

January 2009

VP's Message

Bill Blotney - Vice President

By the time most of you read this newsletter the hunting season will be coming to an end. Except for the few hardcore duck and goose hunters, the guns will be cleaned and put away until next Fall. Just from listening to all the talk from those at the clubhouse, many birds were harvested. A job well done to Rich Meydag and those who helped him stock through-out the season. The birds were some of the best we have stocked in recent years. Thanks also to Al Douville for all his recordkeeping on birds stocked and harvested.

Our annual game dinner which is chaired by Ernie Trowbridge was again a success despite Mother Nature's attempt to thwart it by throwing a bit of snow at us all on that Saturday. Thanks to Ernie and all those who helped to make this happen. Ernie devotes many hours to plan, procure the game, and then make sure that everything is cooked and served in a timely manner. Thanks also to Ray & Paul Garceau, Bill Zemina and Brian Coane for again making sure that the raffle table has plenty of items on it and selling of the raffle tickets through out the dinner. Thanks guys! Also, thanks to Rich Razinger from Lyman Products for the donation of a black powder rifle for the raffle.

John Stevens will be having a game dinner to benefit the children's trout derby. The date of the dinner is February 28th. I am sure John will be looking for help on this date.

On the subject of trout, on January 4th there were several members at the pond ice fishing. I know that there were several trout taken while I was there. If you plan on ice fishing PLEASE make sure that the ice is thick enough to be on it. Safety first!

Just a quick couple of notes about the newsletter. There will be only one hard copy mailed to an address regardless of the number of members at that address. The newsletter will be addressed to the senior most member, please share it with those others who live there. It saves on cost. If you have internet service

please again either sign up to receive it by email, or you can view it and all previous newsletters on the club's web page. Thank you.

With February being such a short month and with not much happening there will be NO newsletter. I will start up again in March when the Spring brings a new season to WR&G. Sporting clays will be starting up, fishing season will be in the near future, and it hopefully will be getting warm again.

Critical Listening

Using your hearing to the best of your ability can open doors for any hunter. While you can find a good place to hunt by examining the sign turkeys leave behind, actually hearing the birds you are after immediately boosts your expectations and puts you into the proper predatory mode.

Let's say you are checking back roads looking for sign and stopping here and there to hunt right then or, perhaps, at some later date. The problem, of course, is that not all toms will be in a place where you can hear them talking back.

A long time ago a grizzled old hunter told me he didn't want so much as a scrap of paper in his pocket when he was listening for game. I don't take things that far, but I do try to focus on the task at hand by being as quiet as possible when I'm listening.

When I'm scouting and a vehicle is nearby, I stand far enough away from it so the subtle noises it makes as the engine cools will not distract me. And, if I'm with someone, I don't stand too close to them. I don't want to hear shuffling feet, a jacket zipper or a snack wrapper rustling. Besides, four ears are better than two.

Of course, listening to the sounds around you is just as important during the actual calling process. Not every gobbler is vocal when coming to a call. Some start off gobbling, then shut up as they get closer. Is he still coming? Did he leave the party? What now?

See Listening on Page 6

Next Meeting

February 12th
Dinner Special
Prime Rib
Tickets are \$11.95

Friday Nights

Please note, due to the recent success of JR's Friday Night Dinners, we URGE you to call ahead with your dinner choice and party size. Please contact John (203-269-9444) or JR (203-710-2095). Sign up sheets posted at club.

Fishing



Ice fishing has begun with the influx of cold weather. Be sure you review the ice fishing rules prior to fishing. You are only allowed 2 fish a day, 6 per week. Any questions please see John Stevens.

