



Gunsmoke

Winter 2018



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



BRRRR!!!!

by Peter Crowell, General Manager

Welcome to the winter edition of Gunsmoke.

As the smoke cascades out of our chimneys, how can anyone even think about heading to the Ferry Brook Range for some shooting fun? Ever since I became "a certain age" the first thing to get cold is my trigger finger. No amount of electric gloves, hand warmers, and layers seem to be able to combat this problem. Many of our members and guests, fortunately, don't seem to have such a problem.

I remember early in my tenure as your General Manager, going downstairs for coffee and finding a large crew of law enforcement/security folks who had just come in from training in ten degree weather.

At least they were well equipped, not only tactically, but also with layers and layers of warm clothing and... they seemed amazingly cheerful!

Then there are always our courageous hunters who love being in the woods no matter the cold. A bit of time on the 200 yard rifle range to get that hunting rifle precisely on target can pay off.

December 9th, the ever stalwart Winter Trap League Folks had their first session. They had a great time and even saw a bit of sun, a tiny bit. The League is fully subscribed and will have four events at our range this year.

As I noted in a recent email blast, keep an eye on the calendar for more winter events. If you don't get the email blasts, let me know and I will get you on the list.

If you have an idea for a fun way to beat the cold, let's talk about it and see if we can get something set up. Remember pistol bay one is enclosed and we do have propane heaters that can be placed in there.

This newsletter will include a nice piece of short fiction written by one of our members. As you read it, think about what YOU might contribute. Been a member for a while and have a great story that relates to our range? Or, do you just like to write about topics relevant to the many aspects of the shooting sports? If so, please send me your ideas or completed work and we will try to work them into the newsletters.

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2019!



Inside this issue...

Jr. Rifle Team... p.2
Note of Thanks...p.3
Shotgun Corner... p.5
High Power....p.6

Action Pistol...p.7
Story~Solo by JimBob..p.8
Business Spotlight.p.10
Ricochets.p.13

Jr Shooters Rifle Team

~Larry Parker Sr.

Nothing new on Junior Sectional Matches. We will be shooting our 2019 events in February at Blue Trail Range in Connecticut and in Northfield, VT. The 2018 NRA Sectional match results are still available at the link below. Our 3 Position score was outstanding in 2018 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. We have the same athletes again this year, so we hope we can maintain or even improve our position. <https://competitions.nra.org/results-and-records/national-championship-results/nra-national-indoor-rifle-pistol-championship-results/>

Our plan for 2019 Summer activities will be the CMP National Matches at Camp Perry in July. We hope to send a person or two to the CMP Smallbore/Air Rifle Camp and also have approximately 6 athletes attending the Championships. We're looking forward to it! It's been our summer vacation spot since 1984!

Our current indoor roster has 15 active athletes in our rifle program. One of the negative aspects of NOT having our own indoor range is when we transition from Saturdays and from Keene we lose several athletes! The Peterborough Sportsmen's Club takes very good care of us. We

just held our New England Indoor Prone Match in December and had 50 entries from shooters from NH and MA. Our CMP 3-Position Air Rifle State Championships and POSTAL Matches are in January. Our Travel Team athletes will be busy this winter competing in NRA Sectional Matches and Junior Olympic Tryouts around New England.

Here's our 2018 sponsors: The NRA Foundation, Mia Capelli Hair Salon, Dave Swenson,

Al Warner, Scott Ryles, the CAR Family and Freedom Hill Gear. Our 2019 Sponsors have already started to show their support. Our thanks to; Dave Polonsky, Matt Morgan, Bill Strumski, Kevin Wheeler (Keene Transmission), Lee Sprague, Jay & Alison Davidson and



Eversource's match to the Davidson's donation. We appreciate the 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

A Note of Thanks to Sandy Tatham

~Elaine H. Croteau

Women on Target is a program that provides an opportunity for women who have never handled or had limited experience with a firearm in the disciplines of shotgun, rifle and pistol. This program is possible by its 35-40 volunteers who share their expertise and time.

I wanted to take a moment to thank Sandy Tatham for her years of volunteering for this great clinic.

Although I have only been a part of CCSSEF and WOT for the past few years, it is easy to see how much of an inspiration Sandy has and will continue to be through the many women who have been fortunate enough to have her one-on-one shotgun expertise, myself included.

I asked Sandy for her WOT story as Sandy has taught shotgun with the Women on Target program from day one starting in 2006, when Vanessa Warner organized the very first WOT shoot.

Sandy shared Vanessa ran it for 2 years, Ginger DeAngelis for 6 years, Laurel Csenge 2 years then you, Elaine Croteau, for the last three years.

There is a lot of pride and satisfaction in teaching hundreds of women something you love doing so much yourself. When the program first started we instructed 30 women in the morning and 30 women in the afternoon (I was a lot younger).

This program could not survive without one "Good Chief and lots of Good Indians"! By this I mean the person willing to step up and run the program, and then all the people who step up with their shooting expertise be it pistol, rifle or shotgun willing to donate their time and knowledge of the shooting sport.

I have loved every minute of it, and I will miss it more than you know! I will never forget the faces of the women that broke that little flying orange target that never thought they could hit, and most of these women had never shot a gun before.

This was one of the best experiences of my life and I LOVED being one of the INDIANS!!

Thank you, Sandy for helping empower women, one at a time!





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Jr Shooters Rifle Team

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Notes on our active ALUMNI (shooting, college & military)... Tobin is in 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. 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.



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Shotgun Corner

~ Chuck Tatham

The dictionary defines doldrums as “a state of inactivity or stagnation.” Otherwise known as The Winter Blues. Unfortunately, it does not mention a cure for said blues. The answer is obvious. You need to spend more time at our famous trap range or our world class 5 stand range smashing high flying clay targets!

As I have said before, “just because the weather is cold does not mean your gun barrel has to be.”

So, come join us at the range and bring plenty of ammo. The trap range is open every Wed. from noon on and every Sat from 10 AM to whenever. The 5 stand range is open every Sat. from 10 AM to whenever.

photo by Al Patnode



Our warming hut is fully heated and equipped with a refrigerator and a microwave. So, bring your lunch and be ready to have a good time!



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Winter Adult Smallbore 4-Position Rifle League

~ Larry Parker, Sr.

If you're interested in the Friday night adult 4-Position smallbore rifle league for this winter, we have a couple of target rifles with scopes that can be signed out to members. This starts on January 4th. Contact Larry Parker, Sr. or Neil Jeneral for details about Smallbore rifle shooting.
smallbore@ccfandg.org or 600yard@ccfandg.org

High Power Rifle

~ Peter DeSantis

A very successful 2018 High Power Rifle season has come to a close. We added several new events this year including a registered 80 round across the course match, a CMP Excellence In Competition Match, and the Mid-Range Any Rifle & F Class state championship.

For the first time in its 42 year history, the Mini-Palma match was hosted at our club. The Mini-Palma Match is a friendly international long range prone competition between the New England States and the Canadian Maritime Provinces. As captain of the US team, I held two tryouts here to select our team. Three club members made the squad and helped us win a very lopsided victory. The team trophy, team scores, and a history of the match are on display in the club house. Take a look the next time you're at the range. I will be holding the tryout for the 2019 Mini-Palma team on June 30th at our 600 yard range. For the 2019 match, we'll be shooting for three days over the Labor Day weekend at Prince Edward Island.

The Mid-Range State Championship was a great success. Thirty competitors slugged it out over four 20 round matches, one at 300 yards and three

at 600 yards for the win. Alvin "Barry" Smith shot an incredible perfect score 800-46x for the Any Rifle championship. Steve McCalmont shooting F/TR posted a score of 788-40x for the F Class victory.

Our regular events are continuing to grow. Attendance is increasing at our Thursday morning and afternoon 600 yard practices. The morning session is nearing our range limit and we may have to add another relay. If you would like to give the 600 yard range a try, Ron Avery or I will be available on Saturday mornings (weather permitting) at the 200 yard line to get you qualified. If you can shoot 100 yards, you can shoot 600 yards.

We are planning three rifle clinics this season. A 600 yard clinic geared to the new shooter will be held (weather permitting) on April 28th. I hope to get you qualified for the 600 yard range with your equipment prior to the clinic, or if not I have a couple of loaner rifles available. A modest fee will be charged to cover clinic costs.

A Service Rifle clinic is scheduled for June 6th. The fundamentals of across the course shooting including operation of the service rifles and shooting positions will be

covered. This clinic may be held in conjunction with a Garand Match.

July 7th is the date of this year's wind reading clinic. I hope to incorporate F Class shooting technique with the help of some high level F Class shooters. Again a small fee to cover cost will be charged.

We kick the season off with a couple of OFF Hand Matches at 200 yards on March 30th and April 6th. Seven New Hampshire High Power League matches begin on April 14th. M1 Garand and vintage rifle / sniper matches are scheduled. As usual we planned something for everyone.

The 2019 High Power Rifle Schedule is poster on the High Power page listed under shooting activities in the menu on the home page. Individual match programs will be posted soon.

I hope to see you on the firing line. If you have any questions about High Power Rifle, give one of us a call.

-Pete De Santis 603 721-1985
americandesignhomes@gmail.com

-Neil Jeneral 603 398-3238
njeneral@ne.rr.com

-Al Giles 603 499-0494
angus77@myfairpoint.net

Action Pistol

~Walt Lewandowski



This is a true story. I saw the door slowly open and I could make out the shadowy figure holding a gun. The door opened a little more and I could see the gun swinging over in my direction. I quickly drew my pistol from the holster, pointed and pulled the trigger.

CLICK, but no bang.

I laughed. My wife looked at me strangely. Still, I was pleased with myself.

You see, I had seen the bad guy before John Wick did and yes, I was watching a movie and took the opportunity to practice.

Once the cold weather arrives and the snow flies, most put away their handguns and wait for warmer weather. But, you do not have to lose all that muscle memory developed during the rest of the year.

Those that participate in Action Pistol know that drawing from the holster is a skill that takes time to learn well. A skill useful not only for competition but in real-life situations. Should you need to, this seemingly simple act is your first line of defense and it must be second nature. Practice is the only way to insure that.

Now, you cannot draw and shoot in your home - but you can draw and dry fire.

I'm not getting into the discussion of possible wear

and tear of dry firing, snap caps or not, etc.

For me, I usually stand in front of the TV and put some talking head show on. I might use a shot timer or wait for some cue on the TV to draw and dry fire. I'll note my sight picture and time and keep practicing that.

Should you choose, there are electronic aids that let you more simulate firing on a target. LaserLyte, iTarget and others are available. This can be a topic for a later article.

Don't rule out real range time however. When the temperature creeps up above 40 in January, get out and

take advantage of the decreased attendance. Set up some targets and move around. Stand up some barrels and practice shooting from cover.

When the snow disappears, the weather warms and the mud hardens, we will begin the Action Pistol program in earnest. We'll resume practice on Wednesday nights to work the cobwebs out.

As usual, I'll set up some practice stages designed to improve our skills and provide a warm-up for the upcoming matches.

Remember, our group consists of shooters of all skill levels. We're all here to help each other to insure you are comfortable with what you carry.

If you've never done this before, all the more reason to attend. You will work at your own pace. Just stop by and take a look. We don't bite.

Requirements are modest. A good holster, a minimum of 2 mag pouches and at least 3 magazines. Shoulder holsters, small of back holsters are not allowed with appendix carry allowed under special circumstances.

E-mail me for more information atradio-guy350@gmail.com.

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SOLO

~ JimBob Flanders

The goose felt the pain in his side and, then, the sharp sound coming from below. He wavered and tried to maintain altitude with the rest of the flock that was veering to the left and climbing, but the searing pain was too much, making it difficult to breath and lift those big wings.

The rest of the formation was far ahead, and the goose knew he had to land quickly or plummet to the ground out of control. Keeping his wings still, the big bird glided into a half circle and landed into the wind on the far side of the lake among tall reeds and tufted hummocks.

The goose landed hard, tumbling end over end, coming to rest against some thick bushes. He slowly righted himself and stretched his long neck onto the frozen ground, closing his great wings around him.

Blood spotted the thin layer of snow to his left side, and the burning pain made him gasp air in through his half-open bill. He felt very tired and a heaviness he never had felt before. He slowly let his eyes close and shifted his body to lie on his right side.

He felt vaguely a presence overhead and then detected something coming toward him among the reeds. The steps were hesitating. A low honk and another... The male goose raised his head a few inches

off the ground and made a low noise in his throat. His mate had come to him. The female goose approached her mate with head held high, continuously peering left and right through the reeds and brush, a bit ungainly on dry land. She stretched her neck out and muzzled her mate, making low noises between a honk and a clucking.

After a few nudges with her bill, head bobbing up and down, she settled down next to her mate, making herself comfortable, with head pointing straight ahead.

The day wore on, with a cold wind and the temperature falling. The reeds waved and softly rattled, the slap of the lake a few yards away. Around the middle of the day, a big flock of Canada geese flew high overhead, heading south. The female goose raised her eyes skyward and fluffed her feathers. She was hungry and thirsty, but knew it was not time to leave. She closed her eyes and slept yet remained aware of all around her. Her mate breathed hard and moved now and then but made no sound.

Toward dusk, the female instantly came awake and to her feet. She had heard a noise. Her keen eyesight spotted danger--a red fox drawn by the scent of blood or prey. The fox stood motionless in the bush,

its eyes locked on the two geese. The female goose stood and faced the fox squarely, puffing herself up and extending her long neck close to the ground and hissing. The fox looked behind him and then back at the big goose confronting him. He was hungry. Blood could be detected. Something helpless... The fox took a tentative step forward, and the goose surged forward, her great wings up and flapping... Bill open and hissing... Two feet off the ground and hurtling toward the fox.... a massive form in motion... the fox instantly turned and quickly disappeared into the woods running. He never had been attacked by such a huge moving animal that was so, determined. He would come back. He knew something was injured. There was the unmistakable smell of blood.

Through the night, the wind continued to blow out of the north--swirling, falling snow over the lake and woods. Around the edges of the lake, ice began to form in the shallows--a harbinger of things to come. The female goose, from time to time, shoot her body as the snow gently piled up on her feathers. The male goose occasionally would move slightly, opening and closing his bill and hissing softly.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

North Branch Bowmen

~ Dan Deyo

North Branch Bowmen's indoor archery is well underway at the Keene Recreation Center on Washington Street. We have had the opportunity to start our open practices earlier in the winter for the last couple of seasons. This year we started shooting before Thanksgiving.

This early season practice starts as early as 5:30 PM on Tuesday and we have also been practicing on Sunday afternoons from noon to 4 PM. The club held its first tournament of the year on December 9th with 17 archers from NH, VT, and MA competing.

Participation in these shoots typically picks up after the first of the year. Once our youth archery program begins on the 8th of January, our Tuesday evening open

shooting will move to 7 PM immediately following our youth class.

The indoor programs are one of the Recreation Center's most popular and longest running youth programs.

The club has been teaching youngsters and adults there for many years dating back to well before the 70's. Come on over, we welcome everyone, no previous archery experience needed. We have equipment available that will fit most individuals at no extra cost and targets can be moved to accommodate each archer's ability. We typically shoot until just before 9 PM and cost is \$5 per shooter.

We shoot most Sundays from 12 PM to 4 PM with the exception of scheduled Tournament days. The afternoon line sometimes runs

until around 2 PM. Cost is \$5 per shooter for open Sunday shooting and you are welcome to come and go as you please. We have open instruction between 3 PM and 4 PM.

There are several scheduled New Hampshire Bowmen shoots this winter and all are welcome. Participants do not need to be a member except for our Grand Slam Championship and our NH State Championship (held at Pioneer Sportsmen Inc. in Dunbarton, NH).

NH Bowmen maintains a Facebook page as does North Branch Bowmen and we frequently send out emails to members to inform them of upcoming events. If you would like additional information feel free to contact Mike Wright at 603-209-8007 or Dan Deyo 603-209-6721.

Winchester Rifle Range OPEN Shooting for CCSSEF Members

Contact the CCSSEF General Manager for details on what night we will have a Range Safety Officer at the ELMM Community Center Rifle Range for OPEN .22 Rifle and Pistol shooting. We generally have a week night open for members to shoot indoors at no cost. Just bring your 22 firearms, ammunition and maybe some targets.



Stan's Auto Body

Stan's Auto Body Inc. is in its 49th year. Stan Chickering opened on August 18, 1969 at the same location it is now. 38 Foundry Street in Keene. Over the years Stan's has been a leader in the Auto Body Field.

As unibody cars became more popular in the early 70s, Stan realized the need for a three dimensional measuring system and a frame machine with multi pulling post. The measuring system allowed cars to be measured to tolerances less than 3 millimeters.

Paint systems were also changing, so he worked closely with DuPont learning to blend and clear coat colors. Acrylic paints were changing to urethanes and several times they were asked to spray new products on the market with these new paints. In 1989, Stan's installed the area's first down draft spray booth and baking oven. This not only increased production but also quality.

Dave and Dan Chickering had been working for their Dad since their early years in high school. Growing up in a family business

they prided themselves in quality repairs. They purchased the company in 1992, and shortly after buying the business they started adding computers throughout the shop – starting in the office with computer estimating, then updating the measuring system with a laser measuring capable of zero tolerance.

Construction of cars also changed with use of high strength steel, ultra high strength and Boron steel. At that time, the two young men invested in a computerized spot welder, which is designed to weld all the metals and leave a weld duplicating a factory weld.

Again, paint systems were changing, and this time water born paint was introduced. Stan's was one of the first in the state making this conversion; they worked very closely with the State DES and EPA, which actually made it easier for other shops to convert to water born paint.

2014 Ford started talking of building aluminum trucks. Not to be out done, they started sending

techs to classes and purchased special tools and equipment, so when the first trucks arrived, they were ready to repair them. Once again Stan's was one of three shops in the state to embrace this new technology.

Dave's son, Steve, has been working at Stan's for over 10 years and plans to carry on the tradition as a third generation owner with the same quality and commitment.

Over the years, Dave and Dan have tried to give back to the community through youth sports teams, Boy Scouts, and organizations like the Elks, schools, and of course, shooting sports and hunter education.

Stan's Auto Body is open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays thru Fridays. For more details, call 603-352-0396 or visit www.stansautobody.com.

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SOLO

~ JimBob Flanders

At these times, the mate would poke his back softly and stretch her neck over his form, then ruffle herself again and settle down, peering straight ahead.

Dawn came gray and cold. The female goose got to her feet, honking softly. Her mate lay still under the powdery snow as she stretched and beat her wings. She stretched her neck toward the still form and then, abruptly, turned toward the lake. Within five minutes, she was silently winging her way across the lake bearing south.

Around mid-morning, the sun weakly sent its rays to the earth. In the still silence of the lake and marshes, a small mound of snow moved. He was still alive. The male goose was terribly thirsty and hungry. He knew he had to get to water only a few yards away. The pain in his side was not nearly as bad as it had been. Nature had saved him for now. The bleeding had stopped sometime during the cold night, and the snow had helped. He had been still. Now he had to move.

With great effort and pain, the big Canada goose struggled to his feet and gently shook himself. He turned in the direction of the lake. He had to reach the lake. The lake was safety. He could quench his thirst and eat. Limping badly, the goose trundled to the lake through the high grass and reeds. Twice, he fell onto his side but managed to continue.

He began honking as the water came into sight and tried to go faster, only to fall over on his side again. He lay there breathing hard, willing himself to get up just once more.

He sensed and heard danger. Looking over his back, he saw the red fox slipping through the reeds only yards behind him. He knew that, in his condition, he could not fight off the fox.

Struggling again to his feet, the goose quickly looked in the direction of the fox. The fox stopped with one paw poised in the air.

The goose, raising his wings and all his strength, rushed forward to the water, propelling himself well into the lake and safety. The fox on shore pranced about, yipping his rage and disappointment. He had lost.

Hours later, the big goose, still in the lake, felt rested. It was time to try to fly. He paddled into the wind, raised his huge wings, and began to surge forward. His side hurt, but he knew that he could fly. He lifted off, honking. The great wings, not failing, sent him into the gray sky. Tucking his legs under him, the goose circled the lake and headed south.

Far below, the wind rattled through the reeds and grass, and a red form nuzzled, a place in the snow. Looking up, his eye caught a speck far away that soon was gone. The fox looked around and trotted into the woods. A soft snow began to fall silently.





**The Monadnock
SHOPPER NEWS**

"The Weekly With A Heart"

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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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RICOCHETS

~ Chuck Tatham

I would like to dance with you till
the cows come home. On second
thought, I would rather dance
with the cows till you come home.
~ Groucho Marx

I'm not crazy about reality, but it's
still the only place you can get a
decent meal. ~ Groucho Marx

A soft tongue may strike hard.
~ Poor Richard

Praise the man whose bread you
eat. ~ Spanish Proverb

Today is ours: tomorrow God's.
~ French Proverb

~~~~~  
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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

If this is a memorial donation, please indicate honoree's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for supporting future improvements at CCSSEF



## In a Nutshell

We greet the New Year with the traditional Sap shoot, a Trap event, at 10 AM Tuesday, January 1st. (I am working on making this a more inclusive event with a 22 LR shoot and a special event for membership renewals. I will forward you an email on this, we should not put anything in the newsletter unless I can be sure it is happening.)

Open Trap continues through all kinds of weather every Wednesday and Saturday.

There are 22 LR shoots, in a heated pistol bay one, starting in late January and approximately bi-weekly into early April. These alternate between rifle and pistol days.

The Winter Trap League has begun. It is fully subscribed, but welcomes spectators. Four of their events will be at our range.

Every Saturday morning there are membership folks here to process renewal and new memberships.

Indoor archery has begun and there are opportunities for adults and juniors to practice and compete. See the archery column in this newsletter. We are finalizing the details of a collaboration with the community range in Winchester. This is a small range which will be open and staffed by CCSSEF RSO's on most Wednesday nights from 6 PM to 9 PM. Details will be published on our website and via an email blast as they are available. The times will also be posted on the club calendar.

Interested in some education? Call during GM office hours, M/W/F 10 AM to 3 PM and we can set something up for you ranging from basic pistol/rifle/shotgun out to advanced tactical shooting. And... don't forget that Patrice and Jeff Nesbitt are providing wonderful breakfasts and lunches every Saturday at the clubhouse. Recently lunch was venison stew made from venison just harvested by our own Trap Master, Chuck Tatham.

## ADVERTISE IN GUNSMOKE!

**Advertising your business and/or services through CCSSEF has many benefits**

- 1. People want to use the services of others whom they know, trust, and are of like minds.*
- 2. Your business/services are advertised through the newsletter that is published 4x a year.*
- 3. Your business card is listed on the CCSSEF Website for everyone to see.*
- 4. For those who purchase the largest ad offered, it will also go on the Wall of Sponsors in the clubhouse as well as your business featured in an upcoming Gunsmoke Newsletter for members and visitors to view.*

To learn more, call Lori Cook at  
**603-852-0119**  
or email [advertising@ccfandg.org](mailto:advertising@ccfandg.org).

## 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).

**Cheshire County Fish & Game Club**  
PO Box 233  
Keene, NH 03431-0233