

November 2010

## VP's Message

Michael Shewokis-Vice President

Hello all, I hope you all are having a good hunting season thus far. The blazing fall colors of October are now just a memory, as we move into November. Deer season will be starting on Nov. 17, 2010, and the rut should be in full swing. For those who bird hunt, the pheasant season is rolling along well, the birds by all reports are in good shape and fly very well. Be sure to check out the Thanksgiving day schedule to find out when and where your color group will be hunting. The waterfowl season starts up again this month, check the Federal waterfowl regulations for seasons and bag limits.

Sporting Clays is winding down now, we have 2 more shoots, the final shoot taking place on Dec. 5, we will need a few extra hands after that shoot to get the stations closed down, and bring the automatic traps to the garage, if you need work hours see Ed Copperthite or Mike Falcigno, for details. Also, trap your own sporting clays, will be closed for the winter, and will resume in the spring.

I would like to recognize a few members for their service to the club. Firstly, our Bar Manager Ed Lagerstrom, who has been doing a great job, getting the Bar running smoothly. I would also like to thank Carlo Sarmiento, for doing the leg work to get new hats made for the club. The hats are available at the Bar for \$15 each, right now we have blaze orange, but will be adding additional colors soon.

Lastly, on behalf of the Club Officers, I would like to wish all members a Happy Thanksgiving, remember, everything in moderation!!!

Good Hunting

*This month's issue focuses on muzzleloaders. Aside from great fun, it's a great way to extend your deer hunting season. (December 8<sup>th</sup> – December 21<sup>st</sup> on State land and December 31<sup>st</sup> on Private land)*

## Hunt Like a Mountain Man

A Traditionalist's Approach to Muzzleloader Hunting  
Mark Heinz

*Special muzzleloader seasons and tags are growing in popularity, but many of the weapons used are hardly traditional in appearance or ballistic performance.*

Many US states are offering more hunting opportunities through special muzzleloader tags and seasons. For the hunter, a traditional muzzleloader adds to the challenge and romanticism of the hunt.

### Traditional black powder hunting weapons

There are numerous replicas available in a variety of price ranges. The most well-known is perhaps the Hawken rifle. Thompson Center is probably the best-known maker, and their Hawken rifles are sturdy, accurate, durable and reliable. Thompson Center offers the Hawken in both percussion cap and flintlock. Higher-end brands might replicate more exotic or artful firearms from the 18th or 19th centuries. But for rugged dependability in a firearm a hunter won't worry too much about getting scratched or marred in the field, the T/C is tough to beat.

Regardless of the firearm chosen, hunters should bear in mind the caliber restrictions for big game hunting. Each state has particular restrictions. Most states require at least a .45 caliber weapon to hunt deer. Frankly, that would probably be adequate only on the smaller, more delicate species of big game — such as eastern whitetail deer or pronghorn antelope. For mule deer, elk or other larger species, a rifle of at least .50 caliber is probably more practical.

### Muzzleloader ballistics

Those who have never fired a traditional weapon should familiarize themselves with the limitations of such weapons. While modernized muzzleloaders might boast ranges of up to or even over 200 yards, hunters should not count on being able to place a humane killing shot at much more than half that distance with a traditional smoke pole sporting iron sights. A lack of practice and inadequate knowledge of the weapon's parameters will lead to missed hunting shots, which are frustrating, or poor

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## Game Dinner Report

Game Dinner to Support the Bird and Fish Fund will be held on Jan. 8, 2011. Tickets will more than likely be the same price as last year \$30/each, contact:

Rich Banti

1.203.484.2987 or 1.203.499.9203 for tickets and information.

We need donations of game and fish, see Ernie Trowbridge.



### **OFFICERS**

**2010 - 2011**

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Doug Stender

#### **Vice President**

Mike Shewokis

#### **Recording Secretary**

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#### **Membership Secretary**

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Carlo Sarmiento

Contact information for Club Officers and Committee Chairmen is posted in the Club and on the Club website:

[www.wallingfordrodandgunclub.org](http://www.wallingfordrodandgunclub.org)

## FAQ:

**Q: Do I need to wear my WRGC button while fishing/hunting/or shooting at the club?**

**A:** Technically no, but it's not a bad idea to wear it while on the Club grounds, it just lets others know that you are a member. If you need a extra buttons for your spouse or kids, see Barb Lagerstrom.

