

Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



November Newsletter

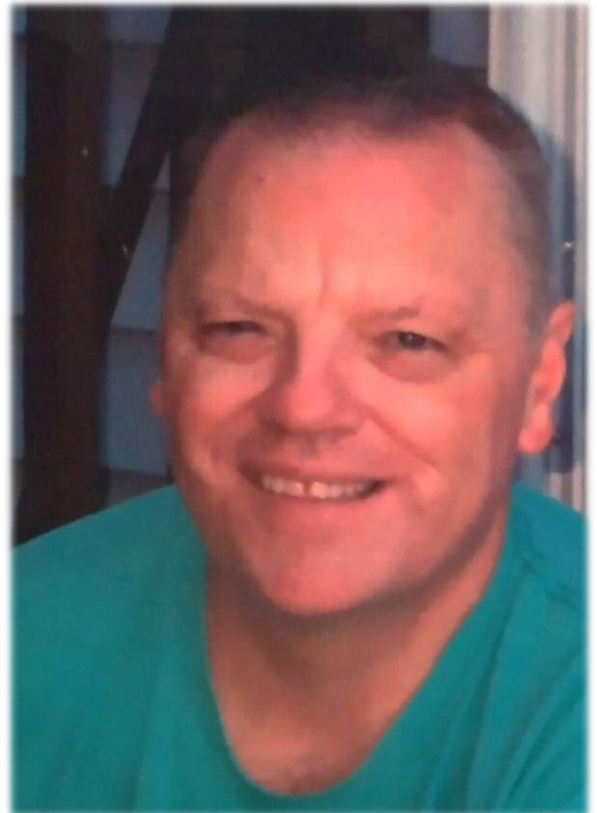
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President's Notes

Well, we are coming into the late fall at the club and winding down our monthly rifle shoots, which, with luck, will continue in 2025 with many new members joining our ranks.

Our weeknight trap and skeet shooting have concluded due to lack of light, not due to lack of interest. Hopefully they, too, will continue in 2025.

Steve Podlesny



We are scheduling a GOAL Gun Law Seminar!

In an attempt to understand the new Massachusetts gun law, we are going to schedule a seminar with the experts of GOAL. We are looking to schedule this event in January or February. We need to assess the interest level for this event in order to estimate crowd size. If you are interested in attending this event, please email Steve (steven.podlesny@gmail.com) to let him know that you will attend.

This two-hour long GOAL seminar attempts to explain the massive changes in state laws and regulations in layperson terms. We will explore applicable Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) and the Code of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR) as they pertain to definitions, gun purchase, possession, transport, record-

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keeping requirements, buying/selling, interstate transport, interstate purchase, ammunition storage and best practices for gun owners.

Jon Green has been the Director of Education and Training for Gun Owners' Action League since 1999. He served on the NSSF (Firearm Industry Trade Association) Range Advisory Committee for four years and has owned and managed FFL 01 Businesses. He has taught similar classes to thousands of citizens, hundreds of Mass State Police BFS Certified Instructors, Massachusetts Hunter Education Instructors, and Massachusetts Environmental Police Officers. Again, if you are interested in attending this event, please email Steve (steven.podlesny@gmail.com) to let him know that you will attend.

Monthly Meeting Review & Schedule Change Reminder

Please remember that the old monthly general meetings have been changed to a new *quarterly* meeting schedule. The remaining membership meeting for the year will be held on Wednesday, December 18, 2024. Larry Kleinschmidt

Membership Growth - 2024

FCSC has welcomed 46 new members through October this year! We would like to thank the membership team: Bob Gosselin, Gary Braff and Sandy Magill, for their outstanding work with our new members.

Larry Kleinschmidt

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The Welcome Wagon

In October we welcomed the following new members: Brian Skorb, Tim Agapov, DeAnthony Norales, John Waynelovich, and Ed MacGray. We hope that 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 year; check them out. We have one more rifle event in November; come check it 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



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

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Coming Events

In November we have skeet on both Saturday and Sunday mornings; the mid-week sessions are cancelled due to lack of daylight. The Board of Directors will meet on Thursday evening, November 14th. Tracey will teach the Basic Home Firearms Safety course on Saturday, November 23rd at 9AM. The Practical Handgun Group will also meet on Saturday, November 23rd, starting at 12:30PM. The 100-Yard Centerfire Benchrest Event is scheduled for Sunday, November 24th at 10AM, followed immediately by the 200-Yard Centerfire Benchrest Event (this is the last scheduled event for both; we will resume these competitions in the spring). The 100-Yard Rimfire Competition Events will return in the spring.

The UMass Police will be using the 50-yard range on November 12th – 14th, and again on November 18th – 20th; these will be afternoon sessions.

The pistol and rifle ranges are open every day for your enjoyment. Note that during time of year we lose daylight about 5:30PM, so plan your shooting accordingly. Keep up with our events on the website calendar:

<https://fclsc.org/d/0/?thisMonth=6&thisYear=2024&cid=0&tid=0>

Larry Kleinschmidt

Call for New Candidates for Office for 2025

The new year will find the club needing to fill many positions for office. We have many members on the Board of Directors and Executive Board who cannot run again due to term limits. Nominations for these positions will be requested in December. Please consider running for office; we need your help.

