



The Quaker Hill Rod and Gun Club Newsletter

<http://quakerhillrodandgunclub.org>

PO Box 80
261 Oxoboxo Dam Road
Oakdale, CT 06370

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November 2013

Walt Dombrowski Passes



Quaker Hill Rod and Gun Club suffered a great loss when long time club member Walter A. Dombrowski passed away Thursday, November 7, 2013.

Walt was a life time resident of Montville except for a 1955-1959 tour in the US Air Force where he served as a jet engine mechanic. He retired from Electric Boat after 30 years as a sheet metal mechanic.

While he was a successful and well know stock car driver on local tracks Walt's true sporting love was hunting and fishing. His hard work in that area at Quaker Hill resulted in our well run and popular deer and bird hunting program.

Walt also enjoyed working in the kitchen as well and was a regular sight at the various game and meeting dinners which he helped prepare.

The club offers its deepest and heartfelt condolences to his wife Margaret; sons Scott, Jeffrey, and Jason; daughters Teresa and Michelle, his nine grandchildren and brother Ronald.

We are diminished.

Skeet Target Help

Skeet Committee Chairman Doug Britt is looking for more than a few good men to help unload a delivery of targets arriving on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at 8:30 AM.

CAP Cadets Qualify



Nash Neubauer instructs CAP cadet in the proper prone position

Twenty one Civil Air Patrol cadets from Danbury, Stratford, Meriden, and Groton attended a rifle training session on October 26th on the Rocketto Range. Two thirds of the cadets achieved NRA medals. Cadet Michael Hollingsworth, Matt Johnstone, Chris Jaskiewicz, and Daniel Hollingsworth, all Quaker Hill Junior members, were among them.

Stephen Rocketto served as Chief Range Instructor and was assisted by Quaker Hill coaches Ryan McKee and Nash Neubauer.

Funding for the event was provided by the Connecticut Friends of the NRA and the generosity of the Club.

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, or Sunshine Committee Chair. Contact Jack Santo if interested.

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

Steward MacLean has announced that a traditional Thanksgiving dinner will be featured at the November meeting.

Please sign up in the book on the table next to the kitchen serving hatch by November 14th.

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 October are 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.

First readings: Christopher J. and Stacy T. Boix, Colchester; Eric L. Discko, Middletown; David J. and Erna Franco, Quaker Hill; Timothy J. Fournier, Oakdale; Troy A. and Melissa Hollingsworth, Uncasville; Jeff A. Myshka, Oakdale; Peter Triputi, East Haddam; Brent R. Glidewell and Jocelyn Tachdjian-Glidewell, New London; Keith A. Murphy, Mystic; and George Vafidis, Waterford.

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.

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-Mark Wujtecicz 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

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.

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.

A club hat or jacket is a perfect birthday gift for any member. Doug may be contacted at 1-860-448-0308, at general membership meetings, or the skeet house.

National Indoor Rifle And Pistol Championship Results

The results of the 2013 National Indoor Rifle and Pistol Championships have been published and become official.

Jenn Sloan, who began her smallbore shooting career as a Quaker Hill junior, shot for New London High School, and then was on scholarship with the Saint John's University Rifle Team got into the money at the 2013 National Indoor Conventional Smallbore Rifle Championships.

Shooting 80 shots, 20 in each of four positions, on the A-17 target Sloan earned 25th place nationally, and ended up fourth Expert in the event. Her efforts placed her in the top ten percent of all shooters, earning her one of the four "steps" required to be awarded the prestigious NRA Distinguished Smallbore Position Rifleman Award.

Two Quaker Hill pistol shooters along with one new applicant were among the 1300 plus handgun competitors who competed in the 2013 National Indoor Pistol Championships. The match is fired at local ranges across the nation during the winter months with the scores being collated and distributed by the National Rifle Association.

Quaker Hill Nutmeg team members Bob Droesch and Gary Zawistowski fired an aggregate of 20 shots slow fire, 20 shots timed fire, 20 shots rapid fire and the 30-shot NRA Gallery Course. They were joined in the competition by applicant Peter Tripputi.

Tripputi was 38th Master and 104th overall. Droesch placed 234 Expert and 539 over all while Zawistowski was 98th Sharpshooter and 612 overall

Rocketto Range Notes

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.

Winter Pistol and Rifle Leagues Underway

The winter pistol and rifle leagues are underway. Just show up on the scheduled night or call the following.

Interested pistol shooters should contact Quaker Hill captain Bob Gesiak, rjgesiak@snet.net or Nutmeg captain 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 can call Mark Wujtewicz, mwojo@ct.metrocast.net, for Quaker Hill and Steve Rocketto, aquilasys.com for the Magnums.

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

Carroll Range Reserved

We have begun the indoor rifle and pistol season.

The Carroll Range is reserved for CAP Firearms Safety Instruction on November 16, 2013 from 9 AM to 3 PM.

All members are also reminded that the Carroll Range is reserved for team use as follows: Monday-Montville High School-3PM to 6PM and New London County Pistol League-7PM to 10PM, Tuesday-Grasso Technical High School-3PM to 6PM, Wednesday-Montville High School-3PM to 6PM and Mohegan Rifle League- 7PM to 11PM, Thursday Grasso Technical High School-3PM to 6PM, Friday Southwestern Rifle League-10AM to Noon and Quaker Hill Junior Program-6PM to 10PM

The Carroll Range is closed on the first and third Thursdays of each month during Executive Board and General Membership Meetings.

Utah Permit Class

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

Contact Jack Santo to sign up.

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.

Club Keys

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

To be issued a key you must present a current membership card and return the old key.

Practical Pistol

The Annual Charity Toy Shoots was held on Sunday Oct 20th and the Charity Plate Shoot Sunday October 27th. The weather was good for both events. There were a total of 30 entries for the pin shoot and 40 entries for the plate shoot. Joe Trudelle was first in the pin shoot with an auto took and also took second with his revolver, Scott Pierce was third with Todd Paquin and Mike McInerney placing fourth and fifth.

The plate shoot pistol winner was Allen Crouch with Allen Egerton in second place followed by Steve D'Angelo in third. Rifle first place went to Bill Weinschenker while Eric Majewski placed second and Dave Strate Sr taking third.

Thanks go to Allen Crouch, Joe Trudelle, Jean Martin, Chris Colombo and Bob Birge for running the matches this year. A tip of the hat to Will Creech for pin setting. Kudos to all the club members who participated in the matchs or just contributed with cash or toy donations. Currently we have some toys and over \$425. The last chance to donate either an unwrapped toy or cash is at the November General Membership meeting. Please see Tony Gouart or Frank Torcia if you wish to make a donation.

The Winter Outdoor Pin League will start Saturday January 11th at 1 PM and run until the end of March. This is a .22 pistol, semi-automatic and/or revolver bowling pin style league. The targets will be the special steel pin racks we have for the pin tables. Bowling pin league match rules apply. The entry fee will is \$10 per gun. Contact Frank Torcia with any questions.

Concealed Tactical (ConTact) Defensive pistol matches are Saturday mornings starting at 9 AM. Set up is at 8:30AM 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, and etc. are OK. We usually shoot four scenarios 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 night informing them if 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.

New London County Pistol League

The New London County Pistol League is nine weeks into its 2013-14 season and the Quaker Hill Nutmegs are currently at 5-01 Bob Droesch leads the team with a 278.67X300 average with Brian Watrous 276.5, in second.

The Quaker Hill Team got off the *schnide* with a win and is now 1-6 on the year, but still, unfortunately, at the bottom of Class B. Phil Kohanski is shooting a 277 average for the team lead and is supported by Lance Johnson with a 277.

Quaker Hill Juniors

The Junior program is well underway. The juniors are beginning their fourth week of practice and are starting to get into the swing of things

With over 40 kids participating, roughly half of them are first time participants, the program shows solid growth. The robust nature of junior activity bodes well for the future of the club. A large and active membership lays the ground work for them growing into senior members who will make significant contributions to Quaker Hill when they are adults. Just one look at the roster of current officers and committee chairs who started out as juniors drives the point home. The juniors are the seed corn of the shooting sports and the club and we must nurture them accordingly.

The Junior club begins is match season in December and will close out the year in March.

Mohegan Rifle League

Both Club entries in the MRL are doing well heading into the sixth week of the season.

The Quaker Hill Magnums are undefeated at 5-0. Eric Sloan is leading the team with a 393.25X400. Ernie Mellor leads a block of mid 380s shooters at 389.75 with Shawn Carpenter posting a 386.4.

Quaker Hill is 2-1, its only loss coming at the hands of the Magnums. The top two shooters are Mark W:ujtewicz with a 378 Average and Dave Vinkler who has put together a 376 average.

A JUXTAPOSITION OF PASSIONS...

After my bride and two daughters my passions are shooting, and then, in no particular order, aviation and baseball. The America's Cup used to be up there but since the grand days of the statuesque J Boats and thoroughbred 12 meter yachts have degenerated into soulless corporate financed multihull boats I fear my interest has waned. But, when my passions juxtapose there is always a bit more interest and excitement.

For example, the third game of the 1943 World Series on October 7th, interestingly enough 35 years to the day I was married. The two teams with the greatest number of World Series victories, the insufferable New York Yankees and the more tolerable Saint Louis Cardinals meet in the October Classic. During the third game, played at the old Yankee Stadium, The House the Ruth Built, a pair of B17 Flying Fortresses buzzed the game. 'Thu Helen Highwater', piloted by 2LT Jack Watson, flew so low that one of the sports scribes reported that Cardinal shortstop Marty "Slats" Marion, who had unusually long arms which had earned him the nickname "The Octopus," might have fielded it. In fact photos of the incident show the lumbering four engine bomber barely clearing the flag staffs set high atop the Yankee Stadium outfield facade.

Sitting in the Plexiglas nose of Watson's plane was the navigator, my uncle Harold J. Rocketto, for whom I am named. Fittingly the Cardinals won the game-the only one in a series they lost 4-1, a joyful event; I am sure, for my uncle who was an avid Brooklyn Dodger fan. It was not all that joyful when they landed in Presque Isle, Maine and were detained pending disciplinary action. It seemed that New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, a World War I bomber pilot, who was seated in Yankee Stadium at the time, was hopping mad over the buzz job. The pilots were given letters of reprimand and fined \$75 each, no small sum in 1943, and quickly sent on their way as the air war in Europe was consuming aircraft and crews at a prodigious rate and there were none to waste.

To tie things together the Cardinal's manager was Hall of Famer Billy Southworth whose son, Billy, Junior, was a pilot serving with the 303rd Bomb Group at Molesworth, England, to which 'Thu Helen Highwater' and her crew were assigned when they arrived in England a few days later. LaGuardia was a member the Quiet Birdmen, a pilot's organization, of which my brother and I are also members.

My daughters, knowing of my varied interests, gave me a copy of Robert Gandt's study of the age of the great flying boats, *China Clipper*, for my birthday. As I read the book I learned much and recognized many familiar prominent names in aviation, among them fellow Quiet Birdmen such as Igor Sikorsky, Charles Lindbergh, Juan Trippe, Glenn Curtiss, and legendary flying boat captain Edwin Musick.

Juan Terry Trippe was born into the privileged class and was a student at Yale as World War I began. Swept with patriotic fever he left school with Trubee Davison, and others, to form the First Yale Aviation Unit. Using private funds and a seaplane purchased by one of their fathers the boys learned how to fly in the waters off of Davison's estate at Peacock Point, Long Island. Eventually they were accepted as a Naval Reserve unit, commissioned, and earned Navy Wings of Gold. One of their members, David Ingalls, saw combat in France and was the first Naval Aviator to become an ace.

Trippe was no stranger to the Navy. His great-great-grandfather was Lieutenant John Trippe, a naval officer who served in the Quasi-War with France and the First Barbary War who died of illness on active service in 1810. A sloop built on the Niagara River in New York, originally named the *Contractor*, was purchased by the Navy in 1812 and renamed in his honor. She was then assigned to Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's Lake Erie Squadron in 1813.

When Perry defeated the British in the waters northwest of Put In Bay on September 10, 1813, *Trippe* was there. The American victory at the Battle of Lake Erie insured United States control of Lake Erie.

Six of Lawrence's ships are memorialized on street signs at Camp Perry. As you drive into the reservation, heading north on Niagara Road, looking off to the right you will note Ariel and Scorpion Roads parallel it. Up a head one can make out Lawrence Road, the southern boundary of the range complex which runs east west as does Somers Road. However, the first cross street upon entering Camp Perry is Trippe Road.

And here we have another juxtaposition of passions.



