

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



May Newsletter

May 5, 2025

President's Notes

Thank you to everyone who came out for our recent work bee. It was a great success thanks to the hard work of so many. Special thanks to Nelson Bernard, Gary Braff, Mike Cadran, Paul Choiniere, John Crowley, Mikele Deziell, Bob Gosselin, Lynn Graham, Bob Hanrahan, Greg Isles, John Iverson, David Johnson, Steve Levin, Miles Palmer, Peter Parker, Tod Pleasant, Steve Podlesny, Tom Putnam, Ray Samson, Mark St. Amand, Kris Walter, Dave Wartel, and others for lending their time and energy. We'll share more details and photos later in the newsletter.



I also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Paul Choiniere and Steve Podlesny for stepping up and renting and operating the heavy equipment needed to repair our road. They put in two solid days of work to get it done, and we're all grateful for the smoother drive in and out.

Finally, after member input and thoughtful discussion, we've decided to keep our monthly meeting schedule rather than moving to quarterly. More on that and the reasons behind the decision later in this issue.

Thanks for all you do to keep our club moving forward.

Mark Brennan
Club President

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



May Newsletter

May 5, 2025

The Welcome Wagon

In April we welcomed the following new members: Scott Green, Sid Amidon, Andrew Rawcliffe, Mike Safford, Bill Taylor and Amber Taylor. 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 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

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



May Newsletter

May 5, 2025

Members Vote on Monthly or Quarterly Membership Meetings

Our general membership meeting was held on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. There were twenty-one members present. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted. We discussed the coming Work Bee, and the damage on the 100-yard range steel targets. Road repair was discussed, and it was addressed after the Work Bee. It was again suggested that we explore the possibility of upgrading the road to asphalt. We discussed the monthly membership meeting schedule. We considered going to a quarterly schedule, but it was not popular. We considered ways to improve attendance at monthly meetings. Attendance at such club events has suffered since the pandemic; people are not coming out as they used to do before the pandemic. We decided to combine the monthly business meeting with some other activity which might create more interest. The current monthly schedule was confirmed because there was no motion to go to a quarterly schedule. Bob Gosselin announced a plan to resume the new member mentoring program. This program will be implemented on a "one-to-one" basis and by appointment. Bob called for mentor volunteers to participate. The meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.

Larry Kleinschmidt

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

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



May Newsletter

May 5, 2025

Work Bee Saturday, April 19, 2025 Review

We held a Work Bee on Saturday, April 19th. We had a good turn-out of twenty-five members who worked hard. We accomplished a lot in four hours of work. We repaired all the damaged target frames, cleared a ton of brush from the berms, painted the pavilion that we installed last fall, and cleaned out the mower shed. Paul Choiniere installed new CAT5 cable for TV, WIFI and printer, and a new TV in the meeting room. This was followed by a hearty lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad and our new Work Bee Beans (BBQ beans)!



Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



May Newsletter May 5, 2025

More Work Bee Photos



Larry Kleinschmidt

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



May Newsletter

May 5, 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! 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



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



May Newsletter

May 5, 2025

Attention: Vietnam Vets

This year is the fiftieth anniversary year of the end of the Vietnam War. It ended on 30 April 1975, when the People's Army of Vietnam troops entered Saigon and overcame all resistance, capturing key buildings and installations. In this fiftieth



anniversary year, I'm looking to assemble a list of all Nam Vets in the club. The objective of this effort is to prepare a retrospective of our experiences that we can present to the FCSC membership at a meeting in the fall. If you are a Nam Vet and want to help in this effort, please contact me at larrykleinschmidt@comcast.net. Welcome Home, Brothers; it's been a long, weird ride! 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. 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

