

November 2011

## President's Message

Bill Holroyd - President

### 2011-2012 CHALLENGE

Welcome to the 2011-2012 year at our Wallingford Rod & Gun Club. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Bill Holroyd. I am a past membership secretary (before kids) and an active member of the Board of Directors for 20+ years. I have been a member of this club for 55 years. I grew up with this club. I watched previous generations carve out our pond and build our clubhouse. I fished Powers pond when we lost our dam and pond. I remember when we shot trap on Lyman's property south of the dam. (I think the old tin roof is still there!) Building our own competitive trap field was a big deal. Then we built a rifle range, a second trap field, and an archery range. Our members wanted more! We went out on a very flimsy limb, and in a very controversial decision, bought Young's apple orchard. We also expanded the kitchen, built a big, spacious, luxurious out building and filled it with new equipment.

I guess what I am trying to say is that as I stand on the porch and look out over the pond and grounds, I remember the hard work and sweat that went into getting us what we have today. What started as an idea and a dream became reality through careful planning and the hard work of our members. Our club is what we make it!

This is my challenge to you – get involved!! We all have our own talents, passions and interests. Share your thoughts and ideas. Would you like to see our Club have additional activities, instructions, etc? Present your plans. Be ready to roll up your sleeves and work with other members to make it happen! Remember – our Club is what we make it!

I look forward to seeing you in the field, alongside the pond or on the porch!

**Enjoy a fun, SAFE hunting season!**

Bill

## Gun Ownership At Two-Decade High

A recent Gallup poll shows that gun ownership in the United States is at its highest level in more than two decades.

According to the poll, 47 percent of Americans say that they have a gun in their home. An earlier poll noted that support for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment is also at a high.

Republicans are more likely than Democrats to say they have a gun in their household: 55 percent to 40 percent. The gap is narrower than that seen in recent years; the number of Democrats in favor of gun ownership grew last year. The number of women who report household gun ownership is also at a new high: 43 percent.

By region, gun ownership is higher in the South, at 54 percent, and Midwest, at 51 percent. In a finding that Gallup calls typical of trends, in the East only about 36 percent of individuals polled report owning a gun, and in the West about 43 percent own guns.

According to the poll, middle-aged adults — 35 to 54 years old — and adults with no college education are more likely than the rest of the population to be gun owners.

## Poll Shows Record-Low Support for Handgun Ban

Results from a just-released [Gallup poll](#) (Gallup's annual Crime poll, conducted Oct. 6-9, 2011) show that a record-low 26 percent of Americans favor a ban on the possession of handguns in the United States. According to the poll, when Gallup first asked Americans this question in 1959, 60 percent favored banning handguns.

The poll also found support for other gun control measures at historical lows. For the first time, Gallup found greater opposition to

*Continued on Page 4*

## Archery

Archery remains open during hunting season every day from 9:00 AM to ½ hour before sunset. Don't wait 'til your arrow flies high or low to realize you should've, could've, would've!!

## Shooting Range

Make sure you are sighted in. Don't let that "big one" get away because you were off by just a smidgen! Keep in mind the shortened hours during hunting season – Tuesday through Friday is 12 noon to ½ hour before sunset; Sunday is 9:00 AM to ½ hour before sunset.

During Sporting Clay shoots, the range will be open from 1:00 PM to ½ hour before sunset.)

**The Range is closed Saturdays and Mondays!**

### **OFFICERS**

**2011 - 2012**

#### **President**

Bill Holroyd

#### **Vice President**

Tom Chicosci

#### **Recording Secretary**

Doug Dow

#### **Membership Secretary**

Sue Delelys

#### **Treasurer**

Ron Buchanan

#### **Board of Directors from the Membership**

Bill Bolstridge

Ray Ericson

John Stevens

Paul Inserra

Carol 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)

## Building & Grounds

Frank Downing, Doug and their crew continue to keep our grounds in tip top shape! The day after the storm, the roads and lots were plowed and the trees, limbs and branches were cleared. Frank had a chipper within days and by the time everyone came to hunt on Saturday, everything was back to normal – what storm? Nice job, guys – THANKS!!