OFFICERS

2008 - 2009

President

Paul Uhlan, Sr

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Bill Blotney

Recording Secretary

Rich Bennice

Membership Secretary

Sue Delelys

Treasurer

Jack Krasko

Board of Directors from the Members

Ray Ericson

Mike Schewokis

Doug Stender

Steve Szypulski

John Wolcheski

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

2008/2009 Pheasant Season Overview



Birds Purchased/Cost

800	Sharon Pheasant Farm (\$9360 + 561.60 tax)	\$9,921.60
1100	Glastonbury Pheasant Farm	\$12,760.00
1900		sub-total \$23,681.60
<u>300</u>	Glastonbury Pheasant Farm	0.00
2200		sub-total \$23,681.60
<u>280</u>	Provided by State of Connecticut	0.00
2480		sub-total \$23,681.60

Expenses

Feed / Med (3900 lbs)	\$1,077.71
Two 50# Feeders	\$154.49
	sub-total \$1,232.20

Total Expenses, Less Land Leases and Gifts \$24,913.80

Stocking Information

State-

Stocked Tyler Mill 420 birds in 10 stockings, 140 were club provided

Club-

About 2150 (2138) have been stocked by January 12th.
Approximately 400 birds more than were stocked last year.

Losses as of 01/06/09 – 12 birds or .48%

Recycled as of 01/06/09 – 19

Returned (weather / no shows) Approx. – 74

Game Processor

Paul Cichowski
Collie Brook Road
East Hampton, CT. 860.267.0857
Do you have a favorite game processor you'd like to share the membership, please send it in.

Help our Veterans

There is a large "Drop Box" in the Club House where you can donate Socks; Toiletries; T-Shirts; Underwear; Gloves; Hats for homeless and needy Veterans. All items donated will go to the South Park Inn shelter in Hartford. Thank you for your help. For more information, contact Skip Koch, 203 213-4146

In line or On-line

Its 2009 and time to renew you hunting and fishing licenses. The DEP Online Sportsmen Licensing System is up and operational. It is very easy to do from the comfort of your own home. Go to <https://ct.outdoorcentral.net/InternetSales/> and follow the instructions. From this site, you can purchase Connecticut hunting, trapping and fishing licenses, as well as all required deer, turkey, and migratory bird permits and stamps. The benefit of online licensing is you can do it whenever you want, without wasting fuel, or standing in line.

Texan Venison Lasagna

4 cups venison, cooked and shredded
2 3-oz packages cream cheese, softened
1 medium white onion, peeled and chopped
8 green onions, sliced
2 cups Mexican cheese blend, divided
¾ tsp. ground cumin, divided
1 tsp. fresh cilantro, minced
¼ cup butter
¼ cup flour
2 cups chicken broth or bouillon
1 cup Monterey jack cheese, shredded
1 cup sour cream
1 4-oz. can green chilies, drained
¼ tsp. dried thyme
¼ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. pepper
12 6-inch tortillas, cut in half

Venison Mixture: In a large mixing bowl, combine cream cheese, onions, 1 ½ cups Mexican cheese, garlic, ¼ tsp. cumin, and the cilantro. Mix in venison and set aside.

Cheese Sauce: In a 2-qt. saucepan, melt butter, whisk in flour until smooth, and gradually add chicken broth, stirring constantly. Slowly bring to a boil; reduce heat; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened; remove from heat. Stir in Monterey jack cheese, sour cream, chilies, thyme, salt, pepper and remaining cumin.

Spread ½ of cheese sauce on bottom of a buttered 13"x9"x2" baking dish. Top with 6 tortilla halves, 1/3 of venison mixture and ¼ of the cheese sauce. Repeat tortilla, venison and cheese sauce layers twice. Top with remaining tortillas, cheese sauce and Mexican cheese. Cover and bake at 350° F for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake 10 minutes longer or until heated through. Let stand 10-15 minutes before cutting.

This recipe from Venison: Fast and Foolproof Favorites.

Range Hours

Range hours have returned to non-hunting hours.

9:00 AM to 1/2 hour before sunset.

Please be sure to sign in before and out after using the range.

Remember Safety First

Humor

It was a cold winter day. An old man walked out onto a frozen lake, cut a hole in the ice, dropped in his fishing line, and waited patiently for a bite. He was there for almost an hour, without even a nibble, when a young boy walked out onto the ice, cut a hole in the ice next to him. The young boy dropped his fishing line and minutes later he hooked a Largemouth Bass. The old man couldn't believe his eyes but chalked it up to plain luck. But, shortly thereafter, the young boy pulled in another large catch. The young boy kept catching fish after fish. Finally, the old man couldn't take it any longer. "Son, I've been here for over an hour without even a nibble. You've been here only a few minutes and have caught a half dozen fish! How do you do it?" The boy responded, "Roo raf roo reep ra rums rrrarm." "What was that?" the old man asked. Again the boy responded, "Roo raf roo reep ra rums rrrarm." "Look," said the old man, "I can't understand a word you're saying." The boy spit the bait into his hand and said... "You have to keep the worms warm!"

Classifieds

Wanted - 2 or 3 carat engagement ring. Please see Bill



CLUB INFO LINE
All the information you need when you want it
203 265-1012

Member Services

Tri-Tronics
Electronic Dog Training Equipment
Member Discounts courtesy of John DeSandre
<http://tritronics.com>

Zoel's Body & Auto Center
19 Hall Ave
Meriden
Dave Sirois
203 237-6464
"Collision Specialists & Full Auto Service"

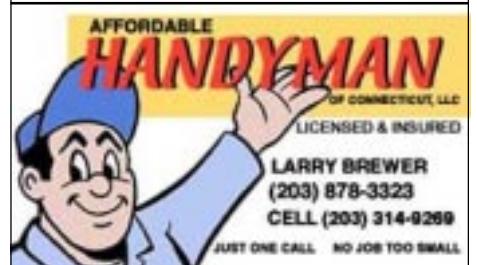
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BIG season



Big Day

Dakota Meydag, (Grandson of Rich Maydag) on opening day of Pheasant Season this year. This was his first year hunting and he got two birds, notice the grin. Picture is of him and their dog "Lex" who of course flushed the birds.



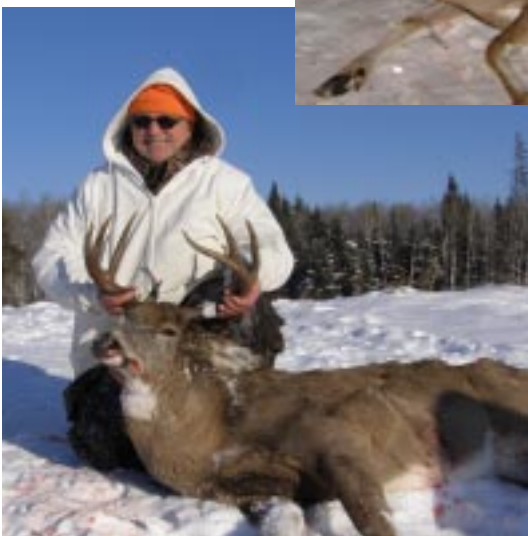
Big Deer

Ray Ericson, Steve Szypulski, Bill Brown, and Leo Perry ventured off to Saskactuan on a deer hunting trip that yielded some big results



Big Boar

Bob Boutieller with wild boar he dropped in October at Wild Hill VT.





Annual Game Dinner



2009



Be aware of the possibility that Brer Tom is breathing down your neck, whether you can hear him coming or not. Sit still and listen. Do you hear anything different at all — something that sounds vaguely like a car starting a mile away — or something else you can't identify? Be alert, and be ready. Was it really a car or was it the gobbler merely spitting and drumming while strutting his way in to meet the hen he thinks you are? The spit-and-drum is a subtle two-part sound made by toms when strutting to impress the hens. When it's quiet you might hear their rendition 50 yards away or more.

A couple of years ago I set up in the dark one morning near a creek where I'd found fresh gobbler tracks the day before. Ordinarily, I wouldn't be so close to running water, but I was on a bench above the stream where the noise wasn't too loud. After putting a decoy out in the opening about 15 yards from where I sat against a black oak tree, I settled in and waited.

There was no turkey talk at daybreak, but since I was there anyway, I let loose with a short string of hen yelps, which I repeated a few minutes later. In-between, I focused on the sounds around me. The creek chugged merrily along, small birds chirped here and there and a gray squirrel scrambled up a nearby tree. But there was also something else. It's just a minor fluctuation in the creek current. I thought, but I was wrong.

"Phfft!" There it went again, this time on my right. Taking a chance, I glanced over my shoulder, caught movement, and froze. It was a mature tom fixated on my decoy and coming in fast. The "phfft" I heard was the first part of the spit-and-drum and the only clue Mr. Longbeard was on the same planet.

Obviously, we can't hear and identify everything that goes on in the woods around us, but we should at least try to do so. Critical listening will make you a more observant and successful turkey hunter.—John Higley

Ice Fishing Preparation

Many outdoorsmen are increasing their time in the field by participating in the sport of ice fishing. This allows individuals to get out year round. However, as with any outdoor excursion, ice fishing is not without risk. Employ common sense and good judgment! Protective gear is available to help prevent frostbite. Outdoors apparel specifically made for frigid conditions is available in sporting goods stores. Innovative socks and boots that help prevent frostbite if used properly are good investments. Some things to remember:

1. Never wear cotton socks as a first layer. Cotton absorbs moisture and increases the risk of frostbite. Your first sock layer should be made of nylon or rayon. Next, cotton may be used but wool is preferred. Wool pulls moisture away from the feet, thus your skin stays drier. Many lightweight boots now come with a layer of Thinsulate, which come in levels of 1,000 to 1,500. Inch for inch, there is no other insulation that keeps you warmer. Thinsulate insulation provides twice the warmth of other synthetic insulation, and one and one-half times the warmth of down. Nothing keeps you warmer.
2. When otherwise properly garbed, 75%-80% of all heat loss from the body occurs from an uncovered head. Subsequently, a warm hat that covers the ears is extremely beneficial in maintaining body heat.
3. Mittens are much warmer than gloves. Most outdoorsmen know this by now. Mittens decrease the chance of frostbitten fingers. Somewhat cumbersome when working with rods, mittens are available with removable fingers for the short time you may need fine motor skills.

Other factors to consider

1. Ice structure, and outdoor temperature. For example, an ice sheet forms on water, but if the water level drops after the initial ice sheet forms, it may be left unsupported near the shore. This occurrence is detectable by hearing a hollow sound when probing with an ice chisel. This is NOT a safe area to fish.
2. It is also important to note that when the temperature stays above freezing greater than 24 hours, ice begins to lose strength. At that point, the rules of thumb given above will no longer represent safe conditions.
3. Distinguish between ice and snow. Snow on top of ice may obscure the actual thickness of the ice.

