



October / November 2025 Newsletter



President's Notes

by Mark Brennan

As the season turns and we close out another busy year at FCSC, I want to take a moment to thank everyone who continues to make this club such a special community.

The Summer Picnic was a great success. Many thanks to everyone who cooked, decorated, and pitched in to make it such a memorable day. Our presence at the Franklin County Fair also carried on a forty-year tradition of outreach and education. The enthusiasm from fair visitors reminded us how important it is to promote safe and responsible firearms ownership in our community. The latest Work Bee was well attended, and we got a lot accomplished.

I also want to welcome our newest members. Please get involved, meet your fellow shooters, and take advantage of all that FCSC offers. Whether you're drawn to rifle, shotgun, or handgun disciplines, there's a place for you here.

Finally, I'd like to encourage all members to start thinking about board service. Elections will be here before we know it, with ballots going out toward the end of the year. Serving on the board is one of the best ways to give back to the Club and help shape its future. If you've been considering it, now's the perfect time to step forward.

Thank you all for your ongoing support. See you on the range!

Summer Picnic 2025

by Justin Sessions

On September 13th, members came together for our Summer Picnic, and it was one you did not want to miss! The weather couldn't have been better, with sunshine and warm September air. Burgers and hot dogs were perfectly done on the Blackstone grill by Neal Pruchansky and Gabe Sebert, while members shared an incredible variety of sides and desserts, including gluten-free zucchini bread, American chop suey, macho mac & cheese, peach & blueberry crumble, and more.

We had more than 30 members attend, with about half volunteering to make the day a success. A huge thank you goes out to Julie Page, Gary Braff, Hollington Lee, Kris Walter, Sue and Larry Channel, Larry Kleinschmidt, Mark Holley, Neal Pruchansky, Gabe Sebert, Ted and Jenn Alpert, and Tracey and Steve Crowningshield for all their time and effort. I do apologize if I missed anyone. The picnic area looked festive with fall-themed decorations — pumpkins, gourds, cornstalks, and cheerful balloons bringing it all together. It was a wonderful day of food, collaboration, and fun for everyone who joined! We hope to see more of you next year!



Welcome to the Club!

Welcome to our new members: **Ben Wheeler, Kaylee Sayers, Edmund Bates, Dane Olson, Procheta Olson, Scott Murphy, Elizabeth Murphy, Eric Lehan, Sal Cincotta, Bryna Ziobro, Despina Hoffman, John Warriner, Catherine Warriner, Natasha Blackwell-Shire and Joshua Freund.**

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!

Summer Picnic 2025



Keep up with our
events on the **FCSC**
website calendar
[https://fclsc.org/
calendar](https://fclsc.org/calendar)

Winchester Repeating Arms Co.

by Larry Kleinschmidt

Oliver Winchester was born in Boston in 1810. His first experience in business was as a maker of men's shirts. His Winchester shirt is still a style in men's clothing.

In 1857, Oliver Winchester purchased the Volcanic Arms Company, which was in bankruptcy, from Smith & Wesson. Winchester began design work with inventors Benjamin Tyler Henry and Nelson King. Finally, in 1866 the Winchester Repeating Arms Company was formed. That same year, Winchester offered his first rifle, the Model 1866 "Yellow Boy" lever-action rifle with a polished brass receiver. This was the first gun to bear the Winchester name. The original rifle was chambered in .44 Henry rimfire. Eventually it was modified to



accommodate the .44 Henry centerfire cartridge. The Yellow Boy was a significant improvement over the old Henry rifle (note, Benjamin Henry was part of the Yellow Boy development

team). This rifle became popular in both the civilian and military markets.

Winchester's next model, the Model 1873 lever-action rifle, was introduced in 44-40 WCF. This rifle became known as "The Gun That Won the West." More than 700,000 were produced. In 1875, "Buffalo Bill" famously endorsed the Winchester saying, "...I pronounce your improved Winchester the boss!" In 1875, Winchester began marketing the premium-quality Model 1873s as "One of One-Hundred" and "One of One-Thousand." These are the most sought after by Winchester collectors.

In 1876, Lt. Colonel Custer and 267 of his Seventh



Cavalry command were massacred at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. His command was armed with Springfield Trapdoor single-shot rifles, while the Indians were largely armed with

Winchester repeating rifles.

