



September 2026 Newsletter

President's Notes

by Steve Podlesny

Summer has flown by and we are into September and all the wonderful adventures of fall. Our club is now undergoing some much needed improvements to our access road. To those 23 club members who responded to allow this work to proceed, thank you. To the remaining 360 members who had the opportunity to vote but didn't — we missed your voice, and we hope to hear from you next time. This is your club and your vote / voice is important to us. Please get involved in the decisions being made on the future of your club in the future. The fall is when we see many club members utilize the club to get ready for the upcoming hunting seasons.

Please make sure you respect the work done at the Club by members to keep your club open and the best facility in Western Massachusetts.

We do not have any hired help mowing, trimming, or picking up trash; it is all done by volunteers. Please continue to pick up your brass and clean up after yourselves when your shooting day is over. Very simple acts go a long way.

Please check the club calendar and see what events we have planned to get members involved and continuing to have fun with other members. Our rimfire events continue to generate great

(continued on p. 2)

Summer Clay Shooting

by Pat O'Bryan

As we move into Fall there have been some changes at the Skeet Fields, we have gained a few new regular shooters and had a informal tournament where the winner got bragging rights only, no prizes. The lower Skeet field has had a couple of old Winchester Western single stack skeet machines for years.



Some say these machines were manufactured in the 40's or 50's. Although they worked well the single stack magazine required it be refilled before a squad of shooters finished a round. When the new Atlas machines were put in the upper field the machines we removed were refurbished by a professional. I asked him what the Winchesters were worth and he suggested we sell them for scrap.

We did need to re-wire the refurbished machines which was a problem. Then a new shooter, Liam

(continued on p. 2)

Welcome to the Club!

Welcome to our new members: **Richard Haskins, Dave Devine, Laura Devine, Shane Kleeberg, James Coyne, Brian Kleeberg, Erin Kleeberg, Chris Hyatt, Kel Komenda, Steven Samal, Julia Samal, Emma Yaffe, Bryce Barger.** Please enjoy our facility and our community. Join us at the member meetings and get involved. Check the 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!

Rimfire Challenge Update

by Hollington Lee



We had a great July, August and September shoots. Our ranks continue to grow and we're always happy to welcome new shooters.

Despite it getting warm, we were able to stay cool in the mid-day sun under the club's new popup canopies.



July Squad

August Squad



September Squad

We're running these shoots on the **2nd Saturday of the month** until December. Please check the Calendar for dates. We have pistol and rifle stages set up on the rimfire range so you can practice at any time.

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

Send your questions to **Hollington Lee at hollingtonlee@gmail.com**. If you plan to attend, please send me your email so I can send you info about the shoot.

President's Note (continued)

interest, whether the Rimfire Challenge events or our 100 and 200 yard rifle competitions. We are working on adding 50 yard .22 shoots to our schedule. We continue to also have 100 and 200 yard rifle shoots planned through October of 2026.

Our trap and skeet fields are also open every weekend for shooting and the dates are all listed on the club calendar at FCLSC.ORG

Rifle events continue to grow and involvement by members is increasing. We have seen everyone who has been shooting show improvement in their scores, and the winner being decided by ever smaller variances. I would like to thank everyone for their continued attendance, even when the weather has not been its best.

Summer Clay Shooting (continued)

Scanlon came along. He's not only a good shot but he installs CNC machines for a living so re-wiring the skeet machines was a piece-of-cake for him. With Scott Conti's help they were done in no time and we have replaced the old Winchesters with these machines that have large carousel magazines that hold a lot of birds.

Besides the 2 Winchesters we took out there were 4 more nonworking machines in the Connex storage container. With the club's permission I advertised them on Facebook and sold them all for \$500 which goes back to the club and made some room in the Connex box.

Near the end of August, a couple of members decided to put together an informal tournament that included one round of Skeet and a round of Skrap (Trap shot from the Skeet stations) Handicaps were allowed for smaller caliber and age of the shooter.

The event fielded 20 shooters with hamburgers and hot dogs after. The top five shooters were:

1. Nelson Bernard
2. Keith Longto
3. Rich Haskins
4. Bob Anderson & Jack Winn
5. Mike Winn & John Crowley

This may become an annual event.

Maintenance Shout-outs

by Greg Isles

I want to thank all members for continuing to doing what you do to keep the ranges, grounds and club house looking great. If there is anyone who has some time and needs a suggestion for helping I'll mention a few things that are helpful.

1. Pick up trash on the ranges
2. Empty a full trash can.
3. If you have time, the grounds around the buildings and the lower edges of the berms can always use some week whacking.
4. And of course policing brass is a big help.

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

Practical Handgun Update

by Gary Braff

The sessions have been productive for most shooters. There were fewer people as vacations and other obligations have come up for our group.

