

September 2010

VP's Message

Michael Shewokis-Vice President

Hello to all returning members and to new members welcome to the Wallingford Rod and Gun Club. I hope you all had a nice relaxing summer. First, I would like to take a moment to thank a few members for their service to the club. A big thanks to The Buildings and ground crew who cut the grass at the club all summer and kept the place looking great. In addition, I would like to thank Ed Copperthite, Doug Stender and all of the other members who helped prune trees and mow the 6 acre parcel in the Orchard, job well done.

With that said, lets get down to business. As I write this message, summer is fading fast, and hunting season is just around the corner. Back tags will be on sale for \$88 (adult) \$44 (junior) for those who wish to hunt on the Clubs property(s). Al Douville is usually around on Sat. and Sun. mornings as well as meeting nights to sell back tags. Just a reminder, your dues must be paid in full in order to purchase a back tag. Season permits for Tyler Mill will be available to members, see Mike Falcigno.

There are many events happening at the Club in the next few months, for those who would like to get their work hours in early. For instance, there are several sporting clays shoots coming up which benefit the Bird and Fish funds, Ed Copperthite is always looking for trappers and safety officers. Doug Dow and I are planning a "Chukar Challenge" on Oct. 3, 2010 to be held in the Orchard. We are looking for a few people to help out with judging and bird planting. The trap field is open for business on Wednesday nights from 6pm-9pm and Sundays from 9am-Noon, show up and Carlo and Joe will put you to work. Lastly, bird season will be starting soon and Rich Meydag could always use a little help crating birds on Friday afternoon.

This year I would like to post a "Picture of the Month" whereby members submit pictures, be it hunting, fishing their dogs, or themselves recreating at the club, include your name and a few details. The news-

letter committee will choose which picture gets featured for that month. If you are interested take a few digital pictures, and submit them. If you would like to post pictures on the website or newsletter or have an article or recipe you would like to share, e-mail to webmaster or newsletter and we will post them. Also, if you are planning a hunting or fishing trip this year, share you adventure with club members, just write a little about your trip and include a few pics and we will feature it in the newsletter.

On a final note, I am writing this message on the 9th Anniversary of 9/11, and perhaps we need a little reminder of the issues we were facing shortly after the towers fell, the threat of another attack, or the possibility that there may be weapons grade anthrax in our mail, or that our public water supplies could be contaminated, think about it for a minute. It kinda makes the issues we are struggling with at the club seem sort of small and insignificant. We also must remember that there are men and women who are serving in harms way, and pray for their safe return. To all who are serving or have served THANK-YOU!!!

Trail Cam pics from CT



*You never
know
what
you'll see*

Safety Tip

Remember these words, "Red your Dead", as it pertains to the safety on a firearm. It is always a good practice to check the safety on your firearm every time you handle it. It is especially prudent to make sure your gun is "safe" while loading and unloading it, as well as after firing it be it at a bird, deer or at a target. Taking these precautions, will greatly reduce the chances of an accidental discharge, and your hunting partners will appreciate your efforts.

Welcome Home

Senior member Vinnie Zalenski just returned home safely from a successful deployment to Afghanistan. The club members appreciate your service and look forward to seeing you at club meetings and events.

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Doug Dow

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John Stevens

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

Orchard Report

The WHIP project in the orchard is up and running, Thanks to Ed Copperthite, Doug Stender, Junior D'adio and all the others who helped prune and mow the 6 acre parcel in the NW corner of the Orchard. This is the first part of 18 acres that will be put back into grassland. The parcel has been sprayed, and will be spike seeded shortly. The cover in the Orchard is quite good and should offer excellent bird hunting this fall.

Fishing Report

It's September and the trout fishing should pick up. We lost a few trout due to the hot weather, but the bass are biting really good. The next trout stocking will be November 18, 2010. The pond will reopen Saturday, November 20, 2010 at 7am. Anyone that wants to release bass, please release them in the brook below the dam. Starting November 20th, we will return to a 2 trout per day limit.

John Stevens
Fishing Chairman

Inventory Liquidation

Gregg Nolan of Nothing But Ammo, LLC has informed us that they are closing their doors at the end of the month. They have a large inventory of Ammo/Accessories to sell at deep discounts.

