

Newsletter of the Helderberg Rod & Gun Club

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The RUFFED GROUSE.

April 2023

It is that time of year again—a sure sign of spring! June 14 Charlie Fairman Memorial Trap Shoot (Rain date June 21) See page 5 for details and plan to join us for this awesome event!!

Frank's Trap report: Trap season officially opened Wednesday, April 5th with 5 shooters. We improved to 9 shooters and 16 rounds thanks to 2 BKW Trap Team coming out to practice with us. The BKW members clearly held their own versus us crabby, old folks. One of the students told me he intended to outshoot me, and he almost did! We both shot 21s for high score on that round.

BKW Trap Team

Team practice started on Tuesday, April 4th with 13 students showing up for practice. As imagined the first practice went a bit slow as there was a lot of one-on-one instruction. We managed to shoot 3 rounds with every student hitting at least one bird. The team held its second, and final, practice session the next Tuesday and had 9 shooters (some of the students were absent due to Easter vacation). The students were put into two squads and each squad shot twice, as they will do during the League sessions. Practice went faster, smoother, and almost all the shooters improved their scores in the second round. League competition started Tuesday, April 18th and ends in May.



Thanks to a benevolent donor from BKW, as well as some of the funds raised at the last meeting, we were able to purchase shooting vests for all the students. The vests have arrived and were given to the BKW coaches to distribute. All the Team members were able to start off the League appropriately attired.

Personally, and on behalf of HRGC, I would like to offer a hearty “Thank You” to members Mark Cardinal, Bill Film and Al Raymond who graciously donated their time and talents to help the BKW shooters learn and improve both their firearms handling and shooting techniques. Likewise, I would also like to sincerely thank member George Gebe who helped in ways beyond measure including being “doorman” for the first night and directing both students and parents to sign in as well as to provide name tags for all of us. George also made the last-minute run to Outlander Survival Supply, in Duaneburg, to pick up the shooting vests so the coaches could have them for the start of the season.

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.

The club was approached by member Jeffrey Peil, about the club hosting a DEC Trapper Education Course. The course will be conducted by Gary Graver on Sunday June 4, 2023, from 9am to 5pm. The class will utilize the pavilion, the trail from the bridge, and the woods surrounding the pond.

A New York State Trapper Education Course is required to purchase a trapping license in New York and set traps to catch wild game. Topics covered include:

- Trapping safety, techniques, ethics, and responsibilities.
- Techniques to avoid catching non-target species.
- Preparing pelts to produce marketable furs.
- Trapping laws and regulations.

There is room for around 15 students and the sign up will be through the DEC Education site. We will announce when it is listed or of any changes.

https://register-ed.com/programs/new_york/128



Membership cap—We should not be counting lifetime members and honorary members in the total. Due to that and some “bundled” members that shouldn’t be counted, we have a few more openings and will contact those that have applied. Currently, we will leave the cap at 250 and are welcoming feedback from the members over the next two months as we consider raising it to 275 for the next membership cycle for 2024.

The Trap Field was left a mess by a couple of members on March 26, and Frank spent a lot of time and energy cleaning up. They were also observed on camera walking around the corner of the building. This brings up two issues ONE: Please be respectful and clean your club after you visit. Practice the rule carry in-carry out. TWO: for your safety, access to the outdoor ranges is to be made through the building ONLY. Do not go to and from the parking lot by walking around the building!

WORKDAYS: Stay tuned for some upcoming workdays. We will need some volunteers for some major projects—such as the parking lot, the outdoor pistol range, and more. Anyone that wants to be involved in planning and/or execution of these please contact Carolyn Reckner.

Carolyn is attending a **women’s weekend training event** and suggested that we do something similar. The EC not only felt that was a great idea but also felt we could have other similar events open to the public for a fee. Could be a good way to make a few bucks for the club as well as build community with those around us.

The indoor range:

The indoor range qualifications are being reviewed after events have shown us that we need to raise the bar on the expectations for safe use of the indoor range. Once developed and approved by the EC we will roll it out and make the necessary adjustments.

Carl and Jan have been running testing on the ricochet issues with the traps and now that Steve is home from Florida, he has joined them. Some adjustments have already been made and more to come. In the meantime, only shooting from behind the 50' wall is permitted.

The pistol league will start meeting outdoors in May on Monday nights and shoot inside when the weather isn't cooperative. They have also decided to skip the banquet this year.

Turkey season opens on May 1 through the end of the month—Good luck and send in some photos of your harvests and we can share them next month.

3D Archery—I will be setting up the 3D archery trail very soon. Anyone interested or has some ideas for improvement over the last year please let me know. We will also be redoing the outdoor archery range this year (in conjunction with the outdoor pistol range).

Respectfully submitted: Eric Chamberlain, Secretary echambe4@nycap.rr.com

Do you know your club's Officers?

President -Mike Hoffman mhoffsixman@gmail.com
Vice president - Frank Fuss ffuss@nycap.rr.com
Secretary -Eric Chamberlain echambe4@nycap.rr.com
Treasurer -John Whaley whalemeet@aol.com

Directors:

Gianluca Alonzi gianlucaalonzi@gmail.com
Ray Haines aussieshepmax@aol.com
Michael Pagano mjpcpo@gmail.com
Membership Director- Carolyn Reckner crreckner@gmail.com

Remember to support PRO 2A organizations—there is a lot at stake!



May 2023

May Monday Nights – Outdoor Pistol Shooting @ 7 pm
April **Tuesday Nights-BKW Youth Trap League @6PM**
May Wednesday Nights – Trap Shooting @ 6:00 pm
TBA ~~Pistol League Banquet~~
May 11 Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm
May 23 Last night for BKW Youth Trap-Make-up/Fun Shoot @ 6pm
May TBA
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June 2023

June Monday Nights – Outdoor Pistol Shooting @ 7 pm
June Wednesday Nights - Trap Shooting @ 6:00 pm
June 1 Executive Meeting – 7:00 pm
June 8 Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm
June 14 Charlie Fairman Memorial Trap Shoot (Rain date June 21)

July 2023

July Monday Nights – Outdoor Pistol Shooting @ 7 pm
July Wednesday Nights - Trap Shooting @ 6:00 pm
July 13 Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm
July 15 **Private Function Ranges Closed**

August 2023

August Monday Nights – Outdoor Pistol Shooting @ 7 pm
August Wednesday Nights - Trap Shooting @ 6:00 pm
August 3 Executive Meeting – 7:00 pm (Proposed Annual Calendar)
August 10 Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm (Election Committee, Picnic Committee)
August 31 Last Day to Meet 5 Hour Work Credit Requirements for Work Assessments

2023- 11th Annual

Charlie Fairman Memorial Trap Shoot

A two-round shoot

Held Wednesday June 14th, rain date 21st

NEW FORMAT

Featuring the Ed Schleier Challenge

1st Round - A designated shooter will set the Challenge Score

All Shooter scores that match or exceed that score will win \$20, all others will win \$10.....any Perfect scores will win \$30

2nd Round – only to determine the Blind Score Winner

Prize money* will be donated in honor of Lyle Newcomb

*Blind Score and Trap Fee monies donated in memory of Ed Schleier

**BLIND SCORE WINNER WILL HAVE HIS NAME ENGRAVED ON THE
MEMORIAL PLAQUE, TO BE KEPT AT THE CLUB**



Did you know how fast the NYS HS Trap leagues are growing? Here are some stats over the years that show what a tremendous comeback this sport is having!

Source: <http://nyclaytarget.com/teams/>

New York State Participation History

	# of Teams	# of Athletes
2022 Fall	61	820
2022 Spring	122	2,142
2021 Fall	43	603
2021 Spring	104	1,693
2020 Fall	25	352
2020 Spring *COVID	6	109
2019 Fall	31	502
2019 Spring	88	1,709
2018 Fall	23	382
2018 Spring	59	1,149
2017 Fall	5	69
2017 Spring	19	370
2016 Spring	5	128

Looking forward to the 2023 stats being announced!