We did try out the traversing target with Steves help and did try our hand at the 50 yard adversary targets. Most all shooters managed to hit the 2



targets effectively. The dates are in the calendar for October and we hope as many shooters as possible can make it out.

Thanks to the newsletter team

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

FCSC Booth at the 2026 Franklin County Fair

by Mark St.Amand

We had a great time at the FCSC booth at the Franklin County Fair. Saturday was the one of the biggest crowds we've seen over the years. Many people stopped by to chat, watch a little of our excellent slideshow, take one of the club's business



cards or pamphlets, or take part in our 50/50 raffle and our free \$100 Staples Gift Card for School Supplies raffle.

This year we had information and

handouts about the No On 9 ballot initiative, which is one of the ballot questions in November. Visitors to the booth expressed a lot of interest in this. Many people had seen No On 9 signs around and didn't know what those were about, so they were glad to have some information about the issue.

Thank you to all our volunteers: Mark St. Amand, Gary Braff, Paul Choiniere, Janet Choiniere, Pat O'Bryan, Jon Van Zandt, Ed Kaczinski, Jimmy Costa, Gene Lavoie, Shelly Hoyt, Steve Crowningshield, Steve Podlesny, Mark Holley, Tom Neill, Holly Lee, and Julie Page.



Thank you to Larry Kleinschmidt for creating the picture and video slideshow, and for helping set up and tear down the booth. Thank you to Steve Podlesny for getting us the parking passes and tickets.

FCSC 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. Great job everyone!

Next year the tradition continues!

FCSC Guest Policy Explained

by Larry Kleinschmidt



The FCSC is one of a very few clubs who still allows Guests to shoot. The guest policy places a great deal of responsibility on the member who invites a guest. That member is responsible for every action that the guest takes during their time at the club. That is one reason why we have a six-month probation period during which the new member cannot invite guests.

Currently we have an on-going issue with members inviting guests repeatedly. We cannot grow our membership if the guest policy is used to grant access to the club on an ongoing basis. The BOD is monitoring this issue and considering our options.

The FCSC is a private, members-only club. However, as a member of FCSC, you can bring guests to the club, subject to club guest policy. As a club member you are responsible for your guest(s). Since you, as a member, are responsible for everything your guest does while at the club, you can invite no more than two guests at a time. When shooting with guests, only one gun may be used by your party at a time. This restriction assures that you, the member, can supervise everything that your guest(s) does while on the range. Remember, while your guest is at the club, you the member, are responsible for everything they do. New members may not bring guests during their six-month probation period.

Who is a guest? If you have a single membership, anyone you invite to the club is a guest. If you have a family membership, anyone who is not named as part of your family is a guest. The guest fee is ten dollars per guest per visit. When your guest enters the club, the first thing to do is have them sign the Guest Waiver of Liability Form, this must be done before you proceed to the range.

Guest Waiver of Liability forms can be downloaded from the website: https://fclsc.org/files/Guest_Release_and_Indemnity_Agreement.pdf

Also, hard copies can be found on the wall at the back of the clubhouse near the entry door. Once the Guest Waiver form has been completed (one form for each of your guests), put it in an envelope along with the ten dollar fee for each of your guests, and place the envelope in the locked box on the back wall of the clubhouse near the door. Before proceeding to the range, be sure that your guest(s) are familiar with the NRA Gun Safety Rules.

These can be found on the website: <https://fclsc.org/p/52/Firearm-Safety-Rules>

The Guest Policy is presented on our website: <https://fclsc.org/p/60/Guest-Policy>

Ticks are here!

Please consider applying repellent for ticks. DEET, Picaridin and Permethrin (for clothes) are all good options. We've had many members pick them up while walking or working on the ranges.

Range Cleanup Reminder

Remember, after you are done shooting, **please pick up ALL OF YOUR EMPTY SHELLS (including brass, 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.

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.

2026 FCSC Board of Directors

President:

Steve Podlesny

Vice-President:

Mike Jasinski

Secretary:

Scott Conti

Treasurer:

Rachel Katz

Past President:

Mark Brennan

Directors:

Nelson Bernard

Larry Channel

Paul Choiniere

Steve Crowningshield

Bob Gosselin

Mark Holley

Larry Kleinschmidt

Pat O'Bryan

Bill Taylor

Clifford Wilkinson

Hollington Lee, *Newsletter*

Gunsmith

20+ years of experience
sight work, drill & tap
scope mounting
trigger work, glass bed
reblue, stock refinish
I have access to a large
cadre of parts suppliers
but if I can't find your
part I usually can make it
Lathe & Milling machine
TIG welding

All repairs guaranteed
by appt. call (413)522-2544

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.