

# HRG News

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**Harwinton Rod & Gun Club Inc.**  
[www.harwintonrodandgun.com](http://www.harwintonrodandgun.com)

## President's Corner

Fellow Members:

With summer coming to an end, many of our HRG Members are getting ready for hunting seasons. Our crew once again are in Maine hunting bear. After spending many weekends prior to the end of August making the six hour trip on Saturday mornings and returning on Sundays, The HUNT has finally arrived. Those many trips have proven to be worth the efforts of our group. As of this moment we have taken three bear, and are still observing many more on our trail cameras and have a couple more weeks to hunt. We truly wish that everyone could experience the satisfaction of a DIY Bear Hunt! At times the effort spent preparing for the end result seem to be questionable. However, when you are rewarded with the feeling of accomplishment plus the chapters added to the entire story of the hunt, make all the time spent the more valuable. If you ever offered the opportunity to join a Do it yourself hunting trip, seize the the opportunity!

Bird Season is not far away. Honor the memory of the forefathers of HRG who founded the club so they could follow their passion to HUNT PHEASANTS, and get to the trap field to hone your shooting skills. Knowing that you can consistently hit your target will add to the satisfaction of your hunts!

The pond will soon be stocked again with additional Trout so please refresh your memory by reviewing and following all the club rules for the activities that you are taking part in.

Congratulations to the Pig Roast Committee for a job well done! A great turnout of participants who have offered many positive comments.

When in the field, please make it a point to look beyond your target to be sure of a clear shot. Always remember: SAFETY IS NUMBER ONE at HARWINTON ROD & GUN CLUB!

Jim Stowe

President HRG



**September 10, 2024**

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# Rifle/Pistol

## Rifle Range

HRG Shooting Pavilion is pretty much complete, Bench #1 is out of service until we make a final fix. The building needs to be stained. A tentative date has been scheduled and hopefully the weather will cooperate so it can be done. Then we'll add one small section of gutter and we're back in business. Thanks to all the members who came out to help (the list is long), Big Thanks to Paul Krenitsky for coordinating and leading his work crew that did a FANTASTIC job. Special Thanks to Dave Blersch for all the wood that he cut and delivered from his mill.



## Pistol Range

Not to waste any of the use lumber that was taken down from the rifle range, the committee also somewhat enclosed the pistol range pavilion with that wood. Thanks to the Torrington PD for the sweeper that they provided, it has gotten many compliments from the pistol shooters. I hope to get some paving on the rifle range making things so much easier for all who use the ranges.



## HRG Even Year Mandatory Range Safety Orientation

Attending and Signing off on this orientation is **MANDATORY** for any members to use the Shooting Ranges. (Rifle, Pistol, and Archery). **If, for whatever reason, you have not attended anyone of the presentations that started in November 2023, or are not sure if you have attended, contact the Secretary to avoid a serious fine and suspension for using the ranges while not eligible!**

## Helpful Suggestion

Both ranges get a lot of repairs each year, you can help by **centering your target** so the stands will last longer. When sighting in your rifle start out at 25 yards before moving out further this should help!

## HRG THUNDER RUN



This was the 20th year that we've hosted Thunder Run! We get many shooters from all over. The committee set up on Saturday and all the RSO's the shoot the course. Sunday is the BIG event, I thank those who came and supported this event, Thanks to the set up and clean up crew. BIG thanks to all the RSO's and score keepers as well. Special Thanks to Pete Russell for taking over and doing a Fantastically Great job!

## Friday Night Shoot Group



I'd like to thank those members who came out and offered their time, and knowledge to help fellow members improve their confidence and Pistol Shooting Skills. This was a new activity that was well received by those who participated. Those members who got the help showed lots of improvement and hope to do it again in the coming year!.

## Fall Stocking

The pond will be stocked for the Fall on **Friday October 4. Remember that there is no fishing on Stocking Days!** The pond will open to **Members Only fishing on Saturday October 5 (No Guests on any First Day after Stocking)**. All fishing rules apply. Make sure to sign-in and out. Record your catch.

