

# Franklin County Sportsmen's Club

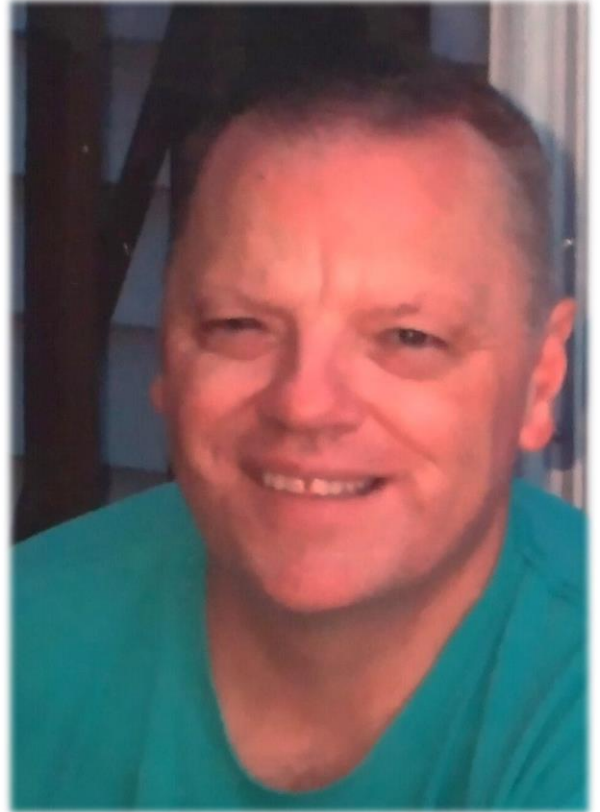


## *October Newsletter*

October 4, 2024

### **President's Notes**

Where has the time gone? We are officially into fall and the weather is turning quicker than I like. I encourage everyone to get to the club and enjoy our wonderful facility. This year we have held some interesting shooting events to get people out and interact with other members. The practical handgun group, and the three times per month rifle shooting events have seen a lot of interest, also our skeet and trap shooting, held weekly, continues to maintain a solid base of participation. I have always maintained that you get back from the club what you put into it. We have an amazing facility, one of the best in the area. Our big challenge is that we are outside of the major population centers, and no one knows we are here. Please continue to support the club as best



you can. It would be a sad day if we are forced to close due to lack of participation by the members or if the state government is able to implement the recently enacted firearms restrictions.

Steve Podlesny

### **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

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### **The Welcome Wagon**

In September we welcomed the following new members: Gary Weber, Miles Palmer, Dave Clark, Zack Berk, Eric Lucentini, Rich Moody, Cameron Powers, and Chester Yazwinski. We hope 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 summer; check them 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



### **Coming Events**

In October we have: (1) Skeet on Thursday evenings, and on both Saturday and Sunday mornings, (2) the 100-Yard Benchrest Event for .22 rifles on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, (3) on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, we have Trap at 5PM, (4) the 100-Yard Centerfire Benchrest Event happens on Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 10AM, followed immediately by the 200-Yard Centerfire Benchrest Event, (5) Tracey will teach the Basic Home Firearms Safety course on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 9AM, and (6) the Practical Handgun Group meets on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> and again on the Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:30PM. The UMass Police will be using the 50-yard range on the morning of Wednesday, October 9, and Amherst College Police will be on the range on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, from 5PM to 9PM.

The pistol and rifle ranges are open every day for your enjoyment! Keep up with our events on the website calendar:

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

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### **Skeet & Trap Shoot Reminder**



We shoot skeet on Thursday evening and on both Saturday and Sunday mornings, and trap on the third Wednesday evening of each month. 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

### **Membership Growth - 2024**

FCSC has welcomed 41 new members so far 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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### September Work Bee Review



*Chef Amelia Yoczik at the grill!*

brush) on all the berms; loading birds in skeet sheds; cleaning skeet machinery; rebuilding/replacing parts on all the target stands; painting all steel targets white; staining the front and back of the rifle range pavilion; mounting new target facings; installing bird spikes on the veranda wiring; painting all range tables; leveling the steel shipping container; leveling the small steel shed; cutting replacement target facings and storing them in the warming shed; staining eighty-five percent of new steel range pavilion; adding floor covering in the shop; replacing 2x8 deck board on the shipping platform, and mulching around the sign at the front entrance. **A big thank-you to Amelia Yoczik, who cooked for us!** It was a very productive work bee, many thanks to all who helped out.

