

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



March Newsletter

March 18, 2025

President's Notes

Dear Members,

We've noticed a decline in attendance at our monthly membership meetings, and we'd like to discuss whether shifting to a quarterly meeting schedule might better suit everyone's availability and engagement.

This will be a key topic of discussion at our April meeting on Wednesday, April 16th at 7PM. We encourage all members to attend and share their thoughts so we can make a decision that reflects the preferences of the majority.

Thank you for your trust and support. I look forward to seeing you at the club and sharing in the wonderful experiences that make the FCSC such a special community.

Sincerely,

Mark Brennan, President



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



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Herter's: A Bit of History

I recently came across a piece of history which I added to my gun safe. It's a Herter's XK3 rifle in .308 Winchester caliber. This story is about the Herter's catalogue.

Some of us may remember Herter's catalogue; it was published yearly from about 1940 through the late 1970's. It ran about 400-600 pages and included everything for hunting, fishing, trapping, gunsmithing, reloading, law enforcement, forest rangers and other sportsmen.

Herter's was the first mail-order catalogue for the sports industries. Their motto was "Old World Craftsmanship, New World Production."

George Herter took over his father's business in 1937. By 1940 he had his catalogue ready to go. Herter's was the Sears Roebuck of the outdoor industry. Launched and headquartered in Waseca, MN, the company was the inspiration for today's huge mail-order and big-box outdoor retailers. Eventually Herter opened stores in Waseca and Glenwood, MN, Mitchell, SD, Beaver Dam, WI, Iowa City and Iowa Falls, IA, and Olympia, WA.

Herter was given to making outrageous claims about his products. He called his decoys "the best in the world."

He labeled most of his products "world famous" or "model perfect," and he claimed



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many were endorsed by the North Star Guides Association — an organization which didn't exist. Many Herter's products, including his decoys, game calls and gun stocks, were considered top-quality and fair-priced.

After decades of success, several events contributed to the demise of Herter's: (1) the over-expansion of retail stores at a time when oil prices were skyrocketing, (2) the Gun Control Act of 1968, which prevented firearms from being bought and sold via the mail, (3) and federal bans on the importation of some feather species Herter's used for fly tying. Herter's went bankrupt in 1977. The remains of Herter's was bought by Cabela's, and you can still buy products there which bear the Herter's label.

George Herter died in 1994 in Minneapolis at age 83, leaving behind no autobiographies or interviews. In the end, a Sports Afield writer summed up George Herter, calling him "a dazzling mixture of bamboozle and brains, snake oil and savvy."

Herter had this rifle built under contract by Zavodi Crvena Zastava in Yugoslavia. Zastava is still in business building a line of AK47s and some bolt guns, like their M70 which is nearly identical to this rifle. This XK3 was built on a commercial Mauser action, in .308 Winchester caliber. The workmanship is indeed "Old World Craftsmanship!" When I was a kid in SD, I remember looking at this rifle in the catalogue and wishing that I could afford to buy it.



Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Leonard_Herter

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<https://gerardcox.blogspot.com/2016/01/herters-catalogs.html>

GOAL Gun Law Seminar Rescheduled!

I've rescheduled the GOAL seminar for Tuesday, April 1, 2025, 6PM-8PM. 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. With this rescheduled 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 me (steven.podlesny@gmail.com) to let me 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

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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The Welcome Wagon

In February we welcomed the following new members: Larry Gaudette, Fred Vega, Ron Michonski and Brian Cruz! 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 new

shooting programs will resume in the spring. Get your target gun 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. 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



FCSC Forestry Project

Many might not be aware that the Franklin County Sportman's Club participates in a state-run forestry program. We've been involved in this program for a number of years going back to the early '70s and have harvested timber from our property twice in the past. Presently our program is set to expire at the end of 2025, and we are now actively pursuing its renewal. The Club has the majority of its property to the south bordering our neighbor, Wolman Hill. In the past these harvests have been very profitable for the Club. These funds have been put towards developing our ranges and other programs. Once we have reviewed the forestry plan being developed, we will have a better idea of how we will be proceeding. More to come on this subject.

Steve Podlesny

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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



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. 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

The Practical Handgun Group will meet on Saturday, March 22nd, starting at 12:30PM. We will have general membership meeting on Wednesday, March 19th at 7PM. Skeet will be shooting on Saturdays and Sundays at 10AM, weather permitting.

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

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Mauser Rifle Event

We have a large number of Mauser owners and admirers in our club! We think that it might be a very interesting event to present a bit of the history of Mauser and display several of the prized rifles owned by some of our members. If this event is of interest to you, please contact Larry (larrykleinschmidt@comcast.net) and let me know. Please also please let me know if you have a Mauser which you want to display, and if you are willing to help present at this event. I think this event would consist of a spoken presentation of history and rifles, followed by the sharing of disassembly/assembly, cleaning, and reloading knowledge.

Larry Kleinschmidt

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!

Larry Kleinschmidt



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Reloaders Group

Here's a shout-out to the reloaders in our club. Remember we have a group emailing list, and if you need to re-supply just send out an email to alert the group. We, as a group, can set up a group order and save some money on shipping and HAZMAT. Also, keep watch on your sources, and if you see an offer for free shipping or HAZMAT, let the group know so we can all benefit. If you reload or plan to reload **and want to be part of our group contact larrykleinschmidt@comcast.net**.

Larry Kleinschmidt

Practical Handgun Group

On February 15th, the Practical Handgunner's Group got together and set up three steel targets. It was very cold and we practiced drawing from the holster and firing at the steel targets. We had three new members, Brian, Matt and Freddy. All three enjoyed the process and understood what it takes to



be safe and how the process was run so that only one shooter at a time would be on the line, loaded and hot. We have another session coming up on Saturday, March 22nd, and we hope to see more people, more targets, and better weather!

Gary Braff

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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



FCSC Hunters Corner

We want to recognize and include our hunters in our Newsletter. We have had no input from our hunting members this month. If you had a good hunt this year and want to share the experience with our members, please contact

larrykleinschmidt@comcast.net . We want to include your story and a photo or two of your hunt!

We are looking for a writer to tackle hunting subjects for our monthly newsletter. The articles will cover actual hunts by members and hunting advice of interest to the membership. Contact me if you are interested in this work.

Here's a link to the Massachusetts Hunting and Fishing Seasons information:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/2024-hunting-season-summary/download>

Larry Kleinschmidt

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