

# Franklin County Sportsmen's Club

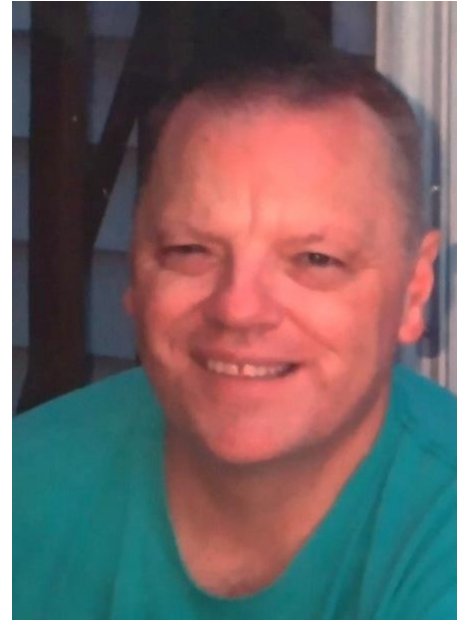


## *June Newsletter*

June 3, 2024

### **President's Notes**

Well, here we are at the end of May, the so-called start of summer. We have already held four shoots of the many scheduled on our calendar of events. Our 223-caliber rifle shoots remain very popular, and, due to demand, the 22-rimfire shoots have been expanded to once a month through October. I'm hoping we have more shooters come out for our 200-yard center fire shoots. All the events show that people are interested, so we'll will continue through October. Please come down and get involved. You will not be disappointed. Check the club's calendar for a list of events scheduled.



In case you are not already aware, the Franklin County Sportsmen's Club is the finest facility in the area. Well-maintained, and any firearm you have can be shot safely. I want to remind everyone to pay attention to the posted signs indicating what calibers are appropriate on the ranges. Please do not shoot the steel plates on the rifle range with 338 Lapua or any large-caliber round. These rounds have recently caused significant damage to the plates and the hangers. We incurred costs in the amount of \$60.00 to replace one plate and hanger last week. Shooting at a paper target with these rounds is fine, but they are too powerful to shoot steel at the short distances we have at the club.

Recently we surveyed our property in the front at the road to confirm the boundaries with our two neighbors. We found that we own a large area abutting the farmhouse to the right of our River Road entrance. We are working on a plan to clean up this additional property in the fall. More on this in future later newsletters.

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Finally, did you know that, at one time, the only structures on the club property were the skeet/trap houses and the clubhouse. Every building, every range cover we have now was constructed in the last 30 years, mostly by club members, and, hopefully, we will have one additional covering on the plate range by fall. All these improvements have made the club what it is today. Please be respectful and help us to keep it looking good going forward.

### **Rusty**

If you have visited the club on Thursday evening or on the weekend, then you have probably been greeted by Rusty. He is easy to identify as he always wears a beautiful mahogany and white fur coat. Rusty will approach you with a smile and a wagging stubby tail. He is always happy and quite social. He'll be very pleased if you have a doggy treat for him, but he'll gladly settle for a back-scratch. Regardless of what you have for him, he will move on wearing that same smile, and with his tail still wagging. He enjoys greeting every person who shows up!



Rusty car pools to the club with Bob Anderson. He has been a faithful club member for the last nine years and is now our senior four-legged member! When he first joined the club he was just six months old. Since he attends the skeet events, he has adapted to the sound of shot guns and seems to ignore the noise.

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Rusty is a member of the English Springer Spaniel family. He can trace his roots back to the Shropshire family of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century England. His family belongs to the sporting dog class and prides itself on bird hunting. Rusty is very happy in the field searching out pheasant or quail.

Rusty has found a way to enjoy all the social aspects of our club, exemplifying Bob Gosselin's motto, "the club is what you make of it!"