Steve Podlesny

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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

A rectangular sign with a light grey background and bold, black, sans-serif capital letters that read "PICK UP YOUR BRASS".

The Farming Has Begun!



As you know, we have rented the front meadow to a local farmer. He has plowed that ground in preparation for his organic pumpkin and squash crop in the spring.

Larry Kleinschmidt

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22 Rimfire Event Results -October 20, 2024



On Sunday, October 20th we have completed the monthly 22 rimfire matches with 10 shooters coming out to fire 20 rounds for a match score. Just to change things up, we all fired the same type of 22 rimfire ammunition, and Greg Isles came out on top with a score of 180 out of 200. Take good care of the Champion's Cup, Greg! We will, hopefully, start a new round of matches in April 2025.

Steve Podlesny

100-Yard .223 Bench Rest Event -October 27, 2024

On Sunday, October 27th we held the next-to-last 100-yard .223 centerfire match with 5 shooters coming out. As always, the competition between shooters was high, with the winning score of 146 out of 150 being shot by Lynn Graham. We will try to get another shoot in on November 24th, if the weather holds.

Steve Podlesny



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200-Yard Centerfire Competition

Our 200-yard shoot was also held on October 27th, with only 4 shooters competing. Lynn Graham came out on top with 187 out of 200, shooting a Savage .223 with 52-grain bullets. Next year we hope to get more shooters involved in this event.

Steve Podlesny

Clubhouse Security

When you visit the club, you are welcome to use the clubhouse, but please remember to 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

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. Also, please consider running for office this January; we have positions to be filled!

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

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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

Referendum Signing Event Review/ H4895 Comments

I'm sure you are aware that our wonderful Governor signed into law, H4885 under an emergency order on the very controversial new gun law changes. It was to become effective on October 23, 2024 but she made it effective immediately. It was such an emergency to sign this into law in her eyes, but very little of the law is being implemented because no one in the government knows how to implement many of the provisions of the law.

The changes to the new LTC firearms licensing have been postponed for 18 months because the State Police Commander does not have the proper language to enforce it.

Very little changes have taken place as to which long guns are legal or not legal because they have not developed a list of firearms that are approved for sale. It is pretty much the same as before the new laws went into effect. Pistols which were legal before the new law are still legal now. So-called assault weapons that were legal to sell before are still legal to sell now.

The only new thing being done now is recording all ammo sales to the person purchasing. So, as you can see, this was truly an emergency.

The story is just beginning on the new gun laws as over 90,000 signatures were given to the Secretary of State in Massachusetts to get a repeal question on the 2026 ballot for voters to decide. Hopefully this gets approved and voters will make the decision on this. There will be more to come as GOAL releases the news.

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Practical Handgun Group

On October 12th the handgunners met and set up cardboard targets. We started off with our safety talk and moved onto precision firing, trying to make our shot groupings as small as possible, from three yards. We repeated this at five yards and then again at seven yards; some succeeded. It was a learning experience, and we



looked forward to our next.

I was watching the news and was concerned when I saw someone shooting steel targets at less than 10 yards. What amazed me was that anyone with knowledge of firearms would even think it was safe to shoot steel at less than this distance, let alone with a high-power rifle or a shotgun or with Tannerite canisters sitting on a table just in front of the shooters on the firing line. My major concern is safety, and this demonstration was wrong on so many levels. It turned out to prove my point and drive it home when an observer was injured by SPALLING, pieces and fragments of the bullet that are kicked back toward the firing line after striking the steel target. I hope that new shooters will take this as a lesson to never shoot steel close up. It could be deadly. Thank you

Huzzah Shooters!

Gary Braff

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New Pavilions, 2024

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GUNPOWDER

Gunpowder is an intimate mixture of saltpetre, charcoal and sulphur: the earliest formula, that of Roger Bacon, gives the proportions as 7:5:5, or 41% saltpetre, 29½% charcoal and 29½% sulphur. This gradually changed, the percentage of saltpetre increasing, until by the end of the 18th century it had reached its final form: 75% saltpetre, 15% charcoal and 10% sulphur.

The earliest powder was called 'serpentine' and was a finely ground powder. This had certain defects: packed tightly in a gun chamber it was difficult to ignite and slow to burn, and in storage and transport had a distinct tendency to separate out into its constituent parts. During the 15th

century the French invented 'corned' powder, in which the three substances were mixed together in the wet state (which was a much safer method than dry mixing) and the resulting paste dried. This was then crumbled and passed through sieves to produce granular powder. Such powder was more efficient in the gun, since the interstices between the grains allowed faster ignition and combustion, and since each grain was a solid compound the individual substances could not separate out. Early woodcuts show various stages in the making of powder: chopping the charcoal, wet-mixing the powder, breaking up the 'press-cake' and sieving the grains.



From Firearms Encyclopedia, Ian V. Hogg, Author