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



May Newsletter

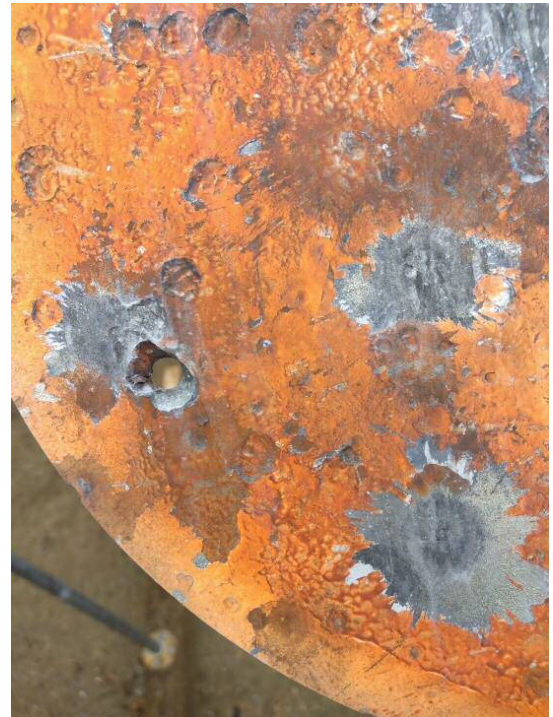
May 5, 2025

Damage on the 100-Yard Rifle Range

Over the past years I have discussed the damage being done to the 100-yard steel rifle targets, and I've asked that large caliber rifles like the 338 Lapua and 300 Winchester Magnum not be shot at these targets. We know this, as the spent cases were found in the brass recycle can. I've attached pictures of the damage done to the two 100-yard targets



recently.
Both these targets



Both these targets were up for less than six months and both have been shattered by high power rounds; one has a hole punched through it with what could only be an armor-piercing round. If this continues, the 100-yard plates will be removed. If you are seen shooting high-velocity, high-powered rounds at the targets, your membership will be in jeopardy.

Steve Podlesny

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



May Newsletter

May 5, 2025

Shooting Range Etiquette – The 180-Degree Rule

The 180-degree rule dictates that the muzzle of your firearm must never point outside the 180-degree downrange arc, an imaginary line extending to the left and right of the shooter, and parallel to the backstop, to ensure safe shooting practices.

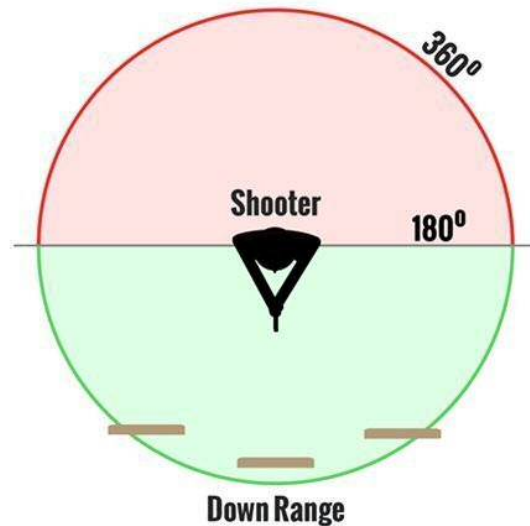


The 180 Rule

The muzzle of your gun, whether loaded or not, may NEVER break the 180-degree plane -- the imaginary line that extends to your left and right on the shooting line.

If you pivot your body, the line doesn't move with you. It stays anchored to the targets and parallel with the back of the berm.

If you break the 180 Rule you may be ejected from the range. In a competitive match it results in an immediate disqualification (DQ).



<https://www.agirlandagun.org/the-180-rule/>

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



May Newsletter

May 5, 2025

Coming Events

The UMASS Police will be using the range on Wednesday, May 7 and Thursday, May 8, from 8AM to 4PM. The Board Of Directors meets on Thursday, May 15, at 7PM. Tracey will offer the Basic Home Firearms Safety Course on Saturday, May 17 from 9AM till 1PM. The general membership meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 21 at 7PM. The Practical Handgunners will meet on Saturday, May 24 at 12:30PM (please come early and help with the setup).

The Skeet Shooting will begin every Thursday, Saturday and Sunday morning at 10AM.

The next .22 rimfire event will be held on Sunday, May 18, at 10:30AM. The next .223 and 200-yard events will be held on Sunday, May 25, at 10:30AM. Come on out and give Lynn Graham some competition, it's fun!

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

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



May Newsletter

May 5, 2025

Rifle Events Results



We held the .22 rimfire event on Saturday, April 26. It was pouring rain and windy! Even in these bad conditions, six participants showed up! The rain and wind gave us a hard time, with targets getting soaked and literally falling off of the target frames. Paul Choiniere took the cup with a score of 157 out of 200. Lynn Graham came in second with 152.

On Sunday, April 27, we held the .223 & the 200-yard events. It was a much better day; no rain but a bit of wind. In the .223 event Lynn Graham took the cup with a score of 145 out of 150; Paul Choiniere is our “Reserve Champion”.



The 200-yard event followed immediately. We had five competitors shooting 200 yards. In the 200-yard event Lynn Graham took the honors with a score of 188 out of 200. For this weekend's events, Lynn Graham was the big winner, taking top honors in two of the three rifle events!

Larry Kleinschmidt

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May Newsletter

May 5, 2025

More Rifle Events

The next .22 rimfire event will be held on Sunday, May 18, 2025 at 10:30AM. The next .223 and 200-yard events will be held on Sunday, May 25, 2025 at 10:30AM. Come on out and give Lynn Graham some competition; it's fun!
Larry Kleinschmidt

Practical Handgun Group



Huzzah, Practical Hand Gunners Group! Saturday, April, 19 was a cold and rainy day! The PHG event was attended by four shooters, and we shot steel targets due to rain. We also picked up our brass as we are supposed to do. We will meet again on Saturday, May 24 at 12:30PM. Come on out and shoot with us, improve your skills and have some fun (please come early and help with the setup). Thank you to all who attended.

Gary Braff

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



May Newsletter

May 5, 2025

FCSC Hunters Corner

Did you know that Massachusetts has a spring turkey hunting season? Yes, it is held from April 28 through May 24, 2025. It is available in Zones 1 – 13, which is all of mainland Massachusetts, and including Zone 13 which is Martha's Vineyard and the Elizabeth Islands. There is no spring season on Nantucket, which is Zone 14.

Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end at noon. Mass hunters are required to have a Hunting or Sporting License, a Turkey permit and a Safety Sticker. (If you're hunting turkey with a shotgun or muzzleloader, an official safety sticker must be placed on the gun.) For the spring season, the limit is 2 bearded birds (2 birds may be harvested on the same day). For the spring season, shotgun,



muzzleloader and archery are permitted. For the spring season, blaze orange isn't required. Turkey calling is permitted, but electronic calls, dogs, bait, flock driving and live decoys are banned. You must report your game within 48 hours of harvest. See <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/wild-turkey-hunting-regulations> for complete regulations. If you make this hunt, we want to include your story and a photo or two!

Notice: We are looking for a writer to tackle hunting subjects for our monthly newsletter. The articles you write should cover actual hunts by members and hunting advice of interest to the membership. Contact me (larrykleinschmidt@comcast.net) if you are interested in this work.

Larry Kleinschmidt

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



May Newsletter

May 5, 2025



This was the sole used on the U.S. military M1966 Jungle Boot. Developed by Natick Laboratories and the shoe industry, the boot included a built-in metal plate to help the soldier avoid punji stakes. A "punji stake" (also called a "punji stick") is a booby trap consisting of a sharpened bamboo or hardwood stake, often coated with feces to cause infection, and concealed in the ground, typically used in guerrilla warfare to injure and incapacitate enemies. In Vietnam, the punji stakes were typically installed at the bottom of a concealed pit, so that when the soldier fell into the pit he could not avoid being impaled on these stakes. Also, these soles are very effective in the mud. In Vietnam the monsoon season is about six months long, so one walks in mud for half of the year.

(Ad from Sports Afield, April, 1973)

You could still get a Herter's catalogue in September, 1970.

(Ad from Sports Afield, September, 1970)



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May Newsletter
May 5, 2025