**Q: Do I need to display WRGC decal on my vehicle?**

**A:** Yes, you do need to place your decal on your vehicle, if you need extra decals, see Barb Lagerstrom, they are \$1.00 each

**Q: When are Membership meetings held, and do I need to pre-purchase tickets for dinner?**

**A:** General membership meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month (Sept.-June). Dinner is served around 6pm, no ticket needed. The meetings start at 7:30pm in the basement.

**Q: What can I do to fulfill my work hours requirement?**

**A:** There are many impromptu as well as scheduled work parties taking place at the club, they are usually announced at membership meetings, in the newsletter, or on the website. Sporting Clays is always in need or trappers for shoots, if you have never trapped, they will train you, its not hard work, you will receive 6hrs/shoot. During the fall, the Bird Chairman (Rich Meydag) is always looking for help crating birds on Fri. mornings around 10am. Just show up, wear boots, old clothes, and bring a pair of gloves. Remember, you need to complete 15hours of service to the club to avoid an assessment. When you are finished with a work session, don't forget to fill out a work slip, and get is signed by the committee chairman. The White copy stays with chairman, pink copy goes in work hours box next to coffee pot, and you keep yellow copy. That yellow copy may be the only proof of having done work hours, so keep it in a safe place.

## Around the Club

Junior Member Jason Baril with his trophy on Junior Hunting Day, November 6, 2010



Got a picture you'd like to share? Send it to [newsletter@wallingfordrodandgunclub.org](mailto:newsletter@wallingfordrodandgunclub.org)

## Fishing Report

The pond was stocked November 18<sup>th</sup> and reopened November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m. The limit is 2 trout a day, 6 per week.

John Stevens - Fish Chairman

## Thank you!

## Friends of the N.R.A.

As an NRA Training Counselor, I work with the NRA concept of the "Training Team". Over the years my team has grown to over 175 individuals that have Certifications in Rifle, Shotgun, Muzzleloading Rifle, Pistol and Range Safety officer. These Certified Instructors have made a difference in our area, with the training of today's youth, tomorrows Sportsmen and Women.

Last Fall I was contacted by Dominic Pereyo, Program Director and NRA Certified Instructor from the Meriden Boy's and Girl's Club asking for help with a grant from the "Friends of the N.R.A.". After securing the package and letters of recommendation. The package was mailed in and the waiting period was started. The Club was in dire straights with funding and Dominic was trying to keep the. 22 Rifle program going. It is very popular with the kids. The Smoke ejection system needed to be re-vamped, new motors, blower wheels, etc.... This is one of the last indoor ranges available for kids to shoot in our area. The repairs were not in the budget.

In April the Grant was approved for the amount of \$2400. The repairs have been made and a sizeable ammo purchase was delivered.

I am asking all members to support the Quinnipiac chapter of the 'Friends of the N.R.A.'" banquet that will be held in June 2011. I will forward to Tom Donlon information as I receive it. Watch your future newsletters. Thank you for reading, Steve Szypulski.

## 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 remaning 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!!



## COOKS CORNER

## Pic of the Month

Rosie with a hen pheasant!! Training in the Orchard  
August 2010. Owner-Rocco Iasparra.



*Continued from Page 1*

hits and wounded animals — which is ethically unacceptable.

### Cast Bullets vs. Round Balls

For the novice, cast bullets — rather than a strictly traditional patch and ball — might be a wiser choice. Cast bullets are far more devastating, and thus more forgiving in terms of shot placement on a big game animal. Of course, that still won't allow for irresponsible shot placement or a significantly increase the weapon's range. As with any weapon, the best, most ethical shot is to put the projectile through the animal's chest cavity vitals by aiming just behind the front shoulder.

Cast bullets can be bought over the counter at many sporting goods. Or, more ambitious hunters might consider buying a mold and casting their own bullets. Lead melts at a relatively low temperature. It's prudent to melt and cast lead only in a well-ventilated area to avoid possible health hazards. Also, hunters should check all state and regional regulations regarding special restrictions on the use of lead because of possible environmental hazards.

Another advantage of cast bullets over the patch and ball is that they can be pre-lubed at home. Loading a pre-lubed bullet takes far less time than trying to pull off a quick second shot by reloading with a patch and ball. There are commercial lubes available, but an old do-it-yourselfer's trick is to simply lube each bullet with a generous helping of Crisco. It works like a charm in the field.

Hunting for deer with a muzzleloader requires much of the same gear and preparation as hunting with any other weapon.

