

Newsletter of the Helderberg Rod & Gun Club

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The RUFFED GROUSE.

March 2023

Greetings—as I sit here trying to “think spring” looking at almost two feet of snow here in the Hilltowns, my back reminds me that 1) I am not as young as I used to be and 2) anything goes in March in the N-East. I just pray that it will all melt before our **CABIN FEVER TRAP shoot on Sunday, March 19, at 12 noon! Everyone is welcome!**

Speaking of Trap: We shot our annual President’s Day shoot on Sunday, February 19th. The weather was in the 40’s and overcast with a slight wind, particularly as the day went on. We had a good turnout with 13 shooters and 33 rounds shot. Gary Lanphier and Steve Smith shot perfect scores of 25 on the first round. There were also a few 23 and 24 rounds shot. Almost 40% of the rounds shot were 20 or higher. Thanks to all the members and guests who supported us.

The Berne Knox Westerlo trap team will shoot its inaugural season this spring. The team has about 20 members at this point, and everything comes together quickly. Helderberg Rod and Gun Club is the primary host with Westerlo as an alternative to students that are not available to shoot during the regular league time. Pre-season shooting will begin in early April and the season will commence about mid-April at 6 pm on Tuesday evenings. The season will run 5 weeks with a 6th week scheduled for any inclement weather.



Looking for BKW League sponsors: If anyone is interested in helping to sponsor this youth league, please reach out to Frank Fuss. This is an exciting program and is vital to keep shooting sports alive for the next generation. It is also in line with our core commitment and conservation pledge!

The Club would like to thank Pat Barnes, Frank Fuss, Joe Granito, Ray Haynes, John Manzi and Dana Sherman for their generous contributions to the BKW Trap Team shooting vest fund. A total of \$280 was raised that will help provide the team with shooting vests that will last for several seasons.

More info at <http://nyclaytarget.com/>

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.

Special thanks to Angie (Ray Haines wife) for the coffee maker! It will brew either K-Cup or full pot. We will work charge just like the water and soda—so we can keep pods on hand for members! Much appreciated Angie!!

New Membership Director! Recently we had an unplanned opening on the Executive Committee and Carolyn Reckner was appointed unanimously by the EC. Thank you Carolyn for stepping up in this important role. Carolyn and Chuck are very active members at the club and greatly contribute in many ways—we are very grateful and we believe that she will be an asset to the EC and the operations of club business.



DEC CAMP- As most of you know and for the new members that might not. Another way the club looks to help the conservation appreciation and involvement, is to Sponsor youth to go to the NYS DEC Conservation Camp. Over the course of the year, you will see several communications about this program. This year the Executive Committee has approved six youth with the potential of a seventh. The EC announced that we will put an additional \$1400 to cover these sponsorships. We look forward to hearing the reports

of the experiences of these campers! You can see more about this program here

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/education/29.html>. **(Dave Morseman leads this committee—Thanks Dave!)**

****We had a GREAT presentation at our February meeting about the NYS gun “laws” with an informative Q&A. We all walked away learning something. Thanks, Phil Fouche, for sharing with us—Great job presenting your knowledge to us and for being such a valuable resource to the membership!!****

Do you know your club 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

INDOOR RANGE—the good, bad, and the ugly: First, the use of firearms in the indoor range is still limited to behind the 50' wall. We did open up the range to a minimum of 25 feet, but then discovered we were having some slight ricochet issues. Due to this the decision was made to temporarily go back to behind the wall only while we work through it. We have made some changes and are working on this. Once we complete this and do ample testing to ensure safety, we will open it up.

We assured the members in attendance that the shooting of the ceiling was not done on purpose nor was it malicious. That is not to say that it was not extremely concerning and serious. It was swiftly and appropriately dealt with. The access controls and cameras in place gave us all the information we needed to handle a difficult situation. PLEASE if something happens let someone know asap.

To those that are certified to use the indoor range—please know your ability to use the firearm that you are shooting. This is especially true with a brand-new gun or new sites/optics. Make the right decision to shoot outdoors until you know that you will be within the confines of the indoor target traps. Make sure that you can handle the caliber outside before you bring it inside. Your groups might be tight with your 22—but maybe not so much with your 9 or 45. Be honest with yourself and 100% sure of your ability. We do not want to see a member get hurt or risk the club with a projectile leaving the building through the attic and roof. We also do not want to cause damage to the range itself. We can put all the safety protocol in place, but at the end of it all it is YOU that is responsible for the safety and well-being of you and those around you.

