

Newsletter of the Helderberg Rod & Gun Club

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The RUFFED GROUSE.

March 2022

GREAT NEWS!

NYS Hunter and Bowhunter Education Courses will be held at HRGC

HUNTER ED being offered at HRGC!

April 16, 2022- 8AM to 4PM

Course Topics Covered

Firearm and crossbow handling and safety techniques

History of firearms

Knowledge of firearms and ammunition

Proper gun handling and storage

Marksmanship fundamentals

Hunting laws and regulations

Principles of wildlife management and wildlife identification

Outdoor safety

Hunter ethics

Hunter responsibility toward wildlife, the environment, landowners, and the general public



Click here to register

<https://register-ed.com/events/view/179808>

Find us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/669386720665241/>

Conservation Pledge

I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of America. I promise to educate future generations so they may become caretakers of our water, air, land, and wildlife.

Bowhunting Ed offered at HRGC May 14, 2022- 8am-4pm

Course Topics Covered



Aspects that make bowhunting challenging

Becoming a more successful bowhunter

Tree stand safety

Bowhunting techniques

Hunter ethics

Hunter responsibility toward wildlife, the environment,
landowners and the general public

Follow this link to register:

<https://register-ed.com/events/view/179809>

Shotgun update:

New Year's Day and President's Day shoot both went well. We had 14 shooters on New Year's Day and 8 on President's Day. The weather was generally cooperative.

The partnership with the Berne Knox Westerlo (BKW) school trap team is proceeding, albeit slowly. The BKW Conservation Club has all of the paperwork ready to go. They hoped to get Board of Education approval in February, but it was bumped from the agenda due to the sudden retirement of the high school principal requiring most of the available meeting time. This is scheduled to be heard at the March meeting. **Traina's Bait and Tackle** (Knox) has offered to procure ammunition for the team. **HRGC has generously offered the clay pigeon** for free to help the startup.

To provide more content to the membership it is going to offer "hands on" mini workshops to the members following the regular monthly meetings. These sessions will run 30-45 minutes and any members interested can stay after the meeting and participate. Frank Fuss will offer the first of these workshops following a soon to be announced meeting. Frank will explain how to reload shotgun shells and the considerations you need to get started. He will bring in a single stage reloader and participants can try their hand loading shells at the end of the session. Frank claims his experience includes loading shotgun shells for more than 10 years and well over 50,000 rounds.

The Shotgun League will start up on Wednesday, April 6th at 6 pm. All are welcome.

Lastly, one of the members asked about the status of a "Trap Shooting" workshop like ones conducted in the past. Frank Fuss stated he is just about done with the PowerPoint type presentation and wants to show it to the Trap Core Group for the final tuning. The workshop should be ready to go before the summer vacation season sets in.

Our first “in person” meeting was held on 3/10—seems like forever since that happened. Hopefully COVID is gone enough to not make a comeback strong enough to cancel meetings! 25 Members attended the March meeting.

Ray Haines took time speaking of the updates to the constitution and bylaws. Members expressed some feedback and there were some adjustments made based on that. We hope that we can vote on this at our April meeting so that we can get this two-year project behind us and move forward. If you have any comments or questions, please reach out to the EC and we will do our best to help.

RANGE UPDATE!

We are finally gaining momentum on the range improvements. This is very exciting news as it has been a long time coming! The ½ thick polycarbonate panels are here and installation is literally days away. This stuff is extremely substantial and will cover the windows as a safety precaution. Hardware and the hardwood to build the garage door covering is in process and once this is complete BOTH ranges can be used at the same time. This is a HUGE improvement to the club and will alleviate some of the wait times and limitations to your range time.

We decided that we need to buy the steel now to rework the backstops. There are some serious flaws with the existing (which is why there are limitations to what rounds can be fired inside). This is a very large job that is being taken on and we will need many hands to complete. The scope of the work will be cleaning out the sand pits, removing the wooden structure and installing steel panels followed by rebuilding the shooting lanes. Once this is complete the types of rounds able to be used will be dramatically increased. **This is another huge benefit** to the club and what it offers our members. We want to complete this project shortly after the pistol league moves outside for the summer.

Outside: We desperately need fill to build up the barrier berm between the pistol/archery range and the 100-yard rifle range. If anyone knows of where we can acquire some, please let someone on the EC or grounds committee know. Accomplishing this will offer us so much more opportunity as well as turn us into a simultaneous multi-use facility—another huge benefit to the club.

We also hope that we can accomplish the bridge so that we can access the 200-yard target point easier.

We are also starting to update signage and postings in and around the facility and property

Do you know your club Officers?

President -Mike Hoffman mhoffsixman@gmail.com

Vice president -George Gebe rfsgebe@yahoo.com

Secretary -Eric Chamberlain echambe4@nycap.rr.com

Treasurer -John Whaley whalemeet@aol.com

Directors:

Frank Fuss ffuss@nycap.rr.com

Gianluca Alonzi gianlucaaalonzi@gmail.com

Ray Haines aussieshepmax@aol.com

Membership Chairman- John Parker jrdaparker@gmail.com

Pistol Safety Classes – We had a class on January 21st. It was small, only 9 people and 6 of them were members (members are half price). We had gross revenue of \$300, expenses of \$21.57, with \$278.43 net revenue to the club.

Our next NYS Pistol Safety class is on April 15th, we will begin scheduling very soon.

Safety/Security update: We have been updating several of the security processes at our facility. One of which is an updated camera system.

