



# Gunsmoke

Autumn 2018



Quarterly Newsletter of CCF&G  
and CCSSEF, Keene, NH



## Not Open for Business?

by Peter Crowell, General Manager

After over forty years of working in New York City, I became used to dodging the activities of Con Edison, the electric utility in NYC, as they went about their work while marking their activities with signs that said, "Dig We Must - For a Better New York".

In early September, our entrance became very much like a Con Edison worksite. Lots of heavy equipment working, lots of mud and ruts, and even some confusion about whether the club was open.

Dig we must for a better CCF and G.

By the time you read this, all will be OK again. Actually, it will be better than OK. We will have a fully paved driveway and clubhouse parking lot thanks to the very great generosity of a club patron. If you haven't been to your shooting sports club in a while, come on up and try out the now smooth and snazzy looking entrance.

In the same vein, we were lucky this summer to acquire a large amount of fill from the state Department of Transportation as they did their "Dig We Must - For a Better NH" routine out on Route 9 just east of our Route 9 entrance road. While I am confused about just what the "better" aspect of

that project is, I am happy that we were able to get this much of a very valuable resource for our club.

It does, however, present us with another Con Ed like situation. We had to store the fill somewhere and that leaves our front yard looking all too much like a Con Ed worksite. Just keep in mind as berms are strengthened and improved and other facility improvements are made, we won't have to cough up big bucks for the required fill.

Another "open for business" area of concern is that certain activities close all or part of our club. Long range rifle shooting from our 600 yard and 300 yard firing lines closes all of the other ranges. A few of our fund raising events will also close the range for general use. Family Day, The Republican Shoot (not happening this year), and Live Free or Die events are examples.

During the week there may also be specific range availability restrictions, given that the club supports a lot of law enforcement and security team training activities. These activities are great links between our club and the folks who dedicate their lives to keep-

ing our communities safe. These officers and security folks are also sister and brother members to all of us.

These are all important events for the ongoing financial success of our club. The club calendar, accessed from the website, will have any kind of relevant closing information for every day of the year. I am working very hard to get better and better at posting this critical information for you. Please, don't head to the club without checking the calendar and don't hesitate to call or email me if there is any confusion.

The year seems to be flying by. The mountains of "stuff" that my predecessor, Larry Parker, Sr., did for the club never ceases to amaze me and, most importantly, I am having fun.

Stop by and say hello the next time you are at the club during my office hours: Mon, Wed, Fri. 10 AM to 3 PM and most Saturdays, when I am apt to be out roaming around with new members or shoot'n.

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# Jr Shooters Rifle Team

~Larry Parker Sr.

2018 NRA Sectional match results are available. Our 3 Position score was outstanding this year and placed us 5th in the Nation. Very commendable! Our 2018 3-Position Team was Ashley, Kyle, Natalie and Evie. Kyle's incredible score of 578 placed him 3rd overall in the nation. In 4-Position, we had the exact same score as last year. Our overall 4-P ranking for this year is 11th. Here is the link to NRA Sectional scores:

<https://competitions.nra.org/results-and-records/national-championship-results/nra-national-indoor-rifle-pistol-championship-results/>

Our Air Rifle Team competed in the CMP's National Air Rifle Championships June 25-26. Results will be posted to the CMP's Competition

Tracker Program. We sent 4 of our athletes to the CMP's National Rifle Matches in July. Tobin again won bunches of medals for his outstanding prone shooting. Shea took home a medal for winning the Marksman Category in Prone. Mr P and grandson Blake won the Gold for the anysight Team matches and Bronze medal for combined Team results at the ASSA National Matches at the Cardinal Center this summer.

Our current roster has 13 active returning athletes in our rifle program and we have signed up an additional 10 new members so far as the 2018-2019 season gets underway. We will be moving indoors at Peterborough Sportsmen's Club the first week in November. We will be holding a State Indoor Prone Match in December and then the CMP 3-Position Air Rifle State Championships in January. Our Travel Team athletes will be busy in January & February

competing in NRA Sectional Matches and Junior Olympic Tryouts around New England.

We received a new air rifle for 2017 and two new rifles for 2018 plus a bunch of equipment thanks to the NRA Foundation. We will be looking to add a couple of air rifles in 2019. They have been generous sponsors of our equipment needs for over 12 years! They're not just about politics! We also received a great donation of shooting jackets from the Fall Mountain Regional JROTC Rifle Team. They com-

pete in the 'Sporter Category' and can't use jackets.

