

December 2009

VP's Message

Michael Shewokis - Vice President

I hope you all had a nice Thanksgiving. Well the hunting season is starting to wind down. We have a few more weeks of Pheasant hunting at the club. Waterfowl season is open, as is the Muzzleloader Season.

I would like to take a minute to recognize a few members for their service to the club. First, Rich Meydag and his crew for maintaining the bird pen all fall, and crating the birds on Friday afternoons, it is a dirty job. Also, I would like to thank Sal Sandillo, Mike Sandillo, Chris Holcolmb and Nick Rinalli for their time and effort to stock the state birds on Tylers Mill every Friday night, well done!

Sporting Clays is done for the year, we had our last shoot on Dec. 6. I would like to thank Ed Copperthite, Joe Conti, Louis Czaja, Bill Lanzoni, Mike Falcigno, and ALL of the trappers for their hard work, we had a pretty good year in spite of the struggling economy.

It has come to my attention that a few more of our members are being deployed overseas, William Kenyon, and Keith Nelson, godspeed, our thoughts and prayers are with you and with all who are in harms way.

In this issue, I have included a few wild game recipes, should you care to try something new. If you have a favorite game or non-game recipe, submit it and I will get it into a future newsletter.

Lastly, just a reminder, there is a kids christmas party on Dec. 20, 2009, you can sign up in the clubhouse, or contact Bill Brown. On behalf of the Wallingford Rod and Gun Club I would like to wish everyone a safe, happy, and health holiday season.

Late Season Whitetail Hunting

By Ted Lake

Bowhunting whitetail deer in the late season (December and January) is by far my most enjoyable time of the archery deer season. Many times it has been the

best harvests for big racks. Most of the time, I'm trying to fill my freezer with venison, but sometimes that extra bonus comes along with a big rack. Bucks are still on the lookout for that doe that did not yet mate during the first rut. Young does that were born in the early spring, can, and will actually come into estrus during the late season. This gives the bucks a second chance at being able to mate, and you as a bowhunter a second chance at harvesting a nice mature buck.

Normally I wait until a couple of weeks after the rifle season has ended and the deer have settled down to their normal behavior before I start my second archery deer hunt. I've noticed that during the late archery season, does are very wary of their surroundings, but the buck is still prowling around for his last chance to spread his seed to a doe who was not caught during the first rut. Hunting one of your rut stands during a calm, cold December morning can result in spotting one of your best cruisers, looking for their last chance of their rutting time.

Very often during the late archery deer season I've seen deer gather in cut corn fields or bean fields. I believe the reason for this is, possibly deer prefer the corn or beans left on the ground that have softened up due to absorbing moisture from the ground. After scouting where deer have been coming out of the thickets to the cut fields, I will then place my stand close to these areas. Many times I have seen deer come up to a cut field, stop and look around for a long period of time and then walk straight out to the center of the field without pausing for a second, giving you no shot at all. If you happen to see a mature buck step out into the field a couple of evenings in a row, change and place your stand near that spot. The reason for moving your stand is mature bucks do not always use the same route that the does or smaller bucks will use. Also, the mature buck will often come out to the field late in the evening. Placing your stand deeper into the woods should be considered. This may allow you to see your shooter before it becomes dark or too late.

In the Northern states when the temperature is below freezing or colder, you may want to hunt closer to heavy thickets of pine, cedar or hemlock when pos-

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Fish Report

The pond was stocked on Thurs. Nov. 12, 2009, with 400 trout, and almost 200 have been caught. Mike Ruffoin caught a 6lbs brown trout and a 4lbs rainbow trout in the same day, good going Mike! The tagged fish pool was won by 5 year old Sadie Uhlan, well done!! There will be no more stockings until the spring. We are hoping to have an ice fishing derby this winter, weather permitting. Please remember the limit is still 2 trout per day, no more than 6 trout per week. Also, please register your catch on either of the 2 sign out sheets located at the southeast corner of pond or just north of the bocce court. Lastly, please pick-up after yourself. Lets keep the pond area clean.

