



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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December 2013

Club Leadership Positions Available

Recent relocations, the passing of incumbents, and resignations has resulted in the Club Secretary position and various committee chairmanships becoming vacant.

Club Secretary is a position which requires attendance at Club Eboard and general membership meetings in order to record minutes. Other duties include Emailing the Newsletter and tasks germane to the office as required by the club president.

The following Committee Chairs are open Game and indoor range.. Duties require the chair to attend club Eboard and general membership meetings, lead the committee, and supervise the facility, or duty, germane to that committee. .

The club needs these positions filled to insure the continued high quality of Club facilities and programs for the membership. If interested in serving your club in any of these important positions, please contact club President Jack Santo at: JDJSANTO@aol.com or 860-608-4395 to discuss the responsibilities and duties that go with the position.

Hunting Rules Reminder

Hunters are to abide by all rules in regard to entering and exiting the hunting grounds. Range operations are not to be interfered with in any way shape or form!

Notaries At Club Meeting

There will be two notaries Mark Wiggins and Sundry Martin with a possible third notary, at the December meeting to provide their services for paperwork related to our new gun laws. Should anyone need notary service prior to the meeting, please contact Jack Santo and appointments will be made.

No Tire Dumping

Tires are not to be dumped and or dropped off on club property. Please respect our grounds.

Misfires and Debris

Misfires and some live ammo have been found on our ranges. Members must make sure to police their shooting area of all debris.

Holiday Good Wishes

Quaker Hill's Officers and Eboard wish all club members a happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

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.

Skeet Target Thanks

Skeet Committee Chairman Doug Britt wishes to express his thanks for the many members who turned out to unload a trailer of targets.

Gate Locking Procedure

Club locksmith Jeff Urgitis reminds all that with the approach of cold weather there exists the possibility of the gate lock freezing.

Therefore, it is requested that when locking the gate please use the very last link on the chain.

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 a 1,000 members 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 traditional Holiday Pot Luck Dinner be featured at the December meeting.

Please sign up, with your contribution, in the book on the table next to the kitchen serving hatch as soon as possible.

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 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 Tripputi, East Haddam; Brent R. Glidewell and Jocelyn Tachdjian-Glidewell, New London; Keith A. Murphy, Mystic; and George Vafidis, Waterford.

First readings: Ronald J. Benedict, Uncasville; Wayne T. Butler, Ledyard; George G. and Jessica Heuschele, Gales Ferry; James A. Kelley, Uncasville; Kevin A. Roe and Jessica C. Bennett, Oakdale; Robert Z. Sims, Uncasville; Nef-tali Sostre, Oakdale, and Ryan A. Wilson, Groton.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

Food Drive

The Club is supporting a food drive being held to aid the St Vincent DePaul Soup kitchen.

A members son will be collecting the items donated by the membership.

Boxes are in the skeet house and the clubhouse for depositing donated canned goods. Your generous help will be greatly appreciated by many.

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.

Utah Permit Class

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

Contact Jack Santo to sign up.

Hunting Facts

Contributions, in the form excise taxes paid on sporting firearms, ammunition and archery equipment, benefit every state and have generated approximately \$5.6 billion for wildlife conservation since 1939. The contribution for 2009 is a record -- nearly \$336 million, according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which recently announced the Wildlife Restoration apportionment.

An average hunter spends \$1,638 every year on the sport.

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 Wujtecwicz, 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. .

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.

Misfires and Brass Safety

Each range has a prominently marked and placed Misfire Can and all outdoor ranges have one or more expended brass bucket.

A misfire is any cartridge that does not go off when fired. Misfires are considered to be live ammunition and must be taken home, or placed in a Misfire Can, for disposal.

The residue from a fired cartridge is expended brass or hulls, in the case of shotguns. Place any expended brass or hulls you are not taking home to reload in the brass buckets provided.

Do not put misfires or expended brass in the trash barrels as it is a safety hazard.

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 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 in 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

Between the charity pin shoot, charity plate shoot, and donations by other club members we raised \$485 and also some toys for the children of Montville. A thank you to all those who participated and contributed to making this our most successful year ever.

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, event. The entry fee will be \$10 per gun. This will be a 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. Contact Frank Torcia with any questions.

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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 13 weeks into its 2013-14 season and the Quaker Hill Nutmegs are currently at 6-3 Bob Droesch leads the team with a 278.86X300 average with Brian Watrous 275.4 in second.