With the hopes of deterring unauthorized use as well as the safety and security of our members and property. New cameras and recording devices have been installed around the property and inside the building. We now can not only review recorded HD video but are able to monitor the property remotely when necessary. We still have work to go and will continue to address this moving forward. There are currently several cameras. Here are a couple views to share the quality of the video even with the lights out at night

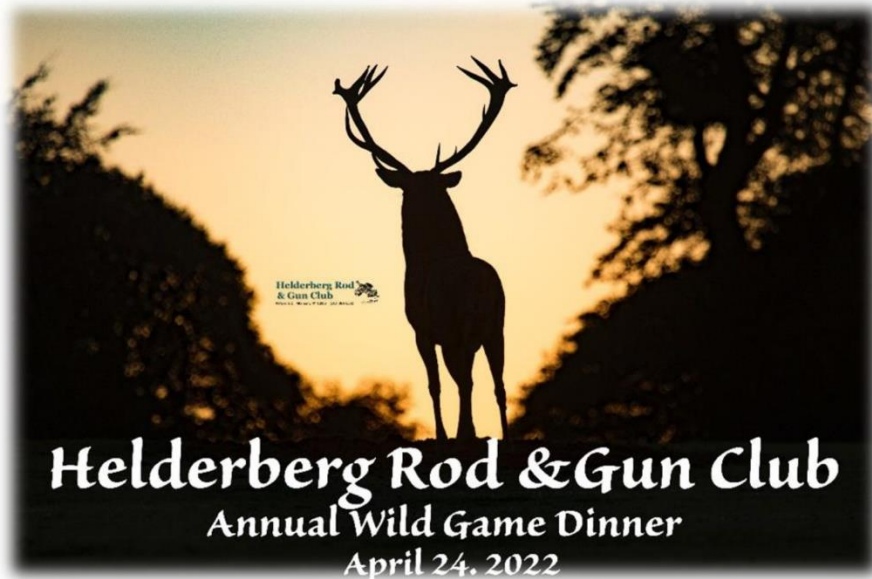
you can still see clearly inside and out.



As you can see there is a LOT going on at your club. We are doing this to build a better HRGC for our members and to facilitate and foster better relationships with the community around us and those that live there. We are doing our utmost to live up to the conservation pledge and the next generation. **We can't do all this without you.** If you are not already—please consider joining a committee and helping where you are able.

Current committees seeking members are: Indoor Pistol League, Membership Committee, Trap League, Archery, Building and Grounds, Forest Management, Fundraising, Pistol Safety, and more. Do you have an interest that might be something new and beneficial to consider? Contact the club with your interests. The more people that get involved the better and more fun the club will be.

Respectfully submitted: Eric Chamberlain, Secretary



WELCOME BACK TO OUR ANNUAL WILD GAME DINNER!

Date: April 24, 2022

Time: 1:00 PM till around 4ish

Where: HR&GC

- Please bring a dish to **share** - (If you have any Wild Game, please feel free to bring it)
- Bring your own dinnerware and drinks. We will have coffee on!
- **CHINESE AUCTION**-Bring an item or 2 to sell. (if it doesn't sell please bring it back home with you)
- The Range will be CLOSED on Saturday and Sunday from 9:30 - 4:00

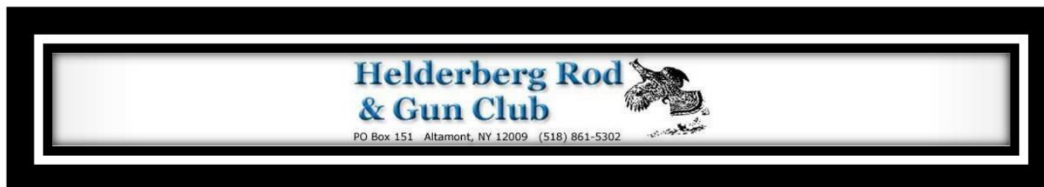
We will have cleanup day on Saturday April 23rd starting around 9:30 to get the place ready—**help is appreciated.**

This is a great way to meet our new members so we hope you will plan on attending-See you there!

RSVP: Call Carol Whaley at 518-858-4432 by **April 20th** to advise her how many will be coming with you and the item that you will be bringing.

Carol Whaley

Event Coordinator/Sunshine Committee



April 2022

April Monday Nights – Outdoor Pistol Shooting @ 6:00 pm
April Wednesday Nights – Trap Shooting @ 6:00 pm
April 7 Executive Meeting – 7:00 pm
April 14 Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm **VOTE** (Sportsmen’s Auction)
April 15 NY Pistol Safety Class
April 16 Hunter Education Course 8AM-4PM
April 24 ANNUAL WILD GAME DINNER - 1pm-4

May 2022

May Monday Nights – Outdoor Pistol Shooting @ 6:00 pm
May Wednesday Nights – Trap Shooting @ 6:00 pm
TBA Albany County Pistol Safety Class – 7:00 pm
TBA Pistol League Banquet
May 12 Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm
May 16 Bow Hunting Education- 8AM-4PM
May TBA Annual Club Banquet – 6:00 pm
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June 2022

June Monday Nights – Outdoor Pistol Shooting @ 6:00 pm
June Wednesday Nights - Trap Shooting @ 6:00 pm
June 2 Executive Meeting – 7:00 pm
(Approve Renewal Form, Approve New Member Application Form)
June 9 Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm
June TBA Charlie Fairman Memorial Trap Shoot

July 2022

July Monday Nights – Outdoor Pistol Shooting @ 6:00 pm
July Wednesday Nights - Trap Shooting @ 6:00 pm
July 14 Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm