



The Quaker Hill Rod and Gun Club Newsletter

<http://quakerhillrodandgunclub.co>

PO Box 80
261 Oxoboxo Dam Road
Oakdale, CT 06370

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August 2013

Quaker Hill At The Smallbore Championships

Quaker Hill was represented at the National Rifle Association Smallbore Rifle Championships at Camp Perry, Ohio during the last weeks of July. The club, as is its policy, supported juniors Tyler Glenn and Ryan Williams in the smallbore rifle school and Eric Sloan in the position and prone matches. Accompanying them were Mark Sloan, Charlie Adams, Ernie Mellor, Steve Rocketto, Hap Rocketto, and Shawn Carpenter.

Glynn placed second in the smallbore school prone tournament. Sloan, Montville High Rifle Team, shot on the Connecticut State Rifle and Revolver Association Junior Team and was an integral part of their winning national junior titles in any sight position competition as well as both metallic and any sight prone events.

Mellor placed fifth in the senior category in the position matches.

Adams was captain of the Quaker Hill based Digby Hand Schützenverein team which placed third overall in the any sight national prone team championship.

Steve Rocketto was in the money in several prone matches in the Expert class.

Hap Rocketto was the Adjutant of the United States Pershing Trophy Team which defeated the British, in shoulder to shoulder competition, for the tenth consecutive time. Carpenter was selected by former national prone champion Kevin Nevius to be his line coach in the Dewar Postal match.

All in all it was a successful trip for the smallbore shooters.

Gate Lock and Keys

The clubhouse and gate key is changed annually at the June General Membership meeting. This year that day 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 may be picked up at the Skeet House and Montville Hardware. They are no longer available at The Outpost

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.

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.

Fall Ladies Day

Quaker Hill will be conducting a fall Women on Target "Ladies Day" event.

It take a lot of volunteers and work to make these events successful. Anyone interested in assisting as an instructor, guide, target setter, or general roustabout please contact Keith Griffin at grampee45@comcast.net.

Summer Meeting Notice

There are no General Membership meetings in July and August.

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

Vice President: Richard Civitello, 860-464-1697 or rcc627@comcast.net

Treasurer: Robert Giffen, 860-608-7137 or robertgiffen@me.com

Secretary: Vincent Walker, 860-848-3478 or 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.

The 200 million dollars generated by Pittman-Robertson each year are matched with sportsmen's dollars at the state level to pay for projects that will restore wildlife populations, expand habitat and train hunters. To date, more than \$4.2 billion in federal excise revenue has been generated.

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 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. Mielt, East Haddam; Martin S. and Angela Riley, Oakdale; Stephanie M. Rivera, Salem, and Curtiss D. and Lisa Stapleton, Gales Ferry.

First readings: Eric J. and Rebecca Costello, Pawcatuck; Joseph A. Fratianni, Old Saybrook; and Thomas W. and Susan W. Morrow, Colchester.

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 by contacting Frank Torchia at 376-9455 or email: ftorchia@ct.metrocast.net, or just showing up at the Practical Pistol Range on match days.

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.

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.

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 Wujtewicz 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.

Electronic Key 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, the gate will open automatically and, from a security standpoint, we will know who and when any member is on club property.

Rocketto Range Notes

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

Tree and brush removal has begun 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.

Brush Clearing Project

Tree cutting and brush clearing on the Rocketto Range and upper fields as well as property line marking commenced on August 3rd at 8AM until about noon.

This will be an ongoing project so any interested parties are encouraged to contact Jack Santo at jdjsanto@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.

Club Apparel On Sale

Club jackets, hats and tee-shirts are available through Doug Britt, who may be found at the Skeet house or at the monthly meeting.

Inventory on hand includes jackets, up to size extra large, as well as tee-shirts and hats for both summer and winter.

Doug may be contacted at 1-860-448-0308, at meetings, or the skeet

Range Safety Officers

The Club is planning on running an NRA RSO course in the near future. Members who have expressed an interest will be notified of date, time and cost as soon as details are available.

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.

