

Northwest CT Sportsman's Council

NWCSC
3 Bare Hill Road,
Goshen, CT 06756

nwcsc.org
Phone: (860) 491-4867

Council Report: February 24, 2004

Meeting called to order at 7:30PM by Council President, Chris Marino at Borgeson Universal Company.

All rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll of Clubs, delegates and officers:

CT Trappers Assoc.	Bob Andryzeck	CT Classic Bucks	Dean Fraley
Chase R&P	Dominic Basile (Info)		
Woodbury/ Southbury	Phillip Mauriello	NWCSA	Peter Gray
NWCSA	Jason Marshall	Bell City R&P	Dominic Basile
Foothill's Sptms.	Clyde Breakell	Waterbury F&G	Gerry Ciarcia
Sharon R&G	Jim Fedorich	New Preston R&G	Craig Nelson
SAS	Jen Zordan	NVBC	Chris Marino

Officers present: President, Chris Marino; V-President, Jason Marshall; Treasurer, Clyde Breakell.

Council Report for January 2004 distributed, reviewed and approved.

Financial Report: Clyde.

Profit & Loss report for 2004 banquet distributed. Financial statement distributed. **Motion made to, "accept the report as received". Approved.**

P&L statement for banquet and ATV are derived from Oct 2003 to present. This is so to include all expenses associated with those items. Not included in the financial report were the total of credit card sales for the banquet. This figure will be added once a statement from the C.C. Company is received.

There was a discrepancy in the final billing for the banquet facility. A charge was added that did not appear on our contract. Chris & Jason to discuss this issue with Mike DiStasi next Wednesday when we will be meeting to discuss next years banquet.

Craig suggests transferring banner expense to general exp rather than banquet since it is not strictly a banquet item.

Correspondence: None.

Committees:

Membership:

The Bell City Rifle Club, Inc. has elected to join our Council. This club has approximately 450 members and will be represented by Dominic Basile as the primary delegate; with Michael D'Angelo and Duane-Marie Stacy as alternates. The club is located in Southington, CT. and is very active in high power and small bore rifle marksmanship. Bell City also hosts a successful Junior Marksmanship Program, which has produced junior marksmen competing in national events. The address for their web site is:

www.BELLCITY.org

Bell City has a 200-yard rifle range; a new outdoor handgun range and an indoor 50-foot handgun range. They are CMP and NRA affiliated.

We welcome Bell City to the Council.

Dominic is willing to report to both Bell City and the Chase Rifle & Pistol Club. His vote will represent Bell City.

Chris reported that he is trying to gather web site info for the Council member clubs that have them. The intention is to send Council reports to those sites for posting and communication when necessary to keep the clubs informed of issues that affect them.

Council Banquet:

Final report for 2004 banquet. Discussion of how we can improve the banquet. Timing and promotion seem to be the most important issues. We must start earlier to promote the event and have tickets available. It was also noted that donations and banquet items are something we should be thinking about year round. There is too little time to accomplish much if we continue to wait until late fall to plan and execute this event. Donations were critically important to the success of this year's banquet and this fact should encourage delegates to think about promoting support for our banquet throughout the year. We need to develop a list of those individuals, clubs, businesses and organizations we should contact before the next banquet.

Too much time is consumed by drawings for door prizes. Door prizes to be severely cut back to a few quality prizes; or, if in quantity to be distributed at the tables.

We need to thank our sponsors for this year's donations. In that regard, Jason suggested a plaque be presented to Colt Firearms in recognition of their generosity over the past few years. **Phil Mauriello moved to, "authorize up to \$100.00 for purchase of a plaque to present to Colt". Seconded. Motion Approved.** Jen Zordan suggests inquiring at Sterling Name Tape to make the plaque. Jason to take care of this project.

ATV Raffle:

Jason reported on ticket sales to date. We have seven months left to make this raffle a success. Jason urged everyone to look for opportunities to display the ATV and sell tickets. Delegates wishing to display the ATV and sell tickets at a function can call Jason Marshall in advance to make arrangements to get the machine to the event.

Pete Gray asked about whether or not the ATV is insured against theft, loss, and damage. It appeared that we were not totally covered. Therefore; Chris has applied for and received, a loss policy on the ATV. Cost to the Council will be approximately \$250.00.

Citizen's Advisory Council:

Report posted to our web site.

