



President's Note

by Steve Podlesny

Well, spring has finally arrived and for a few days we were experiencing summer warmth. Nevertheless it is time to get to the range and have some fun shooting. We held our first work bee on the 25th of May and everything is in great shape for the shooting season. Thank you to the 25 members who participated in the sprucing up of the club after a long winter. I want to thank the members who are picking up their spent brass cases.

When combined with brass shot by the police departments utilizing our facility we are generating a significant cash flow to make our facility even better.

We will be sending out a request for membership approval to spend some money in hopes of making some needed road renovations to our facility. Please be on the lookout for the membership-wide email, and please make your wishes known by voting yes or no to this spending. *Coming out soon.*

Early Spring Skeet and Trap Update

by Pat O'Bryan

The Skeet field was open all winter long with shoots scheduled 3 days a week. There were usually between 5 and 10 shooters and if the day was warmer maybe a few more.

Now that Spring is here the number of shooters has grown significantly. The club has 2 skeet fields and one trap field. Skeet is shot at 10am on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Skeet is also scheduled for 5pm on Thursdays to accommodate those that still have to work for a living. Trap is shot on Wednesday at 5pm and Saturday at 12pm. Grab your shotgun and join us.



This year, on the Saturday before Easter, it was a very pleasant Spring day that had us moving the chairs off the porch out into the sun. We also had the First (maybe annual) Golden Bunny Shoot. The high shooter during the first round wins the prize. After the round, Ray Sampson and John Crowley were tied so the winner had to be decided in a run off shoot. John Crowley won the match and the trophy. John then gave the milk chocolate bunny wrapped in gold foil to

Bob Anderson's grandson.

The Skeet field suffered a lot of plow damage this last winter which a bunch of us repaired during the Work Bee day. Another club member (Unk) came over with his skid-steer loader and helped us clean up a lot of the damage. He turned hours of work into minutes. A big thank you for your help!

Welcome to the Club!

Welcome to our new members: **Matt Duley, Kelly Kicza, Sean Roe, Ben Lambert, Robert Shuman, Ed Thurston, and Ryan Coots.** Please enjoy our facility and our community. Join us at the member meetings and get involved. Watch our website calendar for upcoming events: <https://fclsc.org/calendar>.

How can you get involved? Join the rifle shooters at the monthly 100 and 200 yd shoots. The Practical Handgun Group will help improve your pistol skills. Join the shotgunners and break some clays. Want to go fast? Then the Rimfire Challenge and Shotgun Challenge are for you. See you on the range!

Vietnam Veterans Day, 3/29/26

by Larry Kleinschmidt

Vietnam was part of French Indochina after WWII, from 1946 to 1954. In 1954, Ho Chi Minh and his Viet Minh inflicted heavy losses on the French in the Battle of Dien Bien Phu which brought an end to the French occupation. Negotiations between the Viet Minh and France partitioned Vietnam at the 17th parallel with the Communist Viet Minh in the north and the non-communists in the south. Ho Chi Minh wanted to unite Vietnam under his communist Viet Minh, so he continued his war, assisted by the Soviet Union and China, moving south of the 17th parallel with his troops and local support from the Viet Cong.

In 1955, the US began sending "military advisors" to aid the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam) in an effort to stop the spread of communism in Southeast Asia. The advisors and the RVN army were not sufficient to hold the Viet Minh north of the 17th parallel. The US sent in the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, which came ashore at Da Nang on March 8, 1965. Approximately 3,500 Marines arrived by sea and air to protect the U.S. Da Nang airbase, marking the start of the American ground involvement.

From 1955 to 1975, 2.7 million US soldiers served in Vietnam. In that effort, the US lost 58,000 soldiers killed and 153,000 wounded.

Over the years public opinion turned against the war. During this time the press was able to report from the war zone with live video. Soon there was live video of blood and gore on the news every evening at dinner time. Public opinion and finally political opinion turned against the war effort. US politicians seemed to have learned nothing from the Korean war and from observing the French in Vietnam.

All of these dynamics effected the US soldiers directly. I was drafted into the Army in December, 1967. I was trained and immediately shipped to Vietnam. I served in Vietnam from May, 1968 to July, 1969. My first memory of Nam was also my first breath of it. We had the AC running in the airliner that transported us, so when the stewardess opened the door the heat and humidity blasted in. I remember that first sweat, which would go on for the next fourteen months, and that sick, pungent

smell of death that seemed to be everywhere I went.

I was trained in artillery, so I was deployed to a heavy artillery unit in Tay Ninh Province. I served in a fire support base, north of Tay Ninh city, for fourteen months. During that time, I achieved the rank of sergeant and became a gunner on the big cannons.

I returned to the States in July of 1969. At that point there was no support for the war, and absolutely no respect for those who served. I wore the uniform to fly home, took it off and never again wore it. Like most Nam vets, I took my status "underground", I married and raised a family. I struggled through years of night school to complete my college degree. At that point I did not recognize the effects of PTSD, but I knew I couldn't concentrate well enough to take more than a class or two per semester. I went on diving for cover whenever a car would backfire, awakening in the night at the smallest change of night sounds, and pulling "guard duty", forever.

Vietnam took much from each of us who served. Some gave their last full measure: my unit lost 37 cannoneers. Many returned only to perish from the wounds of battle after years of struggle. Some came back to a life-long struggle with severe handicaps from lost limbs and other severe bodily injuries. We all wait for the potential effects of Agent Orange exposure to show. Most of us struggle every day with the unending effects of our service.

Some things have improved! The VA now tries to welcome us! Most of the veterans' organizations are now manned by vets of our generation, and we are welcomed. My home state (South Dakota) even threw a grand welcome-home party for us, albeit 37 years after I returned from Nam. I guess planning for such an event takes a lot of time!

