



The RUFFED GROUSE

July 2021

The Dog Days of Summer bring heat so very hot, The sidewalks steam so scorching I could fry an egg without a pot! The heat comes on so quickly but will leave so very soon, and fall will come with its cool, cold air, so enjoy this dog day afternoon!

On Thursday 7/8/21 the monthly meeting of the HRGC was called to order by President Michael Hoffman with a pledge to the flag and the Conservation Pledge. Prospective new members introduced themselves while the BOD reviewed their applications and was noted that some do not belong to one of the major organizations that support our gun rights. While we may not agree with some of the positions that the major organizations take, it is imperative that we as individuals support these organizations because there is power in numbers. You don't have to belong to all of them but by belonging you also receive communications on legislation and efforts that may be interest to firearms owners. The NRA (National Rifle Assoc) , NYSRPA (NYS Rifle and Pistol Assoc), NYSCC (New York State Conservation Council, NMLRA (National Muzzleloading Rifle Assoc) are all fine examples of organizations fighting everyday for your rights.

If you have been reading your e-mails the past month you should have received a couple of communications from the membership committee on connecting and updating your member information in the Apricot database. If you haven't seen anything please check your "junk" or "SPAM" folders for these important communications. Please take the time to complete this by the end of July as they prepare for renewals in August/September. Thanks to the membership and Website committee folks for getting us this far down the path with the new system. Special thanks to Ray Haines for a new gun rack outdoors and fixing the rotted posts as well as Jerry Doto and Russ Rizzo for keeping up with mowing and maintenance activities despite constant rain.

A treasurers report was made by Mr Whaley and a motion passed to accept the report. It was noted that the "Sportsman's Auction" held after last months meeting, netted \$217 for the kids camp fund. Please note that there will be a Pistol Safety Class at Helderberg on Friday, August 20th at 7 PM. To pre-register call the club (518-861-5302). The Monday pistol league has been plagued with poor attendance for a number of reasons so the rest of the summer will be informal on Monday evenings and the League will pick up in September on the indoor range.

Wednesday Trap crew are still waiting for the perfect round of the year despite some coming close. They are averaging 11 shooters/week and are always looking for new shooters. The Trap crew is in the process of changing out the old lights and installing new LED fixtures. A very generous anonymous donation of \$500 was received in honor of long time trap shooter Ed Schlier for the new lighting. We know it was heartfelt and greatly appreciated. On Wednesday 6/16 the annual Charlie Fairman Trap Shoot was held with 35 rounds being shot by 18 shooters. Because several shooters donated their winnings back to the club as well as a modest donation, all of the shooting costs were covered and no one had to pay for their rounds. (results on separate page). On Saturday July 24th there will be a work day at the club with the major focus on replacing the roof of the trap house. (Looking to get work hours in?) The Fun starts at 9 AM. DEC has released a [FINAL DEER Management Plan](#) that has a number of proposed provisions and will be accepting public comments until August 8th. Plans include a 9 day antlerless season

Beginning the 2nd Saturday in September for those areas that need increased harvests. Also implement the mandatory orange/pink clothing for all firearm hunters (including muzzleloaders). A very controversial issue is expanding hunting hours to 30 minutes before sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset. If you have an opinion please let them know. Don't be part of the "SILENT MAJORITY" ! While many counties have "opted in" to allowing 12-13 year olds to hunt deer with a firearm, Albany and Schenectady have yet to address this but our hopes that they will before the season begins. If you would like to see this implemented please contact your county legislative representatives and let them know.

Ron Bernhard provided a written report from the Forest Management Committee that was recently received from our professional forester who recently did a site survey on our wood lots as required by our participation in the tax reduction program. It appears that there may be work needed in LOT #3 (12 acres) that requires some harvesting. The report was shared with BOD and will be discussed at the next BOD meetings and shared with the members. We thank Ron and those working with him for the great work that has provided us with about \$20k reduction in taxes since this program was launched.

George Gebe would like to set up an archery course on our trail system sometime in August to see if can generate some interest. It will be perfect timing for practice prior to the coming big game season in the fall. We have the wildlife targets just sitting in storage so why not try and get some use out of them. More info to come!

The "POND" project that was initiated and brought in Albany County Soil and Water was conceptually approved by the County Board. A plan will need to be drawn up by an Engineer, approved, Bid, and then determined based on cost if the club should move forward with the project. The club would need to fund the entire project but 75% of the cost would be rebated from the county.

A motion to adjourn was made and passed @8:15

Respectfully Submitted—Eric Bratt—Secretary

July 2021

July Monday Nights – Outdoor Pistol Shooting @ 6:00 pm
July Wednesday Nights - Trap Shooting @ 6:00 pm
July 8 Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm
July 10 **Club grounds closed for private event**

August 2021

August 2021-22 Renewal Forms Available (10/1/21 Due Date)
August Monday Nights – Outdoor Pistol Shooting @ 6:00 pm
August Wednesday Nights - Trap Shooting @ 6:00 pm
TBA Albany County Pistol Safety Class – 7:00 pm
August 5 Executive Meeting – 7:00 pm (Proposed Annual Calendar)
August 12 Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm (Election Committee, Picnic Committee)
August 31 **Last Day to Meet 5 Hour Work Credit Requirements for Work Assessments**

"We should not forget that it will be just as important to our descendants to be prosperous in their time as it is to us to be prosperous in our time. Teach them well !" — Theodore Roosevelt

2021 Charlie Fairman Memorial Shoot

June 16, 2021

Blind Score Winner — Frank Fuss

High Scores
-Round One Jerry Seboth, Steve Smith
-Round Two Gary Lanphear

2nd High Score
-Round One Frank Fuss
-Round Two Brian Luther, Casey Urbanski

Low Score
-Round One Bob Bernhard, Doug Bernhard
-Round Two Mike Tetrault



Total Shooters —18

Special Guest —Janet Fairman

Special Thanks to the following

Scorer	Bianca Carter
Trap House	Frank Fuss
Pre-Shoot Prep	Barb Allen