

## ***SNAKE MEADOW HAPPENINGS***

*News, Stories and Tidbits from*

***Snake Meadow Club, Inc.***

Moosup, Connecticut

Volume XXI Issue 2 - June 2008

### ***The President's Corner***

By Kevin Brignole

I would like to thank all the members for allowing me to serve as the president of the Snake Meadow Club once again.

I believe I have but one goal in my term as president, which is to make as many members as possible happy. Do you remember the excitement of going hunting and fishing as a young man; do you remember the excitement of coming to the club for the first time? I remember the first time I rolled into the club in my hippy van (as George called it) with the front license plate that said "If the van's a rockin' don't come a knockin'." I approached George Pearce and Ron Jussaume and they sent me a packin'; I still laugh whenever I recall that day. Well, that's my goal; to have 100 members that really enjoy participating in all that is Snake Meadow Club and enjoying themselves.

There have been many changes so far and there will be more to come. I'm sure that all the modifications don't make everyone happy today, but it is the big picture, the future of the club, that will serve as my road map. I treasure everyone's friendship at the club, which makes some of the decisions significantly more difficult. The same people year after year serve the club, I included, which is wonderful, but I would like to see new members come forward and take the reins on some of the committees. The more members that participate in the club, the more enjoyable it is for all.

One of the biggest items this year will be the repair of the lower dam. Greg Teifert is heading up this committee and is doing a stellar job. I think they should be starting in the month of June on the repair. Greg is truly a gentleman, and an asset to the club.

I have not forgotten about the skeet field dilemma. I will be forming a committee to evaluate and recommend a solution to the closure of our fields. While it is just my opinion, I would like to see the skeet field open, and I would like to see a limited skeet membership created. This type of membership would be restricted to just skeet shooting, but the benefits would be far reaching for the club.

I will be appointing a Bylaws Committee that will be responsible for reviewing the minutes for the past 5 years and making sure our bylaws are up to date, as well as recommending changes to the membership. If you are interested in serving, please let me know.

As you may or may not know, we cut \$3000 out of the budget for the cleaning of the clubhouse. One of my projects for the summer is to create an assignment list of 4 or 6-man teams to clean our facility 10 times a year. The work is light and easy, such as vacuuming and washing floors. Thus, everyone should be able to participate, young and old alike.

Well, these are some of the things that I am planning. Again, my hope is that all members will come to enjoy the club, smile, and make an effort to be part of something bigger than themselves.

The club would like to acknowledge the passing of Stanley P. Ward, Sr., father of club member Stanley P. Ward, Jr. on March 7, 2008. He was 94. A contribution was made to Coalition to Salute America's Heroes Club.

---

### **New Members**

**Robert W. Perry** of 15 Potts Road, Griswold, CT was accorded provisional membership at the March board meeting. Bob is married to Erin, has a son, Robert, Jr., 16, and daughter, Taylor, 14. Bob is a designer by profession.

**Joseph D. Meier** of 408 North Main St., Moosup, CT became a provisional member at our annual meeting April 11. Married to Kimberly, he has 4 children: Joseph Jr., 14; Derek, 12; Halie, 10; Jason, 8. Joe has been a naval officer for 19 Years.

Last, but not least, at our May 5 board meeting, **Brad Ormsby, Sr.** of 389G Wyassup Rd., North Stonington, CT was granted conditional membership. Brad is married to Lynda and father to Barbara, Brad Jr., Kathy, and Debbie. Brad is retired.

From what I have seen of these gentlemen, I am proud to be associated with them at Snake Meadow. Welcome and congratulations to all.

---

### **Longest Term Member**

Dear George (Calkins) –  
Just back from Mexico. Great weather. Best Wishes to you all.

Bob  
(From Bob Tillinghast, 12 Woodside Ave., South Burlington, VT 05403.) If Secretary Calkins is not mistaken (and I suspect he's not), Bob joined Snake Meadow in January, 1956, making him the longest term member of the club at 52 years. Wow!

---

### **The Power of the President**

By John Dudek

It was Saturday morning, 6:30, opening day of fishing at the club. I was standing at the dam along with Walt Dombrowski, Eric Ryan, and George Calkins. It started to rain, with thunder and lightning. Doc Lena was out in the boat, but it was raining too hard to fish.

I grabbed my cell phone and called Kevin Brignole. "Mr. President, the members of Snake Meadow Club would like you, sir, to put a stop to this rain, thunder, and lightning. In 15 minutes, we request that you cease this unpleasantness and make the sun shine so we can fish!" Kevin laughed and

said "OK, I'll do my best." We chatted for a few moments and hung up.

As God is my judge, in 15 minutes the rain stopped, blue skies appeared, and the sun shone forth. I called Kevin again. He said, "Well John, the sun is shining as requested. What do you guys at the club want now?" We both had a good long laugh. This strange event made me wonder: Does our president have an "in" with the almighty powers above?

---

### **This 'n' That**

I often reflect on sporting days past when I spent much of my time at the Quaker Hill Rod and Gun Club, Oxoboxo Dam Rd. in Montville. I was a member of that club from 1955 – 1985. I graduated high school in 1956, and many of my college days were spent at home on weekends, which enabled me to shoot skeet and use the 200-yard rifle range. At that time I was a dedicated skeet shooter and a precision small-bore rifle fanatic. Both were passions in those days along with bird-hunting. Woodchucks in the immediate area were never safe in my presence! Gradually, skeet inclined to boredom, and spacious shooting fields became the exception, as several were placed "off limits" because of housing encroachment and/or noise complaints. Back in the 1970's, someone suggested a photo-op session at one of our monthly board meetings because all of the most recent presidents were in attendance. The memories came flooding back when I rediscovered the following picture in the archives of memorabilia:



Former QHR&G Club presidents  
(Photo about 1972)

Top: 1 to r Walt Purdon (deceased) Bud Farnan, Ray Scholfield (deceased) Bill Sauersoph (deceased), Bill Downie (deceased),  
Bottom: 1 to r Warren Coggeshall, Paul Chase

Wouldn't it be a great idea if all Snake Meadow's recent presidents could be pictured in like manner for inclusion in our newsletter and for posterity

(while they're all still very much alive and kicking)?