Larry Kleinschmidt

## **Historical Arm Show & Tell Event**

We held an Historical Arms Show & Tell on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, at 2PM. It was a good lecture. We discussed three historic rifles and two pistols. Each item was reviewed by a club member familiar with it. The event ran about 1.5 hours, including questions from the audience, and we picked up a couple of new members for our Historic Arms Interest Group. The audience was small due to the Memorial Day holiday weekend, so we will present this lecture again in the fall, on a non-holiday weekend!

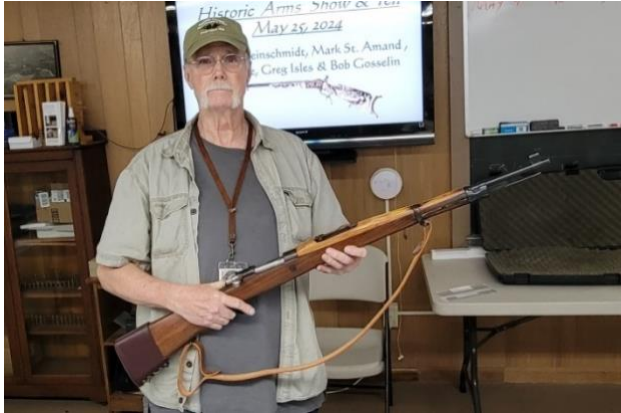


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Larry Kleinschmidt



## **The Welcome Wagon**

For May, we welcomed new following new members: Chris Miemiec, Stephen Dise, Todd Pleasant, Peter Gleason, Christine Gleason, Michael Ponti, Bennett Schwartz, and Leslie Frazier!

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

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### **Monthly Meeting Shedule Change Reminder**

Please remember that the monthly general meetings have been changed to a quarterly meeting schedule. For the remainder of 2024 the scheduled 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.

### **Coming Events**

Coming up in June we have Skeet every Saturday and Sunday morning and every Thursday evening. On Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, the fifty-yard range will be occupied with police training. On Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, Tracey will offer her Basic Home Firearms Safety Course. The Practical Handgun group meets on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 12:30PM to 2:30PM. The Board of Directors meets on Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. FCSC Skeet & Trap Day will be held on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> and is an all-day event. We have Trap Shooting on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. The Benchrest 223 and the 200-Yard Centerfire Benchrest contests are both held on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, starting at 10AM. There's a lot going on, 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>

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## FRANKLIN COUNTY SPORTSMENS CLUB

### SKEET & TRAP DAY

#### **Attention New or existing members.**

Have you ever wanted to participate in Trap or Skeet, but felt too shy to give it a try?

If so, this is the event for you. On 6/22/24 we are scheduling this day for any members to try Skeet / Trap or both. This will be a fun event to which you can try these events with a stress free environment. We will have existing members that will instruct each group of shooters as to the safety and rules of the sport.

#### **Over view:**

**\*Any shotgun Can be used, If you still don't have a shot gun we can provide one for you to use. There will be a limited number of guns available on a first come first serve basis.**

**You would need to provide your own Factory ammo.**

**Please note that when buying shot shell ammo; only 7 1/2 thru number 9 shot can be used.**

**\* Standard cost of \$4 per round of Skeet or trap will apply**

**If interested in this event; Please email Peter Fuller Peterfuller102@gmail.com so a estimated attendance can be made.**

**Anyone needing to borrow a shotgun must contact me in advance to go over the gun gauge and functions.**

**\* This event will run from noon thru 2pm on 6/22/24  
A rain date will be 6/29/24**



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### **My First Gun**

*(This is the first 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))*

Tim H., a career firefighter of 37 years and paramedic of 28 years, is a new FCSC member and a newer shooter. “Before 2021”, Tim says, “I had only shot .22 rifles in the Boy Scouts and shot a handgun once about fifteen years ago”. It was Tim’s wife, Rebecca, who got him interested in shooting. After Tim and Rebecca were married in 2019, she told him that she used to enjoy hunting and recreational and competitive shooting (IDPA competitions). She wondered if he might like to try shooting. Well, she did not have to ask Tim twice! “I took a class and got my LTC in 2020, during COVID,” Tim says. Strangely (but those were strange times!), his LTC paperwork was processed in a month and a half, much faster than the usual wait!