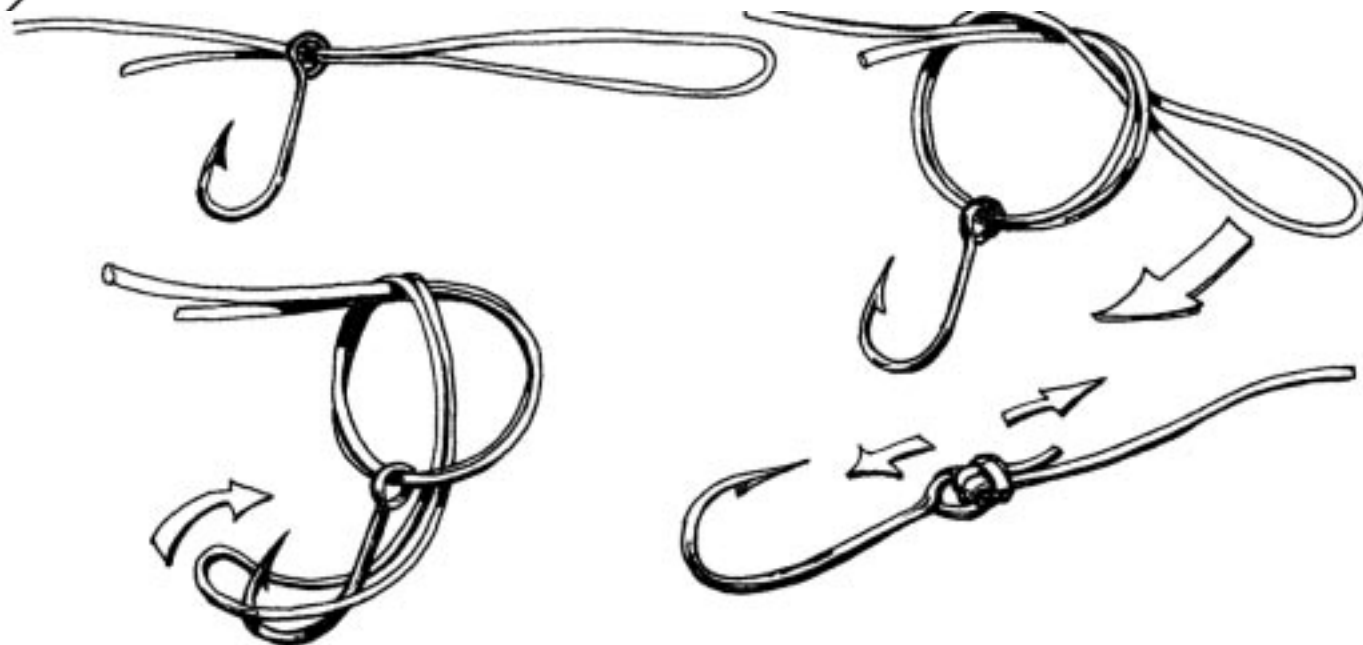
If you have a gut feeling or concern that the ice might be too thin, **STAY OFF THE ICE**. Your desire to ice fish is not worth the risk of ice fishing on possibly dangerous ice. Use common sense and good judgment. Good luck ice fishing!

Ice Fishing Safety Tips

- Attach a long cord to your sled. Not only does this make the sled easier to pull but should someone fall through the ice you can push the sled to them holding onto the line.
- Carry two picks - spikes protruding from wooden hand holds - to help pull your way out if you should fall in.
- If you should fall through the ice, once you spike your way out or are pulled out, don't stand - roll across the ice in the direction you came.
- Carry a throwable seat cushion. It'll add to your seating comfort and give you something throw to someone fallen through.
- Keep your auger covered. The blades are sharp, and can easily cut you, your dog or your children.
- Spray vegetable oil on your auger and snowshoes. Snow won't stick and you won't cut yourself cleaning off the snow.
- Wear creepers. Slip on, or spiked shoes will keep you from slipping and falling on the ice.

KIDS CORNER

PALOMAR KNOT – This knot, over 95 percent in strength, takes more line to tie because it is doubled first. It is good for lines up to and over 20 pound test. Because it is run doubled through the lure or hook eye, knotted and then looped over the hook or lure, it may tangle easier. It is a favorite knot of many anglers.



Ice Fishing

- AUGUR
- BAIT
- BUCKET
- CHISEL
- COLD
- FROSTBITE
- HOLES
- HOOKS
- ICE
- JIGGINGROD
- LEADER
- LINES
- SAFETY
- SHANTIES
- SHELTER
- SKIMMER
- SLED
- THICKNESS
- TIPUPS

Z K S J Y J N W X H M E Z R C W M B Q Q W S E F H
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411 North Branford Road
Wallingford, CT 06492

KIDS FISHING DERBY GAME DINNER

to support the Fishing Derby

February 28, 2009
7:00 pm

Tickets \$30.00 per person
See Eric, the bartender; John, the caretaker,
or John Stevens for your tickets



2009 Sporting Clays Schedule

April 19th
May 3rd
May 17th
June 14th
July 12th
July 26th
August 9th

September 13th
September 27th
October 18th
November 8th
November 22nd
December 8th

Trappers are needed
for all shoots!