



# The Quaker Hill Rod and Gun Club Newsletter

<http://quakerhillrodandgunclub.co>

PO Box 80  
261 Oxoboxo Dam Road  
Oakdale, CT 06370

Volume 2013, Issue 7  
July 2013

## Gate Lock and Keys

The clubhouse and gate key is changed annually at the June General Membership meeting. This year that was June 20th.

To receive a new key you must present a current membership card and return the old key. Members not having the old key for turn in will be charged \$3.00 for a new one.

Keys are now available at the Skeet House, The Outpost, and Montville Hardware.

## Rocketto Range Closure

The Club will host a demonstration of bullet resistant glass by Bill Letson, of Armor Solutions, for local school, police, and civil authorities on July 11<sup>th</sup> from 10AM until 4PM on the Rocketto Range.

The Rocketto Range will be closed for this event. Club members are welcome to attend but all are forewarned that attendance is expected to be high.

## A Tip Of The Club Hat

The Club wishes to thank Mike Butterworth and the Oakdale Firehouse Gang for the installation of a new Knox Box at the club.

The Knox Box, a small steel vessel that allows firefighters access to a site when not occupied or open, was donated by the Montville Fire Marshall's Office. We are grateful for having members volunteer like this; it is what makes the Club work.

## Range Safety Officers

The Club is planning on running an NRA RSO course in August.

Members who have expressed an interest will be notified of date, time and cost as soon as details are available.

## Last Paper Newsletter

The Club regrets to announce that the July 2013 Newsletter will be the last paper Newsletter that will be available by mail. This decision was difficult to make but current economic condition have required some budgetary belt tightening.

In the future the Newsletters will be transmitted electronically. All those receiving the paper Newsletter are encouraged to send a valid Email address to the Club Secretary at [qhrandgclub@gmail.com](mailto:qhrandgclub@gmail.com) to insure they are placed on the electronic mailing list.

The Newsletter is posted prominently each month in Sullivan Hall. A generous number of printed Newsletters will be available for members wanting a hard copy on the table adjacent to the kitchen serving hatch by the second Thursday of each month.

## Dues/Membership Cards

This year's dues cycle closed on July 1st.

Any member that has not paid their 2013-2014 dues should do so immediately as the membership roles are in the process of being purged of all delinquents

Any member that has paid their dues and not received a new membership card should contact either President Santo or Vice President Civitello.

## Summer Meeting Notice

There are no General Membership meetings in July and August.

## Utah Permit Class Planned

A Utah Permit Class will be held at the club at the end of August or in September. Anyone interested please send an email to Jack Santo with UTAH in the header and your name will be added. There is also signup sheet on the bulletin board in the clubhouse. We have 18 people signed up at this time and as cost will be based on attendance so let us have a good showing.

## Meeting Information

Quaker Hill Rod and Gun Club General Membership meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, except July and August, at 7PM in Sullivan Hall at 261 Oxoboxo Dam Road, Oakdale, CT 06370

### Club Officers

**President:** Jack Santo, 860-608-4395 or [JDJSANTO@aol.com](mailto:JDJSANTO@aol.com)

**Vice President:** Richard Civitello, 860-464-1697 or [rcc627@comcast.net](mailto:rcc627@comcast.net)

**Treasurer:** Robert Giffen, 860-608-7137 or [robertgiffen@me.com](mailto:robertgiffen@me.com)

**Secretary:** Vincent Walker, 860-848-3478 or [v54k52@sbcglobal.net](mailto:v54k52@sbcglobal.net)

**Steward:** Charlie MacLean at 860-848-2798

### Trustees

Ralph Jackson, Bob Birge, Tony Goulart, Jeff Urgitis, and John Holmes

### Contacting Officers

When contacting any club officer you must leave a full name, return number and/or e-mail.

With some 900 members just saying its Frank, Steve or Jim doesn't help much in identification and the officers want to quickly reply.

## Tom Till Farewell

Tom Till, long time Grounds Chair, will be closing on a house and relocating in the near future.

Tom wishes to thank all that have assisted him over the years just as the Club thanks Tom and wishes him well in his new venture.

**NOTICE**  
**NO ALCOHOL  
 OR DRUGS ALLOWED  
 ON THESE PREMISES**

#### Newsletter Contributions

Newsletter contributions are encouraged. Submit your material no later than the first Thursday of each month for inclusion in the current newsletter.

Send contributions to Hap Rocketto at hrocketto@cox.net or 401-322-7193.

#### Display QH Cards

All club members are required to display their membership and Range Certification Cards while on club property.

#### Safety Is Not An Option

The three basic general rules of safe gun handling.

Always point the muzzle in a **safe direction**; never point a firearm at anyone or anything you don't want to shoot.

Keep your **finger off the trigger** and outside the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot.

Keep the **action open and the gun unloaded** until you are ready to use it.

## Membership News

New members inducted in July were Edmond Cheung, Norwich; Raymond Scott and Diana Holmes, East Lyme; Timothy R. Walker, Norwich; Russell C. White, Baltic; and Joseph P. Wonoski, Guilford

First readings: Joshua Cogoli, Norwich; Andrew P. and Kristine A. Dye, Uncasville; Bret A. Gagne, Old Saybrook; Thomas W. Grieco, Jr., Torrington; James M. Karasevich, Preston; Peter J. Krause, Gales Ferry; Thomas O. Miett, East Haddam; Martin S. and Angela Riley, Oakdale; Stephanie M. Rivera, Salem, and Curtiss D. and Lisa Stapleton, Gales Ferry.

If any member knows of any reason why an applicant to the club may not meet the required standards for membership they must notify any member of the Executive Board immediately.

## New Members Work Hours

Anyone needing work hours should contact any one of the Committee Chairmen to see what projects they might assist.

New members needing hours can get in some easy time being a pin setter. Contact Frank Torchia at 376-9455 or email: ftorchia@ct.metrocast.net, those wishing to help maintain the Rocketto Range or help with matches may contact Gary Owen, Range Chair at either m1911a1288@aol.com or 860-912-3278 or assisting Grounds Chair Tom Till.

## Secretary and Committee Chair Sought

With the relocation and passing of several of our committee chairs the president is soliciting members who might wish to serve as Club Secretary or Sunshine Committee Chair.

Interested parties please contact President Santo, or any club officer, as soon as possible.

## Range Certification

Range Certification is required in order to use a range unsupervised and are good for life. A range certification card will be issued to each individual upon which will be listed those ranges for which that member is certified.

All members who do range certification are volunteers with limited time so you need to work with them when setting up certification appointments. From time to time, before and after membership meetings, certification session may be scheduled.

To obtain certification contact the appropriate range chairman to arrange for a certification in order to use any range outside of supervised activities.

Range Chairs are: The Rocketto Outdoor Range-Gary Owens at M1911a1288@aol.com or 860-447-1092; The Carroll Indoor Range-Ernie Mellor at emellor@sbcglobal.net, or Mark Wujewicz at mwojo@ct.metrocast.net, The Practical Pistol Range-Frank Torchia at ftorchia@ct.metrocast.net.; The High Power Rifle Range-Vacant; The Archery Range, Rick Davidson at (860)705-2447 or rdavidson8985@sbcglobal.net; and the Skeet Chair is Doug Britt at dwb@tvconnect.net or 860-448-0308.

## Brush Clearing Project

Tree cutting and brush clearing on the Rocketto Range and upper fields as well as property line marking will commence on August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8AM until about noon. Interested parties contact Jack Santo at jjdjsanto@aol.com or 860-608-4395 so that two or three gangs can be formed for various tasks.

Anyone with chainsaw, brush cutting, general laboring skills, or needing hours should come, as this is a great way to get to know the club and members while fulfilling work obligations.

## Electronic Key System Bid Solicitation

The Club is soliciting bids for an electronic key entry system to the facilities. This will benefit us in many ways, no more physical key exchanging, gate will open automatically and from a security standpoint we will know who is on club property and when.

### Rocketto Range Notes

The Summer 600 Matches are conducted every Thursday at 6:00 PM and run every week throughout the summer.

This month we are expecting to do tree and brush removal on the range. This will require periodic range closures while.

Those wishing to help maintain the range or help with matches contact Gary Owen, Range Chair at either m1911a1288@aol.com or 860-912-3278

Range qualifications will be held on Sunday nights at 6:00 PM but one must call Owens to confirm an appointment.

### Skeet News

Quaker Hill hosted a very successful National Skeet Shooting Association meet which was organized and run by Paul Brulotte and assisted by a large number of Club members and representatives from the Ledyard club who worked pulling targets, keeping score, loading skeet machines, and cooking.

Quaker Hill winners were 12 gauge. Champion Paul LaChance with Paul Brulotte the runner up. First place finishers were John Vincent in AA ,Doug Britt in A ,Cory Britt in B, David Buonome in C, Michael McCann in S, and Chester D'Agostino in E. Jason Chumura was second in C class.

20 Gauge competition saw Rich Civitello claim first place with Paul Brulotte second. Doug Brit took A, Michael Surfine B while Paul Duggan and Robert Vece were first in C and D respectively. Jason Churmura was second in class B.

A special tip of the hat is given by Skeet Chair Doug Britt to the practical pistol shooters who closed their range for the day to provide extra parking and to eliminate any distracting noise.

Skeet Chair Doug Britt reminds all that there is still time to sign up for summer skeet league which starts May 15<sup>th</sup> and ends August 28<sup>th</sup>. The league dinner will be September 7<sup>th</sup> at 12 P.M.

The club championship will be August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. It will be 100 12 gauge targets, 50 20 gauge targets, 50 28 gauge targets 50 .410 targets, and 50 doubles.

### 2013 Hunter Safety Dates

Hunter Safety Courses will be conducted at Quaker Hill during 2013: Firearms, October 4, 5, and 6. The Friday session runs from 5:30PM to 9:15PM while Saturday and Sunday classes begin at 8AM and end at 4PM.

The Archery class is September 7 from 8AM to 4PM.

Classes fill quickly. Do not wait until too close to hunting season to complete the mandatory training.

### QH at CT State Games

Quaker Hill smallbore shooters distinguished themselves at the recent Connecticut State Games . Ernie Mellor, Jenn Sloan and Eric Sloan competed in both the prone and position events while the two Sloans also shot air rifle.

Jenn and Eric went head on head in the 60 shot three position match, 20 shots prone , standing, and kneeling, with Jenn topping the field, and winning the gold medal , with a 578-24X narrowly defeating Eric by a slim margin of 13Xs. The mother out-shot the son on both prone and kneeling, but had the match been tied on Xs it would have gone to the son who had a commanding lead based on his standing stage winning score of 191-3Xs. Jenn won the kneeling stage with a score of 195-11X. Mellor, who beat Jenn prone, fired an aggregate score of 567-20 for the senior title.

In prone competition Mellor took the silver medal in the senior category while Jenn did the same placed third in the in female category. Eric took home the bronze medal in the junior category.

Eric earned his gold medal in the air rifle competition which is 60 shots fired at ten meters. Not to be out done took female honors.

While all met with success in the training match leading up to the National Championship at Camp Perry in July one wonders what the conversation was like in the Sloan car on the way home.

### Grounds Committee

Tom Till, Chair of the Grounds Committee, will be generally working on Tuesday and Saturday from 9:00am to 12:30pm.

Those with either required work hours left or of a mind to pitch in for the good of the club should report to him within that time frame with work gloves.

Club work and projects are listed on the bulletin board separated into two groups, Grounds Committee Work and Club/Range Committee Work.

Tom is responsible for over all Grounds projects while club/range committees work on specific projects.

Club and range Committees will post special projects on the bulletin board.

Hunters and anglers provide more than 75% of the annual funds of the 50 state conservation agencies. Sportsmen are clearly the largest contributors to conservation, paying for programs that benefit all Americans and all wild-life.

"Encouragement of a proper hunting spirit, a proper love of sport, instead of being incompatible with a love of nature and wild things, offers the best guaranty for the preservation of wild things."

--Theodore Roosevelt

## Practical Pistol

The following safety issue is effective immediately. No loaded firearms, of any type, will be allowed to be brought onto the range during any supervised match. There will be no exceptions to this rule to include concealed carry firearms. If the firearm you plan to use for a match is your carry firearm you must bring it to the range in a safe and unloaded condition. Range Officers are instructed to report violators to the Range Chairman for possible disciplinary actions.

The Spring medium bore bowling pin league results are in and first place in the auto class went to Joe Trudelle, 2<sup>nd</sup> to Chris Colombo, 3<sup>rd</sup> to Bob Birge, 4<sup>th</sup> to Russ Shaw and 5<sup>th</sup> to Allen Crouch. First place in the revolver class went to Scott Pierce, 2<sup>nd</sup> to Tony Goulart, 3<sup>rd</sup> to Ernie Beckwith, 4<sup>th</sup> to Jeff Urgitis and 5<sup>th</sup> to Bill Weinschenker. A shoot off was held the last week and the revolver winner was Allen Egerton and the runner up was Tony Goulart. The auto winner was Russ Shaw and the runner up was Bob Birge. Most improved shooter for the season was Steve Rocketto.

The Large Bore Summer Pin League will start Monday July 8th. We will shoot every Monday at 5:30PM. There will be separate classes for auto and revolver. Entry fee for the season is \$10 per gun. We shoot a maximum of five rounds each night in each class you sign up for. New members needing work hours are welcome as pinsetters are always needed.

22 Rimfire Plate Shoot dates are July 28, August 25, September 29 and the October 27th charity shoot. Shooting starts at 9:00 AM. Shooting will be one on one with each shooter having four 4"x 6" plates on the lower section, two 6"x 6" plates on the upper section to knock over first and then a 4"x 6" hinged tie breaking plate. The first shooter to knock over their plates will win the string. Each shooter will shoot six strings and the one with the most wins gets first place and so on. In the event of a tie there will be a timed shoot off. Pistols will be at 15 yards and rifles will be 25 yards. Clip fed semi auto pistols and rifles are preferred, tube fed rifles and revolvers are welcome with any sights allowed. Entry fee will be \$5 per shooter. The payout will be determined by how many shooters participate. A \$1.00 event fee will be charged nonmembers to cover insurance. A match program is on the website, or you can contact Allen Crouch at 860-608-7276 or eacrouch@snet.net for more information.

Concealed Tactical (ConTact) defensive pistol matches are conducted on Saturday mornings starting at 9 AM. Set up is at 8:30 so come early to help. Matches use IDPA targets and rules except for equipment - any reasonable, concealable carry gun is permitted. Hi-capacity magazines, ported barrels, low profile optical sights, etc. are OK. Usually four scenarios are shot per match, with from six to 18 rounds fired per scenario. If the weather forecast is iffy, an email will be sent out to past participants on Friday informing them if match will be held. Contact Ernie Beckwith with any questions at tfo44@comcast.net.

The large bore Summer Pin League will start Monday July 8<sup>th</sup> and will be shot every Monday at 5:30PM. There will be separate classes for auto and revolver. Entry fee for the season is \$10 per gun. A maximum of five rounds will be shot in each night in each class that you sign up for.

Certifications are by email appointment only.

For Practical Pistol Range questions, except certifications call Frank Torchia at 376-9455 or email at ftorchia@ct.metrocast.net.

## CT Big Bore League

After three matches Quaker Hill currently maintains its lead in the Connecticut Big Bore League as a team while QH member Hap Rocketto is top individual with a 386 average closely followed by team mates Phil Kohanski and Steve Rocketto with 383s..

The League shoots on the 3rd Sunday of each month, April through September. Remaining match dates are July 21, August 18, and September 22. There is also opportunity available to shoot on an off day if you have obligations on match day.

The course of fire is 40 shots slow fire, ten shots in each of four positions, prone, sitting, kneeling, and standing at 100 yards. Coaching is allowed. Sign up is at 8AM with the match starting at 9AM.

You may use any centerfire rifle with metallic sights. A telescopic option is available. Fancy equipment is not required, just a desire to compete and shoot with likeminded people in a four position slow fire league shot at 100 yards.

*BELL CITY AND PAMPLONA...*

The last prone match that most folks in the New England area shoot before departing for Perry is the Bell City Rifle Club's New England NRA Metric Prone Regional. The match precedes the National Championships by a week or so and usually falls on the second or third weekend of July.

By happenstance some 85 years or so before this year's match Ernest Hemingway and some friends attended the *Fiesta de San Fermin* in Pamplona, Spain. The festival is a celebration of the patron saint of the Basque region of Navarre, of which Pamplona is capitol. After a week of overindulgence in food, wine, and bull fighting Hemingway followed his writing dictum in which he stated that, "My aim is to put down on paper what I see and what I feel in the best and simplest way." The end result was *The Sun Also Rises*. While not one of my favorite Hemingway works, my choices being *The Old Man and the Sea* and *For Whom the Bells Toll*, it was the work that first gave the world a view of his lean and athletic writing style, launched his career, and made the running of the bulls a required stop on any self respecting adventurer's itinerary.

As strange as that may sound July events scheduled at both Pamplona and Bell City have something in common, besides the dates, and it is the bulls.

In Pamplona spectators peer from the balconies overlooking *Calle Estafeta* each morning during the second week in July and eagerly await the *encierro*, or the running of the bulls. Daily, for that week, six fighting bulls, as well as six bullocks, run about a half of a mile from a holding pen to the *Plaza de Toros de Pamplona*, where they will fight that same afternoon. Running amidst the bulls will be several hundred young men out to prove their *machismo*.

In order to participate in this event one must be 18 years old, run in the same direction as the bulls, do nothing to incite the bulls, and not be under the influence of alcohol. The first three make a lot of sense but I really wonder why anyone in a sober state would even think of dashing down a half mile of cobblestone street dodging six tons of excited, jumpy, and possibly angry, pot roast.

The Pamplona website warns possible participants, in a rather wry and understated announcement, that, "Not everyone can run the *encierro*. It requires cool nerves, quick reflexes and a good level of physical fitness. Anyone who does not have these three should not take part; it is a highly risky enterprise."

The runners, dressed all in white with red sashes or bandanas, carrying rolled up newspapers for some unknown reason, assemble at the gates of the holding corral to wisely ask for the protection of the Patron Saint by three times chanting "We ask *San Fermin*, being our patron saint, to guide us in the bull run and give us his blessing" before a small statue of the saint. Just as there are no atheists in foxholes, there are also none in the streets of Pamplona during the running of the bulls.

At eight o'clock a rocket is shot into the air to announce that the bulls have been released, as if the sight and sound of 12 snorting bovines wouldn't be enough, and with that the melee and mayhem begins. About three or four minutes later another rocket is launched to signal that the bulls are in their pens at the Plaza and the running has concluded. Well, except for the 50 or so runners each day who hobble, or are carried, off to the local hospital to attend to various cuts, bruises, contusions, and sprains which daily attend this event. The rest of the crowd will be off to a local bistro for three fingers of a liquid bracer, breakfast, and to brag on their bravado.

Now, you ask, "What has all this adventure in Spain got to do with a prone match in rural Connecticut?" As I said earlier, it is the bulls. While the Pamplona runners face six bulls just once, a rifleman on the line at Bell City must stare down 18 each day for two days, 27 if you count the sighter bulls.

The metric target being what it is, and the conditions at Bell City being what they are, it takes a lot of, as the Pamplona website said, "cool nerves, quick reflexes and a good level of physical fitness" to lie there wrapped in sweatshirt and shooting jacket, stock still, in the heat and humidity of a July afternoon facing down those bulls.

However, from time to time, after taking a long hard look at the score board, I have wondered if I might not have been better off if I had just swapped my leather shooting coat, sweat shirt, and rifle for a white shirt and trousers, red sash, and a rolled up newspaper.

