

# Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



## *September Newsletter*

September 3, 2024

### President's Notes

September is upon us and the end of summer is fast approaching. I hope everyone enjoyed the nice weather we had and found time to utilize the fantastic Franklin County Sportsmens Club's facilities. For those that are hunters, this is the time to get out to the range and make sure all your firearms are ready to go.

To begin my President's comments, we should all be aware of the signing of the latest Massachusetts gun law H4885. The Gun Owners' Action League (GOAL) has been working diligently to get a referendum signing to hopefully stave off its implementation. Their objective is to collect 75,000 signatures in the hope of validating 50,000, which would halt the attack on our civil rights until the referendum can be on the ballot in 2026. This is not a political issue - this is an attack on our civil rights. The FCSC will be providing our facility as a signing station on Saturday, September 14, 2024, from 10:00AM to 4:00PM. Only Massachusetts registered voters can sign. This will be advertised as best we can, so spread the word. It is now on Facebook under **Cruise for the 2!!!** People can follow "**Cruise for the 2**" on Facebook for other signing opportunities, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/306236735332110> /. This impacts us all. The law is to become effective on October 31, 2024.



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As indicated previously, we now have a scheduled start date for the plate range cover. We made a materials deposit and have been given a start date of Monday, September 16, 2024. Please make a note of this time period as the plate range -- and possibly the range next door -- will be closed if the contractor requests this of us. This will complete a project we have been planning for a long time.

By the time our September newsletter goes to print, you will see an expansion of the property closest to the white farm house next to the entryway to the club. As we have already completed work on the larger section of the front property, we will be removing the undesirable brush and overgrowth to avoid the loss of this property due to adverse possession. Once completed, we will seed and maintain it, as we are presently doing for all our property. Our long-term goal is to find someone to hay the front property. If anyone knows someone who might be interested in haying this area, please reach out to me.

We will be having what should be our final facilities Work Bee, for this year, on Saturday, September 28, 8:00AM to noon, at which time lunch will be provided. As always there are many maintenance projects planned (staining out buildings if weather permits, weed trimming and general cleanup of the facility). It would be nice to see some new, younger faces at the upcoming work bee.

Once again, a reminder that we have many individuals who will be unable to continue on the Board of Directors or Executive Board for the coming 2025 year, due to bylaw restrictions. Please consider volunteering to be part of the group leading our club into the future. Fresh ideas and fresh faces are always welcome!  
Steve Podlesny

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### **The Welcome Wagon**

For August, we welcomed the following new members: Andrew Serra, Kurt Rackham, Mike Winn and Justin Sessions. 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



### **Monthly Meeting Review & Schedule Change Reminder**

Please remember that the old monthly general meetings have been changed to a new *quarterly* meeting schedule. For the remainder of 2024 membership meetings are on the following Wednesdays: September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Larry Kleinschmidt

### **Coming Events**

In September 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, September 22, (3) on Wednesday, September 18, we have Trap at 5PM (assuming that the machinery is operable), (4) the 100-Yard Centerfire Benchrest Event happens on Sunday, September 29 at 10AM, followed immediately by the 200-Yard Centerfire Benchrest Event, (5) Tracey will teach the Basic Home Firearms Safety course on Saturday, September 21 at 9AM, and (6) the Practical

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Handgun Group meets on the Saturdays of September 14 and 28 at 12:30PM. We have a special event this month. On Saturday, Saturday, September 14, 2024, from 10AM to 4PM, we will be holding a signing event to support the referendum to put H4885 on the ballot in 2026.

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>

Larry Kleinschmidt

### **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. Please note, after many years of use without the required maintenance, our trap house is down for repairs. The table holding the trap machine has been rebuilt due to extensive water damage, and electrical updates have been made in the house to bring it up to code. As soon as the final repairs and deep cleaning of the machine have been completed, we will get back to our schedule of shooting trap.

Larry Kleinschmidt

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### **Firing Range Etiquette**

Safety on our rifle range depends upon many behaviors. One of these is maintaining line-of-sight from end to end of the firing line. It is important that everyone on the line observe all other shooters on the line. There is a grassy patch between the main firing line and the wooden platform which extends the firing line. That patch of grass may seem inviting as a place to park, but doing so obstructs the vision of all shooters on the line. We need to maintain line-of-sight on the firing line from one end to the other. Please park your vehicle in the ample parking lot *in front of* the rifle range. Parking there will help us maintain maximum safety for all shooters on the firing line. Thank you.

Larry Kleinschmidt

### **22 Rimfire Event Results**



We had a miserable, dark, rainy day for the Rimfire event on Sunday, August 18, 2024. Even so, seven shooters competed. We shot our 20 rounds through the rain, all trying for that perfect 200 score. Our top competitor for this round, with a score of 196, was Paul

Choiniere. Paul took the silver cup this time around, with instructions to keep it dry and polished! We have more competition scheduled for Sunday, September 22 at 10AM, and Sunday, October 20 at 10AM.

Larry Kleinschmidt

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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

### 100-Yard Centerfire Competition



**The Shoot-off competitors**

On the sunny, cool morning of Sunday, August 25, 2024, we held our centerfire competitions. We had five competitors for our 100-yard competition, which began at 10AM. There was a very exciting finish in this competition as Steve and Lynn both turned in a score of 143 out of a possible 150 points! The champion was selected through a four-target shoot-off. The shoot-off was won by Steve with 3 of 4 bullseyes. Steve took home the silver cup for this event.

Larry Kleinschmidt

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### 200-Yard Centerfire Competition

The 200-Yard Competition began directly after the 100-Yard event was finished, with both events wrapped up by noon. This event had only three competitors. The scoring of this event consists of five targets with four rounds each, for a potential score of 200 points. Paul and Larry turned in a score of 179, while Steve dominated the event with a score of 184. Today Steve was the big winner, taking home both the 100-Yard and the 200-Yard silver cups! Be sure to keep them polished, Steve! Larry Kleinschmidt



### Staffing the booth at the Fair



We will review the Fair in the October Newsletter, but for now we want to thank all of those who volunteered to staff our booth at the Fair. With our volunteers helping out, Mark is not required to be at the booth every day! Thank you volunteers! You are greatly appreciated!

Larry Kleinschmidt

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### **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, or 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**

We have a **Work Bee scheduled for Saturday, September 28, 2024**, from 8AM till noon. At noon lunch will be served! 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 for the summer.

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 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