In 1880 Oliver Winchester passed away in New Haven, Connecticut. In 1883, Winchester made an agreement with John Browning. In the following years, Browning designs included lever models 1886, 1887, 1892, 1894 and 1895, also, the Model 1885 falling-block single-shot rifle, and the 1897 pump shotgun.

In 1931 Winchester went into receivership and was purchased by the Western Cartridge Company (which later became the Olin Corporation.) Winchester was involved making weapons under contract for World War I and for World War II. In 2016, Winchester introduced a series of classic commemoratives including the 1866 Yellow Boy.

Currently the Winchester brand is owned by the Olin Corporation and is licensed to several companies, such as Miroku Corporation, Japan, FN Herstal and Browning Arms Company.

Maintenance Shout-outs

- Thanks to Dave Wartel for building a beautiful, ambidextrous shooting table for the rimfire range.
- Thanks also to Bill Taylor and Brian Bird who have been weed whacking the berms.
- Thanks to Steve Podlesny and Mike Winn for a great job mowing.

Thanks to all who contribute to the maintenance of the club. We're grateful for your help.

When you perform any maintenance task, please record it on the whiteboard in the clubhouse. Your efforts keep the club looking great!

You're a New Member – What's Next?

by Tim Houle

You bought your first gun, joined the club, and maybe even tried out a few of our shooting activities. That's a great start—but where do you go from here?

One of the best things you can do is keep learning. There are plenty of training opportunities, from basic safety refreshers to self-defense and concealed carry classes. These courses are designed to help you move beyond just hitting the target—they'll teach you how to draw from concealment, react under pressure, and carry with confidence.

But classes are only the beginning. The real progress comes with practice. The more time you spend working on your draw, your grip, and your accuracy, the more natural it will feel. Before long, carrying and handling your firearm will become second nature.

And don't forget—shooting is more fun with friends. Get involved in matches or practice nights. Not only will you sharpen your skills, but you'll also meet other members who can share tips and experiences.

Finally, consider protecting yourself off the range as well. Even in a clear-cut case of self-defense, the legal process can be costly and stressful. Having the right self-defense liability insurance may help safeguard your assets and your family, should you ever face litigation.

The bottom line: keep training, keep practicing, stay active, and stay protected. That's how you'll grow from a new member into a confident, capable shooter.

Skeet & Trap Reminder

We shoot skeet on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday mornings. Please check the calendar. The cost of a round of skeet or trap is \$5.00.

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 your brass and put it 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.

Practical Handgun Group Update

by Gary Braff

The October PHG events were sparsely attended but still fun.

If you are carrying or wish to, I suggest you practice with us as often as you can.

Many things affect your preparedness and accuracy.

- Your grip. Be sure your firearm fits you.
- Trigger squeeze. Use the pad of your trigger finger and only allow it to move instead of the rest of your grip.
- Sight picture. Eye dominance and placing the front and rear sight in the correct alignment.
- Position of firearm. Bring the firearm up to a comfortable position so your body is balanced and steady.
- Breathing. Your shot should happen at the bottom of your breath as your heart is in respiratory pause.

Come to our sessions to learn more and practice, practice, practice.

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

Rifle Event Updates

by Steve Podlesny

What a beautiful day we had for the **September** 100 yard .22 rimfire shoot. We are maintaining interest and gaining a few new participants each month. As usual the wind continues to make it difficult to achieve the perfect score, but all shooters are seeing improvement. Top gun goes to Paul



Choiniere shooting 178/200, followed closely by Dave Wartel with 172 and Steve Podlesny at 170.

September 28 was our next to last 100- and 200-yard rifle shoot, and it was one to remember. There were 8

shooters, and with each month the competition gets better and better. When the 100-yard event was completed, we had three shooters with a top score of 141/150. To find the winner, we matched targets with Paul Choiniere having the most tens on top, followed by Steve Podlesny, and Lynn Graham. Our 200-yard event was also exciting, with a two-way tie at the end -- Lynn Graham and Steven Podlesny both having a score of 189/200. Breaking out the impact cheater, Steven Podlesny was found to have broken the line on one more ten than Lynn and won the match with 190 points. **Sunday, October 19** was the last .22 rimfire shoot at 100 yards with 6 shooters turning out for this event. Weather was good with a little wind but scores were still very good. Top gun with 170/200 was Paul Choiniere followed by Steve Podlesny with 168 and Dave Wartel with 167. We will continue these shoots in April 2026.

On **October 19** we also tried out a new .22 rimfire event, the **Long Gong Challenge**. With this event a .22 rimfire rifle and scope is used at 200 yards to reach out and hit three different size targets. They are 8" (1 pt), 6" (2 pts) and finally 4" (3 pts). Yes, a .22 can shoot very well and be accurate at 200 yards. The actual course should be fired at 300 yards but we

don't have the yardage at the club. For our first event, 6 club members came out, and all had a blast. We will be shooting again on November 2 (check the club website and e-mail notice). After the dust had settled, Steve Podlesny scored 41 pts with 30 shots fired. Second place went to Paul Choiniere with 39 pts and Kevin Terrell with 38 pts. Next time it will run much smoother and we will be increasing the shots to 50. All the shoots we run are open to all club members and are not too competitive so no one should be intimidated to come and try it out. I only ask that you sight-in your .22 beforehand for 200 yards. Hope to see you next time.

There is no better smell than burnt gun powder which we enjoyed on a cool October morning on **October 26** for our final .223 100-yard shoot. Five shooters came out with Lynn Graham coming out on top with a 145/150. Paul Choiniere was second with a 141. This was our last shoot of the 2025 season but hopefully we will all be here in April 2026 to start again. We also used our .233 rifles at 200 yards with 20 rounds fired, which again resulted in Lynn Graham having the winning score of 188/200. Paul Choiniere posted a 177. All the events are posted on the club calendar on the website.

We've been having a lot of fun this year on the rifle ranges and would welcome some new faces to come watch and hopefully participate. Everyone is more than willing to share their experience and answer any questions you may have to get you started. Hope to see you next year.

2025 FCSC Board of Directors

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Mark Brennan

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Secretary:

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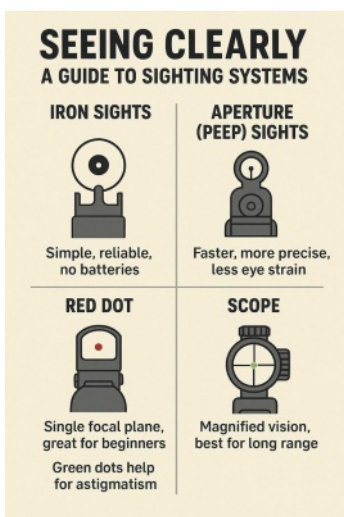
Clifford Wilkinson

Seeing Clearly: A Guide to Sighting Systems for Every Shooter

by Tim Houle



If you've ever squinted down a barrel, trying to line up a tiny dot on a target, you know that the right sight can make the difference between a bullseye and... well, a very enthusiastic hole in the wrong place. Sighting systems have evolved dramatically over the centuries, and today's options cater to everyone from beginners to seasoned marksmen—and yes, they're increasingly important for older shooters too.



A Brief History of Sights

The earliest firearms relied on sheer luck—or skillful improvisation. Simple “open sights,” essentially a notch and post, have been around for hundreds of years. By the 19th century, more refined

aperture sights (or “peep sights”) became popular, allowing shooters to align a small front post within a rear circular hole, improving accuracy dramatically. The 20th century brought optics into the mainstream, first with telescopic scopes for long-range shooting and hunting, and later with red dot sights, which revolutionized speed and target acquisition in competitive and defensive shooting.

Iron Sights

The classic notch-and-post system, iron sights are reliable, durable, and don't require batteries. They're excellent for teaching fundamental marksmanship—learning to align front and rear sights properly is a foundational skill. However, older eyes or beginning

shooters often struggle with focus and alignment, especially in low light or with small targets.

Tip: Taller front sights, larger rear apertures, or high-contrast paint can help older or less experienced shooters line up shots more easily.

Aperture (Peep) Sights

Peep sights improve on standard iron sights by allowing your eye to automatically center the front sight in the rear aperture. This often translates to faster, more consistent shots and less eye strain. They're particularly useful for older shooters, as the “eye naturally centers” principle reduces the cognitive load of aiming.

Fun fact: Competitive shooters in Olympic-style rifle events swear by aperture sights for sub-millimeter precision.

Red Dot Sights

Red dots project a luminous aiming point onto a lens, letting shooters keep both eyes open while aiming. This dramatically improves situational awareness and target acquisition speed. For beginners, red dots eliminate much of the frustration of misaligned iron sights. For older shooters with presbyopia (age-related near-vision decline), the single focal plane of a red dot can make aiming far easier.

Pro tip: Modern red dots are almost maintenance-free, but make sure the battery is fresh—nothing ends a practice session faster than a dead dot.

Scopes

Scopes provide magnification and reticles for precision shooting, making them ideal for long-range hunting or target shooting. However, magnification can be disorienting for new shooters, and mounting height or eye relief must be carefully adjusted to avoid “scope bite” or misalignment. Older shooters may appreciate variable zoom scopes, which reduce eye strain by letting them focus comfortably at various distances.

(continued on next page)

Seeing Clearly (continued)

Looking Ahead: The Future of Sights

Technology continues to push the limits of aiming systems. Smart optics with ballistic calculators, adjustable reticles, and even heads-up displays for personal marksmanship may soon be standard. However, no matter how advanced sights become, mastering the fundamentals—stance, grip, breathing, and trigger control—remains crucial.

Choosing the Right Sight

- Beginners: Red dots or aperture sights reduce frustration and accelerate learning.
- Older shooters: Aperture sights or red dots with high-contrast aiming points reduce eye strain and improve accuracy.
- Precision enthusiasts: Scopes provide unparalleled long-range capability, but require practice to maximize potential.
- Traditionalists: Iron sights remain a reliable, no-nonsense choice that builds foundational skills.

In the end, the “best” sight is the one that matches your eyes, experience, and the purpose of your shooting. Whether you enjoy the timeless feel of iron sights, the speed of a red dot, or the magnified clarity of a scope, there’s never been a better time to explore your options. And remember: even the fanciest sight can’t fix poor fundamentals—but it sure makes the learning curve more fun.

Try the Shotgun Challenge!



Our next Shotgun Challenge will be held on **Saturday, November 15 at 8:30am**. The Shotgun Challenge is shot with any repeating shotgun, semiauto, pump, or if you're feeling like a cowboy, a double will be fun, too. The targets are the same clays we shoot for skeet and trap, but they will be stationary on stands. Shotgun Challenge is basically the Steel Challenge, but with shotguns and clay pigeons instead of steel plates. The shoot will consist of three stages with five to seven targets per stage. Every shooter will shoot each stage three times, on the clock, and your two best times will count.

Bring three boxes of #7.5, 8 or 9 target loads and you should go home with ammo to spare.

This is a fun shoot, not a serious competition. Try something new and share in the FUN with us!

For questions, contact **Ed Cialek** at hawgleg44@gmail.com.



Thanks to the newsletter team

Whether writing articles or providing updates, all of you who contribute to the newsletter are much appreciated! Thank you!

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.

40 Years at the Franklin County Fair

by Mark St. Amand

We had a great turnout of volunteers to staff the FCSC booth at this year's fair. I learned from Steve Podlesny, long-time club member and past president, that the club has had a continuous presence at the Franklin County Fair in the same spot in the Fish and Game Building for almost 40 years! It is such a great way to showcase our club, and shooting sports in general, in a friendly and welcoming way and fair visitors respond.

Current president and fair volunteer Mark Brennan says, "We had a lot of people interested in the club and the LTC course. Hopefully we steered a few folks into Tracey's class in September." A lot of people stopped to chat, watch a little of our slideshow or take part in our 50/50 raffle and our free \$100 School Supplies raffle. The latter is especially popular with parents of young children and teachers. Also popular were the pocket U.S. Constitution booklets. One woman, a teacher, got excited when she saw them and asked to take two to use as incentive prizes in her class.

Thanks to all our volunteers: Ed Kaczinski, Steve Crowningshield, Kris Walter, Steve Podlesny, Pat O'Bryan, Mark Brennan, Gene Lavoie, Shelly

Hoyt, Paul Choiniere, Janet Choiniere, Ryan Mackenzie, Jasmine Capeles, Gary Braff, RM Pace, Jimmy Costa, Adam Martin, David Berry, Julie Page, and Jon Van Zandt. Thanks to Larry Kleinschmidt for the picture and video slideshow and for helping set up and tear down the booth. Thank you to Treasurer Tracey Crowningshield for getting us the parking passes and tickets. Great job everyone! Next year the tradition continues!



Rimfire Challenge Update

We had a great inaugural season this year, with three well-attended events so far, and the last one of the season to be held on Sat, 11/1. We'll be doing this again next year so watch for updates



in the newsletter and club emails. We have three stages set up on the rimfire range so you can practice at any time. It's so much fun to hear



those targets *PING* and shooting fast is a blast! This is a fun shoot, not a serious competition. Please consider joining us, meet some new people and enjoy our amazing community.

Send questions to **Hollington Lee** at hollingtonlee@gmail.com.

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Clay Shooting Summer Recap

by Pat O'Bryan

This summer the club finally installed two new skeet machines. They are nice machines that are easy to operate. The two machines they replaced will be refurbished and they will replace the two machines in the second skeet field. It is my understanding that those two machines are extremely old and they look it. Now the main field will have basic skeet and the 2nd field will have the option for basic or "Wobble" skeet.



The Trap field is working well although refilling the machine is a bit of a pain right now.

The club's supply of clay targets is getting low so a truckload has been ordered and is supposed to be here in the middle of November. This load should last a couple years and the club was able to get them at the same price as the last load. That's a good deal.

Skeet is still shot at 10 am on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday as well as 4 pm on Thursday and should continue through the winter. One of the regular shooters, Ed Ciezak is accompanied by his wife, Marge, who brings homemade cookies every day, nice perk. A big Thank You, Marge, from all of us! Trap is shot on Saturday at noon and Wednesday at 4 pm. Both skeet and trap afternoon shoots will continue as long as daylight allows.

I considered myself a pretty good shot with both a rifle and a handgun. When I started shooting skeet this year, I knew there was a learning curve, but how hard can it be?

After all, you always stand in the same designated

spots on the course, the targets are launched from the same place, at the same speed, in the exact same trajectory every time and it isn't launched until you ask for it. No surprises. Piece of cake! You even get to use a scattergun.

So, let's say it's challenging. No, it's HARD! Shooting a 25/25 is a feat to be recognized. So here is a list of those that I know have shot 25/25 this year. I apologize if I missed anyone.

- Bob Anderson more than once
- Ray Sampson more than once
- Bob Crowley more than once and one time with a .410!
- Bob Tefft
- Tom Putnam

Congratulations and thank you for the pointers that have helped me get better.

In other news; the son of Willie Samson, (a senior member of the club) owns Samson Mfg. which makes firearms accessories. They have just started importing a line of O/U shotguns under the Samson name. I'm hearing good things about them and they are available at Highlander Arms, Spofford, NH.

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 promptly.

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

Fall Work Bee, October 2025

by Greg Isles

Another club Work Bee is in the record books. I want to thank everyone who was able to participate: Steve Podlesny, Hollington Lee, Matthew Yoczik, Amelia Yoczik, Jim Humphrey, Steve Shumway, Don Martin, Lynn Graham, Paul Choiniere, Myles Healy, Bob Gosselin, Larry Channel, Ron Michonski, Mark Brennan, Gary Braff, Tyler Picking, Lou Beaulieu, Bob Tefft, Bob Anderson, Nelson Bernard, Julie Page, Ollie Bratton, and Scott Conti.

I would also like to thank two members who were unable to make the actual event date. Brian Bird spent several hours weed whacking around the berms and Dave Wartel spent several hours building a bench-rest table for the rimfire range.



I am always amazed at all we accomplish in those few hours by a group of people who in many cases don't know each other but work collectively to get the ranges, grounds and buildings looking outstanding.

Here is what you accomplished:

- all target faces replaced on all ranges
- all target frames repaired as needed
- new reactive target frame constructed and erected on the 200-yard range
- all trash cans on all ranges and in and around the club buildings emptied in dumpster along with debris picked up on all ranges (three new spare bags were left in the bottom of each barrel. If you see a full barrel feel free to tie it up and dispose of it in the dumpster. You won't hurt my feelings).
- several ranges had range yardage stakes put in place to determine distance from firing line to target frames
- a new toilet paper holder was installed in the large restroom
- the archery rack in the clubhouse was moved to the tool room along with other archery materials

- various items were moved in the clubhouse to make room for a load of clay pigeons for trap and skeet events and increase work space for later projects. Sheet rock and insulation was also added to make the workspace more finished.

Last but certainly not least, thanks to the culinary staff, Julie Page and Amelia Yoczik, they put on a super meal. The cheeseburgers and hotdogs, along with baked beans, potato salad, chips and lemonade were enjoyed by all. No one should have left hungry!