## Birds / Private Shooting Preserve

Rich continues doing an awesome job ensuring the birds are here when we need them, well taken care of and crated up on Friday and all set for your enjoyment on Saturday.

Next time you see him let him know you appreciate all his time and effort.

## Christmas Trees

There are a few nice trees available for \$25 (primarily up on the left). You can tag one and Hold it or just come on up and cut an untagged one. Leave the money at the clubhouse in an envelope marked "Christmas Tree".

### **Warren needs some help!!**

The tree farm is a lot of work and he can't do it alone!! The left side needs to be mowed. The Billy Goat is in the barn. If you are unfamiliar with the machine, call ahead and make sure someone is there to introduce you! Thanks in advance!

## Fish

The fall stocking is finally here! The pond will be closed on November 17<sup>th</sup> for the stocking. 400 trout will be stocked and the pond

will open on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 AM. See ya there!

The pond will remain open for members on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, when the Veterans come and enjoy their outing. Keep in mind – we will need some help!

## Game Dinner

Ernie and Jerry need game. Remember your club when you get a deer, or better yet, donate your second one!! Exact date of the Game Dinner will be in the next Newsletter.

## Sporting Clays

Ed and Joe continue to do an outstanding job. There is just one more shoot this year – December 4<sup>th</sup> (rain date is December 11<sup>th</sup>). Come on out and support your club and enjoy a nice breakfast and the camaraderie of fellow shooters.

## Trap

The hours are Sundays 9:00 to Noon and Wednesdays (November through March) 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Tom and Carlo invite you up to shoot a round or two. They have doubles and wobblers to keep you challenged. One field is for members only, so the wait is minimal.

Come on up!



## Member Representatives for 2011 to 2012

Do you need information about the club or have a suggestion you would like to have presented to the Executive Board? Use your membership representatives listed below. These members are elected by the membership and serve to represent you and your ideas. Feel free to contact them.

Ray Ericson: (860) 283-7447  
[lucyericson@aol.com](mailto:lucyericson@aol.com)

Bill Bolstridge: (860) 349-3039  
[3kayaks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:3kayaks@sbcglobal.net)

Carlo Sarmiento ☺ (203) 751-6008  
[carlosarmiento@progressivemechanicalct.com](mailto:carlosarmiento@progressivemechanicalct.com)

Paul Inserra: (203) 269-3192  
[Paul.Inserra@comcast.net](mailto:Paul.Inserra@comcast.net)

John Stevens (203) 263-1145

## CLASSIFIED

**FOR SALE::** Wool hunting jacket. This jacket is made in Johnsonville, VT by Beagle. It is called the Stalker Coat, same jacket that the Benoit family from VT wears. Color is green, it has 4 snap pockets on the front, 2 hand warmer pockets, and a full length zippered compartment on the back. Excellent condition, size is XL. This jacket may be viewed on Beagle's web site. Original cost was \$340.00, asking \$175.00. Please call if interested.

Bill (203) 804-9796

**WANTED:** Your ideas, suggestions, articles, pictures, or anything else you'd like to see in your newsletter. Contact [newsletter@wallingfordroadnadgunclub.org](mailto:newsletter@wallingfordroadnadgunclub.org) with you thoughts.



## COOKS CORNER

### Hearty Venison Bake Recipe

2 cups prepared instant mashed potatoes  
1/3 cup butter or margarine, melted  
1 pound deer burger or other big-game burger  
1/2 cup chopped onion  
2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/8 teaspoon pepper  
2 eggs  
1 cup small-curd cottage cheese  
2 medium tomatoes, sliced  
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

Makes 4 to 6 Servings

Heat oven to 350 degrees. In medium mixing bowl, combine potatoes and butter; mix well. Set aside 1/2 cup of the potato mixture. Spread remaining potato mixture in ungreased 9-inch square baking dish; set aside. In medium skillet, cook meat and onion over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until meat is no longer pink and onion is tender. Drain, if necessary. Stir in Worcestershire sauce, salt, and pepper. Spoon onto potato mixture in baking dish. In small mixing bowl, blend eggs and cottage cheese; pour over meat mixture. Top with tomato slices. Sprinkle with Cheddar cheese. Spread with reserved potato mixture. Bake uncovered until set, about 20 minutes.

*Excerpt from : Dressing & Cooking Wild Game, the Hunting and Fishing Library, Teresa Marrone, Prentice Hall Press*

## Congratulations

Bill Bolstridge and Tracy Spaulding were married on October 22, 2011. Congratulations and Best Wishes from all of your friends at The Wallingford Rod & Gun Club.



Continued from Page 1

(53 percent), than support for (43 percent), a ban on semi-automatic guns and guns misleadingly dubbed “assault weapons.”

The poll found that support for stricter gun laws is also at a record low, reporting that 44 percent prefer that gun laws be left as they currently are. All key subgroups polled show less support for stricter gun laws, and for a ban on handguns, than they did 20 years ago. In 1991, 68 percent of Americans favored stricter gun laws and 43 percent favored a ban on handguns. Those percentages declined to 43 percent and 26 percent, respectively, today.

The Gallup report stated that, “Americans have shifted to a more pro-gun view on gun laws, particularly in recent years, with record-low support for a ban on handguns, an assault rifle ban, and stricter gun laws in general,” and that, “The reasons for the shift do not appear related to reactions to the crime situation, as Gallup’s Crime poll shows no major shifts in the trends in Americans’ perceptions of crime, fear of crime, or reports of being victimized by crime in recent years.”

The poll went on to note that, “Perhaps the trends are a reflection of the American public’s acceptance of guns. In 2008, Gallup found widespread agreement with the idea that the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right of Americans to own guns.”

The results of this latest poll

make clear — again — that more and more Americans overwhelmingly support our Second Amendment rights and lawful gun ownership and reject gun control.

## Poll: Support for Gun Control Falls to Record Low

Recently, Gallup provided cause for such cheer when it released a survey showing that public support for stricter firearms laws has fallen to a record low.

In 1959, when Dwight Eisenhower was still President, Gallup first asked Americans the question, “Do you think there should or should not be a law that would ban the possession of handguns, except by the police and other authorized persons?” Believe it or not, respondents that year favored a handgun ban by a 60% to 36% margin, almost two-to-one. It wasn’t until 1968 when the public evenly split on the question, but at no time since that

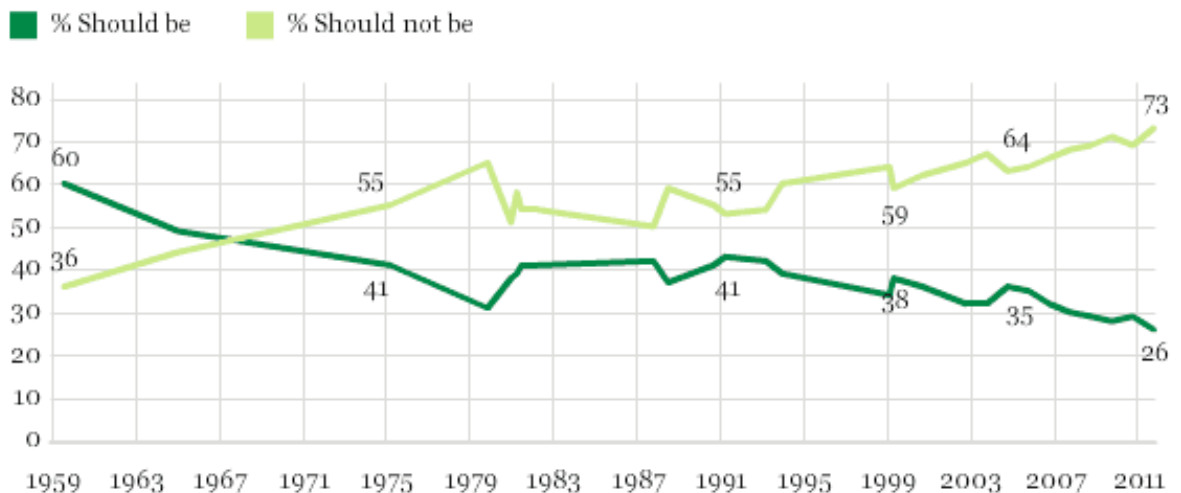
date have more Americans favored than opposed a handgun ban

This year, opposition to a handgun ban reached a new high of 73%, and support for a ban reached a new low of 26%

More broadly, support for firearm restrictions in general also fell to a new low. Gallup asked respondents, “In general, do you feel that the laws covering the sale of firearms should be made more strict, less strict or kept as they are now?” Only 43% favor stricter firearm sales restrictions as a general proposition, whereas 55% prefer that such laws become less strict or remain as they now stand. That is a significant reversal over just the past two decades, as a surprising 78% of Americans favored stricter gun laws as recently as 1991

Additionally, a 53% to 43% majority of Americans also oppose a ban on so-called “assault” rifles:

Do you think there should or should not be a law that would ban the possession of handguns, except by the police and other authorized persons?



GALLUP®

*“For the first time, Gallup finds greater opposition to than support for a ban on semiautomatic guns or assault rifles, 53% to 43%. In the initial asking of this question in 1996, the numbers were nearly reversed, with 57% for and 42% against an assault rifle ban. Congress passed such a ban in 1994, but the law expired when Congress did not act to renew it in 2004. Around the time the law expired, Americans were about evenly divided in their views.”*

Also by a record margin, Americans today prefer “that the government enforce existing laws more strictly and not pass new laws (60%) rather than pass new gun laws in addition to stricter enforcement of existing laws (35%).” Moreover, increased opposition to firearm restrictions is not limited by region, gender or political preference. Rather, as summarized by Gallup, “All key subgroups show less support for stricter gun laws, and for a ban on handguns, than they did 20 years ago.”

Humorously but perhaps unsurprisingly, Gallup struggles to explain the results of this year’s survey:

*“This is the case even as high-profile incidents of gun violence continue in the United States, such as the January shootings at a meeting for U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in Arizona. The reasons for the shift do not appear related to reactions to the crime situation, as Gallup’s crime poll shows no major shifts in trends in Americans’ perceptions of crime, fear of crime, or reports of being victimized by*

*crime in recent years. Nor does it appear to be tied to an increase in gun ownership, which has been around 40% since 2000, though it is a slightly higher 45% in this year’s update. Perhaps the trends are a reflection of the American public’s acceptance of guns. In 2008, Gallup found widespread agreement with the idea that the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right of Americans to own guns. Americans may also be moving toward more libertarian views in some areas, one example of which is great support for legalizing marijuana use. Diminished support for gun control laws may also be tied to the lack of major gun control legislation efforts in Congress in recent years.”*

With distrust of government reaching record highs, it defies logic to claim that Congressional gun control legislation would somehow generate popular support. And to correlate increasing respect for Second Amendment rights with some sort of new marijuana tolerance sounds like something out of “Occupy Wall Street” itself.

The more likely explanation is that decades of experience have demonstrated the truth of Professor John Lott’s adage “More Guns, Less Crime,” and that Americans trust the Founding Fathers and the liberties they enshrined in the Constitution more than bureaucrats who seek to restrict the rights of everyone but themselves.

Whatever the explanation, we should recognize and be thankful for this remarkable social trend.

## Lumber Available for Groups to Build Bluebird Boxes

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Wildlife Division is once again offering 50 bundles of rough-cut lumber to groups, free-of-charge, for building bluebird nest boxes. For nearly three decades, the nest boxes created through this annual program have helped in the restoration of the eastern bluebird population in Connecticut. Any organized group is eligible to participate. However, youth groups have been particularly successful with this program throughout the years and, as a result, many children have developed a strong appreciation for wildlife.

The lumber can be reserved on a “first come, first serve” basis beginning November 1, 2011. Requesters must provide the following information: name, group name, mailing address, daytime phone number, e-mail address (if available), and number of bundles requested (each bundle of wood yields approximately 15-20 nest boxes).

For more information about the program or to reserve lumber for your group, call Wildlife Division avian researcher Geoffrey Krukar at 860-675-8130 (Mon.-Fri., 8:30AM-4:00 PM) or send an e-mail to [Geoffrey.Krukar@ct.gov](mailto:Geoffrey.Krukar@ct.gov).

Only one request per group will be accepted. Participants will be mailed information packets which contain box designs and instructions, directions to a pick up location, and claim tickets.

# WALLINGFORD ROD & GUN CLUB

## RIFLE RANGE RULES AND REGULATIONS

### 1. AUTHORIZED USERS

The club rifle range may be used at no charge by senior members, up to three guests \*\*\*, spousal members, and junior members accompanied and strictly supervised at all times by their senior member sponsor. All users will sign in at the clubhouse in the rifle range log book before shooting, and sign out when done.

Guests must be identified in the log book as “guest” and every member will indicate his or her membership status (senior, spousal, or junior). Members will wear their club buttons and carry their club membership cards while using the range.

***Every user is obligated to have read all of these rules, and will be held fully accountable for his actions at the range.***

\*\*\* During private preserve hunting season, guests are limited to one per member.

### 2. SEASON AND HOURS

Range hours are everyday, 9:00 am to ½ hour before sunset.

(Except during the clubs private preserve hunting season or Sundays when sporting clay events are held).

During the private preserve season, the range hours are:

Tuesday through Friday from 12:00 noon to ½ hour before sunset

Sunday 9:00 am to ½ hour before sunset.

On Sundays when sporting clay events are held hours will be:

1:00pm to ½ hour before sunset.

*Range users are expected to stay informed as to the opening and closing dates of the club’s private shooting preserve pheasant hunting season.*

The rifle range will be closed when the clubhouse and/or grounds has been leased or donated to another group, and the use of the rifle range could present a danger.

### 3. SAFETY

Members who use the rifle range are required to be familiar with standard shooting range safety procedures. If not, they must arrange to have another qualified club member present to oversee the range activity.

- Members and guests must sign in and out in the clubhouse activity book.
- The red flag on the telephone pole at the range must be raised before shooting begins and must remain raised until all shooting has ceased.
- All firearms being transported to and from the range will be unloaded and made safe.
- No alcoholic beverages are allowed at the range.
- Safety glasses and ear protection must be worn at all times while shooting.
- Misfired rounds will be placed in the designated safety vault (red capped pipe).
- Full automatic weapons are prohibited.
- Glass targets, clay pigeons and exploding targets are prohibited.
- Metal spinner and knock down targets are for rim fire ammo only.
- No rifles will be fired from the hip.
- Targets are not to be placed on top of the berm.
- Any person can call a “Cease Fire” for any reason:
  - All firearms on the firing line are to be unloaded, clips removed, chambers cleared, and actions opened. Muzzle loaders are to have caps or primers removed.
  - All firearms are to be placed on the benches with muzzles pointed down range, or placed in racks. Firearms are not to be touched or handled.
  - When firing line is safe – The chain can be dropped and members may go forward to check or retrieve their targets.
  - Once all members are back behind the chain an announcement must be made that the range is “Going Hot”.
- All frames must be returned to the shed when shooters are finished.
- All used brass must be retrieved and placed in the brass containers.

**Issued 11/9/2011**

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

**December 18, 2011  
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

Member Services



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## **Dates to Remember**

**November 13: New Member orientation starting at 12 Noon; at the Clubhouse. This session is mandatory for all new members. Copies of Club rules and By Laws will be provided. Contact Bill Brown with any questions: [brownwab@yahoo.com](mailto:brownwab@yahoo.com).**

**November 17: Stocking of the Club pond. Pond will be closed until Saturday.**

**November 19: Pond Re-Opens at 7:00 AM.**

**November 20: Veterans Fishing Derby Day. Pond is open to all Club Members.**

**December 8: Monthly Membership Meeting**

**December 18: Children's Christmas Party**