We are putting a committee in place to work with the EC on bettering our application process for new members, along with our certification requirements for the indoor range. The reason behind this, besides the obvious, is to help members (especially new shooters) to obtain a higher level of safety and proficiency more quickly.

We also realize that the shooting wall needs to be rebuilt. It needs to be lined up better so that you have a strait shot to the target, as well as to accommodate shooters that are smaller in stature or less tall than others. Planning for this work has already begun.

Outdoor Pistol Range: The EC committed 5K for building the outdoor pistol range. A committee has already started on the plans. If you are interested—Gianluca is the chair for that. We can use the help.

Other Work around the Club: The shooting wall inside the range as well as painting the whole room will happen this year. We are also looking to enlarge and improve the parking lot. The bridge to the 200 target is also on the plan. Hopefully we can get on these soon!

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

HELDERBERG ROD AND GUN CLUB INDOOR RANGE RULES

Failure to abide by these rules can result in expulsion from the club

1. **ALL SHOOTERS MUST QUALIFY BEFORE USING THE INDOOR RANGE**
2. Eye and ear protection is required on the range
 - Eye and ear protection is encouraged for those in the clubhouse area as well
3. DO NOT shoot the floor, ceiling, walls, or any range equipment; all rounds must impact the back stop..
4. Be sure that your firearm and ammunition are acceptable and safe to use on this range
5. DO NOT handle firearms, for any reason, while people are down range.
6. DO NOT shoot across lanes
7. DO NOT draw from a holster and fire
8. DO NOT stagger tables, all shooters must be the same distance away from the backstop
9. ALL shooting must be done from a stationary position toward a single target.
10. ALL shooting must be done from **BEHIND the 25-foot line (temporarily) 50' wall**
11. CLEAN UP YOUR BRASS

****Remember to turn off the lights, fans, lock doors, etc. when you leave**

ACCEPTABLE FIREARMS:

PISTOLS/REVOLVERS:

*IN THE FOLLOWING CALIBERS ONLY:

- .22LR, .25acp, .32acp, .38 Super, .38spl/.357mag, .380acp, 9mm Luger, 9x23mm, .327 federal .40s&w, .357sig, 41spl/mag, .45acp, 45gap, 45lc, 10mm, 44spl, 7.62 tokarev, .44-40
- .22 Magnum/WMR with barrels under 8in

RIFLES CHAMBERED IN .22 LONG RIFLE ONLY

If you wish to shoot a caliber that is not listed, you **MUST** seek approval from the Executive Committee first.

***UNACCEPTABLE FIREARMS:** Failure to abide by this rule can result in expulsion from the club

- Shotguns of any type are prohibited on the indoor range
- Any firearm without sights
- Black powder/muzzleloaders of any type.
- Pistols chambered in rifle calibers, such as 5.56x45

***AMMUNITION:**

- Lead cast bullets and jacketed bullets, to include hollow points, are acceptable.
- Steel core, penetrating, armor piercing, tracer, incendiary, and rounds that fire more than one projectile, i.e. shotshells, are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**.

****The Executive Committee reserves the right to make changes to these requirements**

March 2023

March Monday Nights - Pistol League @ 7 pm (Many arrive at 6:30)

March 9 Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm

March 19 Cabin Fever Shoot

April 2023

April Monday Nights – Outdoor Pistol Shooting @ 7 pm (Many arrive at 6:30)

April Wednesday Nights – Trap Shooting @ 6:00 pm

April 6 Executive Meeting – 7:00 pm

April 13 Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm

May 2023

May Monday Nights – Outdoor Pistol Shooting @ 7 pm (Many arrive at 6:30)

May Wednesday Nights – Trap Shooting @ 6:00 pm

TBA Pistol League Banquet

May 11 Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm

May TBA Annual Club Banquet – 6:00 pm (at ?)

June 2023

June Monday Nights – Outdoor Pistol Shooting @ 7 pm (Many arrive at 6:30)

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 (Many arrive at 6:30)

July Wednesday Nights - Trap Shooting @ 6:00 pm

July 13 Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm