



# The Dead Clay Journal

February 2012

Official Newsletter of the North County Sportsman's Club

## **February Meeting Update**

The meeting was called to order at 6:18 PM with Mike Weaver, Tim Riddle, Bob Otty, Kelly Otty, and Tom Blair present.

The December and January minutes were reviewed and accepted as presented.

The Treasurer's report was presented. Several recurring expenses are paid, and with the receipt of several lifetime memberships, and a reasonably good response to membership invoicing, our cash position is reasonably good. A dedicated fund to begin the process of replacing aging traps was opened with a generous donation of \$100.

In anticipation of the commencement of fill from SD Ireland, the right trap field has been decommissioned. All electrical has been disconnected and capped off, and the trap with all associated equipment has been removed. (Thank you Claude!)

There was a recap of our plans for Sporting Clays events during 2012. NCSC will hold our "Frozen 100" registered sporting shoot again on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and there will be a joint NCSC and Underhill Rod and Gun Club 5-Stand Shoot on March 31<sup>st</sup>, starting at Williston with breakfast and 50 targets, and then moving to Underhill for lunch and 50 more targets. Tim Davis will submit the shoot application to the National Sporting Clays Association for both events. (see article below).

Preliminary results of the water testing done by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation on November 30<sup>th</sup> indicates no lead was detected in the Boutins' well and other results were similar to previous tests. We are still awaiting the final report.

We have been informed that funding was denied for the NRA Foundation Grants for the Women on Target and Trap Camp programs. However, the state committee has committed funding for our events. It is anticipated that NCSC will receive funding for each event from the state committee.

The club needs to raise some capital for replacement of our aging traps. Several ideas were discussed. Tim Riddle is working on some fund raising ideas.

April 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for submission of grant requests for the 2012 Pittman – Robertson (F&W) grants. As we have limited time to respond, it was suggested the our 2011 submission be resubmitted.

Also under new business, Mike Weaver suggested that we might want to ask Ireland about the cost of pouring a concrete slab for 5-Stand to replace the current pavers.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37pm

## **Facebook Fanpage**

Thanks to the efforts of Bob and Kelly Otty, the club now has a Facebook Fanpage. This is a Facebook account for an organization as opposed to an individual. We already have a lot of really great content to view, including the video from the Summer Fun Shoot, and some recent pictures of the Boy Scout merit badge event (and Ben Cotton receiving his new shotgun!) If you have a Facebook account, check it out, and feel free to leave comments on the wall. If you have pictures that you would like to post, you can email them to me, and I will get them to Kelly for posting, or you can simply upload them with your comments. And feel free to tag pictures on your own site that you feel would be of interest.

## **Sporting Clays Events**

NCSC will be host to two registered Sporting Clays events this year. The first for us, and the first in Vermont, will be our Frozen 100, to be held on February 25<sup>th</sup>. This will consist of 50 "walk-through" targets, shot from various non-standard positions with a variety of targets and pairs consisting of birds launched from Trap, 5-Stand, and portable machines. Thanks to the generosity of Bill Boyce and the Underhill club, we will be able to offer some very

challenging and interesting battue's, mini's and rabbits. There will also be 50 5-stand targets, presented as three report pairs and two simultaneous pairs from each 5-Stand station.

In addition to the battue trap on loan from Underhill, NCSC has recently purchased a new Do-All ¾ cock manual trap with two arms that has the ability to launch all five target types (standard, midi, mini, battue, and rabbit). Although not a trap that will routinely be used for Sunday 5-Stand, it does give us a very interesting capability for special events and fun shoots.

The other shoot, the Green Mountain 5-Stand Classic and Team Challenge, will be held on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Two standard rounds of 5-Stand will be shot in the morning at Williston, with breakfast available, and two more standard rounds of 5-Stand at the Underhill Club immediately following, with lunch available at that location. Flyers and registration forms have been emailed to our membership and other Sporting Clays shooters, as well as posted on a number of sites such as Lost Target. If you are a serious sporting clays shooter, this will give you an opportunity to get in 200 registered targets before April 1<sup>st</sup>!

### **Membership**

We offered some incentives for people to renew their memberships at the annual meeting, and also offered some incentives for people to upgrade their memberships to Lifetime Memberships this year. I am happy to announce that we now have four new Lifetime members. Congratulations to Bruce Bayliss, Mike Pelletier, John Vibber, and Mike Weaver. Thank you. And thank you to everyone who has renewed your memberships for 2012. If you have not done so yet, please plan to do so soon. It is an important source of funding for the club that we count on to cover insurance, taxes, fuel, maintenance, and hopefully some capital improvements. For those who renewed by mail, membership cards will be emailed to you as PDF files within the next few days.

### **Club Hours**

While there is no official change to the operating hours, during January, February, and even early March, it starts getting dark and cold quite early. On those days when the weather is somewhat inclement and/or we have nobody still shooting at one or two o'clock, the club manager has been directed to commence closing. We don't want to disappoint anyone, or have anyone drive a long distance for nothing. So if you are planning to shoot, please arrive not later than around 1:00pm.

### **Computer Sign-In**

We started the policy of asking everyone to sign in on the computer system located in the clubhouse a few weeks ago. Usage has been a little spotty, but overall, pretty good. As we get into the spring, we would like to ask everyone to please remember to sign in, and update your rounds shot when you leave. This helps us to reconcile our end of day cash on hand with rounds shot, and gives us a record of who was at the club. Your cooperation is appreciated.

### **Range Improvement Grants**

NCSC was approved for a multi-faceted Range Improvement Grant to address range improvement, sound abatement, and lead mitigation. Work has commenced with the completion of the surface water testing. All required permits are now in place. The existing trap house has been completely decommissioned. Thanks to the efforts of Claude Perry, the power is disconnected and capped off, and the trap and associated equipment has been stored in the bird house. We expect to start bringing in fill shortly.

### **Thought for the Day**

*(With apologies to Taylor Buckner)*

Cum catapultae proscriptae erunt tum soli proscript catapultas habebunt.

(Old Roman aphorism meaning "When catapults are outlawed, only outlaws will have catapults.")

**NCSC Classified**

This is offered as a service to members who have something they wish to buy or sell. If you would like to have something listed, please email Tom Blair at [tblairvt@comcast.net](mailto:tblairvt@comcast.net).

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John's Vibber's Northeast Kingdom  
Mystery "**Shadow on Cant-dog Hill**",  
Great read & signed copies make great gifts  
(Valentine's Day is coming!). See the copy  
in the club house. See John for copies.  
\$15.00 (tax included) for club members.

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Former club member and board member,  
Dick Morse has a nice little 28ga Citori  
Grade III that he is interested in selling. It is  
LNIB with 26" barrels, great wood and  
comes with three Browning Midas chokes  
and two flush chokes, ranging from IC to  
IM. The original box and all papers are  
included. Dick is asking \$2,250. If  
interested, he can be reached at 802-685-  
7722 or email him at [rcm.ebm@gmail.com](mailto:rcm.ebm@gmail.com).