

VP's Message

As I sit and write this message on February 14, 2008, I can't help but think that we have been quite lucky this year weather wise. No major storms, no sustained cold spells, all in all, a pretty mild winter. Hopefully spring is just around the corner. With spring comes a wide array of activities for WR&G Club. I know that Fish Committee chairman John Stevens has already set a date for his first trout stocking, followed by the club's opening day of trout fishing. Mike Falcigno and Ed Coppertite our Sporting Clays co- chairmen have already set their schedule of shoots for 2008.

I cannot stress how important the Sporting Clays shoots are to the club. This is our major source of income for the year, and a successful shoot depends on you, the members who give your time to assist Mike and Ed in insuring that these events are run successfully and without any problems. There is always a sign up sheet in the clubhouse prior to any of these shoots being held, it is a good opportunity to get your required work hours in. Mike has planned to have an instructional class on the safe operation of the clays traps for any member who has not previously been instructed in their use. You must take this class before you will be allowed to operate a trap machine. For the new members in the club this is a great way to meet other members as well getting credit for your work hours.

On Saturday January 12 another highly successful game dinner was held by chairman Ernie Trowbridge and all those who assisted in making this one of the premier game dinners in the state. The financial results as well as pictures from that night are found elsewhere in this newsletter. There also is another game dinner which benefits the children's trout derby that will be held on Saturday February 23, tickets are on sale from either John Stevens or at the bar.

In this newsletter you will find text and pictures of some other events that have occurred at WR&G Club recently. John Wolcheski held an ice fishing seminar twice so far this month. I know mother nature did not

cooperate with him as he would have liked, but he did his best under the conditions that he was forced to operate under. Thanks John.

I hope that everyone has seen the new utility building that has been completed. Many thanks to those on the committee who saw to it that this went up and completed in near record time.

The last thing I am going to talk about is this newsletter. If any members have any ideas that they would like to see incorporated into this publication please let either Tom Donlon or myself know. This is for you the members, we want you to be involved in this as well. Pictures, articles, anything that you think will help we will take into consideration. Again, we ask those of you that have email, please sign up to receive this newsletter by email as it will help cut production costs. Also any member who owns a business and would like his business card in this newsletter, please make sure that we have that for insertion in the next newsletter. Think Spring !!!

Bill Blotney, Vice President

Choosing the Right Shotgun this Turkey Season

From the National Turkey Federation website

The level of sophistication in firearms available to the turkey hunter has followed the same path as turkey calls. As more hunters have joined the sport, manufacturers have responded to their needs by making shotguns with features ideally matched to the turkey woods.

Here are a few tips for making sure you have the right gun for the job this spring.

* Make sure the shotgun fits you. There is no sure way to determine gun fit other than seeing a firearms expert. To ensure that your gun fits, pull the gun to your shoulder (with the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, of course). Ask yourself the following questions. Does it swing into place without extra movement or effort? Does the weight feel comfortable? Try adjusting the place-

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2007 - 2008

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Contact information for Club Officers and Committee Chairmen is posted in the Club and on the Club website www.wallingfordrodandgunclub.org

New Members

Please welcome the newest members of our club.

Brian Garfield
Domenic Armellino
Donald Pizzorusso
Matthew Funchion
Lionel Garand
Thomas Zeman
William Conant
Jim Muller
Ken Russell

Don't Miss The

New
Member
Orientation

March 9, 2008
10 am

WRGC

Opening Day

Opening Day of Fishing will be the first Sunday in April, April 6th. The pond will be stocked with 400 trout and included in the stocking will 20 trout 18-20 inches.

The Fish Pool will become effective on Opening Day. You can get your tickets at the meetings or see John Stevens. The tickets are \$10. The first person to present a tagged fish to John will win the prize. Breakfast will be available on Opening Day.

The Game Dinner for the fishing Derby will be held on February 23rd. Tickets are going fast, see Eric the bartender, if you need a ticket.

John Stevens
Fish Chairman



Orchard

Please refrain from driving on the main roads in the orchard during the late winter and spring rain and mud season. We want to reduce the erosion and damage caused by the rain and vehicles. A new chain will be added to the gate to make opening easier.

Jim Stadish
Chairman

Sporting Clays



The first sporting clay shoot will be held on Sunday April 13 2008. We need sixteen trappers for this event. Sign up sheet will be on the table in the club house. The sporting clay committee is planning a work party on Sunday March 2nd and Sunday March 9. From 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Sign up sheet for March work party will also be on the table in the club house, or e mail michaelfalcigno@aol.com

Mike Falcigno
Chairman

wallingfordrodandgunclub.org

07-08 Pheasant Season



The 2007-2008 Pheasant hunting season ended on Saturday, January 12th. Once again, with the dedicated work of our bird chairman, Rich Meydag, we were able to release approximately 1,708 birds on the Club property. According to the daily sign in/out sheet we harvested 1,199 birds for a 70% harvest rate.

We had some cover problems on a couple of our hunting areas and several members are going to talk to the owners to see if we can improve the cover.

We ended up with thirteen (13) color groups with an average of twelve (12) hunters per group. Our largest number for a Saturday hunt was 77 hunters but the overall average was about 60 hunters.

We are already working towards the 2008-2009 season and hope to make it even better.

Alan Douville,
Private Shooting Preserve Chairman

New Building Dedication

Sunday April 27th 11am – 1pm

Pot Luck – bring your favorite chili, stew, wings, etc...

Sheet cake and rolls supplied by the club. Help is needed. We are raffling a Marlin Model 917VST .17 caliber, Bolt action, S/S, bull barrel. Tickets are \$5 ea – 200 tickets max. – tickets will be on sale at the club meetings prior to the event until all are sold.

Contact Steve Szypulski at 203-952-7827 for more information.

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Right Gun *Continued from Page 1*

ment of your forward hand. Can you hold the shotgun steady for a given amount of time? Can you comfortably carry the shotgun for long distances? You should be able to answer "yes" to all of these questions. All these variables play a role in determining gun fit for turkey hunting.

* Bigger isn't always better. With the new, high-powered turkey loads and chokes available, 20-gauge shotguns have become very popular for use in the spring turkey woods. Better advice than simply purchasing the largest gauge or load size would be to ensure appropriate length, weight and recoil for the person doing the shooting.

* Pattern, pattern and then pattern again. Take the time to shoot the shotgun with different loads, shot sizes and even choke constrictions when possible. Most shotguns come with several choke options and the after-market chokes have shown great success in increasing pattern performance down range.

* To camo or not to camo? Camouflage is another consideration in choosing a firearm this spring. We all know that turkeys have keen eyesight and getting a shotgun with functional camouflage could give you that added advantage.

* Saving the best for last. The best advice for making sure that you have the best shotgun this season is to know the limitations of your firearm. Patterning, experimenting with different loads and chokes and practicing real hunting situations on the range will help you learn when to shoot and when the shot may be risky. If using a 20 gauge, you may need to be within 25 yards of your target for your shot. The same distance could

WRGC

be used as a rule of thumb for very young hunters. Making sure you are aware of the capabilities of the hunter, as well as the firearm, can be the difference between success and disappointment.

The trick is, you probably have the right shotgun for harvesting that trophy gobbler this spring. It may just require some experimentation and practice to determine the optimal choke constriction, load, shot size and distance. If you are in the market for something new, just about every manufacturer is now producing shotguns made specifically for turkey hunters. They all perform well, however, the same considerations must be considered before carrying one on a hunt.

Rifle Range

New sand bags have been made and are at the range.



There will be a Work Party on March 2nd at 9 am to make and repair target frames. Please bring screw guns, square, tape measure, and any cardboard that you don't need.

P.S. There will be venison chili served after.

Hope to see you there,

Ray Ericson
Chairman



wallingfordrodandgunclub.org

Membership Approves 2008 Wildlife Budget for Improved Game Bird Habitat

Plans are in place for improvements and expansions to the club hunting fields including the areas below the trap range (fields 1,2,&3), the upper field 4 (Malchodie parking area) and the sporting clays fields.

Fields 1,2,&3 will have the bare areas replanted along with repair of the rutted roadways. The road from the trap range will be closed to prevent further damage and will only be available to maintenance and security vehicles along with the use of the atv for stocking birds during the hunting season.

Field 4 will have the most extensive work performed. We will continue stumping and grading this area and replant the entire field. The parking area for Malchodie's will be moved closer to Dibble Edge road and new gates installed to prevent access to illegal off road vehicles which have currently been riding around the area and creating a mess. Again access will be only for maintenance, security and stocking vehicles.

As time permits, work to be performed in the Sporting Clays fields will include cutting, chipping and stumping around the edges of the fields to increase the overall size of the fields.

Selected areas will be planted with Highbush Cranberry shrubs to provide cover and food for wildlife.

Control of invasive plants will continue in the late spring.

Hopefully all will go well and we will enjoy better hunting fields this fall.

Walt Fell
Your Wildlife Chairman

Feb 08

Claus Couple Makes Annual Visit to Club

In spite of the delay cause by the snow storm on the original scheduled date, Santa and his bride managed to adjust their schedule to visit the club on December 22, quite a feat considering its close proximity to the "big trip" just two days later.



The Annual Kids Christmas party was once again a great success thanks to the efforts of Amy and John Wolcheski. Lunch and holiday crafts were enjoyed by all. The only challenge was explaining that the mount on the wall was not one reindeer tasked with pulling the sleigh.



Ice Fishing Seminars

Two avid ice fisherman shared their knowledge and passion for the sport in seminars held at the club this month. John and Bob Wolcheski held two seminars on ice fishing.

Every aspect of the sport was covered; from basic equipment right down to socks and boots. Participants learned to rig tip ups and how to select tackle and bait. A large variety of equipment was available for hands on demonstrations. Safety, self rescue and buddy rescue, and state laws were discussed in detail.

If you have any interest in learning about this sport, you need to keep a watchful eye out for the next this seminar is offered, it will definitely be time well spent. Special thanks to John and Bob who shared their time and expertise.



Successful seminar yields great results.

At the Club

A special prime rib dinner was served prior to the February meeting in honor of Valentines Day. The Libby's special was enjoyed by all who attended.





The Event Chairman and the Boss, Ernie and Donna Trowbridge.

What do you get when you put one hundred ninety-six people, great food, and a great staff in the Wallingford Rod and Gun Club?

The Annual Game Dinner of course...

The Annual Game Dinner was held on January 12, 2008 and was a great success. The menu was composed of nineteen different game dishes that was enough to satisfy even the heartiest of appetites. The food, service, and company were enjoyed by all in attendance. Between the raffle and the dinner the club raised more than sixty-four hundred dollars. The profit from this event are divided as follows: \$1934.47 - General Fund; \$1504.59 - Fish Fund; \$3009.17 - Bird Fund. A successful event all around.

Special thanks to Ernie and the crew of dedicated senior and junior members. An event of this magnitude is no small undertaking and your efforts are very much appreciated. (Please accept our apologies if we have not mentioned everyone's name)



The Secret of Our Success

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Sue Deleys | Matt Richard |
| Shannon Trowbridge | Melanie Richard |
| Joe Trowbridge | Chris Dileo |
| Harry Csech | Frank Downing |
| Cowboy Ken Forcier | Jim Libby |
| Andrew Forcier | Paul Garceau |
| Ed Lagerstrom | Ray Garceau |
| Barbara Lagerstrom | Mark Hacku |
| Chris Sweetwood | Rob Grant |
| Bob Wolcheski | Bill Zemina |
| Tony & Andrea Aldi | Leo Franko |
| Jerry Mataskiewicz | Jerry McCarthy |
| Steve Szypulski | Doug Stender |
| Kevin Richard | Little Joe |



NRA Instructor Classes Begin

The first of a four part NRA Instructor program began on February 2nd. Starting with Basic Instructor Training (BIT) eleven students began the program with the desire to become certified instructors. The program is sponsored by the Connecticut Yankee Council and is provided to enhance shooting sports throughout the scout district. Two of the students are both club members and scouters.

The training program is being conducted by Steve Sypulski (club member and scouter), and appointed NRA Training Counselor. The program will cover three of the eleven courses offered by the NRA. Shotgun; Muzzleloader Rifle; and Rifle will be the course of instruction over the next three scheduled weekends.

Education and training in the safe and proper use of firearms is a major objective of the National Rifle Association. The instructor training program helps meet this objective. If you are interested in becoming an instructor you can contact Steve or visit the NRA website at www.nrahq.org.



Special thanks for the support from the Club and its members for supporting this training and providing the facilities. The program will help provide the opportunity for hundreds of youngsters to experience shooting sports and help preserve the traditions supported by our club.

PLEASE NOTE: The ranges will be in use on the following days from 10am to 1:00pm. Sat. March 1, Shotgun Field; Sat. March 15th, Rifle Range; Sat. March 29th, Rifle Range

Humor

A more-than-slightly intoxicated buzzard wanted to go ice fishing. As he began to cut a hole in the ice, a resonating voice from above came booming down, "There are no fish under the ice!". The ice fisher was slightly taken aback, but continued trying to cut a hole in the ice. Again, the voice came booming down, "There are no fish under the ice!". Now the fellow was getting a bit nervous, but nevertheless continued trying to cut a hole in the ice. Yet again the voice boomed, "I said, there are no fish under the ice!". The fisher responded, "God, is that you?", "Why do you keep telling me there are no fish under the ice?". The voice boomed back, "Because I own the hockey rink, you fool!"

WRGC

Cooks Corner

Deer Salami

4lbs ground venison
¼ cup Morton's Tender Quick Salt
2 tbsp Liquid Smoke
2 tsp black pepper
2 tsp garlic powder
Honey

Mix venison and Tender Quick Salt. Refrigerate overnight. Next Day as the rest of the ingredients. Mix with hands. Divide meat into 2 rolls. Place on rack and bake 4 hours at 225 degrees turning every ½ hour. Coat with honey when turning. Great with cheese and beer.

Submitted by Ray Ericson

Got a favorite recipe you'd like to share? Send it to newsletter@wallingfordrodandgunclub.org

wallingfordrodandgunclub.org

Classifieds

New offering for members! Have something you want to sell or are looking for something special? WRGC Classifieds is the place to list it. To get your ad placed is as simple as emailing it to newsletter@wallingfordrodandgunclub.org. Please put classified in the subject line and be sure to include your name and member number, This is a free service for members.

Member Services

If any member would like to be listed here, please email our webmaster Rich Bennice at rich@wallingfordrodandgunclub.org

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Milford
Nick Fraioli
203 877-8886

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Feb 08



My First Year Pheasant Hunting

By Matt Donlon, Junior Member

This past season has been an amazing experience for me. I had just completed the Hunter Safety course with my dad. It was a great class and I learned a lot of valuable information. I discovered just how important the class was on my very first hunt.

My first hunt was a beautiful afternoon; I was able to get out school early to go hunting with my dad. Everyone in the group was really nice and treated me like a hunter and helped me out along the way. My first shot at a bird was right on the edge of the sporting clay field. It was on the ground and a friend in the group called me over to get ready. I was lined up and ready to shoot, when my dog Sadie, decided to flush the bird and chase it down the hill. My dog was right in between me and the bird. I didn't take the shot. Another member in our group shot the rooster as it rounded the corner at the bottom of the hill. I was standing there still at the ready when another bird flew up from my left. I pointed, pulled, and the hen dropped to the ground. My dad helped me put it in my vest. I was so excited and so happy I had taken the safety course and remembered to be aware of my line of fire and surroundings. My dad and everyone in the group congratulated me on my kill and my safety.

The Trilene® Knot is a strong, reliable connection that resists slippage and premature failures. This knot can be used in joining line to swivels, snaps, hooks and artificial lures. The knot's unique double wrap design and ease of tying consistently yields a strong, dependable connection.



1. Run end of line through eye of hook or lure and double back through the eye a second time.



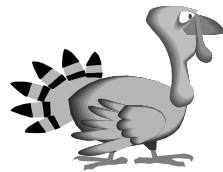
2. Loop around standing part of line 5 or 6 times. Threading tag end of line back between the eye and the coils as shown.



3. Tighten knot with a steady, even motion without hesitation. Trim tag end leaving about 1/4".

Turkey Search

Find and circle the words on the right.



C S A S T K J P B Y H C J U R G O U T E
 Q O P M C M G R G T K P L E L S J G S C
 S U N O F Y P E R L A D H K E A C Z O X
 R X L S R M L S X Y O T T S K W F T O B
 S F M U E X V E R X A R I E E E U U R G
 T V L O L R G R K E Q L S B D O X R E Y
 W T O F B C V V F F Y J D E A V I K W A
 J F T U O X I A O G B N R E D H Q E F Y
 O M T W O H N T T L I A K A W V B Y X Z
 G W P I G W C I W I T I P E A M H U K K
 A Q B L W J R O X I O U R S Z B J M U S
 I U F D I A H N O D P N K Z C H F H D I
 R L G G F Y Q N W Q G J A J W O V B N J
 L L A C C M T O M S X N W M E C J L B I
 E T X O L R Q J C K M X R M A E N H Y Q
 D P W P O U L T S Y O C E D Y H X J A H
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 V L A A P B F C P M R V K E L D Y N S P
 O N R E V W Q F H W L A N O I T A N S B
 J Q B E B D E F X V S S Y A H B C J G J

BEARD
 CALL
 CLUTCH
 CONSERVATION
 DECOY
 FEATHER
 FEDERATION
 FLOCK
 GOOBLER
 HABITAT
 HENS
 JAKES
 NATIONAL
 POULTS
 PRESERVATION
 ROOST
 SPUR
 TOMS
 TURKEY
 WILD

I got to hunting several more times through out the season. Each time it got better and better, even on the days when we didn't get anything. I learned so much from my friends in the group and their dogs. I really appreciate the time and skills everyone shared with me. By my last hunt of the year I felt like a real pro. Brian, a friend of mine in our group, let me take his dog Annie in search of a bird. She and I headed into the field, and within minutes she was telling me a bird was near. Seconds later, after a good flush and a clean shot, she was bringing my prize right to me. I was absolutely great.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this a special year for me, especially Brian Molloy and Annie and the Club for providing great hunting areas. I'll definitely be out there next year.



411 North Branford Road
Wallingford, CT 06492

2008

Sporting Clays Schedule

April 13th
April 27th
May 11th
June 8th
June 29th
July 13th
July 27th
August 10th
August 31st
September 7th
September 28th
October 12th
October 26th
November 9th
November 23rd
December 7th

Trappers are needed for all shoots!

New Member Orientation

If you're a new member you don't want to miss this!
Discover all your club has to offer!
At the Clubhouse on

**March 9, 2008
10 am**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

**March 13th
April 10th**

Don't forget to check us out on the web at

www.wallingfordrodandgunclub.org