The Quaker Hill Team is now 2-8 on the year, but still, unfortunately, at the bottom of Class B. Phil Kohanski is shooting a 277.78 average for the team lead and is supported by Lance Johnson with a 277.63.

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 its 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 6-0. Eric Sloan continues to lead the team with a 393.6X400. Ernie Mellor comes in with a 390 with Shawn Carpenter posting a 387.6.

Quaker Hill is 2-2, their only losses 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.

Southwest Rifle League

Eric Sloan leads the QH Southwest Team with a 282 average on the difficult NRA/USA 50 target, Hap Rocketto and Ernie Mellor are knotted up in second with 273 and 272 average respectively.

Do You Like Kipling?...

When I was a grammar school kid, back in the Dark Ages of the 1950s, silly word riddles were all the rage among the sixth grade set. The questions were ham handed plays on the actual meaning of words juxtaposed with juvenile definitions. An example of one of these classic old chestnuts is, "Why can't a deaf and dumb man tickle nine girls?" The answer, "Because he can only gesticulate." being a contortion of "Because he can only just tickle eight." Well, it is often said that a pun is the lowest form of humor and this example certainly gives validity to that view.

Another example of this genre is "Do you like Kipling?" For the average 12 year old this question made little sense and the answer, "I don't know? I have never Kippled." would provoke laughter for no other reason than the words sounded funny. My father was a great fan of the Noble Laureate and I was early introduced to his work through poems such as *Gunga Din*, the Old Man's favorite, Mowgli's adventures in *The Jungle Books*, and schoolboy antics in *Stalky and Company*. It didn't hurt that I was active in Scouting and there was a strong relationship between the writings of Kipling and those of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scouting movement.

Later, when I became deeply involved in the shooting sports, two of Kipling's works made a strong impression on me. The first was a poem entitled "Brown Bess." It spoke of the long years of service given by the "Short Land Service Musket (New Pattern)" issued by the British Army as a result of the 1768 Clothing Warrant. This musket came to be affectionately called the "Brown Bess" possibly because of the color of the walnut stock. Prior to that time musket stocks were painted black.

The musket was still in the inventory of the British Army and militia units, and in use, through the mid 1800s. Its longevity speaks more to its quality than the parsimony of the British War Office. The 75 caliber musket was loaded in a 12 step process that could, even under fire, produce a rate of fire of three shots a minute. Its lead ball could cause horrific wounds at distances of up to 50 yards but the 14 inch bayonet did most of the damage to the enemy. Over three million muskets were manufacture in various patterns and they saw action in Peninsula Wars, the War of 1812, at Waterloo, and were even used by Mexican troops during the United States-Mexican War of 1846-47.

My favorite lines of the poem, both for meter, accuracy, and illusion are,

"She knew she was valued for more than her looks.

"Oh, powder and patches are always my dress,

And I think I am killing enough," said Brown Bess."

In prose Kipling tells of long range shooting in one of his *Soldier Three* stories about the fictional rankers, Privates Ortheris, Learoyd, and Mulvaney, who found themselves under sniper fire in the short story 'On Greenhow Hill'. One rainy night, somewhere in India, a Snider bullet tore through their tent wall. The trio dried and cleaned their equipment and accoutrements and eventually found themselves lying in wait for the rifleman that rent their tent fabric. After estimating distances and setting sights the rankers filled in the empty time listening to the story of a lost love and how Ortheris came to take the King's Shilling.

Towards evening they spot the enemy and, "Ortheris suddenly rose to his knees, his rifle at his shoulder, and peered across the valley in the clear afternoon light. His chin cuddled the stock, and there was the twitching of the muscles of the right cheek as he sighted: Private Stanley Ortheris was engaged in his business.... Seven hundred yards away, and a full two hundred down the hillside, the deserter...pitched forward, rolled down a red rock, and lay very still...."That's a clean shot, little man," said Mulvaney....Ortheris did not reply. He was staring across the valley, with a smile of the artist who looks on the completed work." Ortheris was probably using a Martini-Henry breechloader, which shot a Boxer primed 45-caliber 480-grain bullet using a charge of 85 grains of powder. A successful shot of 700 yards required both skill and luck, and a writer with a good imagination.

So, in reply to my classmates in Miss Mowrey's sixth grade classroom on the top floor of Harbor School, I would reply, " Yes, I have kippled, plan to do so again in the future, and I enjoy it!"