**The HRG Pond will close for the season on November 15. Only Club Sponsored Fishing after this date!!**

## Upcoming Events

### October

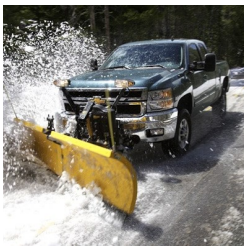
- 1 2024-25 Plow Bids Due by Board Meeting
- 1 2025 Club Cleaning Bids Due by Board Meeting
- 4 Fall Pond Stocking (NO FISHING ON STOCKING DAYS)
- 5 Opening of Pond for Fall Fishing (Members only this day! Follow all Rules)
- 12 HRG Junior Hunt Day (Chris Campbell (203) 910-6883)
- 19 Halloween Trunk or Treat Tickets (signup to attend)
- 19 Opening HRG 2024 Bird Season



### HRG 2024-25 Snow Plowing Bids

Bids for snow plowing HRG will be accepted until the October 1 Board Meeting. If you are interested in submitting a bid for the job, you must submit it in writing by Tuesday October 1, 2024.

The job description is the following:



Plow: The entrance to the club and the driveway all the way to the clubhouse, the upper parking area, clear entrances to the tower, clear entire lower parking area, leaving access to the dumpster, clear left side of clubhouse to the shed area and rear entrance, clear path (two passes) on pond side of clubhouse to the rear of archery range for access for oil delivery, two passes to trap/rifle range area and parking area. Clear Building exits to the "Patio"!

Mail your proposal to the PO Box or drop in the safe by the Board Meeting. The contract will be awarded at the October 1, 2024 Board Meeting. The upcoming HRG "Snow Season" is from the awarding of the contract until the October 2025 Board Meeting.

### 2025 Clubhouse Cleaning Bids

Bids are being accepted for cleaning the clubhouse for 2025. The sealed bids will be opened and reviewed at the October 1, 2024 Board Meeting, and a contract will be awarded. The job description is the following: Weekly cleaning (sweeping and wet Mopping, washing "glass" windows, mirrors, and doors as necessary) the Meeting Hall, Indoor Archery Range, Bathrooms, Kitchen, Board Room, Entry Hallway, and Bar areas. Ordering Cleaning Supplies (Occasionally other items at Board's request)

Mail your proposal to the PO Box or drop in the safe by the Board Meeting. The contract will be awarded at the October 1, 2024 Board Meeting. The HRG Clubhouse Cleaning contract is the 2025 calendar year January - December 31.



**For Sale** THULE rooftop cargo carrier box  
Thule Force XT Large, Black aero skin  
Capacity 16 cubic feet  
Dimensions: 74.75" L x 33" D x 17.75" H  
Excellent condition, used once for about 8 hrs.  
List price, \$895.00 - Asking \$500.00 firm

Glock rear sight install and adjustment tool  
Model MGW 309 for all Glock models  
New in box, never used  
Asking \$90.00, firm  
Contact info: [harringtonelh2@gmail.com](mailto:harringtonelh2@gmail.com)



## HRG Archery



This year's HRG 8 Week Summer 3D Archery League was presented with new ideas from our archery committee and our members whom also belong to another club. Our revised program began with two nights to sign up, 3 different divisions, 8 weeks of shooting, awards for each division's podium finishers, and a pot-luck banquet. 25 Members and their guests signed up. As each week passed by, we consistently had 20 shooters every week participating. Our shooter's average score fell around 170 out of a possible 200 point total. This began a new challenge for Shannon Joyce and Ray Marks, who would reset the 20 target course every Monday evening. As our shooter's scores and skills increased, these two needed to continue to find new ways to challenge them. As the league ended and we held our banquet on Sept. 7th, many shooters expressed how they enjoyed participating in the league, how they liked the increasing challenges, and provided ideas for next year. As we awarded the podium finishers with gift certificates. Many of them showed the comradely and love for the sport, by passing their certificates to our youth shooter.

Thank you to all for the support.  
HRG Archery Committee.

## HRG 2024 Fall 3D Archery Shoot

The HRG Archery committee held our Second 3D Shoot of this year on Sept 8th. As the shoot date approached, the committee spent several hours planning the course, walking trails, target selection, and shot locations. Thursday evening a work party was held to clear, mark, and leaf blow the walking trails. On Saturday morning another work party was held to place the 30 animal archery targets around the clubhouse property. These targets ranged from a red stag and bison, down to a scorpion and rabbit. But let's not forget about the deer. 8 of these targets were deer, in preparation of CT's 2024 archery hunting season, opening on Sept. 15th. Approximately 50 participants arrived to shoot the course. The results were many smiles from the youth participants, and the adults as well. Throughout the day, the committee received many great comments regarding the enjoyable layout, clarity of the walking trails, and shot difficulties.

Thank you to all that helped and attended.

P.S. Stay tuned for up coming information about our winter leagues starting in January 2025.

## HRG Junior Hunt

Calling all Harwinton Rod and Gun youth between the ages of 12 and 15!  
Harwinton Rod and Gun Junior Hunt is set for Saturday, October 12, 2024

Location: Colebrook Property

Eligible participants between ages 12 and 15, that hold a current 2024 CT hunting license

Event includes Breakfast, Lunch, Friendship and Smiles, all while enjoying the great outdoors hunting upland birds! Great way to start the upland season. Trained dogs and guides almost ensure a successful hunt for pheasants.

Whether your first hunt or just a tune up, please join us for the HRG Junior Hunt!



HRG Parents and Grandparents, book this event in your calendar and sign the junior hunters up for this great event. Please contact Junior Hunt 2024 co chairmen--Larry Trolant--203-518-2833 and Chris Campbell 203-910-6833 to reserve your spot

Volunteers Needed To: Orchestrate the Event, Kitchen, Registration, Bird Handling, Mentoring, and more

Dogs Need: Pointing Dogs to complete the experience for the kids.

Good Opportunity to work your dog

Please contact Chris Campbell to sign up a Junior Hunter or to Volunteer.

Call/Text (203) 910-6883 or [Chriscampbell1963@yahoo.com](mailto:Chriscampbell1963@yahoo.com)

## 2024 HRG Pig Roast

At the beginning of June, Mike Sirois and Shannon Joyce Decided to hold a club Pig Roast. The next steps were then taken within the following week, deciding upon a date and time, cost, menu items, and entertainment. Then began the 2 month sales period. This resulted in over 140 tickets being sold. As the event day was closing in, we shifted into high gear. Planning food quantities, and food prep. The Thursday before the Pig Roast Jim Stowe helped shop and prepare potato salads for the event. Friday was also full of activities, as Jim and Shannon continued preparing macaroni salads, coleslaw, and garden salads. Later in the day Mike Sirois, Mike Wolford, Shannon, and helpers arrived with the guest of honor for It's spa treatments, consisting of a garlic and apple juice infusion, with a mustard skin treatment. As the cooks Saturday morning (5am) to start the pig's thermal treatment, we were greeted with a Rogue Tree falling across the club's driveway. Missing the lead vehicle by under 20 feet. The crew re-planned and executed. By the time all our patrons arrived, our 23 helping members and DJ had everything under control and running smoothly. Food was being served, cornhole boards and horseshoe pits were full. Raffles were in full swing. All in All, It was a Great Day at HRG. Thank you to all that helped and attended.

Mike S. And Shannon J.





## **The Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee was appointed at a recent Board Meeting so that it can get an early start looking for individuals who would like to consider seeking a position on the Board this year. If you would like to give it a try, let us know when asked.

At the present time all of the Officer Positions President, Vice-president, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Secretary are one year terms, that are subject to election every year. The nine Director Positions are each three year commitments, three of which are renewable each year.

If you think that joining the Board may be too drastic as a first step of getting involved, volunteering to work on a committee might be a better choice for you. If you've ever thought about taking part in a particular activity, **TRY IT!** If you think that you could do a better job than what is currently being done, again, **TRY IT!**

## **The Rules Enforcement Committee**

Last year at this time the Rules Committee launched an initiative which randomly contacted members who had visited the club to take part in the various activities that HRG offers. If you were not one of the people contacted this past year the following is what you may experience in the future. Should you be randomly chosen, the person calling will identify themselves stating their name and that they are calling from Harwinton Rod and Gun.

- They may be simply complementing you, thanking you for taking the time to complete all of the paperwork that you are asked to fill out when taking part in shooting, fishing, or visiting the club by yourself or with a guest.
- Your contact might be to acknowledge that you take the time to completely and legibly fill out the information asked for, you make the work of an HRG Volunteer much easier. Do you realize that the waivers that you are asked to complete are a requirement from our Insurance Carrier that we must keep for seven years? Should they ask for a particular waiver, we are expected to produce the original. This means that someone must enter the information into our database and once found there, we then go into the appropriate file to come up with that waiver. It is easier when the waivers are complete and neatly filled out.
- Of course, you may also get a call explaining what you may have missed filling out something. In this scenario the contact is to aide to educate by explaining what you may have missed.
- If you get a call and have a question about anything related to the club, be sure to ask the caller. If they cannot give you an answer on the spot, they will get you an answer and will get back to you. Thank you for your understanding!

## **Editor's Comment:**

In the world that I was fortunate enough to grow up in RULES played an important part! Our parents, teachers, and other role models instilled in me that rules are necessary for a cosmos made up of individuals with totally different and at times conflicting backgrounds to live and survive in. Rules provide boundaries that when followed seemed to make life livable for all and their differing ideologies. Not always perfect, but when honored the rules that were a part of my life allowed me to make it to where I find myself today. However the changes recently taking over are saying that rules are now something to be broken rather than providing a path to order. Speed Limits? Registered Vehicles? Licenses? Respect for others properties? I can't just smash and grab? Respect for life?

As we all know HRG is a world unto itself. A place that most everyone is willing to wait several years to become a part of. We have gotten to where we are with our population of individuals who's backgrounds vary greatly, but our citizens get along SAFELY in the environment that is HRG, by following the rules that we have in place. These rules are not perfect but have gotten us successfully to where we are. From time to time it becomes obvious that some rules need to be adjusted,. Changes that make some rules irrelevant or there a change in practice that requires guidelines never thought of before.

Make the following a habit. The next time you are planning to come to the club to take part in any activity, read the rules that pertain to that activity. Make sure to follow them, but make note of what you might suggest to change. If you do this and feel there is a need for change or something new let the Board know what you propose. Be a part of the solution and not the problem!

## Trunk or Treat October 19, 2023

**Time: (TBD Shooting for around dusk! Additional info in HRG E-mail updates)**



### Let's Get Spooky!!!

TRUNK OR TREAT is BACK!!!!

I'm asking for volunteers to decorate either your Trunk of your car "depending on weather" or your Table (inside). You will have to supply your tasty treat to all the trick or treaters

We are asking for as many trunk/tables as possible. Last years turn out about 13 tables. Let's get creative!!

We will have small appetizers n finger food thru out the party. We will also have craft available as well.

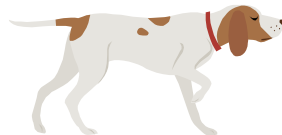
I will also be asking everyone to RSVP BY 10/10/24

Keep an eye out for further emails to come!

Thank you all

Danielle

(860) 484-1210 or [Danielle.mariotti@aol.com](mailto:Danielle.mariotti@aol.com)



## Bird Committee

Pheasant Hunting season is right around the corner, beginning on Saturday, October 19th. Now is the time to get a head start, dust off your equipment and get some rounds of trap in!

The 2024 HRG Pheasant Hunting schedule for hunting the Colebrook and Valley Rd. properties will be released at the conclusion of the September membership meeting (Tuesday, September 10th). At that time you can also pick up your back tag needed for pheasant hunting the HRG properties. Please also note that there are several rule changes for 2024 that will be reviewed at this time. It is your responsibility to be up to date and in compliance with all HRG rules. Hard copies of the rules and schedule will be provided, as well as electronic versions uploaded to the website. We look forward to a **safe and fun** 2024 hunting season!

## HRG Property Hunting Permits

Permits are available for Members to hunt club properties for Deer or Turkeys can be obtained by calling or texting Jim Stowe at (860) 518-0800. The number of permits available may be limited by demand,

## CCDL Family Picnic!!

The CCDL Picnic is BACK for 2024! This year it will be held at The Hamden Fish and Game Protective Association on **Saturday, September 14th** from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Join us for this FREE event. Come join hundreds of your fellow 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment supporters to celebrate our rights! This is an OPEN CARRY ALLOWED event!

We'll supply the burgers, hotdogs, soft drinks and condiments. You can bring...

- Your whole family
- Chips, dip, or your own famed side dish recipe (and a utensil to serve it)
- Lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on

Cash! There will be games to play and merch for sale

Save the date and invite any and all 2A supporters! Carry On!

### A Trip Out West

We took our granddaughter on a trip out west. The memories she will have of the things that she saw and experienced. The stories she'll be able to tell were our gift to her! This trip was Brea's first time on a plane. She was all smiles, and I will never forget the look on her face when our Flight Attendant asked if she would like to "Fly the Plane!" She was able to sit in the cockpit on the Pilot's Lap!. On Day One, we stopped at Yellowstone Bear World where she was able to feed the baby bears! Day Two we headed into Yellowstone to see the sights; Old Faithful, Hot Springs, Hot Mud Pits, Mountains, Valleys, Water Falls, and Mammoth Hot Springs. Brea walked the River beds where she picked up stones. The wildlife we saw included Buffalo, Elk, Deer, Antelope, A Black Bear with a cub, Eagles, and a Raven. She got to feed the Raven while it was close enough to pick up. We headed out of Yellowstone on the Bear Tooth Highway and when at the top, Brea was able to play in the snow. Next on Day Three we visited Red Lodge Montana where they have a big Candy Emporium (WOW! A Dentist's Dream!) We also took in a car show. Day Four found us in Cody where we went through the Buffalo Bill Center of the West / Cody Museum which was very educational for her. Day Five back into Yellowstone checkout a few more sights before heading down into Dubois to spend sometime with my brother where we went to the National Big Horn Sheep Center and Brooks Lake. Day Seven our trip headed to an end, we stopped to view the Grand Tetons, we headed down into Jackson Hole, we did some old time western photos, shopping along with a stagecoach ride, before heading to Alpine, Happy little girl it was pool and pizza for our last night. Finally back to Idaho Falls to our flight home.



HARMONY HILL FLOWER FARM 135 Harmony Hill Road – Harwinton 06791

### SAM BUSHKA Local Eagle Scout - 2024 Graduate - Associate's Degree in Horticulture



"Sam is growing Kids of Dahlias, they're his favorite! His passion. They'll be in full bloom soon so keep your eye out. We're learning as we go...waiting for the signs to be made, etc. but we're getting there."

If you're looking for flowers for any occasion, drive to 135 Harmony Hill, a beautiful roadside display. Also go to Harmony Hill Flower Farm, Harwinton Facebook page. Besides the road stand, Sam has already furnished flower arrangements for company parties and is working on a couple weddings. This is his hobby with his mom while he works full-time. Mixed flower \$20.00.



### National Hunting and Fishing Appreciation Day September 28, 2024

The CT DEEP invites you to come celebrate [National Hunting and Fishing Day](#) on Saturday, September 28, 2024, with a fun-filled daylong event at [Black Rock State Park](#), 2065 Thomaston Road, Watertown from 10 am to 3 pm.

Planned activities at the DEEP Black Rock State Park event will include fishing (equipment and bait available for use during the event), stocking of trout into Black Rock Pond, displays from the Wildlife Division and the Boating Division, demonstrations of electrofishing by the Fisheries Division, aquatic macroinvertebrate exploration with DEEP's Water Quality Monitoring Program, fly tying, fly fishing casting lessons, tours of the new DEEP Western District Headquarter building, and much more.