

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



June Newsletter

June 16, 2025

President's Notes

Summer is finally here, and with it comes some of the best months to enjoy everything our club has to offer. Whether it's time on the .22 rimfire range, the rifle range, or coming in for a few rounds of skeet, the long days and warmer weekends are perfect for getting outdoors, and we encourage all members to take full advantage of the season.

June also brings Father's Day, a time to celebrate the mentors and role models in our lives who first introduced many of us to the outdoors. Whether it was a father, grandfather, or another important figure, this month is a great opportunity to honor those memories and maybe even make new ones by bringing the next generation to the club for a day outside.

As always, thank you for helping to keep our club active, safe, and welcoming for all.

Mark Brennan, Club President



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. 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



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New Mentoring Program!

The new mentoring program began on Wednesday, June 11. We had five mentees who are now safer shooters with more confidence. Thanks Kris, Dave, Paul and Larry for their generous time. If you would like to be either a mentor or a mentee, please let Bob Gosselin know at (bobgoss64@gmail.com).

Bob Gosselin

The Welcome Wagon

In May we welcomed the following new members: Tom Partington, Martha Larantos, Matt Larrabee, Tom Schneider, Ben Cenedella, Rachel Cenedella, Kurt Thomas and Jesse Freidin.

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 rifle programs resumed in April. 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

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Monthly Meeting Review

We had a very good Members Meeting on Wednesday, May 21, introducing a lot of new programs on the horizon. To top the list, Holly Lee and Ed Cialek announced two shoots in the future. They are planning a .22 Steel Challenge, hopefully in July, and another featuring shotguns targeting clay birds on steel holders. More info to come! Also, Mike Winn is planning CPR classes for members. Once again this is in the formative stage with more info to come.

The meeting also featured wings from The Hanger. See what you missed? Bet'cha won't do that again. Minutes are now available on the Member's Only website.

Bob Gosselin, Secretary

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



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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

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.

Steven Podlesny

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MOA Explained

Minute of Angle (MOA) is an angular measurement used in shooting to describe a rifle's ability to group bullet hits on a target. A circle consists of 360 degrees, and a minute of angle is $1/60^{\text{th}}$ of a degree in the circle. The MOA varies based on the distance to the target. At 100 yards, one MOA is 1.047 inches. Typically, in shooting calculations, we use 1 inch at 100 yards, 2 inches at 200 yards, 3 inches at 300 yards, etc. Modern rifle scopes are typically adjusted using the MOA scale. It is common to see scope adjustments measured in $\frac{1}{4}$ MOA increments. That means that it takes four clicks of adjustment to move the point-of-aim by one inch at 100 yards. When your target is at 200 yards, this calculation changes (remember 1 MOA is 2 inches at 200 yards). So, at 200 yards, a $\frac{1}{4}$ MOA adjustment is $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, and so forth as the distance gets longer. Understanding MOA makes it easy to make quick adjustments to point-of-aim when zeroing in a rifle. It is also a way of expressing the accuracy of a rifle, i.e. "this rifle shoots sub-MOA groups at 200 yards...". That means that if you shoot a group of rounds at 200 yards with this particular rifle, the group will be in a circle smaller than 2 inches on the target (2 inches being 1 MOA at 200 yards). Larry Kleinschmidt



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Coming Events

The General Membership meeting will be on Wednesday, June 18 beginning at 7PM. On Sunday, June 22 we will have the .22 100-yard shoot starting at 10:30AM. On Saturday, June 28, Tracey will offer the Basic Home Firearms Safety Course. Also on Saturday, June 28, the Practical Handgun Group will meet at 12:30PM. On Sunday, June 29, the .223 100-yard event will be held at 10:30AM, followed immediately by the 200-Yard Open Shoot. We shoot skeet Thursday, Saturday and Sunday mornings.

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!



I'd like to thank Holly Lee, Bob Gosselin and Paul Choiniere for reporting on and writing up events in this Newsletter. The extra help is appreciated. And to the Newsletter Team, thanks for your ongoing monthly efforts.

Larry Kleinschmidt

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New Rimfire Challenge Event!

We'd like to start a regular Rimfire Challenge event at the Club in July. It's a speed shooting event using 22LR semi-automatic pistols and rifles.

Here are the basics:

- Typically 4 or 5 Courses of Fire (COF)

(A course of fire consists of 5 to 7 steel plates. The competitor will shoot 5 strings. The 4 lowest-timed strings will be totaled as the score.)

- Plates are repainted for each competitor
- Competitors are grouped into squads, 1 squad at each COF. All squads rotate through all COF's.
- The match is shot with both Pistol and Rifle, .22LR ONLY
- The match score is the combined Pistol and Rifle time.

Here's a link to the rulebook if you'd like to learn more:

<https://www.rimfirechallenge.org/rule-book/>

Here's a link to a YouTube Video of the 2024 World Championships: [The 2024 World Rimfire Challenge Championship sponsored by Ruger](#).

There are lots more videos available on YouTube. Search on Rimfire Challenge.

Tim Hausler of the Mystic Rod and Gun Club in CT is going to come up and help us get started. He has us penciled in for Saturday, July 12. Watch for more news in the coming weeks. We hope you'll join us!

Please email Holly (hollingtonlee@gmail.com) to let us know if you are interested. When you email Holly about your participation, please include a cell number so we can text you if there are any last-minute issues or changes.