Here's our 2017 sponsors: The NRA Foundation, Pinney Plumbing & Heating, Mia Capelli Hair Salon, Emerson's Towing, Keene Transmission, Matt Symonds Landscaping, JDJ Builders, Full Throttle Powersports, Wood 'N Nail Builders, Jay & Allison Davidson,

Coll's Cleaning Service, Keene Door, Dave Swenson, Victor Lawrence, The Car Family, The Piazza Family and Scott McFarland. We've already received 2018 support from MIA CAPELLI, Dave Swenson, Al Warner, Scott Ryles, and the CAR Family. Freedom Hill Gear is donating \$500 to the Team for us helping them clean up after the Live Free or Die Event. We appreciate the opportunity and support of all our sponsors. PLEASE SUPPORT our local businesses that generously donate to our youth program. These donations help us send our shooters to Regional/National Championships and Camps. Please consider donating to the Junior Rifle Team! With travel, equipment, awards, range & entry fees and ammunition, our annual budget is over \$11,000.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



# Women on Target

~Elaine H. Croteau

Sunday, October 14, 2018,  
The NRA Instructional Shooting Clinic will be held at CCSSEF/CCF&G. Due to the amount of interest for the June clinic we have decided to offer a fall clinic as well. 30 women can attend this 1/2 day program to learn the basic skills of pistol, rifle, and shotgun in a safe, comfortable environment with a one-on-one volunteer whom provides additional education, instruction and support as needed. This program is empowering as many women arrive having no prior or very limited experience handling a firearm and they are nervous & anxious, but by the time they leave, they are full of excitement, educated on the basic handling skills, and their enthusiasm shines through in their shooting stories.

We still have 15 spaces available for this clinic. Please check the website at [www.ccssef.org](http://www.ccssef.org) for the brochure.

If you are interested in volunteering or sponsoring this clinic, please contact myself, Elaine Croteau, at (603) 903-4070 or by email at [chesterfield-elaine@yahoo.com](mailto:chesterfield-elaine@yahoo.com).

See you on October 14th!!



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# Jr Shooters Rifle Team

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Notes on our active ALUM-NI (shooting, college & military)...Tobin began his Junior year at the University of North Georgia shooting with the UNG Nighthawks. Andrew Solomonides is a senior at West Point on their Army Black Knights rifle team. Both Tobin and Andrew were again named to the 2018 Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association Scholastic All American List.

Lt Joe Bogar is with the 4th Infantry at Ft Carson, CO. Tom Csenge has moved to Virginia to work for TEAM TURBO rifle manufacturing. A real US manufacturer in the competitive smallbore rifle market, <http://www.turboaction.net/>. We hope Capt John Nikiforakis gets his promotion to Major. Greg Ganio graduated from Central Maine Community

College in May.



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## Shotgun Corner

~ Chuck Tatham

Bird season is upon us. What is your favorite shotgun? Maybe the old stand by, the 12 gauge. Or perhaps the light and lively 20 gauge. Or the sleek 28 gauge.

Whatever your choice, they all have one thing in common. They need to be trained.

The best way to train a shotgun is lots of practice. And then more practice.

photo by Al Patnode



The best way to get all this practice is at our world class 5 stand range.

We have 10 traps that will challenge your skill. We even have a high speed rabbit trap for you bunny hunters. The other traps are set to throw targets in such a way as to imitate game bird in flight, from a rocketing pheasant to a crafty woodcock.

If you are waterfowl hunter and your shots are mostly long range, then try our famous trap range.

So come try your hand. You will be a better hunter!

The trap range is open Wed. at noon and Sat. at 10AM. 5 stand opens Sat. at 10AM. Hope to see you there!



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## Winter Home

~ Peter Crowell

In the winter, those great young folks who make up our Junior Team, shoot at the Peterborough Sportsman's Club's indoor range. This club is located on the old Dublin/Peterborough road just north of Route 101 in between, you guessed it, Dublin and Peterborough.

There has been some confusion about this club being open. The confusion was engendered by the closing of another range in Peterborough, The Monadnock Rod and Gun Club. This club, located on Route 202 near the

Peterborough/Jaffrey border, has been closed because of alleged difficulties with zoning, building, and wetland codes.

The bottom line is that the Junior Team has a winter home, the same one it has had for years and our Peterborough Sportsman's hosts share in our pride in the Junior Team and all of their accomplishments.

On a related note, these young shooters came by 19 Ferry Brook Road this past Saturday at the conclusion of a very busy and very successful Live Free or Die

Shoot to help with the clean up of the range. Sunday morning, the range looked as normal as could be with no trace of the over two hundred folks who had been having such a great time here on Saturday. Thanks go out to all of the participating Junior Team members whose many hands helped to make light work of the clean up activities.

## RICOCHETS

~ Chuck Tatham

Every one seems normal until you get to know them. ~Unknown

If you watch a game, it's fun. If you play a game it's recreation. If you work a game it's golf. ~Bob Hope

He is like the bagpipes. he never makes noise until his belly's full. ~Irish Proverb

If you count your sheep the wolf will eat them. ~French Proverb

Laziness trots so slowly that poverty soon overtakes him. ~Poor Richard

Clean your fingers before you point at my spots. ~Poor Richard

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# Action Pistol

~Walt Lewandowski



Nervous and seated at a table, my unloaded firearm was in a box and a loaded magazine on the table next to the box. At the signal to start, I opened the box, grabbed the gun and reached for the magazine. I was all thumbs! I tried to insert it BACKWARDS. I took a breath, successfully loaded it and proceeded to dump a whole magazine trying to hit the drop-leg target that started the whole action scenario. My hands were shaking. Then it occurred to me - if this were a real-life situation, I'd be in trouble. It's better to make the mistakes here. I did manage to finish the stage. The jitters subsided, and I walked back to the group prepared to take some well-earned kidding. But that did not happen. I was met with suggestions on how to improve. Some related their first time and what they did to focus. No one laughed. Some offered me ammo because they thought I may need it - yeah, that bordered on snark, but we all laughed! The second stage went a little smoother, realizing that focus

was important. Slowing down, seeing the 'sight' and slowly squeezing the trigger helped a lot. Each stage got a little easier to run. That was my first ACTION PISTOL experience some 5 years ago and it would have been my last if it were not for the support of those there. The competitors, the RSO, the volunteers that make this all happen all know we have to start somewhere and are all there to support you.

I learned the things I needed to practice. Reloads, one-hand shooting, effective use of cover. Being aware of your surroundings, awareness of non-threats and priority of threats all became second nature with time. All things anyone serious about CCW must be aware of. Yes, it is all about practice. I fiercely defended last place for a few months by watching others, seeing where my gun handling skills were weak and working on them slowly moved me up in the standings. I learned a lot over the years. My skills and confidence have improved but I am still learning. You will never stop learning. I also realized how hard

it is to run a program like this. Life is different on the other side of the shot timer. Creating stages to challenge the seasoned shooter while not intimidating the newbie is hard. Maintaining an atmosphere of friendly competition however, is easy due to the nature and mindset of those involved. It is also a lot of physical work. It could not run without volunteers. I am so grateful to have the 'usual suspects' there to help. Setting up for a match takes perhaps 6+ hours for 6 stages. More if the weather does not cooperate. I will NEVER turn down help! (read: 'I can use more help')! I would like to have more stages next year. AP has purchased additional action targets and built some more props. Ideas as well as more peoplepower (ouch, that was PC) are welcome.

Our goal in AP is to help you become safe and proficient with what you carry as well as prepare you to feel confident when competing in IDPA matches at other clubs. Please, don't feel intimidated. Stop by and watch a match. Stages are usually designed around some contrived scenario, usually not politically correct, usually reflecting the views of the author. (Sorry Dick's Sporting goods).

We have practice every Wednesday night, 4:00 until dark, while the weather holds.

We resume in the spring right after the mud firms up.



*"The Weekly With A Heart"*

**Lori C. Cook**  
Assistant Editor

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# A Letter of Thanks

~ Sarah Commerford

As you all may know, on June 9th, 2018, Jack, Rachel, and I lost our home to a horrific fire. Fortunately no one was injured in the fire. We did however lose our beloved puppy, Ruger; on June 8, 2018, who many of you knew and loved, in a terrible accident. Ruger was an amazing little man and he is missed.

The reason for this letter is so that I can thank all those who supported my family with financial help, clothing donations, bedding, towels, food, toiletries and more. The love and support that we have received from you all has been heartwarming and humbling for us all.

It has been a struggle for us all as we continue to move on. It has been a difficult journey but with continued love, support, thoughts, and prayers we will get through this.

As of August 3rd, my family I are all together in one place again. We are in a lovely home in Gilsum, the town that we have lived the past four years and have loved living in. We are so very grateful that we were able to buy this little piece to start a lives over again. Thank you to those who helped us make that a reality. The community in a small town always pulls together in a time of need and have helped us tremendously these past months. And we are forever grateful!

To Mr. and Mrs. Hagan, who shared their home with Jack and I for two months wanting only for us to feel safe and comfortable.

To Dan Starkweather and his family for taking in our daughter Rachel, making her feel safe, secure, and happy.

To our dear family friend, Sherry, who allowed us to stay with her the first week after the tragedy.

To the countless neighbors in Gilsum, including but not limited to- our direct Nash Corner neighbors who were just there to hold us up, to our neighbor on the other side of town, Roger, who lent me a car until I could get a replacement, and to those who brought us food and water, and just helped us by being present.

The Miller family who literally pulled me off the ground and brought me into their home until Jack could be reached. And the Sodder family who got to me as soon as they could to help in any way they could.

To Mr. and Mrs. Croteau who have done such an amazing and heartwarming job pulling things together and continue to check in on us.

To all that were involved in getting the "Jacks Jack" Rifle raffle

together, and Highlander Arms for all of the support and friendship they have shown us! And all those unsung heroes that I have met over the last few months.

To my wonderful husband and daughter who have supported me while I continue to heal. I won't sugar coat any of this, it has been a struggle and I appreciate all of the love and support from my family both near and far! Thank you for putting up with me, I love you always!

Last but certainly not least to all the Volunteer Fire Departments and there men and women who did everything they could to put out the blaze, I thank you for your service.

There are so many of you that I need to thank and this was the only way I knew how to reach you! So thank you So So much!!! My family and I are forever grateful for everything you all have done.

With gratitude, respect and love,  
Sarah L. Commerford and family.



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# My First Time

~ Peter Crowell, General Manger

Our club recently hosted the third annual Live Free or Die Shoot on Saturday, September 15th. This was the very first time that I attended the event and I really enjoyed it.

Our driveway paving project complicated preparations, but the construction folks with huge assistance from our own Jack Commerford, managed to get the entrance to the club in fine shape for the event. We had just enough parking capacity in and about our piles of dirt (mentioned in my opening article) to handle the great crowd that showed up.

Many thanks must go out to a number of members who took the time to come over and mow grass, weed and brush whack, plant flowers, and generally clean the range up so it would look its best. And... it did!

This event is focused on diverse forms of firearms education, community building, information exchange, recreational and self-defense (tactical) shooting, and

having fun doing activities and shooting in ways you may not be able to do elsewhere.

In walking the parking lot, I was taken by the number of license plates from MA, CT, RI, NY, and NJ. All nearby states where opportunities to do what the LFOD event presents are not possible.

Featured activities included: a timed two-gun course with a prize for best time, a double head lumberjack axe toss, the opportunity to shoot many different styles of full auto weapons including an amazingly beautiful World War II era Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) and a more modern M249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW). There was also a semi-automatic Barrett 50 Cal on hand and a great looking Ruger Precision Rifle.

Some nationally renowned trainers were present: Tatiana Whitlock, Rob Pincus, Mark Palazzo, and Stef Theodore each presided over two-hour courses

in the morning and afternoon that were samplings of what they teach more broadly.

A silent auction which included two beautifully tricked out AR-15s, lots of vendors, a raffle with many prizes, and a great BBQ lunch rounded out the event.

Things wrapped up at 5 PM and in came the Junior Team to help in the clean up! Thanks to all of them. This is an exciting event that you might want to get on your calendar for next year.



## Winter Adult Smallbore 4-Position Rifle League

~ Larry Parker, Sr.

If you're interested in the adult 4-Position smallbore rifle league for this coming fall/winter, we have a couple of target rifles with scopes that can be signed out to members. This will start up in December. Contact Larry Parker Sr or Neil Jeneral for details about Smallbore rifle shootin., [smallbore@ccfandg.org](mailto:smallbore@ccfandg.org) or [600yard@ccfandg.org](mailto:600yard@ccfandg.org)



## Patrice & Jeff's Bistro

Come on by Sat 8-1 for breakfast or lunch and get to know your fellow club members. Good food, good conversation, reasonable prices. Learn more about the club and maybe get some info on a discipline that you have not tried.

Come on down!



Remember, when renewing your NRA membership or signing up a new member to the NRA, be sure to use our "Join NRA" link near the bottom of our home page on the web site. Your support of the NRA is important in the preservation of our 2nd Amendment Rights.

For further details, contact me at the Club at 352-8563 or by email at: gm@ccfandg.org.

Thank you for your support of all Shooting Sports, General Manager

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Remember it's volunteers that make our club great!

## North Branch Bowmen

Indoor archery will be starting in the late fall at the Keene Recreation Center on Sundays and hopefully Tuesdays evenings around Thanksgiving. Keep an eye out on the archery facebook page "North Branch Bowmen" for up-to-date information and scheduling.

Please contact Dan Deyo with any questions at 603-209-6721.



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## 2018 COMING EVENTS

### Mark Your Calendar!

October 6 - Functional Pistol 2  
 October 9 - North Branch Bowman Open Shoot  
 October 13 - Fundamentals of Concealed Carry  
 October 14 - Women on Target  
                     Running Deer Shoot  
 October 16 - North Branch Bowman Open Shoot  
 October 20 - Action Pistol Match  
 October 21 - Cowboy Long Range Shoot  
 October 23 - North Branch Bowman Open Shoot  
 October 27 - Runenation Functional Pistol App 2  
 October 30 - North Branch Bowman Open Shoot  
 November 3 - Runenation Functional Carbine App 1  
 November 24 - Runenation Onsite Firearms Training: Defensive Pistol

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### Lost & Found

We have a small collection of items left on the range. If you're missing something, call or email the office with a description: 352-8563 or [gm@ccfandg.org](mailto:gm@ccfandg.org).

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