The Utah Concealed Carry Permit allows the permit holder to carry their firearm concealed in any of the 31 listed reciprocating states. These states may change at any time. It is up to the individual permit holder to check the Utah's Bureau of Criminal Identification's website for an updated list.

There is also sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the clubhouse. Cost will be based on attendance, so let us have a good showing.

Skeet News

Skeet Chair Doug Britt reminds all that there is still time to sign up for summer skeet league which sends August 28th. The league dinner will be September 7th at 12 P.M.

The club championship was held August 3rd and 4th. It was 100 12 gauge targets, 50 20 gauge targets, 50 28 gauge targets 50 .410 targets, and 50 doubles. Results are being collated and will be published in the next Newsletter.

Club House Scheduling

Club members wishing to use the club facility must schedule their activities through the Executive Board which will place them on the official schedule. Request to use the kitchen must be submitted with the original application.

A yearly, by month, schedule of clubhouse activities is posted on the bulletin board adjacent to the main door and on the website.

Please check the schedule.

Our Club

Located at 261 Oxoboxo Dam Road in Oakdale, Connecticut the Quaker Hill Rod & Gun Club is a private sportsmen's organization whose stated purpose is to "assist in any way feasible in promoting programs for the improvement and development of hunting, fishing, wildlife conditions and shooting sports in this area."

To that end Quaker Hill offers its members, and their guests, access to two skeet ranges, a trap field, an outdoor multi-purpose rifle/pistol range, a 200 yard high power range, outdoor practical pistol and plinking ranges, an archery range, an indoor shooting gallery.

The club supports a variety of junior and women activities. Shooting competitions in numerous disciplines are held at the club on a regular basis, as are training programs in firearm and hunting safety.

"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 summer bowling pin league has started and it's still not too late to join. League shoots every Monday at 5:30PM and the matches run to the end of September. There are separate classes for auto and revolver. This is the large bore league. Pin placement is at the front of the table. Entry fee for the season is \$10 per gun. There will be three, four or five rounds each night in each class, depending on number of shooters and daylight hours. New members needing hours can get in some easy time being a pin setter.

The .22 Rimfire July Plate Shoot brought out 14 rifle shooters and 11 pistol shooters. Pistol awards went to Allen Crouch, first place, Mark Morehouse, second, and third place went to Allen Egerton. First place rifleman was Allen Egerton, second place went to Dave Strate and third place was won by Allen Crouch.

The remaining .22 Rimfire Plate Shoot dates are August 25, September 29 and the Charity Shoot on October 27th. 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. 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 clip fed semi auto rifles are preferred, tube fed rifles and revolvers are welcome and any sights are allowed. Entry fee will be \$5 per relay, payout will be determined by the number of shooters. A \$1.00 event fee for nonmembers to cover insurance will be charged. A match flier 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 held Saturday mornings. The start time is 9 AM with set up 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 shoot 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 on Friday to past participants informing them if match will be held or not. Contact Ernie Beckwith with any questions at tfo44@comcast.net.

Certifications are by email appointment only.

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

CT Big Bore League

After four 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 individual standing may change drastically as Nash Neubauer is expected to return to the firing line after a busy summer studying Calculus.

The League shoots on the third Sunday of each month, April through September. Remaining match dates are 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 a 100 yards.

Contact Team Captain Joe Smith for details at Joetech@snet.net

The Nite Owl League

The Nite Owl League is a weekly 22 caliber smallbore rifle match fired at 4PM each Tuesday during the months of May, June, July, and August. It is also a postal league with scores from Quaker Hill melded with scores from numerous smallbore ranges across southern New England.

Top of the line equipment is not required to enjoy this weekly Rifleman's Frolic. Any 22 caliber rimfire rifle capable of hitting a target at 100 yards can be used.

Come and join the fun. Coaching is available and some equipment such as shooting mats and spotting scopes are available for use.

Dizzy Paul, Jeff, and Me...

Those who are familiar with the old Yankee Stadium know about Monument Park, a collection of monuments, plaques, and retired numbers honoring distinguished members of the New York Yankees. It was built during a renovation of "The House That Ruth Built" to contain the monuments, plaques, and flag pole which were originally in fair territory on the playing field.

It may come as a surprise that there are plaques in that sacred Yankee Valhalla that honor three former Cardinals. The mystery deepens because the Yankees are in the American League and the Cardinals are in the National. Is it because the teams have met five times in World Series competition? As an off topic historical side light my uncle Harold, for whom I am named, was the navigator of a B-17 bomber that buzzed Yankee Stadium during the 1943 series, flying so low that it was said the 'Slats' Marion, the Cards shortstop, could have reached up and caught it.

It is a trick question as the plaques memorialize the Masses celebrated at Yankee Stadium by Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul II, and Pope Benedict XVI. All three men were Cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church before being elevated to the Papacy.

This little bit of baseball arcane baseball knowledge, I dare not use the term trivia for, as George Will once wrote, "Nothing about baseball is trivial", came to me over the airwaves as I listened to my favorite radio program, *Car Talk*, while driving to the Connecticut State NRA Three Position Championship. This little tidbit, mixed with the events of the day, got me to thinking about one of the great pitchers and characters in baseball's vast cast of players.

As I sat filling out my registration card the Match Director was perusing the National Record list. He mentioned to me that I had a reasonable shot at the 20 shot senior category anysight standing and kneeling records, as well as the aggregate. I also signed up for the two man team match where I was partnered with Jeff Doerschler who was riding a hot streak. With that boost to my ego I went about preparing for the match.

All went well as I sighted in prone and went for record. I opened with a center ten and then shot a nine at five o'clock. Telling myself I had better concentrate I continued to dabble away points left and right. Where I am usually good for a 198-200 in prone I only managed to card a 187.

Mortified at my poor performance prone I tried my best to put it behind me and get back on track in standing. After all, I still had a shot at the geezer record. Again I was plagued by a good shot or series of good shot followed by something so wide that I didn't even think they printed rings on the target that far out. Where I had been used to seeing 190s next to my name there was a 166.

Oh, well there is always kneeling and another shot for a record there. I am usually good for a low to mid 190 but, unfortunately, I manage a score that was almost as good as my prone. Under normal circumstance that would have thrilled me except for the fact that my prone was so poor.

While I packed my gear I was trying to figure out what may have caused my downfall for my hold seemed solid. Was it *hubris*, for I have picked up four senior records since I turned sixty? Was it thinking about a record and not each shot as I should have? I was not shooting my best ammunition. Had this caused the problem? Was I just not mentally there? All these thoughts passed through my mind, as well as the disappointment of letting Jeff down. He was shooting a later relay and would walk in and see my dismal performance upon the scoreboard and have to try to make up the huge deficit I had created. That bitter thought was going through my mind as I took out my torque wrench to loosen my bedding screws before putting my rifle in its case. I really didn't need the wrench, for when I went to loosen them I found that I had neglected to tighten them before the match. With my mind occupied with National Records and socializing I had committed a rookie's error and paid for it accordingly. I regretted that Jeff would have to cash the check I wrote with my carelessness as our team hopes were dashed by my lack of attention to detail.

With the Yankee/Cardinal question still in my mind my stupidity reminded me of an incident that involved Hall of Fame Cardinal pitcher 'Dizzy' Dean, a member of the famous 'Gas House Gang' that so dominated baseball in the mid 1930s. After being struck in the head by a ball he was taken to the hospital for examination. As he left reporters asked him about his health and he famously replied, "The doctors x-rayed my head and found nothing." The same might have been said about me that day.

Jeff was still on fire and managed to do what I had been pursuing all day, a National Record performance. He parlayed a 200 prone with a 195 standing and a 199 kneeling for a 594X600 for a new civilian record and with it we won the team match.

Again Dizzy Dean popped into my mind for he had a brother, Paul, who was also a Cardinal pitcher at the same time. One day, in the first game of a doubleheader against the Brooklyn Dodgers, Dizzy pitched no-hit ball for eight innings but gave up three-hits in the ninth for a shutout. Paul then proceeded to throw a no-hitter in the second game. "Gee, Paul," Diz was heard to say in the locker room afterward, "if I'd a-known you was gonna throw a no-hitter, I'd a-thrown one too!"

The same might have been said about Jeff and me and National Records.