Of note was a discussion of our Spring Turkey hunting proposal for traditional muzzleloader rifle. We had a good debate on the subject with Jason and Chris supplying the information we had developed regarding the topic. We received support for a pilot program from Bob Crook of the Coalition and other members. Although not all CAC members were convinced, enough supported the concept to put forward a motion to the effect that, "the CAC supports the efforts of the NWCSC in pursuing this turkey hunting initiative." This motion passed by what looked like a unanimous vote of approval. Mr. Parker suggested that we proceed by forming a committee to develop a comprehensive proposal for submission to the wildlife division. We will proceed.

Old business:

Second Amendment Sisters:

Donation to Second Amendment Sisters. Jason has made contact with Ron Borgio of S&W. No response as yet.

Jen reports that the Washington D.C. Rally trip scheduled for May, is generating a lot of interest. Jen set up an SAS booth at the Hartford Sportsman's Show and has sent press releases to the area newspapers. The Coalition is also helping by announcing the event on their web site and in their e-mail messages. Fliers have been distributed.

Council Organization:

Gerry Zordan has spoken to attorney Peter Reese about corporation filing. Gerry indicates that the expense involved to incorporate includes the filing fee of \$400 to \$500 and several hundred in attorney fees. We have decided not to use the suggested by law changes. We will draft our own changes in the near future. The corporate work will be deferred until the by laws are changed.

DEP: Old issues that need to be addressed include finding out why state lands purchased in recent years are not yet open to hunting and status of driveway construction at Goshen WMA, south parcel. We need to draft letters to David Leff and the regional biologist regarding these issues.

New Business:

Volunteer work for this spring. We need to organize work details for various projects beginning this spring. Included will be efforts to daylight and prune apple trees at Goshen WMA and clean up the area. We need to finish detail work on the Wildlife building and landscape that area. Chris will contact Peter Picone regarding these efforts.

It is also time to think about conducting our annual **Grouse Drumming Survey**. This is an informal survey that we initiated last year to assess the presence of grouse in areas of northwest CT. We will ask volunteers to take at least one morning during the time period April 1 through the second week in May, and visit one or more areas of their choice to listen for drumming grouse, and to report grouse sightings as well. We need to know as accurately as possible, the locations that are observed and the number of sightings or observations. It is also important to report the fact that no birds were heard or observed and the areas that were inspected if this is the case.

Last years results were interesting with about 20 volunteers reporting. We found that there are still a few substantial pockets of grouse activity. Let's try to expand our knowledge base this year.

NRA appeal to help fund broadcast efforts during the election cycle this year. With the recent supreme court decision that effectively bars free speech during the sixty days prior to the election, the NRA has no choice but to expand their broadcast capability in order to get their message out about candidates and positions. The NRA is appealing for donations to help with this effort and it is in each of our member's best interest to help if at all possible. A small donation now can help. It was a sad day when we lost what we thought was an inviolate right under the first amendment. We should not let this go unanswered.

Maine Bear Hunting Threatened:

Animal rights organizations are funding voter referendums in Maine and Alaska to ban bear hunting by baiting, hounds and trapping. As is usual with these organizations; they are attacking the most vulnerable aspects of hunting and trapping by using the referendum initiative process in states that allow it. Trapping, baiting, and hound hunting are not huge participatory sports; they are little understood by the general public and therefore they can be attacked by appealing through emotional rhetoric. We have seen this before with attacks on preserve hunting, etc.

We have received appeals for help from two organizations: the U.S. Sportsman's Alliance, which is working to defeat initiatives in both states; and the Maine F&W Conservation Council, which includes the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, the Maine Professional Guide association and the Maine Trapper's association.

The principle that applies here is that sportsmen should support any legitimate, recognized and beneficial sporting activity. Hunting bears by the above methods may not appeal to all of us for various reasons, but they are all traditional methods of hunting bears and all are important in the bear management plans of the Maine Wildlife Conservation Division. Therefore, they deserve the support of all sportsmen and women. Always remember, that the ultimate goal of HSUS and other animal rights organizations is to end all hunting, yours included. This effort is just one more step towards that goal.

Motion made to "donate \$300.00 to the organizations involved in defending bear hunting"
Second received. Motion approved.

Good of the Council:

Clyde reports that he will be picking up some pigs for finishing at his farm. He wants to raise one for the Jr Hunting Day and one for a Council outing for the delegates and some of our allies in Hartford. Payment has been made to reserve tables at the Nutmeg FNA and the NW-TU banquets. We will sponsor a table at each event. Reimbursement from attendees is almost 100%.

Adjourn: 9:20PM

Respectfully Submitted;

Chris Marino

NWCSC President