Store Hours M-F 9:30 am to 8:00 pm Sat 9:00 am to 4 pm and Sun 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.
6 New Haven Road
Prospect, Ct 06712
203-528-0204

Game Dinner Report

The tentative date for the Annual Game Dinner is January 8, 2011. The price will more than likely be the same as last year \$30/each. We are looking for donations of Venison, Pheasants, other game meat, and Fish. The game dinner is a big event, and requires a lot of help, its a good way to get your work hours, if you wish to help out contact Ernie Trowbridge.

Ernie Trowbridge - Chairman

Trap Report

The Trap field is open on Wed. from 10am-2pm for members, until hunting season starts, and is open to the public on Wed. 6pm - 9pm and Sundays from 9am-noon. The Fall Trap League begins on Sept. 22, and costs \$50, which includes a shirt and ziti dinner. The price for a round of trap is currently \$2.50 for members and \$3.00 for non-members. The price is going to increase to \$3.00 and \$4.00 respectively on Oct. 1, 2010. Come on out and shoot some trap, we throw Wobble, Doubles and Handicap.

Buildings and Grounds Report

I would like to thank the following members for helping keep the grass mowed and the club looking great this past summer. Dave Bradinini, Dan DeLeys, Mark Hacku, Jim Libby, Doug Stender, Nick Rinalli, Ed Lagerstrom and Frank Sorrentino, You guys did a great job- Thanks

Frank Downing-Chairman

Rifle Range

The hours of operation are as follows:

Open every day 9:00 am to ½ hour before sunset.

Closed for Sporting Clay Shoots until 1pm.

The hours of operation during hunting season are as follows:

Tues.-Friday from 12pm to ½ hour before sunset

Sundays from 9am to ½ hour before sunset

Closed for Sporting Clay shoots until 1pm.

We need to replace the sand bags at the range, anyone who reloads, please save the shot bags and bring them to the club. We are in the process of purchasing a few new carts to bring your gear to the range.

Remember, safety is our first priority, only SPINNER type steel targets are permitted for RIMFIRE ammo only. Steel plates are not permitted. Also, Fully automatic firearms are NOT permitted. Remember to raise the red flag when you go to the range, and lower it when you are finished. Also, you must sign in and sign out in the Activity book in the club-house.

Be safe and have fun.

Archery Report

The range is open for those who wish to use it. Members can bring guests, just sign them in, in the Activity Book. Archery season begins Sept. 15. Thanks and be safe.

Paul Inserra



COOKS CORNER

Autumn soup recipe.

There's nothing, after a day of outdoor activity this time of year, quite like a bowl of soup. Given the crisp days of fall, an autumn soup fills more than the body, it nourishes the soul.

Lima Bean & Sausage Soup

2 cups dry lima beans (or substitute canned)

½ lb bulk sausage meat

2 leeks, sliced thin

2 stalks celery, chopped

2 tbs flour

4 potatoes, peeled & sliced

Salt & pepper to taste

Soak beans overnight. Drain and cover with new water. Bring to a boil, lower heat, and simmer, covered, until tender, about 1 ½ hours. Drain beans, reserving the liquid, and return to kettle.

As beans cook, fry the sausage in a skillet. Remove meat and set aside, leaving one tablespoon fat in the pan. Sauté leeks and celery in that pan until tender. Sprinkle with flour and stir until blended.

In a separate pan, boil potatoes in water to cover until tender. Drain. Slowly add ½ cup hot bean liquid to flour mixture and stir until smooth. Add mixture to kettle along with potatoes and sausage. Heat thoroughly. Season with salt and pepper. If soup is too thick, add additional bean liquid to achieve desired consistency.

Congratulations!!!!

Bob and Pat Reig celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the club recently, congratulations and best wishes!!



Upland Hunting is Upland Gunning

Ever notice how words have an effect on your view of outdoor sports? Upland hunting showcases this phenomenon. We hunt deer and big game, but we gun upland birds. There's more than semantics involved. How we describe these experiences reflects our deep seated view of them.

With deer and big game, the object is to collect the animal: for food, for trophies, for the ego charge of being better than the next guy. When it comes to upland hunting, however, we are there more for the sport. Doesn't matter whether we harvest a bird or not. The uplands aren't about killing; they're about being out on a glorious autumn day, with the fallen, multi-colored leaves crumbling under foot. About sharing, with a buddy, the gut-wrenching thrill of a flushing dog's bell going silent, and the sudden wings of thunder as a grouse erupts from the bracken at your feet.