Holly Lee

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The Allan Parda Story

In an effort to share some of the history of the Franklin County Sportsmen's Club with the membership, I've been asked to give some information on the



member memorialized by the stone in front of the flagpole at the club. His name was Alan Parda, and he and many others gave their time and energy so that we can enjoy the facility we have today. Alan was a true sportsman who loved to hunt and was involved in every aspect of the shooting sports. He was an excellent skeet shooter, and a member of the Deerfield Trap and Skeet Club when the club was the Franklin County League of Sportsmen prior to the reorganization to what we have now. He

was also a member of the Turners Falls Rifle and Pistol Club, where every Thursday night he enjoyed shooting handguns and rifles with precision. He seemed to like the big calibers and could be seen shooting his favorite, an S&W Model 29 in 44 Magnum, on most nights.

He was instrumental in establishing our once popular sporting clays course, which went through the woods at the end of the rifle range parking area. His time at the club was shortened when he was diagnosed with cancer which eventually took his life. Lastly, Alan was my friend and is dearly missed. Per the request of his wife, who knew his love for the club, we gladly approved the placement of a stone in his memory. Please give it a look.



Steve Podlesny

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Range Etiquette - Tinnitus

Tinnitus? What has that to do with the range? Our sport is very, very noisy! Hearing protection is an absolute necessity. Tinnitus results from prolonged exposure to loud sounds without adequate hearing protection. Here are some facts about tinnitus which will motivate you to care about your hearing protection.

Tinnitus is the perception of ringing, buzzing, or other noises in the ears. It affects millions of people. It is often accompanied by hearing loss. It has a significant impact upon quality of life! A common cause of tinnitus (especially among soldiers) is exposure to loud noise. This ties it directly to our shooting sports, which generate loud and shocking noise. Prolonged exposure to loud sounds can damage the delicate hair cells in the inner ear, leading to hearing loss and, consequently, tinnitus. The shock of loud noise causes damage to these delicate hair cells located in the cochlea, which is inside the inner ear, behind the ear drum. These cells are crucial for normal hearing and balance, and damage to them can lead to hearing loss and/or balance problems. Once these hair cells are damaged, they can never be restored, and when damaged, the sound levels they normally generate can no longer be heard. Instead of the normal sound, one hears an odd and usually constant sound throughout one's lifetime. (In my case, the sound I hear is the squeal of a punctured loud speaker; this sound is constant during all waking hours).

So be very careful with your hearing protection. Make sure it is adequate to muffle the sound that is created when you shoot. Also, make sure that those around you have hearing protection before you fire. Your hearing, and maybe your sanity, depend upon it.

Larry Kleinschmidt

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Rifle Events Results

The .22 match, on Saturday, May 18th, was interesting to say the least! We did not have our normal targets, so after finding some 50-yard targets, we used them out at 100 yards! After shooting the sighters, everything looked good. That is where it stopped; the wind picked up and everyone said their rounds were pushed up and to the left. It happened even to our winner for the day, Bob Mead. However, Bob compensated for the wind better than anyone else. Congratulation - good shooting!

Paul Choiniere



On Sunday, May 25, 2025, we held the .223 and the 200-yard events. We have a disturbing trend at these events; Lynn Graham keeps winning them BOTH! Lynn scored 147 on the .223 event and 193 on the 200-yard event! Come on out and shoot with us, Lynn needs the competition!

Larry Kleinschmidt

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Practical Handgun Group



Huzzah, Practical Hand Gunners Group! Saturday, May 24, 2025 was cancelled due to the rainy weather. Come on out and shoot with us at the next event; improve your skills and have some fun (please come early and help with the setup). Thank you.

Gary Braff

FCSC Hunters Corner

The next hunting in MA comes in September when the deer, bear and pheasant seasons begin. We have a large number of game hunting seasons in MA! Over the year we can hunt deer, turkey, black bear, game birds, small game, migratory birds, coyote, fox and bobcat. I found a good website which has all the hunting information: <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

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Alaska Moose Hunt, 1973!

MOOSE-HUNT COST-PLANNING CHART #1

1. Alaskan Eight-Day Package Hunt

Includes 100-mile round-trip charter flight from Delta Junction Airport (100 miles south of Fairbanks) to remote camps in Alaskan Range. Tent-camping facilities, and guide for every two hunters.

Package Cost Per Hunter\$720.00

Nonresident hunting license 10.00

Nonresident moose tag 50.00
Sheep (Tag \$50), Caribou (Tag \$25) and Grizzly (Tag \$75)
can also be taken on same hunt.

Hunter's groceries plus one-half guide's groceries (est.) 42.00

Fee for flying moose back to Delta Junction Airport 100.00
(Similar charge is made for sheep, caribou and bear)

Total Hunt Cost Per Hunter\$922.00

Round-trip air transportation, Chicago to Fairbanks\$447.28

Round-trip car transportation, Fairbanks Airport to Delta Junction
Airport (Available through Guide) 50.00

Excess baggage cost of flying 450 pounds of moose meat from
Fairbanks to Chicago 30.00

Total Hunt and Transportation Costs Per Hunter\$1449.28

Registered Guide to contact: Robert Elliott
5920 Airport Way,
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701



"Cheapest fish locator on the market."

FIELD & STREAM JULY 1974

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My flock of doves! (Crossing Abbey Road)

Larry Kleinschmidt

