



Reload!

The Newsletter of the Connecticut Travelers

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FEBRUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER
CELEBRATING OUR 22nd YEAR

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IT MAY BE SNOWING, BUT JIMMY MULLER IS RED HOT

By Jeff Hunter

Sunday, January 18th brought three inches of snow and forty-four Travelers to Mid-Hudson Sporting Grounds for the annual dose of hypothermia-induced-torture dubbed Mid-Winter Martyrdom. Granted, it could have been worse as the temperature all week barely broke the teens, but the thermometer topped a balmy twenty as we departed the clubhouse.

Peter Wicker's ability to set technical targets was not hampered in any way by the weather. There were no bunnies, but he made up for it by throwing some reverse standards against the smoke colored sky. Station seven was a report pair of barely looping targets thrown really high in a right-to-left direction. If you didn't get a chance to focus on them before they hit the tree tops, the bare trees distracted your eyes. The added effect of being on a platform gave the targets plenty of additional interest.

Station eight played visual tricks with us, but only if you let it. It was a true pair of a fast target overtaking a slower one potentially pulling your eyes from the first target to the second. If the fast target were a single, it would have to be hit pretty quickly or it would start on a descending path and curling away. The other target of the pair was a trap-like bird that gave you ample opportunity to hit it. Most of the members of my squad were not fooled, attempting the true pair in the "correct" order. Human nature being what it is, one member of my squad took the easy bird first and then tried the fast bird which was almost impossible by the time he got a shot off. Later I inquired into his reasoning for this and he replied that he could double up on the easy bird if he had to. He still walked out with a five, so who am I to say which way was "correct"?

Peter Wicker watched as we shot a report pair of a very distant chandelle and high crosser at 13. He smiled as people walked away from the stand saying "At least I didn't get skunked." Newly minted Traveler John Siciliano stepped up to the box and promptly smoked his first pair. Not satisfied he had done enough damage to our egos, Peter looked on and watched John nail another pair. Having seen enough, Peter jumped in his Ranger and moved on to the next station. Let's just say John performs better under pressure.

In the end, Jimmy Muller bested the field by eight targets to come in with an 89! If anybody is counting, Jimmy is four for four at Travelers events since October! The Village Grill provided the post-shoot fare and the hot soups really hit the spot after a long day in the cold. The CT Travelers visit Mid-Hudson again in February for the much anticipated Annual Meeting and Fun Shoot.

HOA	Jim	Muller	89
Class 1 - Champion	Roy	Rohel	81
Class 1 - Runner Up	John	Hryniewicz	79
Class 2 - Champion	George	Ostrander	80
Class 2 - Runner Up	Al	Anglace	74
Class 3 - Champion	Mike	Boffolo	71
Class 3 - Runner Up	Art	Tonucci	68
Class 4 - Champion	Ed	Przybyski	63
Class 4 - Runner Up	Phillip	LaCavella	61
Class 5 - Champion	Stephen	Rice	54
Class 5 - Runner Up	Ron	Zampini	51
Jr. - Champion	Morgan	Burns	38
Lady Champion	Paula	Moore	71
Lady - Runner Up	Ellen	Burke	45
Vet 1 - Champion	Charles	Szabo	68
Vet 2 - Champion	Fred	Roesslein	64

GRECO'S ON THE FLY

By Brett Greco

The January winds of Ennis Montana blow hard and cold from the north bringing layer upon layer of white, fluffy powder to bury the jagged peaks of the Madison Range to my east and the rolling pine covered slopes of the Gravelly Mountains to the west. The weather here is so unfriendly now that my chocolate lab Cash barely makes it off the porch to tend to his business before returning to his post in front of the living room fire for what will be his third nap this morning. With a crescendo of whistles and groans, the wind rips through the treetops adjacent to my home. Gusts that must be somewhere near 30mph dip the mercury of my Ducks Unlimited thermometer well below the pair of pintail depicted on it, letting me know Ennis is in for another day below zero, and I'm in for another day at the fly tying vise.

It's these kind of winter days that give me the *cabin nasties*—the worst. My only salvation is the sun soaked daydreams of Florida and the fishing season to come. My annual pilgrimage is not far away now. In just a week's time, I will load up my truck and drive the nearly three thousand miles to the very southern cusp of the U.S. to what is considered by many anglers the major leagues of fly fishing—the Florida Keys.

As I put the whip finish on what must be the 638th size 16 serendipity I'm tying for the local fly shop here, I allow my mind to drift into thoughts of the warm, salty of Biscayne Bay; thoughts of skimming over brilliant shades of blue as my flats skiff cuts through the tropical waters of South Florida; thoughts of double digit bonefish crawling over shallow flats. Their tails sparkle in the air like diamonds as they tip up on their next tasty shrimp. I can feel the warmth of these thoughts fill me and my wind-beaten little home. Leaving his post to curl up by my feet under my fly tying desk, Cash groans. He feels

it too. If I try hard enough I can allow the warmth from these daydreams to come over me and transport me from my current Klondike-like locale.