Upland hunting is about light-swinging double guns, and a brace of dogs quartering the fields, and dogs so rigid on point they actually tremble, and a covey of quail exploding from the stubble, each five-ounce bird magically transforming into an F-18, while the old black lab waits patiently to make the retrieves.

The uplands are about the singing of the hounds as a cottontail leads them in a long, circuitous loop, which, sooner or later, leads back to where you first jumped him; and the cuttings falling like confetti from hickory nuts as a squad of

squirrel feed, oblivious to your presence on a nearby stump.

In short, upland hunting is really about celebrating the gunning sports. If you happen to take home the makings of a game dinner, that's just extra frosting on the cake. Being there is what it's all about.

But what, exactly, is upland gunning?

For most sportsmen, the uplands are all about birds. They're about ruffed grouse gunning in the New England woods; and a covey of plantation bobwhite while quail hunting on the edges of a Georgia pine woods; and a multi-hued cock pheasant rising from the corn stubble of the Midwest while pheasant hunting. It's about sharptails coming off the grasslands of the northern plains; and scaled quail hunting in the Texas chaparral; and chukar on an Idaho sidehill while you fight to catch your breath. It's about ptarmigan on the Scandinavian tundra; and partridge from a shooting castle in Spain; and driven grouse hunting in Scotland on the Glorious 14th.

But the uplands mean more than birds. It's about snowshoe hares in the frozen wastes of Minnesota; and marsh hares in the swamps of western Kentucky; and cottontail just about everywhere. As the late, great John Madsen described it, rabbit hunting is merely low-level wingshooting. And so it is.

With one exception, that of woodcock passing through from here to yonder, upland gunning is about homebodies. They are resident birds and small mam-

mals, who make their homes in the woods and fields you share with them for a short while. Far too short for most of us. So to make up for it, we create games that simulate upland gunning. Trap and skeet, for instance, were designed specifically to replicate upland conditions. Indeed, trap originally used live birds, which is as close to the real experience of upland hunting as you can get.

When they failed to do it well enough, we developed other games that did, like sporting clays and a raft of other shotgunning games that use clay birds to represent real ones. Shoot a round of crazy quail and, if nothing else, you learn the humility of missing far more than you hit—just as it is in the field, when the targets are made of feathers and fur instead of molded clay.

As much as anything, the uplands are a state of mind. The reality may be a long day slogging through farm fields and woodlines with a beat up pump gun, and maybe busting one small covey holding eight or nine birds. And perhaps you took one on the rise, and, later, thanks more to the dog's effort than your own, you took a single. But, in your head, where it really counts, you're part of a Nash Buckingham tale. That covey held 30 or 50 birds. You dropped two, with a swinging right and a left from that old double with the side-hammers, then took two scattered singles. Then, because you're not a hog, you changed dogs and went to find a second covey, so as to not thin them out too much.

At base, upland gunning isn't about the birds nor the bunnies. The uplands are about being there. And being there is enough.

First Upland Hunting Gun For Young Hunters

We'd just come in from a day of upland hunting and already I had to repress a shudder.

This guy was bragging about the great deal he's just gotten on a shotgun for his son. Seems his 12-year-old was ready for serious hunting. The kid, who'd walked at daddy's side on many an upland hunt, had successfully completed the hunter safety course and now, quite naturally, wanted his own gun.

"I was down to a flea market and saw an old single-shot Winchester," the old man was saying. "They wanted \$55 for it, but I got them down to 42 bucks. The gun cleaned up like new."

Like innumerable others before him, this guy mistakenly believed that a single shot was the best choice for a youngster when upland hunting. Hell and damnation, the manufacturers of such guns even promoted them that way. But, in actuality, it's probably the worst choice for a young hunter

When I was guiding at an upland hunting club we had two firm safety rules. First: When the birds go up, the guides go down. That's because you never know who, through excitement or carelessness, would fire before the birds gained safe altitude. The second rule: If someone showed up with a kid and a single shot, we'd ask him to stow it and lend him a club gun instead. Naturally, we pointed out, there's no reason you can't load just one round in a repeater.

What's wrong with single shot guns? Not much, for an older shooter with more upland hunting experience. But to give a kid a gun that, essentially, has no mechanical safety is asking for trouble.

