



# The Quaker Hill Rod and Gun Club Newsletter

<http://quakerhillrodandgunclub.com/>

PO Box 80  
261 Oxoboxo Dam Road  
Oakdale, CT 06370

**December 2015**

## The Official Journal of the Quaker Hill Rod and Gun Club



The Officers and Executive Board of the Quaker Hill Rod and Gun Club wish the membership a Happy Holiday Season, a Prosperous and Safe New Year of full creels and bag limits, dusted clays, and perfect targets.

### Surveyors At Work

Eversource will be cutting a 30 foot clearing swath around the power lines which cross the Club property this the spring.

In preparation for that project there will be surveying teams in that area of the Club property during the end of December and beginning of January. The times will be unannounced and will also depend on weather conditions.

Please be extra cautious when in those areas by keeping an eye out for the surveying teams.

### QH Hosts Swanson Match

The first David L. Swanson Memorial Rifle Match was held in 1963 and continued until 1986. While reminiscing about 'The Old Days' the Swanson Match came up. Through the efforts of two long time Connecticut junior coaches, Steve Rocketto and Jason Stansfield, the Swanson Match has returned to competition.

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### Important Gate Procedures Note

Members are reminded the new electronic gate must complete its open or close operation before a fob is used to operate it again. If a fob is applied to the reader while the gate is moving the gate operating system loses its memory and the gate will 'jam.'

The gate must be allowed to complete open/close cycle before another is started.

### Connecticut Fish Hatcheries in Danger of Closing

Bruce Tolhurst, the Quaker Hill Representative to New London-Windham County League of Sportsmen's Clubs, wishes to bring to the membership's attention Governor Malloy's proposed interim budget reductions which includes closing the three Connecticut State hatcheries.

In 2014 a total of 718,206 catchable-size trout, 438,600 Brown Trout fry and 162,000 Kokanee Salmon fry was stocked in Connecticut's more than 100 lakes and ponds and 200 rivers and streams.

In the same year approximately three million dollars in revenue was collected for freshwater fishing licenses, the state also collected approximately three million dollars in excise taxes from the federal Sport Fish Restoration Act Fund, while trout fisherman conservatively poured nearly 20 million dollars into the state economy. The cost to run the three state hatcheries, which the Governor proposes to cut, is 1.1 million dollars.

Trout and Salmon fishing are inarguably an income generator for the state of Connecticut with six million dollars in free revenues to the state and an additional 20 million dollars to local economies.

Closing the hatcheries and outsourcing stocking would result in increased cost and abruptly ceasing stocking would lead to loss of revenues for the state and local economies.

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#### 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.

### Swanson Match

(continued)

After some 129 juniors from across Connecticut and Rhode Island shot more than a case of 22 caliber ammunition down range and the targets were scored did individual and team champions emerged from the gun smoke.

Quaker Hill Gold, Kyle Rabogiewicz, Tanner Driscoll, Seth Frates, and Michael Bartlett took third in the all prone sub junior team event. Tyler Daniels was the class B winner while Nadia and Josh Opalenik went home with second and third in class C. Top Quaker Hill subbie was Dave Ashley.

In three position shooting Grasso Tech's Lili Vazquez won Class B while team mate Kyle Darny was second in Class C followed by Quaker Hill's Avery Thomas. Tyler Glynn, shooting for Montville High School was the top position shooter for the Club.

The match would not have been possible without the generous support of the club and volunteers George Planeta, Ryan McKee, Jason Stansfield, Nicole Panko, Shawn Carpenter, Mark Wujtewicz, Cadets Dave Rose and Rand Ford of the US Coast Guard Academy Varsity Rifle Team, Steve Rocketto and Hap Rocketto who ran the range, did the statistical work, and set up and cleaned up.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Welch ably assisted by daughter Emma, a member of the Grasso Tech Rifle Team, did yeoman work in the kitchen keeping the hoards well fed with an assortment of hot foods and cold drinks and snacks, including the traditional Swanson Match hot dogs.

### 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:

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Sergeant at Arms:

Dave Madole

Trustees:

Tony Goulart, Jeff Urgitis, Keith

Griffin, Ralph Jackson & Scott

Pierce

#### Contacting Officers

When contacting officers please leave your complete name, member number, and a contact number or email to insure a prompt response.

#### Meeting Range Closures

All ranges are closed during General Membership meetings.

### New London County Pistol League

The Club sponsors two teams in the New London County Pistol League, Quaker Hill and the Quaker Hill Nutmegs. Matches are fired at home and at various clubs throughout New London County in Monday evenings. The course of fire in the National Match course fired with 22 caliber pistols.

The Nutmegs have the best record of the two club teams, a 4-7 tally with Bob Droesch leading the team shooting a 272 average, Charlie Allen, 266, Tony Goulart, 271, and Dennis Allen round out the top Nutmeg scorers.

The season has been a bit of a trial for Quaker Hill sitting at 1-9 in spite of Peter Tripputi and Phil Kohanski have two of the highest averages in league competition. Lance Johnson's 272 has been of help but the team lacks the depth this year that it has had in the past.

Anyone interested in participating in this league only need show up at the club any Monday at 7PM or contact the team captains: Quaker Hill- Bill Weinschenker at [wweinschenker@yahoo.com](mailto:wweinschenker@yahoo.com) or 860-639-9571 or Nutmegs-Jack Santo at [JDJSANTO@aol.com](mailto:JDJSANTO@aol.com)

### Hatcheries

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These actions will lead to irreparable ecological and economic harm for our state. Members are urged to contact their state representatives and senators to make your concerns known. All sportsmen, and especially all who fish, needs to voice their concern over this issue.

If you'd like a copy of the Hatchery Information Memo and/or the 2012 Study to Privatize the Connecticut State Hatcheries, please email Tolhurst at [btolhurst@aol.com](mailto:btolhurst@aol.com).

### Southwestern League

The Southwestern Rifle League will begun its new season. On October 30th This is a three position league shot on the NRA/USAS 50 foot target.



The SWL shoots on Friday mornings at 10AM. Because it is a postal league, scores are mailed in to the scorer weekly, one need not shoot at that time.

Team Captain and contact is Ernie Mellor at [emellor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:emellor@sbcglobal.net).

### Archery Range News

Broad head practice targets are in the shed at the archery range.

One is for compound and recurve bows and the other for crossbows.

Keys for the shed are available from Chairman Jay Pollock telephone at (860) 546 9560 or by Email at [pollock5001@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pollock5001@sbcglobal.net)

### Rocketto Range Information

For Rocketto Range certification, or range questions, please contact Gary Owen at (860) 447-1092 or [m1911a1288@aol.com](mailto:m1911a1288@aol.com).

### Work Hours and Volunteers

Every third Saturday the QHRGC will hold work parties for the benefit of the club and for members to fulfill work hours.

It is up to the Committee Chairpersons to have projects for these work parties. Chairpersons are to contact Rich Civitello with your work list at the E Board meeting.

### The Quaker Hill Rifle Range

For range certification, if you need some work hours, or just want to help, please contact Ed Welch, Rifle Range Chairman, via telephone at (860) 389 5042 or email at [ewel73@tvconnect.net](mailto:ewel73@tvconnect.net)

### **Carroll Range Winter Schedule And Notes**

The Carroll Range is closed during all Club General Membership and EBoard Meetings.

The Carroll Range is reserved for the following club sponsored activities from September through March.

Monday

Montville High School-3PM to 6PM

New London County Pistol League-7PM to 11PM

Tuesday

Grasso Technical High School-3PM to 6PM

Wednesday

Montville High School-3PM to 6PM

Mohegan Rifle League- 7PM to 11PM

Thursday

Grasso Technical High School-3PM to 6PM

Friday

Southwestern Rifle League-10AM to Noon

Quaker Hill Junior Program-6PM to 10PM

The Carroll Range will be closed for the Swanson Match all day on Saturday December 5th and Sunday December 6th.

The use of jacketed ammunition is prohibited in the Carroll Range. If in doubt remember that there is no commercially available 22 caliber rim fire ammunition that is jacketed, even if it has a brass or bronze color. If you are shooting any other ammunition if the bullet is not soft lead you may not shoot it. Remember, "If it is gray, it is OK."

Range Chairman Gary Zawistowski can be reached at [gzawistowski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gzawistowski@sbcglobal.net) for information or range certification.

### **Mohegan Rifle League**

Currently both Club teams are atop the leader board of the Mohegan Rifle League with the Magnums in the lead with a 27-1 record. Within the team there is a hot race for bragging rights with Ernie Mellor and Shawn Carpenter knotted up with a 288 average each.

The Quaker Hill team is in second sporting a 19 wins opposed to nine losses. Junior Tyler Glynn leads both the league and his team with a 292 average. Supporting Glynn is QJ Junior Director Mark Wujtewicz with a 282 average.

Anyone interested in joining in the fun, the Mohegan Rifle League shoots a 40 shot three position match at 50 feet using NRA A-17 targets, is invited to contact the team captains, Quaker Hill, Mark Wujtewicz at [mwojo@ct.metrocast.net](mailto:mwojo@ct.metrocast.net) and the Quaker Hill Magnums captain, Hap Rocketto at [hrocketto@cox.net](mailto:hrocketto@cox.net) or just drop by the range on any Wednesday evening at 7PM.



## Hunting News

Muzzleloader season started on December 9 and runs through December 31. We have had several deer taken on the property so far this hunting season, and we hope luck is with those who are hunting the rest of the year.

Hunting Chair Shannon Rogers would like to again thank those who helped with this year's pheasant season. We couldn't have had as good a season as we did if it wasn't for Club members donating valuable time and skills.

Next years pheasant season will see change as the farm from which we get our birds is closing. We well need to make some decisions on some of the options before us such as 1. discontinue pheasant stocking, 2. see if we can purchase birds from other clubs who raise birds or 3. look into finding a place to raise/pen our own birds. Nothing has been set in stone and all options are on the table.

The power company will be doing upgrades to the poles and lines which run through Club property and the state has started marking out the wetlands. Do not disturb the marking tape. Surveyors will be marking Club property later this month through the new year. So please be aware of their presence.

If you have any questions, contact Hunting Chair Shannon Rogers , telephone at 207-831-8243 or by Email at [jotulusa\\_sr@earthlink.net](mailto:jotulusa_sr@earthlink.net), or any Eboard member or Trustee.

## Practical Pistol

### The Charity Pin Shoot

A good turnout of members and guests on October 24th insured 35 entries at another successful Charity Pin Shoot.

Joe Trudelle took the match with an auto, Tony Goulart used a wheel gun to take second place while Mark Morehouse wielded an Auto for third, fourth was Allen Crouch with a revolver, and fifth went to Allen Egerton with an Auto.

The Committee would like to thank our volunteer Pin Setters Brain Donahue, Jason Campbell and Mike Kelly for all their help as well as all the members and guests that were unable to shoot that day but made a donation..

The Charity Plate and Pin matches raised \$373 and an assortment of toys for Montville Social Services to make the holiday season a bit brighter for those less fortunate than us.

### Fall Outdoor League

The Fall Outdoor League began on Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1 PM and will run through December 12<sup>th</sup>. It is a .22 pistol, semi-automatic and/or revolver, bowling pin style league. The targets are the special steel pin racks. Bowling Pin League match rules apply. It is not too late to join. Entry fee is \$10 per gun.

### Practical Pistol Matches

Practical pistol matches are shot on Saturday mornings at 10AM with set up at 9 AM. Matches use USPSA targets and rules. There are three or four scenarios per match, with from eight to 30 rounds fired per scenario, for 80 to 100 total rounds fired.

If the weather forecast is iffy, on Friday email will be sent out to past participants informing them if the match will be held. Contact Jean Martin with any questions at [jgyrine@yahoo.com](mailto:jgyrine@yahoo.com).

### Range Chairman Information

Direct Practical Pistol Range questions, and certification requests to Range Chair Darren Hall at 860-608-5546, 860-608-4457, or email at [ct.diver@att.net](mailto:ct.diver@att.net).

### *A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME...*

For War of the Roses aficionados, and particularly the Richard III Society, 2015 was a banner year, no longer a winter of their discontent it was made glorious summer by the sun of science.

Six hundred years earlier two great royal dynasties, York and Lancaster, fought for control of England. Each belligerent happened to have a heraldic badge sporting a rose, A White Rose for York and the Red Rose for Lancaster and so this decades long on again-off again struggle became known as the War of the Roses.

It all came to an end at the Battle of Bosworth Field on August 22, 1485. Facing a smaller Lancastrian army, lead by Henry Tudor, King Richard III, of the House of York, managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory and, in the process, become the last English king to be killed in battle on English soil. To prove to the public he was dead his naked and despoiled body was unceremoniously tossed over the back of a horse and brought to the nearby town of Leicester to be publically displayed. The local Franciscan Friars laid claim to the body and gave Richard a Christian burial under the floor in front of the alter of the church of Grayfriars. The church was destroyed 50 years later when Tudor King Henry VIII parted ways with the Catholic church and decreed the Dissolution of the Monasteries. With the church gone Richard's final resting place was lost to history.

Fast forward half a millennium to 2012. Archeologists discovered Richard's remains buried under a parking lot in Leicester, an event which has led to a new look at the much despised monarch. He may not have been the hunchback ogre that artistic license allowed both Shakespeare and Sir Laurence Olivier to paint. Just as modern Russia recovered, and identified the secretly buried remains of the reviled House of Romanov family, executed during the Russian Revolution, by DNA analysis, so it is with the British and Richard.

As the furor over Richard waned another War of the Roses artifact was discovered to bring the civil war back into the limelight and, again, the Franciscans were a historical footnote.

Franciscan Friar and alchemist Roger Bacon, in his 1267 work *Opus Majus*, wrote that "...the violence of that salt called saltpeter, together with sulfur, and willow charcoal, combined into a powder, so horrible a sound is made by the bursting of a thing so small, no more than a bit of parchment containing it, that we find the ear assaulted by a noise exceeding the roar of strong thunder, and a flash brighter than the most brilliant lightning."

A century and a quarter later cannons loaded with Bacon's powder spit flame, smoke, and balls of lead and stone across the English landscape. The forces representing York and Lancaster met in July of 1460 at the Battle of Northampton, not to be confused with the with April 1264 Battle of Northampton. The 1264 battle was part of the Second Baron's War, yet another of England's many uncivil civil wars. England, a small and economical country apparently needs to recycle battle sites.

Excavations at Northampton turned up a badly deformed lump of lead some three inches in diameter, about the size of a cricket ball, which tipped the scales at about six pounds. It was a major archeological and historical find. It is believed that the misshapen hunk of metal is evidence of the first use of artillery on English soil. Contemporary accounts indicate the both sides had cannon but defender's cannon were ineffective because of a driving rain which had less effect on the guns of the attackers. That makes it likely that the artifact is a wicked googly bowled by the Yorkists as they attacked Lancastrian defensive positions.

Both sides seemed to have been involved in a medieval arms race and were armed with relatively small cannon called sakers. Named after the Saker falcon the 9.5 feet long smoothbore fired round shot intended to bounce along the ground to cause as much damage as possible. The intended use accounts for the wretched condition of the sample found at Northampton. The cannonball has been deformed by two major impacts, a gouge filled with iron and sandstone picked up as it careened through the battlefield and a dent probably caused by hitting a tree.

There was little in the way of official documentation of the use of artillery in those days as gunners were usually civilians who hired out their services and cannon. Gunnery was a guild that specialized in sulfurous smoke, lightning, and thunder and so gunners were seen as sorcerers in league with the devil by the general public. Since they kept to themselves, and did not drink or plunder, their unusual behavior was ample proof, when compared to the soldiers of the day, that they were hardly human. Under those circumstances it is scarcely a surprise that a medieval Pope was reported to have issued a blanket excommunication of all gunners as they were servants of the devil.

Gunners were brought in from the cold when Henry created the Church of England and banned Catholicism from England and with it the Pope's power to punish. The rift between Henry VIII, a good Tudor of the Red Rose, and the Catholic Church was a boon for English gunners who, having served both York and Lancastrians, could take refuge, relief, and pleasure in Shakespeare's words, "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet."