



The Quaker Hill Rod and Gun Club Newsletter

<http://quakerhillrodandgunclub.co>

PO Box 80
261 Oxoboxo Dam Road
Oakdale, CT 06370

Volume 2013, Issue 9
September 2013



Trap League champions Bryan Parkos, Doug Britt, and Stu Coleman pose with their swag.

Summer Trap League

Summer Trap League Match Director Joe Stajduhar reports that the league has wrapped up successfully. Competitors fired at 200 targets at 16 yards and another 200 targets at handicap yardage. The league winners are High Over All, Doug Britt; the Handicap, winner was Stu Coleman; and the 16 Yard champion is Bryan Parkos.

QH At The National Matches

The Club had members at both the National Service Pistol and Rifle Matches. Dave Vinkler shot both and placed with the rifle in the prestigious Presidents Hundred.

George Planeta III and junior Tyler Glynn earned points towards Distinguished in the M16 Excellence in Competition Match.

James Planeta and Glynn participated in team matches as members of various Connecticut State Rifle and Revolver Teams.

Ryan McKee stayed on after the National Trophy Matches to participate in the NRA High Power Championship.

All reported that it was a worthwhile, entertaining and educational experience.

Monthly Meetings Resume

The summer hiatus has ended and regular monthly club meetings resume on September 19, 2013 at 7PM in Sullivan Hall.

Secretary and Committee Chairs 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, Archery Chair, 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.. The event will take place on Saturday Sept. 21, 2013. All Club facilities are reserved for the event.

It takes a lot of volunteers and work to make these events successful. All members who have volunteered are asked to meet with Keith Griffin at the September 19th general membership meeting to receive their assignments.

Gate Lock and Keys

The clubhouse and gate key were changed on June 20th.

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

Keys may be picked up at the Skeet House or Montville Hardware.

Contacting Officers

Members are reminded to identify themselves as club members when contacting any club officer, trustee, or range chairmen. Please provide your membership number to help expedite a reply.

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, and membership number.

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

Steward's Notes

With Ladies' Day so close to the September General membership Meeting the Steward and his staff will be occupied with that major event.

As a result, there will be no meal on September 19th.

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 August were Eric J. and Rebecca Costello, Pawcatuck; Joseph A. Fratianni, Old Saybrook; and Thomas W. and Susan W. Morrow, Colchester

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.

February Utah Permit Class Planned

A Utah Permit Class is scheduled for February and there are openings still available.

Contact Jack Santo to sign up.

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.

Archery Range Notes

Archery Chair Rick Davidson would like to thank all the members who participated in this summer's work parties.

Only field points can be used on the outside hanging targets as they are not designed for broadheads of any type. This includes practice broad head tips, both fixed and expandable, as they cause just as much damage as regular broadheads.

Broadhead practice targets are in the shed at the archery range with one for compound and recurve bows, and the other for Crossbows. Keys for the shed are available from Chairman Davidson.

Rocketto Range Notes

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

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.

Rhode Island Pistol Class

The club will hold a Rhode Island Pistol Class on Saturday, October 5, 2013, at 9:00AM. This class is limited to 25 participants. A live fire session, where the applicant must score a minimum of 195 points out of 300 on the Army "L" target at a distance of 25 yards, will be conducted. Candidates will shoot three strings of ten rounds each in ten minutes. Candidates must bring any caliber handgun, up to .45 ACP, with which they wish to be certified and at least 50 rounds of ammunition for that handgun. A Rhode Island permit is restricted to the largest caliber firearm with which you qualify. Class time, including range time, is approximately three to five hours.

Cost for this class is \$90.00 per person. Deadline for receipt of payment and registration is September 30, 2013. Make checks payable to Quaker Hill Rod & Gun Club. Fifty per cent of the registration fee will be retained by the club for any no show.

Rimfire Bench Rest Match

A 50 yard Benchrest Rimfire Shoot will be held on the rifle range at the Club on September 22, 2013 starting at 9:00AM. It will be 25 shots on 25 individual targets with unlimited sighters. Sporter Class will allow up to a 9X scope while benchrest allows any power scope.

The match entry fee is \$5.00 for members and \$6.00 for Non-members. Point of contact is Bob Harris at 860-442-9959 or email at harrisb@snet.net.

Skeet News

The Club Skeet championship was held on August 3rd and 4th. After two days of hard competition Rich Civitello emerged as the High Over All Champion busting 290 out of 300 birds.

Skeet Chairman Doug Britt went clean in the 12 gauge category, breaking 100 out of 100 clays.