John Stevens

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2009 - 2010

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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

Sporting Clays Report

We held our last sporting clay shoot for the year on Dec. 6, 2009. I would like to take this time to thank all of the members who stepped up to help out over the past year. The last 2 shoots were very good, we averaged 135 participants. Sporting Clays would not be possible without the support of the membership. I would like to see a little more participation from the fisherman and bird hunters, on shoots that benefit those activities. - Joe Conte

THE SPORTING CLAY COURSE,
AND TRAP YOUR OWN IS
CLOSED FOR THE WINTER,
BOTH WILL REOPEN IN
APRIL 2010.

Game Dinner Report

We still have about 60 tickets left for the Game Dinner, see Rich Banti. We are going to need help setting up for the event as well as the day of the dinner. If you wish to help out contact Ernie Trowbridge.

Trap Report

Due to the lack of attendance, we are suspending Wednesday night trapshooting for January and February. However, the Trap field will remain open on Sunday mornings from 9am-12pm for those who wish to shoot.



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Bird Committee Report

The bird season at the club is winding down, we have enough birds to stock until Dec. 26, 2009 for those on the Saturday groups, and Dec. 28 for those on the Monday groups. We expect to put 12 birds/crate for the last three stocking weekends. We stocked a total of 1900 birds this year including the state birds, and harvested about 75% of them. We are going to need help with crating birds on Fridays for the remainder of the season, in particular Dec. 25, if you can please pitch in. Thanks to all who helped out this year. -

Rich Meydag Bird Chairman

What's Possible

POSSIBLES

The personal property of the mountain man, Such items as a bullet mold, an awl, knives, a tin cup, his buffalo robe or a blanket capote, his pipe and tobacco, flint and steel, sometimes a small sheet-metal fry-pan, and other accouterments he considered necessary. Firearms were considered "pieces" or guns" and not possibles.



POSSIBLES BAG

The leather bag in which the mountain man carried his possibles. everything from his pipe and tobacco to his patches and balls. What could not be carried in the bag were hung on the bags shoulder strap. Shooting needs were given first priority, kept where they could be found with ease and speed.

Dear Members,

As the Holiday Season is just around the corner, enjoy this letter to the Editor that was published in the November 2009, American Rifleman. Soon the Christmas classic, "A Christmas Story" will be on TV again. We will all root for Ralphie, as he tries to convince his mother that Santa should bring him a new 'Red Ryder' rifle.....
Enjoy this short story.....

Reprint:

The Red Ryder Goes To War.

I read Michael McIntosh's "My Trusty Red Ryder" (September 2009, pg 56) with a great deal of nostalgia. It took me back 68 years. I was a 6 year-old living on Hickam Field on the island of Oahu. My birthday was September 3 and all I wanted was a Daisy Red Ryder BB Gun.

My grandfather was coming over from the mainland, and told me he had a

surprise, which turned out to be a Red Ryder BB Gun. I was in heaven. Almost daily he and I went out shooting bottles, cans and anything else inanimate we could find. We lived about 3 blocks from Pearl Harbor, and there were a multitude of small coves where all kinds of debris collected. Those were our hunting grounds.

December 7, 1941 arrived. We lived 5 blocks from the landing field and three blocks from the harbor. Noise woke me at 8 a. m. and, when the house began to shake, I became concerned and went to my parents' bedroom. They were asleep — Saturday night was a big deal so my parents had been out on the town.

I awoke my father, who went to the bathroom, looked out the window and said, "God *%#, those are Japanese!" With that he got dressed and left; we did not see him for three weeks.

Meanwhile, everyone was preoccupied so I was able to sneak my trusty

rifle out of the for ~~bidden room~~ ~~where~~ it was kept, and made it outside onto the driveway. The planes were making their runs from the airfield to the harbor, so they were coming right over my house and were so low I could see the pilots.

That is when I went to work trying to shoot them down as they came over. I was small, as I had just turned 7, so I had to put the butt of the gun on the ground between my feet to cock it, which slowed down my firing time. Cock and shoot; this continued for about 30 minutes until my grandpa found out I was outside with the air rifle.

I was sure that I had shot down at least five or six planes, but my grandpa had no give in him. He had a fit, took my gun away, and thus prevented me from wiping out the entire attacking Japanese air force. There is much more to the story; however, my trusty Red Ryder had been taken away, so I will end with that sad conclusion.

Robert J Kushner, Jr. M.D. via E-mail

Humor

A big city lawyer went duck hunting. He shot and dropped a bird, but it fell into a farmer's field on the other side of a fence.

As the lawyer climbed over the fence, an elderly farmer drove up on his tractor and asked the lawyer what he was doing.

The lawyer responded, "I shot a duck and it fell into this field, and now I'm going to retrieve it."

The old farmer replied. "This is my property, and your not coming over here."

The indignant lawyer replied. "I'm one of the best trial lawyers around, and if you don't let me get that duck, I'll sue

you and take everything that you own.

The old farmer smiled and said, "Apparently, you don't know how we do things in these parts. We settle small disagreements like this, with the Three Kick Rule."

The lawyer asked, "What is the Three Kick Rule?"

The farmer replied, "Well, first I kick you three times and then you kick me three times, and so on, back and forth until someone gives up."

The lawyer quickly thought about the proposed contest and decided that he could easily take the old codger. He agreed to abide by the local custom.

The old farmer slowly gets down

from the tractor and walked up to the city fella. His first kick planted the toe of his heavy work boot into the lawyer's groin, which dropped him to his knees.

His second kick nearly ripped the nose off his face.

The lawyer was flat on his belly, when the farmer's third kick to a kidney nearly causing him to give up, but didn't.

The lawyer summoned every bit of his will and managed to get to his feet and said, "Okay, now it's my turn."

The old farmer smiled and said,

"Naw, I give up, You can keep the duck!"

AROUND THE CLUB



Above - 9 year old Chocolate Lab Brodie - with a couple of hens taken during a Norford site hunt



Right - Hunter (he's two yrs old), with a couple of Roosters and a Hen that were taken in the Orchard during his first hunt as a WRGC canine member



Niether sleet, nor rain, nor snow will not stop this crew from cageing the birds for Saturday hunters. If only we could get the Post Office to deliver the birds.

FROM



Dog training, most of you hunters haven't been taking advantage of our dog training area. The Wallingford Rod and Gun Club has one of the only places in Connecticut you can bring birds in and shoot them. One of the most important aspects of a hunting dog is the retrieve of dead birds. Once you start training you will see a connection between you and your dog that only positive training can bring. I hope I see more of you in the training area with your dogs. So take a good look at your dog while you are hunting and see if a little more training might make him a better hunting partner for you. Happy Training and Hunting!!!

John E. DeSandre



Great cover

Hunting takes year round practice. It's a good thing there was no joy, rumor has it the cat doesn't have a duck stamp



He makes his move...

Points to Ponder



Chris Holko's deer harvested October 29th. 224 lbs. dressed. 11pt. with a 5 inch drop tine.



Above and below - A couple of the deer Bill Blotney harvested on his trip to North Carolina. No, he didn't shoot the doe with a paint gun.



14 year old, Matt Donlon's 1st deer – a 10 pointer that dressed at 165 lbs. – on opening day - what a great way to start.



Continued from Page 1

sible. Temperatures inside a thicket or swampy area may be 10 to 15 degrees warmer than the tall hardwoods. During late archery season, deer will very often change their habits and move to thermal covers during a cold spell. Choosing a pine tree to set your treestand is also recommended. The pine tree will give your background a better chance of not being seen. If you do not have the pine tree for choice of treestand hunting, then consider hunting on the ground with a well built, hidden ground blind.

When bowhunting in the cold weather, I like to pull my bow back every now and then while on my stand. About every thirty minutes or so, you should pull your bow back to stretch your muscles and to keep your bow from making too many noises. Many times your bow may ice up, especially if it's snowing or freezing rain.

Staying warm is sometimes a problem. Layering your hunting clothes is essential, but can be a problem when shooting your bow. Newer technology has helped this problem. By using hand warmers and body warmers or using the new long underwear that wicks away sweat can reduce some layers of clothing. Boots with 800 to 1200 grams of Thinsulate is also recommended. Being able to stay out longer without getting cold, could make the difference in being successful or not on your late archery deer hunt.

Archery whitetail deer season in December is one of the most peaceful times of the year. So, get out and enjoy Mother Nature at its best. Bring home a rack that your hunting buddies will wish they had harvested instead of sitting back home next to the fireplace.

Good Luck
And
Stay Warm

COOKS CORNER



Pheasant/Chukar Marsala

(From better homes and garden cookbook)

2 pheasants or 4 chukars
Skin and bone breast meat

1/4 cup all purpose flour
1/4 teaspoon dried marjoram, crushed
1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms (baby bellas work well)
1 medium sweet onion (sliced)
3 tablespoons butter
1/4 cup of chicken broth
1/4 cup dry marsala wine or dry sherry

place breasts between 2 sheets of saran wrap and pound lightly from the middle out till breast are about 1/8 inch thick. mix flour, marjoram, 1/8 tsp salt, 1/8 tsp pepper, lightly press meat into flour mix on both sides and shake off excess.

In large skillet cook mushrooms and onion in 1 tbs of butter until tender, remove from skillet and set aside. In the same skillet cook breasts in remaining butter over med-high heat turning to brown evenly. remove skillet from heat. Return mush/onion to skillet, carefully add broth and wine, cook uncovered (scrape bottom of pan to pick up flavors) the wine will deglaze pan. cook until mixture thickens, then I put meat back into pan until heated, serve over wild rice or white rice enjoy!!

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

Goose and White Bean Stew

(From Nov./Dec. 2009 Ducks Unlimited magazine)

Brine goose fillets by soaking them in 1/2 gallon water and 1/2 cup kosher salt-refrigerate 12 hours in Brine.

Ingredients:

2 Tbsp. Vegetable oil
1 1/2 cups cooked ham, cut in to 1/2" cubes
2 cups skinless goose breast fillets
1 large onion, chopped
2 stalks celery, cut into 1/4" thick slices
2 medium carrots, peeled and cut into 1/4" thick slices
1 green bell pepper, seeded and chopped
1 jalapeno pepper, thinly sliced, seeds may be intact or removed before slicing
4 cloves garlic, minced
1 quart chicken broth
1-15 ounce can diced tomato, with liquid
3 Tbsp tomato paste
2 cups cooked white beans
1/8 tsp freshly ground black pepper

w/mallet pound out chunks of goose meat to tenderize

heat oil in a stockpot over medium heat. Add ham and cook for 2-3 mins. Add goose meat and cook stirring often, until evenly browned. Then add chopped onion and the next five ingredients. Cook for five mins or until onions are translucent.

Next, add chicken broth and diced tomato, bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer for 2 1/2 hours, stirring occasionally. Stir in tomato paste and continue cooking until meat is tender.

When goose meat breaks apart, stir in the white beans, peppers, and salt to taste. Cook to warm beans and serve.

More Humor

An exhausted deer hunter out in the wilderness stumbled into a hunting camp. "Am I ever glad to see you!" said the deer hunter. "I've been lost for 3 days." "Don't get too excited," the other hunter replied. "I've been lost for 3 weeks." "

**KIDS
CORNER**

Tree of the Month Balsam Fir

Abies balsamea

- Native to eastern and central Canada and the Northeastern US from Maine to Minnesota.
- Provides food for Moose, Red Squirrels and crossbills
- Historically prized for its resin for use as glue for optics and permanent microscope slide mounts.
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A decorative graphic of green holly leaves and red berries, positioned to the left of the main text.

Seasons Greetings

With wishes for a Happy and Safe Holiday