Hunters ready to take on the challenge of using a traditional weapon should shop carefully for a rifle that suits them and practice enough to know the weapon's limitations before taking it into the field.

## Safety Tip:

### Blackpowder Hunting Tips-

All safety rules that apply to modern firearms, apply to muzzleloaders.

- 1) Make sure gun is unloaded before you do anything.
- 2) Remove oil and grease from the ignition passage.
- 3) Go to the firing line, put a cap or primer in the gun, and with the muzzle pointed at a blade of grass or loose dirt, fire the cap, you should see the grass or dirt move.
- 4) Use black powder, or pyrodex pellets only NEVER EVER USE SMOKELESS POWDER IN A MUZZLELOADER!!
- 5) For bullets you have 3 choices, patched round ball, conical bullet and sabots. Use the ball starter to get the bullet started, then use the ramrod to seat the bullet on the powder. Note: I put a piece of duct tape on the ramrod for use as a depth gauge to insure the bullet is seated on the powder.
- 6) Put a cap on the nipple, or a 209 primer in the gun, and you are ready to go.

A few things to consider:

-Never smoke while you are loading your muzzleloader.

-If it is really cold while you are hunting, and plan to hunt the next day, it is important to keep your muzzleloader at the same temperature overnight, if you bring it inside, the warm air will cause condensation to form in your barrel, which in turn will moisten your powder charge.

-When the season is over, it is a good idea to fire the gun (unload it) and then give it a thorough cleaning. Let it dry completely, then put a light coat of bore butter on all metal parts, to prevent rust.

Good Hunting!!



## Muzzleloader Cleaning Tips

By: Tracy Wever

Cleaning a muzzleloader requires different methods than ordinary guns that use regular gunpowder. Muzzleloaders are loaded with black powder or modern day substitutes. These powders leave a lot of residue in the barrels when shot. These residues do not mix well with petroleum based cleaners or oils.

If petroleum based cleaners or oils are used, when the black powder ignites, it will cause a reaction inside the gun that will flash fry the petroleum residues to the metal. These residues are very hard to remove and over time will cause a gun to shoot poorly.

Using petroleum based cleaners or oils inside the barrel of muzzleloaders should never be done. In this article we are going to look at some muzzleloader cleaning tips which show the right way to clean a muzzleloader.

For cleaning the inside of the barrel, the nipple, or inside the hammer nothing should be used but hot soapy water. If you have a side hammer gun, remove the hammer, remove the nipple, and take out the pin in the forearm that holds on the barrel. Remove the barrel and lay all the pieces aside.

In a bucket or your kitchen sink mix hot water with dish soap. Let the hammer and nipple soak in the soapy water to loosen the burnt powder. Now clean these with a bristle brush.

Take a paper clip or other small to

*Continued on Page 6*

THE WALLINGFORD ROD & GUN CLUB  
PRESENTS A  
**CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS**  
**PARTY**



**December 12, 2010**  
**2:00 PM**

**Santa Will Be In The House**



**Party will be held in the club house**

**Parents are requested to bring one wrapped gift per child (not to exceed \$35) with the child's name clearly written on it. Refreshments will be served.**

**RSVP [brownwab@yahoo.com](mailto:brownwab@yahoo.com)**

piece of wire and scrape the inside of the nipple and make sure the hole is free of debris. Rinse these items and dry with a cloth.

Now we have to clean the inside of the barrel. Stand the barrel up in the soapy water, muzzle end up. Pour the soapy water into the barrel filling it up. Allow it to drain out the nipple hole. Do this several times to get the residue inside soaked.

Use your ramrod with the cleaning jig attached and run a patch up and down in the barrel while the nipple hole is underwater. This will cause suction and will draw water up to the end of the barrel. Change the patch and repeat until the patch comes out clean.

Next place the wire cleaning brush on the end of your ramrod. Run this up and down in the barrel several times to remove particles from the grooves. Change back to your cleaning jag and suck the soapy water up and down in the barrel again. Repeat this until the patch comes up clean.

Now rinse the inside of the barrel by pouring clean hot water through it with a glass. To complete the barrel cleaning run several patches through the barrel until they come out dry. All the parts that we cleaned with water have to be dried to prevent rusting. The best way to do this is with a hair blow drier. Point the nozzle down the muzzle end of the barrel and allow the air to dry the inside.

Next dry the hole and area around where the nipple goes. Dry the hammer with a towel and reassemble your gun, except for putting the nipple back in place. The inside of the barrel now needs

to be treated to prevent rusting. There are large patches soaked in bore butter that you can buy at your gun dealer that work great for this. The bore butter contains no petroleum product and will help cure the inside of your barrel, much the same way you cure an iron skillet.

Run the patch in and out of your barrel using the cleaning jag. Flip the patch over and repeat. Take the edge of the patch and wipe some bore butter on the threads of your nipple and around the inside of the nipple cup on your barrel. Replace your nipple and the barrel of your gun has now been cleaned correctly.

Once again never use petroleum based products to clean the inside of the barrel or the nipple of a muzzleloader. Wipe the outside of your muzzleloader down with the same gun oil you use on your other firearms.

While in the field or after a few shots on the range your muzzleloader may collect enough residue to make it hard to load. This residue will also effect the accuracy.

To cure this problem swab the barrel with a bore butter patch, followed by a dry patch. This will allow you to keep shooting until you can get home and do a complete cleaning.

These same muzzleloader cleaning tips can be used for an inline gun. By using these tips you should get years of worry free shooting enjoyment from your muzzleloader. This probably sounds like a lot of hassle clean a muzzleloader, but with practice it becomes quite easy.

This method has been handed down from the early pioneers and mountain men. They had to depend on their muzzleloaders in life and death situations, so their methods are good enough for me.

## Revolver Deer Hunting

– Public Act 10-99 provides for persons hunting with a Free Landowner Permit or Connecticut residents hunting with a Private Land Shotgun/Rifle Permit to use a revolver rather than a rifle or a shotgun to hunt deer on private lands of at least 10 acres in size. It is a “lesser weapons” law and does not provide any additional tags or days to hunt deer. Hunters can purchase the Revolver Deer Endorsement [online](#) or from [licensing vendors\(pdf\)](#).

- The Revolver Deer Endorsement is only valid when used in conjunction with a valid Free Landowner Permit or a Resident Private Land Shotgun/Rifle Permit.
- The fee for a Revolver Deer Endorsement is \$5.
- Landowners must authorize a hunter’s use of a revolver on the [Private Land Consent form](#)
- If you hunt both under a Free Landowner Permit and a Resident Private Land Shotgun/Rifle Permit, only one Revolver Deer Endorsement is required.
- Revolvers must be .357 caliber or larger and have a barrel less than 12 inches in length.
- Semi-automatic pistols and single shot pistols (i.e. TC Contender or Encore) are NOT permitted.
- All other regulations pertaining to deer hunting with firearms, including tagging, reporting and wearing of fluorescent orange, apply to revolver hunters.
- All other laws and regulations pertaining to the possession of revolvers, including State Pistol Permits, apply to revolver hunters.

# Gamebird of the Month

## Ringnecked Pheasant

*(Phasianus colchicus)*



- Native to Asia, Pheasants were first introduced to the US in 1857 and have become established in the Midwest US
- State bird of South Dakota
- Habitat- nearly all upland type habitat including hedgerows, fields, woodland edges
- Diet consists of berries, fruit, grasses, seeds, acorns and earth-worms
- Around here, pheasants are stocked by Hunting preserves, private clubs and by State agencies for hunting purposes

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Electronic Dog Training Equipment  
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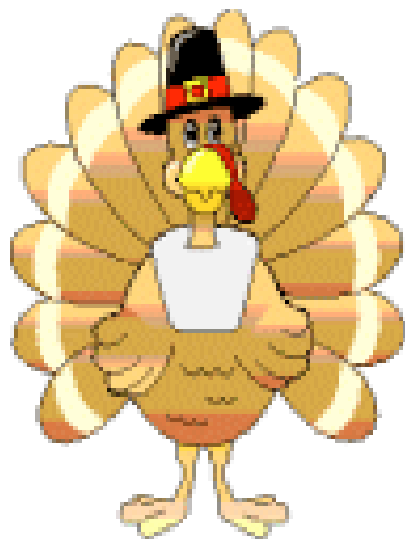
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*Happy  
Thanksgiving*

## 2010 Sporting Clays Schedule

December 5<sup>th</sup>  
*Trappers are needed  
for all shoots!*



*The sporting clay season is drawing to a close - get your work  
hours in now and avoid the summer rush.*

## Important Dates

December 9th - Membership Meeting

Stuffed Sole  
Roasted Potatoes  
Vegetables and Salad  
Coffee and Dessert \$8.00

December 12th - Childrens Christmas Party

January 6th - Game Dinner