The RUFFED GROUSE

February 2015

“Deer season’s over, the camps are all closed down. A blanket of snow now covers the ground. The hunters are gone but their memories linger, on what they did or didn’t do with their trigger finger”. This short poem kind of really covers all the happenings in the deep woods....hope your memories are of the good kind.

If you are interested in Adirondack tales of deer hunts past, then look into books by Robert Elinskas. There are many tales and some great pictures from days gone by and may awaken family memories of your own.

These past cool days really can’t hold a candle to a winter spent logging on Santanoni Mountain near Newcomb, N.Y. That year (in the 1960s) brought about a morning of -42 degrees and a date when the logging machinery refused to join in on the day’s agenda. It seems funny now, but that was a day my family members don’t remember with any kind of fondness.

The past weekend saw the saving once again of the heating system at HR&G, by the one and only “furnace buster” Ed Schleier. Thanks again Ed for your perseverance in getting the old dog running again....guess we have to find some replacement parts, probably in the bowels of hell. Also, thanks to Tony LaTorre for his quick response to our call to salt the icy lot at the Club. Don’t want anyone to fall on his or her keister and rattle the cage of our insurance carrier. After all, what is insurance for except not to use.

The Albany Gun Show was a further futile attempt to find a dealer who was interested in helping you out, in lieu of his fight for the ultimate profit on every deal. We did however run into a few recognizable Club members there, Dick Wood, Ron Bernhard, Mike Gdula and Jamey Darrah. During the show I tried to make a deal on a firearm from the singular most obnoxious dealer I have ever met, and that’s saying a lot, but he preferred to keep his toys rather than make friends. C’est la vie!!!! ( Later on Ed and I traveled to Ballston Spa to attend the monthly auction of firearms, etc. that are routinely bid far over any reasonable value....there’s a sucker born every minute (oops! Is that plagiarism?) P.S. we came home empty-handed.

Anyone out there who is sick of Winter yet? Looks like we’re scheduled for our weekly snowstorm and again on a weekend. Barb and I were booked for a flight to Florida this past weekend and of course Mother Nature had different ideas and dumped another foot plus load on us. Well we are booked for another trip in March, so don’t get your seed catalogs out yet.

Ed to the rescue again, replacing the light pole at the Club which was run over by someone who chose not to identify themselves.....Barb is right when she says that these are the days of thoughtlessness. Ed and I are thinking about running a “Parking Lot” Driving Course in the Spring. It will be free and open to one and all.
Here we go again....snow is coming so they say, and the Lord himself couldn’t be expected to survive this storm....it could be the ending of civilization as we know it...recognize these words, they have been muttered over and over again this winter. I’ve got aches and pains where I didn’t even know that I had parts. Hope you all have a big supply of liniment in your medicine chest, you’ll be needing it before Spring arrives.

The DEC Camps registration period is fast drawing to a close and so far HR&G has received no indication of interest from any Club members. It would be a shame not to be able to send a youngster to these worthwhile Camps. Please call as soon as possible if anyone is interested. Call Dave Morseman at 872-0450. (If no one is interested we will look outside of the Club membership for prospects.)

Jamey Darrah has kindly agreed to accept the post of Club director in place of Bill Ackner who resigned because of health reasons. Al Raymond has agreed to replace Bill as Club representative at ACCA....thanks to Jamey and Al for stepping up to fill the vacancies. Many thanks to Bill for all his years of service and commitment to HR&G.

NOTES: The 2015 Trap Season will open in April, barring more global warming. *The Warners Lake Ice Fishing Derby will be held on February 21st, call Kevin Bush for details on raffle tickets. * Up-to-date papers have been filed with DEC and the Town of Knox for the Timber Management Program. * The Annual Club Banquet will be held at The Settles Hill Banquet House on May 14, Details to follow. *There is a Gun Show at the Polish Community Center on Washington Avenue Extension on February 21 & 22. *The Presidents Day Trap Shoot at HR&G will be held on February 22nd at noon, come one come all. *Anyone interested in chairing a “Spring Fever” Shoot at HR&G...sometime in March? Call the Club if you wish to accept the challenge. * The Club is growing, with over 285 total members on board. *There is a proposed Muzzleloader Seminar to be held for Members...proposed date of 4/12/15...further details to follow in March’s newsletter, Jamey Darrah will chair.

There will be several Seminars held at the Club this year in which the Club will be closed to Range use by the members. The scheduled closures will run on Saturdays from 8am to 6pm....after the seminars conclude the ranges will re-open for Club use. Scheduled closures will be posted as quickly as possible to prevent any complaints about the closure times. All members are welcome to enroll in the seminars.

It was with great reluctance that we cancelled the Wild Game Dinner, because of safety concerns about anticipated bad road conditions on the 14th. We wish to thank all those who signed-up for the dinner and those who volunteered to clean the Club beforehand. Many, many thanks again to Carol Whaley who always rises to the forefront and offers to again chair the event. The event is always a great time to meet and reminisce with those fellow members who we see all to infrequently. Next year we hope to rise like the Phoenix and once more enjoy good food and good company.....in the meantime we hope all will sign-up for the Club Banquet in May, as usual Carol will chair. Thanks again!!!!

The Annual Sportsman’s Auction will be held at the April Meeting and all are urged to bring sports related items to donate to the auction. Also, please bring a few bucks to spur on the bidding. Please no junk...and all items not bid on must be removed by the donor. Funds will go towards the Send Kids to Camp Program.