Larry Kleinschmidt

FCSC held its Fall Work Bee on September 28, 2024! We had a great turnout; 30 members attended! We thank all those who spent their Saturday morning improving the FCSC club site. We accomplished a lot of projects in that short four-hour period.

Projects accomplished include: staining the tool shed; finishing building the tables on the new steel plate range pavilion; cutting brush (and removing



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### **Steel Plate Pavilion Review**

On your next visit to our club, you will notice our plate range now has a permanent range cover. The days of putting up and taking down a tent, or worrying



if the wind would throw it in the woods are over. This is a project we have been hoping to complete for many years.

During our recent work bee we started to stain the pavilion, but there is still work

to be done to complete the job. Anyone interested in this job, please get in touch with me – [steven.podlesny@gmail.com](mailto:steven.podlesny@gmail.com)

Steve Podlesny

### **Trap Building Repair Review**

Recently we performed some needed repairs to our trap house due to many years of service and water damage which accumulated over the last 50 years. Because the water table on the property is very high, in the spring we pump water out every day. The repairs were relatively simple: 8 legs on the table supporting the trap machine were replaced due water damage. At the same time, we took the opportunity to update the electrical systems in the house to meet today's current requirements. We are all set for the foreseeable future. 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 photograph of a white rectangular sign with black text that reads "PICK UP YOUR BRASS" in all caps. The sign is mounted on a wall or post.

### **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.

Steve Podlesny

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### **22 Rimfire Event Results**

Our next-to-last 22 Rimfire shoot for this year was held on Sunday, September 22, 2024 with 10 members attending. I was glad to see some new faces in the group. Everyone had a good time, which is the objective of all our rifle shoots. When we totalled up the scores, Paul Choniere was top gun for a second time with 189 out of 200 points. Close behind were Lynn Graham and Steve Podlesny with 184.



If the 22 Rimfire event is something you want to try, we have one additional event scheduled on Sunday, October 20, 2024 at 10AM. Everyone who has participated so far has enjoyed both the event and the friendly club members they meet.

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

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### **100 Yard .223 Bench Rest Event –September 29, 2024**



We had another beautiful day at the club with 7 shooters attending the morning's shoot. As we near the end of our schedule with October 27<sup>th</sup> being the last event of the calendar year. If you want to shoot or see what it is all about for next year, come on down. All the shooters are becoming very good, and the competition is stiff for that perfect 150 score. For the event, the top gun was Lynn Graham with 146. Very close behind were Paul Choiniere with 145 in second place and Steve Podlesny with 142 in third.

Steve Podlesny

### **200-Yard Centerfire Competition**

At the conclusion of the 100-yard .223 shoot we proceeded with our 200-yard rifle shoot. We had three participants all firing .223 caliber rifles with the following results: Lynn Graham for a second time was top gun with a score of 196 out of 200 followed by Greg Isles at 190, and Steve Podlesny with 186. All these scores are very good at the 200-yard distance, with the difference between a 10 and a 9 score being only millimeters.

Steve Podlesny



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### **2024 Franklin County Fair Review**

FCSC had excellent representation at this year's Franklin County Fair! From our club booth in the Fish and Game Building we greeted and interacted with lots of fairground visitors. The fair is always a great opportunity to let people in the area know about the club and let the community see that regular, everyday people, their friends and neighbors, enjoy safe shooting.



Thank you to all our volunteers: Bob Gosselin, Steve Podlesny, Mark St. Amand, Gary Braff, Alec Thompson, Steve Crowningshield, Julie Page, Tom Neill, Rachel Katz, Shelly Hoyt, Eugene Lavoie, Kris Walter, Steve Levin, Paul

Choiniere, Janet Choiniere, Ryan MacKenzie and Jasmine Capeles.

Thank you also to Larry Kleinschmidt for making a great slide show and helping set up and tear down the booth. And thank you to Julie Page for helping set up and tear down and for implementing a new "free lunch" at the Leyden Church booth for our volunteers. Good job everyone!

Mark St.Amand

### **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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### **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 address 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

### **Front Property Clean-up – Farming Lease Announcement**

You may have noticed that we have cleaned up the remaining section of our property to the right of our entry to the club. This was needed for a few reasons. Our neighbor was attempting to exercise an adverse possession claim on this section to claim it as her own. This claim now cannot proceed. The second reason is that we have obtained an agreement with a local farmer to farm this piece in 2025. This will greatly reduce the mowing and maintenance of this piece by our club.  
Steve Podlesny

### **Referendum Signing Event Review/ H4895 Comments**

On September 14<sup>th</sup> the club held a signing event from 10AM – 4PM to gather signatures of registered voters in Massachusetts to hopefully stall and repeal the implementation of the new firearms laws which will have a serious impact on all firearms owners in Massachusetts. If you have not read about the ramifications of this, please do a little research as it is not just about so-called assault weapons, but concerns all self-feeding firearms, shotguns and long guns as well. We are hoping to obtain the signature of 50,000 registered voters to accomplish this feat. If this fails, it could end the shooting sports we all enjoy.  
Steve Podlesny

Steve Podlesny

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### Practical Handgun Group

### Huzzah Shooters!

On Saturday, September 14, 2024, our practice was a huge success. We started off



with our safety talk, explaining the five safety rules. After that we talked about basics of good shooting, such as stance, grip, proper finger on trigger position, sighting and sight picture, and finally, breath control. All basic knowledge, but reviewed just the same. Then we reviewed the handout on the five-by-five drill and explained how it was going to be executed. The best part was that each person came up with the best way to use their magazines and the shot count

for a great result. The 8 members in attendance were helpful in setting up the drill, and we had all of them up their game to achieve a new level of expertise. The five-by-five drill was not easy! We ran it fewer times than we might have wished, but we have set bench marks for each individual. When we shoot this drill again in a couple of months, each shooter has an idea of what they want to work on. It was a great start for all who had not shot this drill before. The Practical Handgun Group will practice again on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> and on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:30PM (if you can come early and help with set-up, it will be greatly appreciated). Gary Braff



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### **UPDATE ON THE H4885 GUN LAW**

On October 2, 2024 Gov. Maura Healey signed into law an emergency order to implement the H4885 gun law. This law is not to be effective until the end of October, but she felt the need to implement it earlier to save us all. With this signing we are all now criminals.

As a result of this historic assault on civil rights, an effort was undertaken to bring a repeal of the law before the citizens of the Commonwealth. If enough signatures had been gathered, the entire law would have been suspended until a referendum was placed before the voters in November of 2026. Because it was clear that volunteers were well on their way to collect the tens of thousands of signatures necessary, the Governor pulled a very rare maneuver. The radical move was to attach an emergency order to the new law, thus circumventing its suspension, regardless of the will of the people.

On the very same day that Governor Healey promised to sign an emergency preamble to Chapter 135, yet another suspension of the new mandates came from her agencies. [Guidance Letter #2](#) deals with licensed firearm retailers.

As the Governor moved to enact Chapter 135 immediately, retailers are now prohibited from selling rifles and shotguns of any kind. This is because the new mandates that any kind of firearm must go through laboratory testing before being placed on an "approved roster". This now includes rifles and shotguns.

Perhaps knowing the administration was facing immediate federal court action from GOAL, Healey continues to play some version of "whack a mole". Whenever we are ready to proceed with federal court action, her agencies suspend enforcement of that particular section of Chapter 135. If you are not already a member of GOAL (Gun Owners' Action League) this is the time to step up and join. They are looking out for your gun rights.

Remember this date when you have the opportunity make her the Ex-governor. Updates on this matter can be found at [www.goal.org](http://www.goal.org) Steve Podlesny