Tim researched handguns extensively online. He narrowed his choice down to several models, but due to the short supply of handguns during COVID he was not able to handle the guns to see which one might be right for him. Finally, in 2021, Tim and Rebecca drove out to Pete’s Gun Store in Adams, where Tim was able to handle the handguns he had been looking at online. “The handgun that

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felt most comfortable to me was the Smith and Wesson M&P 2.0 9mm. That's what I bought, and Rebecca got the sub-compact version of the same gun."

Tim and Rebecca joined FCSC in 2022. Tim has tried to come down to shoot once or twice a week, either with Rebecca or on his own. After putting about 2,000 rounds through his M&P 2.0, he decided he was not satisfied with the long trigger pull and trigger reset, so he had the factory trigger replaced with an aftermarket Apex trigger. "This made a huge difference," Tim says. "My accuracy improved a lot!"

Tim now has a number of handguns (Colt, Sig Sauer, Smith & Wesson), including a revolver. He also owns several long guns. He just started a new position and no longer has days off during the week. "I hope I'm still able make it to the club once or twice a week like I've been doing," Tim says.

I suspect he has the will and I suspect he will find a way!

Mark St Amand

## **22 Rimfire Event Results**

The 22 Rimfire Benchrest shoot was held on May 19<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. We had six shooters in the competition. We shot four bullseye targets each, at 100 yards. There was a variety of rifles used, new and old. One of the oldest rifles in the competition was a Mossberg M46 created in 1946! All the shooters agreed that it was very complicated trying to reach a target at 100 yards with a 22 rimfire rifle. The winner of this event was Greg Isles, with 162 of a possible 200 points!



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We found much greater interest in this event than anticipated, and, as a result, Steve has added two more events to the schedule this summer. The dates are: Saturday, June 22, 2024 at 12PM, 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

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



The .223s showed up for the shoot on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. We had ten competitors and the winning results were very close. We had four competitors tied with a score of 144! The winner was chosen based on the number of bullseyes in the first five targets. The



winner was Gerry Tylunas; he was a hard competitor to beat!

Larry Kleinschmidt

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

We had four shooters for the 200-yard event on May 26<sup>th</sup>. We decided this would be a practice event, so no scores were kept. We all had fun and look forward to next month to actually compete. Break out your .308 rifle and come join us on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon. It will be a fun event.

Steve Podlesny

### **Steve Crowningshield's Black Powder Rifle Build**

Some years ago, I learned of the matchlock musket, in use by armies and hunters from England to Japan, and as far west as Jamestown in the New World. It was in service from the late 15th century through the early 19th century. The greatest difference



between the matchlock and the flintlock is the ignition; instead of flint and steel, ignition is obtained by a bit of smoldering rope or match, dropping into the flash pan.

I recently finished making a copy of a matchlock musket styled after examples used by the Ottoman Empire around the early 16th century. I built it by hand from scrap pallet wood and salvaged steel from work projects. The only part not made by me was the CVA Hawken barrel. This makes it a rifled

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musket, I suppose. For the test fire, I opted for a few shots with wads of newspaper until I was certain the new flash hole was suitable. Then came the round shot. I was very impressed with the seamless ignition and low recoil, an advantage with heavy guns. It's a step back in time; it also increases your respect for the people who used these rifles. I have read that a

good soldier could get off three shots in one minute. I think two is far more likely as the loading process and the gear of the day are cumbersome. Authentic rifles are longer and heavier than the carbine I have made. Like all things black powder, you have to like cleaning; but the history and experience are worth it.

Steve Crowningshield

## **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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### **Skeet Shoot Reminder**

We shoot skeet on Thursday evening and Saturday and Sunday morning. 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

### **Range Reminder**

Please remember the ranges are for use by everyone. If you bring items to shoot, please clean up after you are done. 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

### **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 notices.

Steve Podlesny