



Sword in the Scroll Newsletter

January 2025

Hello everyone,

Well it's been a while since our last newsletter. Things have been busy at the club. We've been working hard on renovating our new space. Things are moving along steadily. February will be an interesting month as we will be moving into our new space. We are planning to make the transition as seamless as possible but it is likely that things will be a bit discombobulated at first. That being said, I am very excited about the move. The new space is looking incredible and I think that the expansion in size is going to serve us very well. My hope is to be utilizing the extra space to provide a local venue for fencing tournaments, offering Eastern CT fencers an option to compete closer to home. And of course we will have the advantage of more strips which will accommodate larger classes and more private lesson availability. I apologize for being largely absent for the past several months but the constant renovations have demanded my time. I imagine I will continue to be occupied with such things well into March but at some point things will settle down and I will be back on the fencing floor where I love to be, coaching students and being more involved with our community.

While I have been preoccupied our members have remained focused and on point. I would like to take a moment to highlight a few individuals who have impressed me in the past few months. The first of which is Aynslee Williamson who has now usurped her elder sister's title of Youngest Competitive SITS Fencer. Aynslee competed at the Olympia D'Artagnan's Challenge in the Unrated Y8 event and won a Bronze medal in her very first competition ever. Congratulations Aynslee!

Help Us Build Some Bathrooms by Steve Martin

SITS is planning to move to a larger space but will remain in the same building. The new space will house many more fencing strips and, not merely one, but two larger bathrooms with all new fixtures.

We are starting a fundraising campaign called "Build Better Bathrooms for SITS." Our goal is to raise \$12,000.00 for the bathrooms including all new fixtures and lighting. Any additional monies collected beyond the cost of the bathrooms will go toward paint and plywood for the main hall.

\$4,000.00 in half-match money has already been pledged. This means that your pledge of \$100.00 will be worth \$150.00 to SITS.

All donations will be half-matched in this way until the \$4000.00 pledge has been reached.

If you would like to donate to this awesome cause, here is a link:

<https://swordinthescroll.com/product/help-us-build-some-bathrooms/>

Work on this overall project is already well underway.

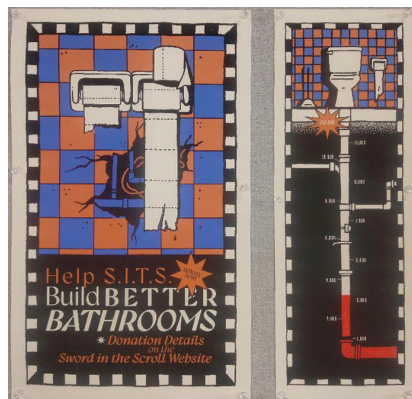
Volunteers have removed interior walls, old bathroom fixtures, old lighting fixtures and we are preparing for new plumbing, lighting, flooring, painting, heating, and air conditioning.

We have also hired a plumber and an electrician who have begun work on essential technical aspects of the build, but mainly we are depending on volunteers to complete the work.

We are on schedule to transfer classes to the new space this winter, but even after classes begin to meet there, finishing touches will continue until the new space is complete.

The completed space will allow SITS to host larger tournaments that will welcome more area competitive fencers. It will also allow our athletes both in classes and in open-fencing periods to enjoy more time on the strip. Please consider donating to this very worthy cause.

**Artwork and Posters
made by
Mabel Saccomanno**



SITS Calendar

SITS D&UNDER.....Feb

**SITS Closures
None Listed**

Local Events:

Youth Tournaments

Olympia D'Artagnan's Challenge 3A (Y8/Y12 Epee)

February 2, 2025

Olympia Fencing Center

27 SMITH PLACE, Cambridge, MA 02138

www.askfred.net

Senior Tournaments

SITS D & Under Epee

February 23, 2025

Sword in the Scroll Fencing Academy

90 South Park Street, Willimantic, CT 06232

www.askfred.net

The Colonel Melee

April 12 - 13

Ledyard High School - Hosted by Ledyard Fencing Club

24 Gallup Hill Rd, Ledyard, CT 06339

www.askfred.net

Regional Events:

Boston Fencing Club RYC

March 1 - 2 2025

Boston Fencing Club

100 Holton Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02135

www.askfred.net

Connecticut Division Summer National Qualifiers

March 15 - 16 2025

Candlewood Fencing Newtown

31 Pecks Lane, Newtown, CT 06470

www.askfred.net

Boston Fencing Club RJCC

March 29 - 30 2025

Boston Fencing Club

100 Holton Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02135

www.askfred.net

NEUSFA D and Under

May 10 - 11 2025

Worcester Fencing Club

243 Stafford St, Worcester, MA 01603

www.askfred.net

USAFencing will be requiring age verification for Regional and National events in the 2024/2025 season.

https://www.usafencing.org/news_article/show/1311293

Which Connecticut Fencing Club is the Largest?

by Steve Martin

As with most things, the Sword in the Scroll Fencing Academy had humble beginnings. A couple of decades ago, a group of us interested folk were active in a club called Western Swordsmanship Technique and Research (aka WSTR) where we studied German longsword techniques based on early written German manuscripts. In those days we would meet in area high-school gyms. A small number of us two-handed sword practitioners (not more than half a dozen) began to meet in a church fellowship hall on Saturday mornings to begin practicing competitive fencing techniques using the epee.

As interest in the SITS competitive fencing grew, both SITS and WSTR moved to our current rental space in Willimantic. Both groups are still using this space even though each has grown in numbers, and each has broadened its focus. SITS holds classes on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, and is open for adult free fencing on Tuesdays; and now has participants in all three competitive weapons. Meanwhile, the two-handed swordsmen hold their trainings on Wednesdays and they now study a wider range of historical handheld weapons.

SITS fencing has grown to a point that all five pistes are in heavy use for much of the week. And, according to recent statistics derived from USA Fencing, there are now nearly one hundred card-carrying fencers who claim SITS as their club. While there are several Connecticut fencing clubs of a similar size, SITS is now the largest fencing club in Connecticut. In order both to better accommodate our current fencers and to have room to continue growing, SITS has recently signed a lease for a larger space in the same building complex. Over the next few months, we will be working to prepare the new space and both clubs will be moving there.

Check-In Scanner

SITS has a bar code scanner located at the front door. This system helps SITS track member attendance and USAFencing validity.

At the time of this news letter:

Thank you for your consistent usage of the scanner. We succeed with your help.

Coaches Corner

This section of the newsletter is for the SITS Coach's to talk about fencing, the classes, and the future of fencing.

The Fundamentals class is going slowly in the summer, but it might be a good time for any experienced epee fencers who have a curiosity about the right-of-way aspects to come and explore in a safe space (no social pressure, no friends watching, etc).

As Fall kicks back up, I'll have some "tournaments" for the class to help provide some competition experience for the fencers who have been with me for a while.
~JF

Coach Nico is now present during Monday evening lessons to coach right of way weapons.

If trying Foil or Saber is something you're interested in, this is a great opportunity to get focused lessons on either.

USAFENCING MEMBERSHIPS

Make sure your memberships are current. If you had/have a temporary membership, please update this membership to a annual membership after the temporary membership expires. You will be able to access your membership information through the USAFencing membership portal.

<https://member.usafencing.org>

New Quickbooks Monthly Invoices

A friendly reminder that SITS membership fees are due on the 1st of each month.

In April we began sending membership invoices through Quickbooks. The invoices offer a variety of payment options. Paying through Quickbooks makes it easier on our end to log, categorize, and track payments and hopefully makes it simpler for you to make your payments. Of course if you prefer to continue paying by cash, check, PayPal, or website please feel free to do so. If paying by check please be sure to write in the memo line: fencers name, membership type, and month. (Example: " fencer Bob, Youth, April.) Then place the check directly into the payment box without an envelope. Please put cash payments into the provided envelope and write information on the front of the envelope. If paying with PayPal please write information in the description.

Fast and Easy Online Payment Option!

Use the membership tab on our website

www.swordinthescroll.com.

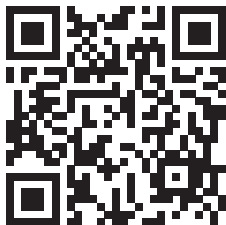
Just click on the membership tab and select the membership type you would like to purchase and follow the simple instructions.

If you would like, you may utilize our auto-pay option for easy monthly payments. When paying via the website, please note the fencer's name, class & month you are paying for.

Community

If you have anything that you feel the SITS Fencing community should know, you wish to submit a Fencing related filler, or just want to publish a SITS Newsletter appropriate article, you can do so through this link:

<https://forms.gle/hpidCGyMtBKmY9Fp8>



Group Equipment Order

November is an odd month so SITS will be placing an equipment order with Absolute Fencing Gear. I'll be placing the order on February 1st.

If you need to order something, you can do so online wherever you choose, or you can let me know, and I will make sure you get your equipment with this month's order. The order date is coming up quickly so let me know ASAP if you'd like to participate.

Just a quick reminder, there is a 5% service fee added to your order but shipping is free, so it does end up being cheaper if you participate in the group order!

SITS Apparel

We got merch! Represent! Sport our swag!

Head over to the [SITS Store](#) to buy some awesome Sword in the Scroll merchandise.

Whether you want a nice hoodie or some new fencing socks, we've got you covered!