Class AA winner was Rich Civitello with a 99X100 while Ted Neumeck broke 93 to best all of the A Class shooters. John Huhn only missed two birds, 98X100, to top the B class. C class winner was Ross Sanfilippo also broke 98 to win his class. Jack Santo Jr. won the D class with 73 birds.

In doubles competition Doug Britt notched his second win with 48 birds dusted. Bill Eckhoff broke 45 to become the 20 gauge winner. Using a 28 gauge shotgun Paul Brulotte broke 49 to win while the .410 victor was Rich Civitello who hit 47 clays.

Britt reported that it was a well contested and well run shoot enjoyed by all as was that the summer skeet league dinner. Summer League results will be published in the next Newsletter.

Winter Pistol and Rifle Leagues To Begin Soon

The winter pistol and rifle leagues are set to start up very soon. Contact Bob Gesiak, rjgesiak@snet.net or Bob Droesch, rdroesch6301@charter.net for pistol or Mark Wujewicz, mwojo@ct.metrocast.net, Steve Rocketto, aquilasys.com for rifle, or Ernie Mellor at emellor@sbcglobal.net.

Brush Clearing Project

Tree cutting and brush clearing on the Rocketto Range and upper fields will be an ongoing project. 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.

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

Effective immediately the following range rule is now part of the operating procedures of the Practical Pistol Range. This includes open shooting as well as supervised matches: "No loaded firearms enter or leave the range, including concealed carry."

.22 Rimfire Plate Shoots will be held on September 29 and October 27, the 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. 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. Any sights are permitted. Entry fee will be \$5 per relay, a \$1 event fee will be charged nonmembers to cover insurance. Payout will be determined by how many shooters participate. A match flier is on the website or you can contact Allen Crouch at 860-608-7276 or eacrouch@snet.net for more information.

The Annual Toy Shoot will be held Sunday October 20th. This yearly event is to raise money for Montville Social Services to buy toys and clothes for needy children. It is a bowling pin style match. Entry fee is \$5, a new unwrapped toy, or whatever you amount you would like to donate. Sign up at 9 AM. The match starts at 10 AM. Let's have a big turnout for this worthwhile event which is open to all. Contact Tony Goulart at 823-1234 or surf-caster17@att.net if you have any questions. New members needing hours the easiest work you could ever do is to be a pin setter for a few hours.

There were 32 shooters, 17 rifle and 15 pistol shooters, participating in the August .22 Rimfire Plate Shoot. Allen Crouch took first place in the pistol match with Mark Morehouse second and Oscar Courville third. First place rifleman was Mike McInerney, second place went to Bill Weinschenker and third was Mark Majewski.

The summer bowling pin league will end this month. Watch for results in next month's newsletter. New members needing hours you can get in some easy time being a pin setter.

Concealed Tactical (ConTact) defensive pistol matches are held Saturday mornings 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. High capacity magazines, ported barrels, low profile optical sights, etc. are allowed. Usually shoot four scenarios are shot per match, with from six to 18 rounds fired per scenario. If the weather forecast is iffy on Friday an email will be sent out to past participants informing them if the match will be held. Contact Ernie Beckwith with any questions at tfo44@comcast.net .

Certifications are by email appointment only.

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

Connecticut Big Bore League

After five matches Quaker Hill currently maintains its lead in the Connecticut Big Bore League as a team while QH member Nash Neubauer, returning after a busy summer studying Calculus, is top individual with a 392 average. He is followed by team mates Hap Rocketto, 387, Steve Rocketto with 386, Phil Kohanski, 384 and Ryna McKee with a 382. These club members are also the five top averages in the league..

The League shoots on the third Sunday of each month, April through September. The remaining match date is September 22. There is also opportunity available to shoot on an off day if you have obligations on match day.

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

Nite Owl Summer Smallbore Prone League Closes its Season

Twenty competitors participated in the 2013 Nite Owl Smallbore Rifle League in which each fired 40 shots prone at 100 yards prone every Tuesday from April through August. The QH contingent also sent its scores into Bell City Rifle Club for participation in its postal match series which collects scores from all over Southern New England.

Local league Champion was Hap Rocketto who averaged a 399.50X400 with an average of 29Xs. High woman was Jenn Sloan, 393.4-21Xs while son Eric Sloan captured junior honors firing a 393.8-17X. High senior was Ernie Mellor who rang up a 395-22X average. Roger Breunig shot in the F-Class and put together a category winning 385-11X year. The Class A winner was Steve Rocketto with an average of 398-25Xs. B Class was taken by Tom McGurl with a 395-18X while Tyler Glynn scooped up C Class honors shooting a 390-13X.

BETTER LUCKY THAN GOOD...

After shooting together for several days at a long ago Interservice the three of us who shared the point sat in the Quantico pits during a lull in the shooting and, for want of a better topic, discussed how we had become Non Commissioned Officers. Considering that we were all in the pay grade E-5 we were barely NCOs, but our very junior status was still enough to get us out of the more onerous tasks that the lowest rated enlisted men must endure.

W.T. Doors was a Navy Petty Officer Second Class and he told of the rigorous schooling and testing that one went through in the Navy to be promoted. However, he said that he was a bit lucky in moving up. He was, he said, a DC2. Not the ancient airplane that preceded the DC3 for he was not in aviation, but in engineering and hull specialties. His area of expertise was damage control, therefore DC for Damage Controlman and 2 for Petty Officer 2nd Class.

It seems his ship suffered a severe hull casualty while engaged in underway replenishment. Jones directed a damage control party and personally participated in shoring up a buckled bulkhead, securing loose machinery, temporarily sealing the ruptured hull plates, and rigging pumps to discharge seawater overboard. For his actions his captain awarded him both a Navy Commendation Medal and promotion to PO2/DC2/E-5. Personally, I didn't think this was luck, but an appropriate award for an act of heroics and professional competence.

A.W. Meyers was a Marine sergeant right off a recruiting poster, hard body, hair high and tight, deeply tanned face, and a pinch of Copenhagen in his lower lip. Meyers considered that he was lucky in promotion also. He was honor man in recruit training which earned him PFC stripes right out of boot camp. He made Lance Corporal as soon as possible due to great efficiency reports, and after winning the Division matches he was meritoriously promoted to Corporal and then to sergeant after taking a gold at the Marine Corps Matches. Again, I didn't think it was luck. Here was a hard working young professional soldier who paid attention to detail.

Then there was me. If any one knew about luck in promotion it was me. A short while earlier I was a corporal of no distinction, only because promotion to that grade was automatic being based on time in service. I had been detailed to one of the many chores that befall those of little rank and less responsibility. My battalion was having a change of command I was one of a group of soldiers assigned to take the new CO and his party from the ceremony to a reception at headquarters.

The ceremony was to be rather long and we were told to keep out of sight but be ready when called. Our company commander had thoughtfully sent out box lunches and we stripped off our fatigue shirts so that they would stay creased free and safe from food stains as we lolled in a small grove of trees, all the while staying hidden as ordered.

We finished our lunches and sat yawning and yawning, all out of sight as we were told. The ceremony moved more quickly than expected and out of nowhere bolted our sergeant major. Irritated that his careful plans had gone awry he scattered us to our duty stations like a fox among hens. We grabbed at the neatly stacked pile of shirts, hurriedly tucking them in as we ran for the jeeps.

As luck would have it I drew the new CO and, not yet calmed down from being startled from my reverie and not that great a driver anyway, managed to "peel out" showering the jeep behind with small stones, shattering its windshield. I then caught the edge of the open water filled conduit that bordered the road. Fortunately I had insured the CO's seat belt was latched before starting off and that saved him from being ejected into the swampy ditch. I can't say the same for his gold braid covered hat. After grinding the gears, running a stop sign, and stalling to a stop in front of headquarters I at last delivered the steaming CO to his destination.

Looking about he spied Captain Sconyers, my company commander, who was trying to be as inconspicuous or, perhaps, invisible, if possible. Bad news rides a fast horse and the executive officer had radioed ahead to warn him. I knew I was in trouble but was out of earshot and all I saw was the pantomime of the colonel darting his finger at me, doing a poor job at controlling his raging anger, and barking something at the captain.

I did not hear him snarl at the captain, "Make that man a sergeant! His performance today deserves that action, at the very least!" Sconyers, taking silent affront at the colonel's imperious manner, saluted and replied, "Sir! Are you sure you want me to make that man a sergeant?" The reply, more a rebuke, came back quickly and sharply, "Captain that is what I said, that is what I mean, now see to it!"

Sconyers, a firm and fair man with a strong sense of discipline and a darker sense of humor, beckoned me over with a crooked forefinger and a hard look. We were well acquainted as I had spent a fair amount of time with my heels locked in front of his desk involved in one way discussions concerning my many minor miscreant military meanderings.

With a disquieting Cheshire Cat grin on his face he said in a measured voice, "Rocketto, I have no choice. I don't want to argue with the new colonel over such a trivial matter as your lack of driving skills. Make sure you check the company bulletin board tomorrow morning for your orders."

Orders for what? My imagination ran wild, Alaska in January, the Sahara in July? I had no idea what was in store for me and he wasn't telling.

Then, tapping the name tape over my right pocket and pinching the rank insignia pin on my collar, he said, "Oh, and when you get back to the barracks make sure to return this shirt to Staff Sergeant Miller.

And that is how I became an NCO.



