

Newsletter of the Helderberg Rod & Gun Club

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The RUFFED GROUSE

APRIL 2024

As announced at the Club's membership meeting on April 11th, the EC is considering amendments to By-Laws Section B (Dues, Fees, and Assessments), Section C (Membership Application Content), and Section D (Membership Application Procedures). Members are encouraged to submit their comments to the EC regarding these proposed amendments (further described below) for consideration by the EC within 30 calendar days of the date of this issue of the Ruffed Grouse.

The amendment to Section B (Dues, Fees, and Assessments) pertains to raising the work assessment fee from the current \$25.00 to \$50.00. The reasoning behind the amendment is that the existing work assessment fee was established many years ago and now bears no relationship to the economics of today. The work expectation is 5 hours during a Club year, which obviously translates to a valuation of \$5.00 per hour under our current fee structure. Notwithstanding the Club's need for volunteer assistance in maintaining and improving our grounds and facilities, general feedback from members is that their time is more valuable and simply paying the assessment fee is a better alternative. The proposed increase from \$25.00 to \$50.00 will only bring us to \$10.00 per hour, which is still well below the minimum wage in NY state. The intent is to better incentivize member participation.

The proposed amendments to Section C (Membership Application Content) and Section D (Membership Application Procedures) are obviously interrelated. With the recent increases in our membership cap and the lack of space at other clubs, the EC is concerned that our current membership process allows for the influx of new members about whom we know relatively little. In this regard, a person who simply attends two member meetings and pays the requisite fees, absent our accidental discovery of other issues, becomes a member under our current procedures. The proposed amendments would require an applicant to have a primary sponsor and two co-sponsors, all of whom are Club members in good standing. After a review and approval of the applicant's initial submissions by the EC, the primary sponsor or co-sponsor would address the membership at a member meeting in support of the applicant's acceptance. That would be followed by a vote of the membership present with a simple majority vote for acceptance or rejection.

The newly accepted member would address the membership at a subsequent member meeting which would then formalize his/her membership to our Club. This would provide us with background information from our own members regarding the applicant, a decision-making role for the membership and a more formalized introduction of our new members.

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.



**Helderberg Rod & Gun Club
Game Dinner
Sunday, April 28, 2024 1:00 pm –
Eat at 1:30 pm**

**To be held at the Altamont VFW on Mill
Street in the village!
Auction Immediately Following the
Dinner**

The Game Dinner is always a great opportunity to get out for a cabin fever break. The food is delicious, and the company is fantastic. Come meet your fellow club members, their families, and friends, and have a great afternoon of feasting and entertainment. See you there!

Exciting and new!

- **New Large Caliber 200-yard** Rifle league to begin this year—More info soon!
- In the month of May, we plan to have a **“Learn About the League’s Day”**—This will be a FUN time to learn more about the leagues the club has to offer. More info and dates to be determined, but this exciting concept will be a day where you can experience and learn about all the current (and maybe future hopeful) leagues that the club has to offer!

2024 Sporter Rifle League Final Report The initial season for the Sporter Rifle League ran from January 23 through March 26. Shorter Rifle shoots .22 caliber rifles using short, long or LR bullets on a 50 ft. indoor range. Rifles can be either iron sighted or scoped. Three rounds of 10 shots are fired with 10 minutes total allowed for each round. A maximum of 100 points can be scored per round with a total of 300 points per week. Twenty-two individuals expressed an initial interest in possibly shooting with a total of 12 people shooting one, or more, times in league competition. A total of 8 people completed the league by shooting at least 5 of the 10 weeks.

For this initial league the winners were: Top Scorer: Phil Eastman with an average score of 247 using a



scoped rifle Top Iron Sights: Frank Fuss with an average score of 219 Most Improved: Michelle Dorman going from below 100 to over 200 points.

The competition for top scorer was very close with only 10 points separating the first 4 shooters! The Sporter Rifle Core Committee plans on expanding shooting next season to 15 weeks from December through March. Further announcements will be made in the fall. The league wishes to thank Senior Range Officers Steve Baker and Jan Hornbach for their time and patience in qualifying several of the league shooters.



The pistol league is holding their banquet on May 2 at 630pm at the Shell Inn 4520 NY-85, Rensselaerville, NY 12147.

Please RSVP to George Gebe at 518.872.0089 as soon as you know you will be attending.

Pistol safety course will be resuming soon! Stay tuned for details!

The mowers are service and ready for spring! We always need help maintaining the grounds through the seasons. WE NEED help keeping the grounds maintained for the season! It's that time again—let us know!

Stay tuned for scheduled workdays too! We have a lot of projects that we hope to achieve this year—and YES, the BRIDGE to the 200' is still on the list!

NOTICE: Turkey season starts May 1! PLEASE use the trap field and PALLETS for target stands! **DO NOT use the target stands from the rifle/pistol range!**



You will notice that we have completed a path to the trap field and grading and drainage at the new pistol range.

Also soon to be complete is some wiring for new lighting and power/lights at the pavilion and shed. This is a great improvement, and you will notice picking up brass in front of the rifle range will be much easier now as well!

Workdays are coming in June, September, and November. Dates to be announced!

May 2024

May Monday Nights – Outdoor Pistol Shooting @ 7 pm
May Tuesday Nights-BKW Youth Trap League @6PM
May Wednesday Nights – Trap Shooting @ 6:00 pm
May 3 Armed woman of America 6pm-830pm
TBA Pistol League Banquet
May 9 Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm
May ? Last night for BKW Youth Trap-Make-up/Fun Shoot @ 6pm

June 2024

June Monday Nights – Outdoor Pistol Shooting @ 7 pm
June Wednesday Nights - Trap Shooting @ 6:00 pm
June 6 Executive Meeting – 6:00 pm
June 7 Armed woman of America 6pm-830pm
June 13 Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm
June 12 Charlie Fairman Memorial Trap Shoot (Rain date June 19)

July 2024

July Monday Nights – Outdoor Pistol Shooting @ 7 pm
July Wednesday Nights - Trap Shooting @ 6:00 pm
July 12 Armed woman of America 6pm-830pm (NOTE CHANGE for July)
July 11 Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm

August 2024

August Monday Nights – Outdoor Pistol Shooting @ 7 pm
August Wednesday Nights - Trap Shooting @ 6:00 pm
August 1 Executive Meeting – 6:00 pm (Proposed Annual Calendar)
August 2 Armed woman of America 6pm-830pm
August 8 Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm (Election Committee, Picnic Committee)
August 31 Last Day to Meet 5 Hour Work Credit Requirements for Work Assessments

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