



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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October 2013

P.T. MacDonald Passes

Percy Thomas "Mac" MacDonald, who served as the president of both Quaker Hill and the New London County Pistol League in the 1960s passed away on September 25, 2013.

"Mac" shot for the Nutmegs and also designed the club's iconic Quaker hat logo.

He served as an engineer in the Merchant Marine during World War II and survived the sinking of his ship on the Murmansk Run to Russia.

He trained at the Merchant Marine Academy at Sheepshead Bay, N.Y., and attended Officer Training School in New London. He was a ship captain and marine engineer for many years for Mobil Oil Company and worked as a captain and engineer on the New London Cross Sound Ferries.

The Club offers its condolences to his wife and daughters who survive him.

We are diminished.



Junior Program Underway

This year's Junior Program kicked off its new season on Friday October 4, 2013 at 6:30pm for returning shooters. Enrollment for new shooters will start on October 11, 2013 at 6:30 pm.

All shooters are Parents must be present for consent forms. Requirements for the first night will be safety glasses, hearing protection, long pants, and hard soled shoes or boots. Firearms and safety orientation will begin at 6:30 P.M.

Junior Director Mark Wujtewicz at mwojo@ct.metrocast.net is the point of contact

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. Contact Jack Santo if interested.

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

Fall Ladies' Day

The Club sponsored the Fall NRA's Women On Target® Instructional Shooting Clinic. The purpose of the program is to provide a safe non-competitive atmosphere for women to learn all about firearms, and to gain confidence in their newly-acquired shooting skills. During a day on the range they learn to shoot, and enjoy a sport that lasts a life time, safe firearms handling, and how to store firearms safely.

Committee chairman Keith Griffin reports that there were 43 ladies helped by approximately 50 Club volunteer who coached, instructed, and acted as guides in a very professional manner. This activity is one of the club's most visible community outreach program,

The weather was great and the kitchen staff provided burgers, cheese burgers, hot dogs, chili, and teriyaki chicken for lunch. It was a great time for both the participants and the volunteers and plans are already underway for a spring event.

Pheasant Permits Available

Club pheasant permits for the 2013 season are now available at \$30 each from Jeff Urgitis who may be reached by e-mail at jeffurgitis@ct.metrocast.net or (860) 705-1807. The club pheasant stocking program starts on Saturday, October 19th.

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

Steward MacLean has announced that the first meeting dinner of the year will be prime rib.

Seats are limited to 50, so sign up on the sheet next to the kitchen serving hatch before it fills up.

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 September are Alexander E. Howard, Colchester; Paul H. and Diane S. Robillard, Salem; and David and Ellen Yacono, Colchester.

First readings: Barbara P. and Robert M. Gaudio, East Haddam; Clay M. and Sue Ann A. Leslie, Uncasville; Warren W. Strutt, New London; Ding "Dean" Wang, Oakdale; and John P. Wilcox, Preston.

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.

Utah Permit Class

A Utah Permit Class will be held at the club in February of 2014. Anyone interested please send an email to Jack Santo jdjsanto@aol.com with UTAH in the subject line to add your name.

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.

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 Chairman Rick Davidson would like thank all that came to the Archery Range work party on October 5th. The turnout was awesome and the amount of work completed huge.

A special thanks goes to Robert DiPianta who orchestrated the tree removal and trimming. Without his expertise we could not have accomplished what we did. Over a dozen members came out to successfully complete the planned work. It was great to see the involvement of so many club members.

Unfortunately Chairman Davidson will be relocating soon and is looking for an archer to take his place.

If you are interested in taking on this important club chairmanship please contact Davidson at (860)705-2447 or rdavidson8985@sbcglobal.net or President Santo.

Rocketto Range Notes

The Summer 600 Match series has ended and the winner was Don Dyer with an average of 547.63.

600 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.

Rocketto Range Reserved

The Rocketto Range is reserved from 9AM to 3PM on October 26th and November 16th for Civil Air Patrol Junior Firearms Safety and Marksmanship Training.

Part of the Club's purpose is to "assist in any way feasible in promoting programs for the improvement of ...shooting sports in this area." To that end the Club hosts cadets from the Connecticut Civil Air Patrol to learn about firearm safety and to earn Winchester-NRA medals.

On September 28th, after a safety briefing and instruction in the prone position, the cadets fired five relays.

2dLt Timothy Plourde, USAF, a former Groton CAP cadet and member of the Quaker Hill and the Montville High School Rifle Teams assisted. While at Quaker Hill, Plourde earned the NRA Distinguished Expert rating.

Point of Contact is Steve Rocketto at rocketto@aquilasys.com

Rimfire Bench Rest Match

A 50 yard Rimfire Benchrest shoot was held on September 22, 2013 at Quaker Hill under the direction of Bob Harris. The course of fire was 25 shots, with unlimited sighters, at 50 yards.

Winners were: Unlimited class: 1st place Allen Crouch (QHR&G) 247-10X and 2nd place Dan Kauczka (QHR&G) 227-10X, Sporter class: 1st place Gary Adams (Narragansett R&G) 239-6X and 2nd place Brad Soper (Narragansett R&G) 234-5X, and Iron sight sporter: Ed Hackney (Narragansett R&G) 225.

Carroll Range Notes

The Carroll Range will be closed pending the completion of upgrades.

Members will be notified through RapidNews, the Newsletter, and posted notices when the facility will be available.

Winter Leagues Start

The winter pistol and rifle leagues are underway.

Pending completion of Carroll Range upgrades our indoor programs will be shooting amended schedules.

Pistol shooters contact Bob Gesiak, rjgesiak@snet.net for Quaker Hill or Bob Droesch, rdroesch6301@charter.net for the Nutmegs to compete on Monday nights.

Rifle shooters who wish to shoot in the Mohegan League on Wednesday nights should call Mark Wujtewicz, mwojo@ct.metrocast.net, for Quaker Hill and Steve Rocketto, aquilasys.com for the Magnums.

Rifle shooters interested in the Southwest League on Friday mornings need to contact Ernie Mellor at emellor@sbcglobal.net.

Skeet News

Paul Brullotte won the summer Skeet League. Cory Britt finished second ahead of his grandfather Doug, who was third. Jean Martin and Gary Rogoff took fourth and fifth place.

A good time was had by all and the closing steak dinner was excellent. The 2014 Summer League will be here before we know it and it is hoped to see everyone back.

Skeet Chair Doug Britt is looking for assistance from the skeet shooting community and new members needing to complete work hours to help unload an order of targets.

The trailer is scheduled to arrive on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at 8:30 AM.

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."

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 is at 9 AM and 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 will find that the easiest work you could ever do is to be a pin setter for a few hours.

The last .22 Rimfire Plate Shoot of the year, The Charity Shoot, will be held 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. 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 Summer Bowling Pin League has finished its season. Top prize winners in the auto class were Joe Trudelle, 1st, Bob Birge 2nd, Scott Pierce 3rd, Russ Shaw 4th and Jeff Urgitis, 5th. Prize winners in the revolver class were Tony Goulart 1st, Ernie Beckwith 2nd, Allen Egerton, 3rd, Chris Colombo 4th, and Todd Pacquin 5th. A fun style shoot off was held the last week with Tony Goulart winning the revolver round with Joe Trudelle the runner up. Jeff Urgitis won the auto round with Chris Colombo the runner up. Honors for the shooter showing the most improvement from last season went to Oscar Courville.

Results from the September .22 Rimfire Plate Shoot are: Pistols, first place Allen Crouch, second Mark Morehouse and third Mark Hillier. In the rifle competition first place went to Mark Majewski, second place Don Dyer and third Dave Strate.

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

Quaker Hill Team Captain Joe Smith reports that Quaker Hill has repeated as the Connecticut Big Bore League as a team while QH member Nash Neubauer took the individual championship. . Neubauer's team mates also did well with Hap Rocketto, Steve Rocketto, Phil Kohanski finishing in that order in Class A. Quaker Hill's Ryan McKee, Joe Smith, and Steve Milas were the top three in Class B. Dave Porter took third in Class C.

New London County Pistol League

The New London County Pistol League is four weeks into its 2013-14 season and the Quaker Hill Nutmegs are currently undefeated at 3-0. Bob Drosch leads the team with a 277X300 average with Dennis Allen, 275, and Brian Watrous 277 and Tony Goulart, 270, hard on his heels.

Unfortunately the Quaker Hill Team is mired at the bottom of Class B with a 1-3 record. Phil Kohanski is shooting a 281 average and is supported by Lance Johnson at 277 and Scott Pierce with a 265.

It is early in the season and the sample size is too small to make long term predictions while scheduling may have had an effect on the current standings.

Right Between The Running Lights...

When I was a young unmarried pup I usually went to Camp Perry for the both phases of the smallbore matches, The DCM Board Matches, NRA High power, and rounded out the stay with attendance at the long-range matches. It was about 30 days of the most intense kind of shooting. In 1976, during the Wimbledon Match, 20 shots at 1,000 yards with metallic sights, I was in the pit and my shooters had finished. With a little time on my hands I had wandered down to where my brother Steve was pulling targets. I thought I'd either pick up a new joke or perhaps some hot range gossip.

As I approached I noticed that he and the two other pullers, Paul Leberge of the famous Vermont shooting clan being one of them, was ankle deep in sand, splinters, and scraps of burlap. This meant that 1,000 yards away someone was not having a good day. As I approached, my ever helpful and concerned older brother suggested that I get up against the pit wall as there was debris flying all over the place. I leaned against the concrete in a nonchalant manner trying to look worldly and experienced in the art of long range shooting.

I was chatting with Paul, who like his many of his eight brothers and three sisters is named after a saint—there being a Peter, Luke, and Mark among them—about an entertaining little vignette I witnessed on Commercial Row the previous night. What seemed like the entire Laberge Clan had emerged from a store in single file, each carrying a caddy of rifle powder on his left shoulder. I remarked to him that it brought to mind the scene from the Disney movie *Snow White* where the Seven Dwarfs came whistling home from a long day's work in the diamond mine. Paul politely replied with an indulgent chuckle at my observation. It must have been good powder because brothers Paul, Pete, Mark, and Al, under the scope of fellow Green Mountain long range specialist Jim Gomo, later won the Rumanian Trophy, the premier 1,000 yard four man team iron sight match.

As I was next getting ready to again open my mouth to utter some sage sophomoric advice to the shooter I was stung, or so I thought, by a bee right between my beady little eyes. What had actually happened was that a round came through the top of a sand bag, struck the 2X4 upright of the target frames, and ricocheted back and down at a sharp angle. It passed under the brim of my hat and smacked me right between the running lights!

The spent 173 grain bullet broke the skin, caused a drop or two of blood to be spilled, cauterized the wound and then formed a blister about the size of a dime right behind the nose piece of my glasses. It also instantly made me a folk hero. I was the only man to be hit between the eyes at 1002 yards by a National Match bullet and live to tell the tale.

Since that time I have listened to many people tell the tale of how they were in the pits the day the guy got shot between eyes. Everyone who tells the tale was an eyewitness to the event as they were pulling on adjacent targets. My brother and I have tallied the number of different people who have told the story and now reckon that there were about 12,800, people (some still unborn in 1976) present. I take pride in knowing that I am personally responsible for one of the largest turnouts at long range. With 12,800 folks in the pits there must have been a like amount on the line making the total near 25,600 shooters!

I don't know how I managed to find the bent bullet. I was scrounging around amid the thousands of shuffling feet and clouds of dust and only managed to spot the deformed copper clad chunk of steel because a tiny stray shaft of sunlight glinted off of it. Before my fingers were ground to a pulp by the feet of the milling throng I managed to snatch it up from the weathered gray splintered wood that is the Camp Perry pit catwalk. For years I carried it in my pocket as a good luck piece. It now rests in a Lucite block in my bookcase as a reminder of the most crowded long-range match in recent history.



