

January & February 2011

VP's Message

Michael Shewokis-Vice President

Hello all, I trust that you are as sick and tired of winter as I am. On the upside, the ice fishing at the club has been pretty good, and it's a great way to get out and break the cabin fever. We are having an ice fishing derby on March 6 starting at 7:00am (weather permitting) the kitchen will be open for breakfast, come on out and get some fresh air.

I would like to take a minute to recognize a few members for their service to the club. First of all, Ernie Trowbridge, Joe Trowbridge, Shannon Trowbridge, Ed Lagerstrom, Chris Sweetwood, Doug Stender, Mark Hacku, Rich Banti and all of the members who helped out with the Game Dinner on Jan. 8, well done. Kudos to Bill Brown and John Ciaglo for their time and effort to put on the kids Christmas Party, I know the kids had a great time. Also, I must thank Frank Downing, Doug Stender, Ed Copperthite and all of the others for plowing the parking lot and Trap Field, we have had a couple of big snowstorms, and these guys do a great job keeping the Club cleaned up.

Jim Libby and his crew did a great job with the Prime Rib Dinner at the February membership meeting. As usual the food was excellent, and I think all that attended went home fat and happy.

In this issue of the newsletter, we are featuring pictures sent in by club members, thanks to all of the members who submitted photos, if you don't see your picture, do not worry, we will get it into a future issue.

We will be selecting a Nominating Committee at the March membership meeting, if you are interested in being on that committee be sure to attend the meeting. Just a reminder, we hold monthly membership meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each month from Sept. thru June.

Lastly, I would like to remind members that they are required to put in 15 hours of service to the club in order to avoid an assessment. If you are looking for work hours, the guys at the Trap field can always use a hand, and our first Sporting Clay Shoot is slated for April 3rd, Ed and Mike are always looking for Trappers. Remember you must have your work hours completed by July 31, that sounds like a long time, but it comes up fast.

How to Build a Winter Fire

Expert Outdoor-Skills Advice

by Karen Berger from GORP

It's gonna happen. And when it does, it won't be on a sunny summer day when the light lingers till late and the wood is crackling dry. Nope, you heard it here first. Murphy's Law is gonna attack your stove on a cold and wet night. And when it does, life can start to seem pretty grim, especially if the grub you're carrying needs to be cooked to be eaten.

So, rule number one: Always have some extra snack food handy so that even if you can't cook, you can eat. And rule number two: Know how to build a fire. But building a fire in the snow is a little trickier than in the middle of summer. Here are the basics:

Gather all your wood first. Organize it by piece size so that you'll have just the right piece when you need it. Even wood buried under a layer of snow can be dry enough to burn, especially if the snow is light and fluffy, which means that it has less moisture content. The worse the snow is for making snowballs, the better your chance of finding dry wood.

Break a stick to see if it's dry inside. If it cracks, it most likely is. But there's one exception: If you're hiking after a winter rain, that crackling snap could be ice, from water that soaked through the wood and then froze. If that's the case, you'll need to look for dry wood in protected areas, like under thick vegetation or in the hollow of an old tree stump.

Try wood from different places around your site. Keep track of what wood you found where, so that if some of it goes up well and some of it simply smolders and smokes, you'll know where to return for more of the good stuff.

Wet or damp wood can take some time to get going. That's why firestarter is one of the ten essentials. You can buy firestarter at an outfitter, an army-navy store, or at convenience stores in many rural areas. Look for tubes of fireribbon, balls of wax mixed with sawdust,

Continued on Page 4

Trap Report

The Winter Trap League will be starting on February 2, 2011 and will run thru March 31, 2011. The format for the league will be a little different, it will consist of: 3 rounds of double trap, 4 rounds of handicap (27yds) trap, 5 rounds of wobble trap, and 5 rounds of standard trap. The Shooter with the highest aggregate score is the champion. The entry fee is \$50, and each entrant will receive a sweatshirt. You will still be charged \$3 per round (members) \$4 per round (non-members). For more detail or to sign up see me at the Trap Field or call me at 1-203-449-1991. I can also be reached by e-mail at birdhunter5981@gmail.com. Whether you are a beginner or experienced shooter, come out and support the Club.

Carlo Sarmiento-Asst. Chairman.

OFFICERS

2010 - 2011

President

Doug Stender

Vice President

Mike Shewokis

Recording Secretary

Doug Dow

Membership Secretary

Barbara Lagerstrom

Treasurer

John Ciaglo

Board of Directors from the Membership

Bill Bolstridge

Tom Chicoski

Ray Ericson

Walt Fell

Carlo Sarmiento

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

Shooting Preserve

Thanks for a safe successful hunting season!! The hunting group GR had the most hunters show up with 85. The average number of hunters on a Saturday was 62. The kill percentage on Pheasants was about 65% which slightly less than normal. Next year we will have a cap on back tags, if you purchased a tag this year, you will be eligible to buy a tag next year, however, you should plan on buying your back tag in the September meeting, as I will be offering leftover back tags to new members in the October meeting. Remember, your dues must be paid in full prior to purchasing a back tag. To those members who do not get a back tag, you can hunt on Tyler's Mill (which the club stocks weekly) just see Mike Falcigno for a season permit, they are free. For new members, the Club has a 10 acre dog training area in the Orchard, Shooting is allowed (by Club members only) every day except Sunday.

If you have any questions pertaining to the Shooting Preserve or Dog Training Area, get in contact with me. adouville@snet.net

Al Douville



Bird Report

The bird season at the club is over for this year. We will be getting to work on the contracts for next years birds soon. Thanks to all who helped with crating, feeding and going to pick up birds this year. I will be looking for some help in the spring (or when the snow/frost is gone) putting lime down in the bird pens, if you need work hours, leave me your name and number/e-mail address and I will contact you when we will be starting this project. My phone number is 1-203-269-9085 my e-mail address is meydag2241@sbcglobal.net – Rich Meydag

Fishing Report

The ice fishing has been very good, a few big trout have been caught. There will be an Ice Fishing Derby March 6th, 7:00 a.m. till noon. Weather permitting! The kitchen will be open for breakfast. There will be a prize for the biggest trout caught.

The game dinner for the Children's Fishing Derby is all sold out. We need more pheasants! Help is needed for set up, please report by 9:00 a.m. the day of the dinner to help set up. We still need prizes for the raffle, please see John Stevens with donations.

John Stevens - Chairman

January Votes

Two votes were taken at the January meeting. The by-law change allowing the senior, dues paying member limit to increase from 350 to 400 passed. The Rule change that would change the current smoking rule was defeated. The smoking rules stands, there is no smoking in the clubhouse.

Continued from Page 1

or tablets made of petroleum.

My favorite in-field trick is using laundry lint, which might be hanging around the inside of your pockets somewhere. Another quick fire-starting trick: If you've got a little petroleum jelly or cooking oil, and a Q-tip, apply the oil (or petroleum jelly) to the Q-tip and set it alight. You can also use old guidebook pages or the pages of that lousy paperback you've been toting along to read at night. Don't bother using toilet paper—it burns for only a second.

Pine needles and birch bark are great fire starters. But don't rip birch bark off of living trees—look for downed stumps.

If the snow isn't too deep, dig a hole to make the fire on solid ground. If the ground is completely covered with very deep snow, tamp down the snow so it's a solid, hard platform. (This will also form a depression, which will act as a windbreak.) Then put a layer of wood down on the snow, and build the fire on that. (Otherwise, the fire will sink into the snow and go out before it even gets going.)

When the fire is roaring, put any damp wood around it. The heat from the fire will dry it out, and you'll have a stash of dry wood for later, or for morning.

Remember the best time to practice your fire starting skills is when you don't need a fire. Take this off hunting time to practice your skills in inclement weather. See if what you carry with you is really what you need. Two things will happen if you follow this simple advice; you can perfect your skill, and if you ever have to do it for real, you'll be more confident in your ability.

What do you Carry into the Woods

Most of us hunt in areas that we are very familiar with and the likelihood of get lost is pretty slim. Also in Connecticut you don't have far to go to find a road or someone's house. This being said, it doesn't mean we should enter the woods without at least the basics of a survival kit. The unlikely is what should concern us most. The practice of carrying survival gear with us should be as basic as carrying the right ammunition for the firearm your using or arrows for your bow. If you think back to your hunter safety class, this was definitely a topic of discussion.

Sometimes the term "survival kit" conjures up thought of a big heavy box filled with things you'd never need or an expensive pre made kit that is so compact you could never repack. A better alternative is a survival kit that you prepare. The two most important reasons you want put a kit together yourself is that 1- you carry what you want; 2- you know what is in the kit and presumably how you are going to use it.

Most survival kits are designed to help you survive for 3 days. If you have taken the prudent step of letting some responsible adult know where you are going and when you expect to return, chances are you'd never have to spend more than one night in the woods. At a minimum your focus needs to be on surviving for a night and your primary concerns are fire and shelter. These are the primary skills you should practice. Its one thing to understand how and another to actually do it. Whatever time you spend practicing will pay dividends if you ever have to. Think of a survival kit and these skills like American Express, "Don't leave home without it".

Pic of the Month

Ray Ericson passed up several does and a small buck, but settled for this Coyote!

He bagged it with a Uberti Winchester Model 1876 in .45-.60





Siena and Drago with the mornings hunt results taken in Montana.- Chris Sweetwood



Vinnie Zelinski with an 8 pointer in North Carolina on a trip that resulted in 4 deer taken.

Member Trophies

Special thanks to all our contributors.



Above- Bob Boutieller with a Russian Boar taken at Wild Hill Preserve in Vermont.



John Seelenbinder Goshen as well with a pheasant hen again taken over Zeke's point.



Vinnie Zelinski with his 1st Deer in North Carolina.



Rocco Matarazzo in Wyoming this past September for a spot and stalk Mule Deer hunt with a bow.



Bob Boutieller with a 33"- 12lb Steelhead trout taken in Sandy Creek, NY

Right - Jim Petlak on a recent hunting trip to his brother's farm in Indiana. A 10 and a 14 pointer at the same time! There were 5 bucks all the same size at the same time.



Steve Szypulski with a Coyote taken in December. Looks like the Range Committee guys are the "Coyote Kids"



Rocco Matarazzo in Wyoming this past September for a rifle Antelope hunt.



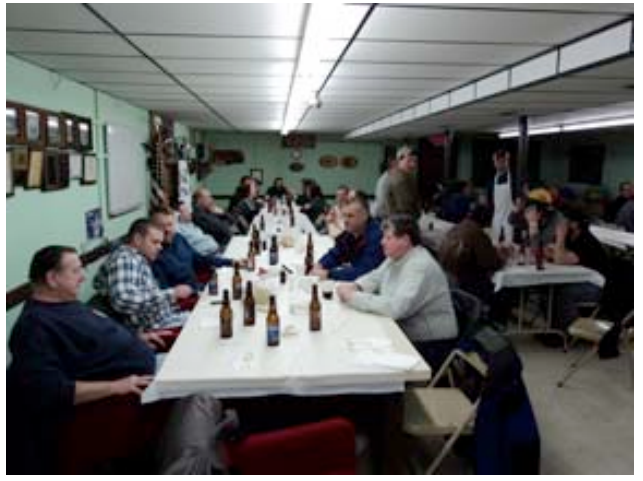
Michael Malek, followed up his successful spring turkey season this fall by harvesting his first deer on November 11th, Veteran's Day, with bow and arrow on state land



Left - John Seelenbinder and my german shorthaired pointer Zeke with a pheasant rooster at Goshen Wildlife Management area in Goshen, CT in early November

Right - The one that got away., photo by Christina Seelenbinder





Game Dinner 2011

Pictures courtesy of Bill Brown and Ray Garceau

KIDS
CORNER

Gamebird of the Month Canadian Goose

(*Branta canadensis*)



- Canada geese are for the most part migratory, however there are resident geese that stay here year round
- Diet-Canada geese are herbivores (plant eating) and feed mostly on aquatic vegetation, grasses, and grains such as corn, wheat, beans and rice
- Habitat-geese are found near waterways, in grassy areas, as well as man made habitats such as golf courses, parks and airports
- Canada geese are an extremely exciting game bird to hunt

Member Services



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

Jason G. DeGenaro
Attorney at Law
(203) 874-7110
jdegenaro@jacobicase.com

ZOEL'S BODY & AUTO CENTER

19 Hall Ave
Meriden
Dave Sirois
203 237-6464

"Collision Specialists & Full Auto Service"

EAST COAST MECHANICAL, INC.
HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS
RESIDENTIAL & LIGHT COMMERCIAL

TRANE
Comfort Specialist
Since 1994

Norman Wiam
30+ Years Experience
CT License #TC 5-1 882237

1187 Highland Ave
Cheshire, CT 06410
Phone: 203-272-6676
Fax: 203-272-4529
www.eastcoastmech.com

AFFORDABLE HANDYMAN
OF CONNECTICUT, LLC
LICENSED & INSURED

LARRY BREWER
(203) 878-3323
CELL (203) 314-9269

JUST ONE CALL. NO JOB TOO SMALL

Bill will hook you

Phone (203) 506-6600
Website www.millriverflyrods.com
Email bill@millriverflyrods.com

Quality fly rods and reels at reasonable prices

STANLEY BROS. SERVICE
203-641-0841
Hamden, CT

United and Insured
O. James H. OGDEN
stan_servicel@comcast.net

STAN'S HANDYMAN SERVICES
If you need it fixed or installed - call Stan
reasonable rates - 10% senior discount

Do you have a business or service you would like advertised in the newsletter and on our web site.
Contact Tom our webmaster.



411 North Branford Road
Wallingford, CT 06492



Important Dates

Monthly Meeting March 10th -
selection of nominating committee

Monthly Meeting April 14th

Ziti Dinner Fri. May 6th

Monthly Meeting May 12th

Kid's fishing Derby May 29th

Monthly Meeting June 9th

Sporting Clay Schedule 2011

April 3 rain date April 10

May 5 rain date May 22

June 5 rain date June 12

July 10 rain date July 17

Aug.7 rain date Aug.14 (bird & fish)

Sept. 11 rain date Sept. 18 (bird & fish)

Oct. 2 rain date Oct. 9 (bird & fish)

Nov. 6 rain date Nov. 13 (bird & fish)

Dec. 4 rain date Dec. 11