Old Rhodes Key is where these thoughts transport me. I can taste the warm, moist breeze coming off the Atlantic as I stake my boat into position waiting for the first of many schools of tarpon to slide by on the incoming tide. My only concern is will the man in the silver suit want to dine on chartreuse or olive? Fly line sizzles through the guides as I launch a cast. My presentation lands in-line and twenty feet in front of the approaching school—perfect! In moments, a single fish is teased up from the school. Cross-eyed she tracks my offering of chicken feathers and rabbit fur. The anticipation wells up in me like an active volcano and I erupt shouting “Take It!” In a flash, my fly is engulfed by one hundred pounds of prehistoric fish. I strip my fly line hard and it comes tight! Got her! Confused, she sits motionless for a beat before shaking her head violently side to side. Enraged by our new connection she speeds like a freight train towards the deep blue, leaving holes in the ocean as she jumps and contorts her body in a frantic search for freedom.

With the completion of serendipity number 640, reality sets in. Back in the snow-covered Rockies I put the next tiny hook in the vise, smiling ear to ear. I know I’m almost there. I know I will be poling my favorite flats once again, armed with rod and reel, fly boxes full of tasty creations to catch nature’s most formidable opponents. I will be in Florida from January through June, through some of the best sight fishing North America has to offer. How about you? Can you make it down to the sweet sunny south this winter? I’ve got room for you on the front of my skiff, all the equipment you will need, and plenty of warm tropical places to hunt big fish.



Guide Services in Montana & Florida

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CONGRATULATIONS



Kristin Canale gave birth to a healthy baby boy. Phillip arrived on January 7th - he was two weeks early. He was 6 pounds 5oz and 21 inches. Congratulations to the proud parents, Kristen and Ken!!

CONTACTING THE TRAVELERS...

CTSCA.ORG – Webmaster: Jeff Hunter, marist89@excite.com.

CTSCA Home Office: Al Anglace, email aaa738@aol.com (by far the best way) or telephone 203 417-6295 if you absolutely must.

Editor: Phil Steinkraus, e-mail philistein@aol.com

Membership, Address Changes and Shooting Class status: Contact John Hachmann, at email obuc@optonline.net.

Guide Book advertising and other questions contact Dick Orenstein at email oren@umich.edu or call 203-226-5251.

Past issues of *Reload!* are available online at www.ctsca.org

TENTITIVE 2009 CTSCA SHOOTING CALENDAR

JANUARY 18 – MID HUDSON SPORTING GROUNDS
 FEBRUARY 15 – MID HUDSON SPORTING GROUNDS
 MARCH 15 – ORVIS SANDANONA
 APRIL 3, 4 & 5 – SPRING TOUR
 APRIL 19 – TEN MILE PRESERVE
 MAY 17 – TEN MILE PRESERVE
 JUNE 20 – MID HUDSON SPORTING GROUNDS (SATURDAY)
 JULY 19 – ORVIS SANDANONA
 AUGUST 7, 8 & 9 – ADDIEVILLE EAST FARM
 SEPTEMBER 20 – MILLBROOK ROD & GUN CLUB
 OCTOBER 2, 3 & 4 – FALL TOUR
 OCTOBER 18 – FAIRFIELD COUNTY PROTECTIVE ASSOC.
 NOVEMBER 15 – OLDE NEWGATE COON CLUB
 DECEMBER 13 – MID COUNTY ROD & GUN CLUB

FOR SALE CLASSIFIED ADS WANTED
 See listings at ctsca.org

NOTE: 2009 Guide Book advertising is due and can be arranged through Al Anglace. Submit copy and we will create the ad. Or send camera ready copy. Full page cost is \$100.00.

Our

advertisers make it possible to produce this informative and useful book.

THE UPCOMING **CTTRAVELERS** MONTHLY SHOOT

“22ND ANNUAL MEETING”
 SUNDAY, FEBUARY 15, 2009

MID HUDSON SPORTING CLAYS
 411 OHIOVILLE ROAD

NEW PALTZ, NEW YORK

Meeting starts promptly at 9am and adjourns approximately 11am. The Village Grille will cater a luncheon at the clubhouse immediately following the meeting. Shooting 100 targets will commence at approximately 12:00 noon.

*The Agenda will include many possible revisions to our usual shoot profile.
Economic concerns may bring about membership consideration to alter our present shoot agenda through discussion.*

REGISTRATION APPLICATION

**THIS IS A CLOSED MEETING, MEMBERS ONLY. NEW MEMBERS,
JOINING THAT DAY, ARE WELCOME.**

**YOUR APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2009.**

**Start the New Year off on the right foot and get your reservations in on time.
We will need an accurate count for the Village Grille.**

Continental Breakfast opens at 8:30am. \$45.00 entry fee.
Meeting attendance is mandatory to participate in lunch and shooting.

Mail this application, and your check, payable to "CTSCA" to:
CTSCA, 16 Davis Road, Seymour, CT 06483

NOTE: PLEASE DO NOT SEND EXPRESS MAIL SIGNATURE REQUIRED!!!

LIST NAME(S) THAT ARE BEING PAID WITH THE ENCLOSED CHECK ONLY:

- 1. _____ 2. _____
- 3. _____ 4. _____
- 5. _____ 6. _____

THERE WILL NOT BE ANY COMPETITION AT THIS FUNCTION.

If possible, please squad me with: _____

DIRECTIONS: New York Thruway to Exit 18. Continue to end of exit and turn right onto Route 299. Go a short distance to the traffic light (stay in left lane) and turn left onto Ohioville Road (Village Grille on left corner). Go 2.7 miles to club entrance on left. Phone: 845 355-7460.