So to my Nam Vet brothers, welcome home, stay strong, and I am proud to be one among you! Perhaps Johnny Cash said it best:

"I got a little limp now when I walk,
Got a little tremolo when I talk,
But my letter read from Whiskey Sam,
You're a walkin' talkin' miracle from Vietnam,
Drive on....."

To all veterans who have served in the defense of our beloved country, thank you, and I wish you the very best.

Practical Handgun Group Updates

by Gary Braff

Huzzah PHG shooters.

We met, we loaded up, we hit the targets many times. After our safety talk and our repeating NRA safety mantra, we proceeded to warm up on a steel target with a couple of magazines worth of ammo. We then proceeded to shoot all 3 targets, 2 at 15 yards, with the center target steel at 10 yards, with 2 rounds to center mass, then transitioning to 2 rounds to the head area A zone, finishing with 2 rounds to steel target. With the temperatures around 60 degrees it was nice in the sun but almost too cool as the wind picked up. We all agreed that next time, warmer will be better.

We had one new shooter who exceeded all expectations by shooting groups of 3 inches or less, and left smiling and promised to return for more practice.

For all those shooters who would like to practice with us please check the club calendar. We start at 12:30 pm at the 50 yard range and ask people to arrive early to gear up.

Thank you all for making our group so much fun with an emphasis on SAFETY first.

April Rifle Event Updates

by Steve Podlesny

April 19. We held our first of the year benchrest .22 rimfire events with paper targets at 100 yards and Long Gong plates at 200 yards.

Both events were completed before the skies opened up and the rains began. As always the wind makes shooting at these distances challenging. High score for the 100 yard shoot went to Lynn Graham Second place went to Paul Choiniere. The 200 yard Long Gong event was won by Lynn Graham with 63 points, followed by Paul Choiniere with 50 points.



April 26. The 100 yard .223 shoot was held with Kevin Terrell firing a score of 141. It was his first time shooting in this event. Paul Choiniere shot a 140. Our 200 yard center fire event was taken by Lynn Graham with 192/200. Kevin Terrell had a 189 for second. The true winner of the 200 yard shoot was Steve Podlesny who fired a 188 out of 200 with the appropriate larger than .223 caliber round for this scheduled shoot. Ha, Ha!

Skeet & Trap Reminder

We shoot skeet on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday mornings. Please check the calendar. The fee is \$5.00 per round.

Current Email Address Reminder

Remember that your FCSC email is being sent to the last email address on record. If you change your email address, please be sure to notify us. Send your new email to steven.podlesny@gmail.com so we can update our records and you will continue to receive the Newsletter and other communications.

Range Cleanup Reminder

Remember, after you are done shooting, **please pick up ALL OF YOUR EMPTY SHELLS (including brass, nickel, steel and aluminum)** and put them in the recycle bin and remove your used targets.

We have a beautiful facility. Please pitch in to help keep it that way. Thank you.

Keep up with our events on the **FCSC website calendar**
<https://fclsc.org/calendar>

Another Successful Work Bee!

by Greg Isles

The Work Bee was outstanding! I've had several members comment that the facility looked great. I want to thank everyone that participated. You all worked together and did a wonderful job. The list of accomplishments is long: Landscaping for all ranges and main road was completed, the shooting platform behind the warming hut was updated with a new canopy structure, all damaged targets were repaired and face boards were replaced. The skeet fields were cleaned and landscaped and the warming hut was stained along with all shooting range structures that needing additional staining maintenance. Also a sawyer crew cut replacement pieces for all targets from donated lumber. Another crew made needed repairs and updated the .22 rimfire range. And last but not least the most hated job -- the spring cleaning of the clubhouse meeting room and rest rooms!!! Again, I want to thank everyone for a job well done!



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**Call for Newsletter
Contributors**

Would you like to write for the newsletter? Here are a few ideas. A series of **PROFILES** about firearms inventors (e.g, Samuel Colt, Eugene Stoner, Gaston Glock and firearms manufacturers (e.g. S&W, Colt, Ruger, Glock, CCI, Federal, Eley, SK, plus many more) including their histories.

Also, short pieces on:

- Your favorite firearms
- Military branches and their standard issue firearms
- Historic firearms
- Reloading: shotgun and centerfire rounds

A series of **EXPLAINERS**. Here are some ideas.

- Trap & Skeet & other shotgun disciplines
- Rimfire & steel challenge & other disciplines
- Longer range and shorter range precision rifle shooting, benchrest, PRS, NRL22 etc.
- Basics: rimfire vs centerfire, hammer fired vs striker fired, double vs single action
- Types of shotgun shells and shot sizes
- MIL and MOA reticles on scopes

If you have an article idea for the newsletter, please be in touch.

–Holly Lee, *Newsletter Editor*
<hollingtonlee@gmail.com>

**Temporary Suspension of
the Sig Sauer P320**

Effective immediately, the use of the Sig Sauer P320 (all variants) is temporarily suspended at the club. This decision is based on ongoing federal investigations and safety reviews of the P320, including by the U.S. Air Force, following recent incidents under review. Several agencies and shooting organizations have taken similar precautionary steps.

This is not a permanent ban. It is a temporary pause while we await further information. Once the results of these investigations are released, we will revisit this decision.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Safety is our highest priority, and we appreciate everyone's commitment to maintaining a responsible environment.

Clubhouse Security

When you use the clubhouse, please remember to turn off the lights and set the alarm system when you leave.

If someone else is in the building when you leave, make sure that person understands that they must set the alarm system when they leave. Thank you.