Let's say the dogs are on point while pheasant hunting. You have the kid cock the hammer and move in for the flush. The pheasant comes up in that classic towering rise we see so infrequently nowadays. Just as the bird levels off, the boy mounts, swings through, and pulls the trigger. The bird drops like a stone, and it's all over but the backslapping. This is a perfect upland hunting scenario.

What happens, however, if the pheasant cuts sharply to the left, flying barely even with the top of the stubble top? If you've taught him (or, increasingly, I'm pleased to say, her) right the young'un doesn't take the shot.

We now have a situation where an 11-12-13-year-old is expected to lower the hammer on a live round by holding it back with his thumb while pulling the trigger—all the while remembering to point the muzzle in a safe direction.

It's unreasonable to expect a kid to have either the coordination or muscular strength to do this safely. The youngster may do everything right, but the gun still fires accidentally because the hammer slipped. Contrast this with a magazine or double gun. If the boy declines a shot, the most he need do is flick the thumb button or crossbar back to the on-safe position. Surely he'll continue obeying all the basic safety rules, and always remember that the best safety is the one between his ears. Mechanical safeties can, and do, fail. However, if the only time

the young gunner touches a trigger is when he's prepared to shoot, there are no accidental discharges. So, what should you get your young hunter as a first upland hunting gun?

Obviously, a magazine or double gun makes more sense. I would not, however, recommend either a double or a pump. These are youngsters, after all, with developing bones and muscles. Because of their recoil-reducing nature, gas autos make the most sense—especially for girls. It's easy enough to find such a piece on the used gun racks.

Lightweight doubles also work fine for kids. But the operative word is "lightweight." Most of them really are too heavy for a youngster to lug around all day when upland hunting.

By the same token, I would look for a 20 gauge rather than a 12. You want your children to become fond of shooting—not afraid of it. Even an autoloading 12 gauge has enough kick that it can hurt young bodies.

Do not go too far in this direction. A .410 does not make sense for children. Kids need the reinforcement of hitting something. The .410 is a gun for experts, not beginners, and I guarantee they'll be doing more missing than hitting with one.

What about a .28 gauge? Two problems with that. First, as with the .410, there isn't enough of a shot charge. Unless the bird is perfectly centered in the pattern it will be a miss, and the child will get increasingly frustrated. Besides which, if there's a .28 gauge in the arsenal—trust me on this—you're going to use it yourself.

Upland Pheasant Fest



Hunt Season
Kick Off

Friday, October 15th
At the Clubhouse
Bar Opens At 6:00 PM

Dishes Featuring Pheasant

Pheasant Stews
Grilled Pheasant Skewers with Dipping Sauce
Pheasant Tacos
Pheasant Meatballs
And much more.....

Apple and Pumpkin Desserts
Cash Bar

Only 60 tickets will be made available
Tickets \$15.00
Children 12 and under \$5.00
See Club Officers or Bar for Tickets

Visiting Chef from the Cambridge School of Culinary Arts

Proceeds to The Betterment of the Club Fund
There will be plenty of cackling in anticipation of the morning's hunt!

Gamebird of the Month
Ruffed Grouse
(Bonasa umbellus)



- Habitat- grouse prefer hardwood and mixed forests, consisting of Birch, Aspen, Alder and Willow
- Grouse feed on Fruits, seeds and berries in the summer, and the buds of Aspen, and the catkins of Birch trees in the winter.
- The male grouse attracts mates and defends territory by "drumming" -cupping his wings and beating them against the air.
- Ruffed Grouse (Partridge) is the premier game bird in the northern states and southern Canada.

Member Services



Electronic Dog Training Equipment
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<http://tritrronics.com>

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2nd Annual Chuckar Challenge

OCTOBER 3, 2010

START TIME 8:00AM

MEMBERS \$55.00 NON MEMBERS \$65.00

POINTING DOGS & FLUSHING DOGS

visit
www.wallingfordrodandgunclub.org
for more details

2010 Sporting Clays Schedule



October 3rd
October 17th
November 7th
November 21st
December 5th

*Trappers are needed
for all shoots!*

Upcoming Events

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| October 14 th | Monthly Membership Meeting |
| October 15 th | Upland Pheasant Feast |
| November 11 th | Monthly Membership Meeting |