring rain, yet we had eight competitors!



There was an impressive array of equipment in use for this event. We had one AR modified to shoot .22 rounds, a near-new Ruger 10-22 Model 1133 with Mannlicher stock, one Ruger 77/22, an old Mossberg M46 from 1946 and several other brands. Lynn Graham took first prize with a score of 193 (out of a

possible 200). Lynn was shooting an amazing Anschutz 54 Super Match, Model 1813L, probably made in the 1980's! We shot in a monsoon downpour, and it was coming down as we retrieved our targets; everyone got soaked! It was great fun in spite of the rain.

We found much greater interest in this event than anticipated, and, as a result, Steve has added two more of these events to the schedule this summer. The dates for the remaining events are: Sunday, July 21, 2024 at 10AM, Sunday, August 18, 2024 at 12PM, Sunday, September 22, 2024 at 10AM and Sunday, October 20, 2024 at 10AM.

Larry Kleinschmidt

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### **Benchrest Results (Centerfire .223 100 Yard Competition)**

We held the Centerfire 100 Yard Competition for the .223, on June 23, 2024 at



10AM. It was a rainy, humid day, but eight competitors showed up. We can accommodate six competitors at one time, so we held two shooting sessions. For this competition we shoot fifteen targets in fifteen minutes, one shot in each; with the bullseye worth 10 points, and a the total possible score of 150 points. The winner was Lynn Graham,

with a score of 141. Three of us tied for second place with a score of 140! It was a great event in spite of the weather.

Larry Kleinschmidt

### **Benchrest Results (Centerfire 200-Yard Competition)**

We held the Centerfire 200 Yard Benchrest Competition on June 23, 2024 at about 11AM. This event started as soon as the .223 Benchrest Competition was completed. We had four competitors for this shoot. We had a variety of calibers including .308, 6MM, .223 and 6.5 Creedmoor. In this competition we shoot five targets, three shots each, for a total possible score of 150 points. Steve Podlesney was the winner with a score of 136 points.



Larry Kleinschmidt



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### Getting a SIG Armorer's Certificate

A few years ago, I purchased my first SIG Sauer P365. This innovative little 9mm was released in 2018 and has had a huge impact on the US concealed carry firearms market. Other than the novelty of its staggered double stack magazine, the P365 shares the modular design principles of its older, larger sibling, the P320. This system was built around a Fire Control Unit (FCU) that bears the gun's serial number, and is the registered component of the gun. With the FCU as its core, the P365 affords the option to swap all other components, including grip frame, slide, barrel, etc. This "Lego" gun concept was intriguing to me and I wanted to know more.

Some months later I found myself sitting in a classroom at the SIG Experience Center in Epping, New Hampshire. It was mid-March 2023, and coincidentally, the same day as the most significant winter storm in recent years. My classmates were a mix of law enforcement, shop staff, range operators, and due to several weather-related cancellations, several SIG employees meeting their own annual certification requirements.

The first point covered was that an armorer is not a gunsmith. The job of an armorer is to evaluate the state of a firearm and replace components as necessary. Throughout the day we covered the design and function of the P365, as well as the changes and updates that had occurred in the firearm. Starting with fully functional P365 models, we removed and reinstalled every one of its 33 parts. We were shown how to identify various issues, many of which were the fault of

improper lubrication. Interestingly in this polymer-framed, striker-fired design, too much lubrication is more often a problem than too little.

The final segment of the class was the practical exam; complete



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disassembly, then reassembly of our sample P365. There are some seriously tiny springs in the P365, and no two are interchangeable, though at least two appear so. Every part and piece on a P365 can be removed and replaced with a single metal punch and an armorer's block (or a small block of wood.) The complete process is very gratifying, and gave me a profound appreciation for the design of the P365.

While I had only planned to get my P365 Armorer's Certification, I enjoyed the class so much that I took advantage of one the weather cancellations the following day to get my P320 certificate as well. The two models share many similarities, but the pieces that comprise the P320 are mercifully larger and, likewise, much easier to handle.

The SIG Experience Center offers a wide selection of courses both on the range and in the classroom. I encourage SIG fans to check them out.

Tod Pleasant

## **Practical Handgun Group Update**

Review of the May 18, 2024 session: Ten members were present and we started with our safety talk. The course of fire was a qualifier setup; thirty feet, twenty-one feet, and fifteen feet. From hands-up holstered, firing two shots per target on three targets. Next moving to the twenty-one-foot mark, firing two shots per target, strong hand only. Next moving to the fifteen-foot box, firing two shots per target, weak hand only. This challenged everyone, but as we were able to run each stage several times, everyone improved.

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Our goal is for all our shooters to improve and become more competent and safer in the long run. Practice is very important for safe handling techniques. Anyone who carries or is thinking about carrying for self-protection should be prepared and ready to respond with confidence to protect themselves and their loved ones safely.

We have a great group of people practicing and learning to shoot with safety always in mind. When on the range, we are all looking out for each other. We welcome all members to come and see if this kind of practice group is right for you. Gary Braff

### **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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### **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

### **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

### **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