I took my hunting pal to the vet's the other day for his annual checkup. Everything was OK, and he behaved like the perfect gentleman, that is until it came time to leave. As my attention was drawn to paying the bill, I slacked off a bit on his tether. He went straight to the pillar behind me and proceeded to pee on the fake bush. (We all know why it's make-believe!) All dog owners in the waiting room that witnessed the "accident" had a good snicker; even their leased charges grinned. Just before Jing dropped his leg, the handyman with the mop and pail was on the scene with a big smile and said, "He's just marking his territory; they all do it."

Has anyone noticed the prolific crop of native blueberries this year? The last several years have produced only enough for a pie or two, and this has been a big disappointment to me because I much prefer natives to cultivated blueberries. Everyone says that either the birds get them every year or rain is spare, and they drop before ripening. All I can say is assuming reasonable rainfall, there will have to be a ton of our avian friends to eat all that Mother Nature provided this year if we are not to have a good crop. Our 5-gallon pails of yore are ready to go-a-pickin' in the back forty come 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

**Continued on page 4**

---

### ***Hunting Committee***

By Greg Teifert

It's springtime 2008 and it seems hard to believe I have been a member since December 3, 1990. I met Tim Brennan during the summer of 1990 when one of my wife's old school friends summered at Misquamiquet Beach in Rhode Island. Tim's niece introduced me to him as an avid hunter and fisherman. Tim bragged about the club, and I was asked to attend a couple of steak dinners. When hunting season started I was invited to go to the club with him to shoot pheasants. After working a couple of steak dinners and picking stones out of Areas 9 and 10 that had recently been cleared and readied for seeding, Tim sponsored me to join the club.

I and others worked with Tim Brennan on Hunting Committee work parties, assisted

him in budgets, counting his hunting breakfast money etc. I successfully completed the probationary period, became a full-time member and was nominated to the Board of Directors around 1993. Tim had a process and was focused each season from start to finish on planning his hunting season schedule. In many respects very little has changed, and yet the world and times have changed considerably. People seem busy with family and other things and put in time at the club when they can. The programs and hunting seasons are relatively unchanged and I guess if it's not broke, we should not try to fix it if it works. We are blessed with great facilities and considerable club membership participation, which does not put the burden of responsibilities on just a few. This is not to say that there is considerable administrative, seasonal preparation, grounds work, maintenance work in and around the pens, feeding, watering, crate maintenance, bird delivery and unloading that go on, because these are routine chores that are required for a successful program.

One thing that has changed has been the leadership. Tim passed the program to Tom Dufficy who did a great job, and then the reins were passed along to me. As to changes over the years, most were subtle but were required to keep up with the times. Our budget process has improved, and our accounting is more accurate for expenses and taxes. As for new programs, this past year we had a field trial event to start the season off. We continued the "Tim Brennan Day" with the junior hunting program, and we had a second annual hunting banquet to end the season.

Hunting season 2008 is in front of us, and we have applied to the Connecticut DEP, Wildlife Division, for both the Hunting Preserve Permit and the Dog Training Area Permit. We will be planning a Hunting Committee meeting to outline this year's calendar sometime in June. The beauty of this committee is that there is no restriction on any and all club members being a part of it.

Snake Meadow Club's biggest fundraiser is the Annual Game Dinner, and it is never too early to plan for that. This past year's dinner went off very well, like former events, and the over-all money raised was in line with

our budget and previous years. Clearly, there is always room for improvement. It's hard to beat good planning. We were concerned about getting enough game, but at the last minute we came through. Help was an issue but at the end of the day the team pulled through.

We, as a sportsman's club, do not exist to put a profit on the bottom line. We are all volunteers and do what we can to support our hunting and fishing programs. Please always remember that one or two individuals cannot succeed in our fundraising efforts, but that all events, which include effective leadership, require a team approach. All your support and help this past season was very much appreciated and will be required over and over again for us and our guests to get the best out of our club. If you have the time, step up to the plate and take on a little more; this will ensure our continued success.

The Snake Meadow Club is a bit of a sanctuary from the day to day grind we all deal with at work and home. The club is and should be a place to go to unwind and put bigger issues behind, if only for a brief period of time. Most of us could not afford the amenities we enjoy at the club on our own, but, as a club, we can afford to participate for the better good of the club and its members. I believe no member is more important than anyone else, and that we all have skills (some are less visible than others) and the diversity to continue to make this club a great place to belong. If we have some baggage from work or home, don't bring it to the club, but enjoy our association for what it is. Do not get caught up in petty arguments and criticism of other members. Communicate with your fellow members, particularly if you have any issues, and remember that we are all playing on the same muddy field. If you do not have something good to say about something or someone, then don't say it. If someone is on your case, simply say you are sorry they feel the way they do if you can't talk it out. We all make mistakes and we can learn from each other. The Snake Meadow Club should be at least one place where you can enjoy yourself and relax. Try to give a little more that you get from the club and it will reward you with satisfaction you may not get anywhere else.

We are planning all events of the past in this coming 2008 season. We also have discussed the possibility of having two game dinners or another fundraiser. I will be sending out notices to all regarding a June/July meeting with an agenda for discussion. Please contact me if you would like to be on the Hunting Committee this coming year.

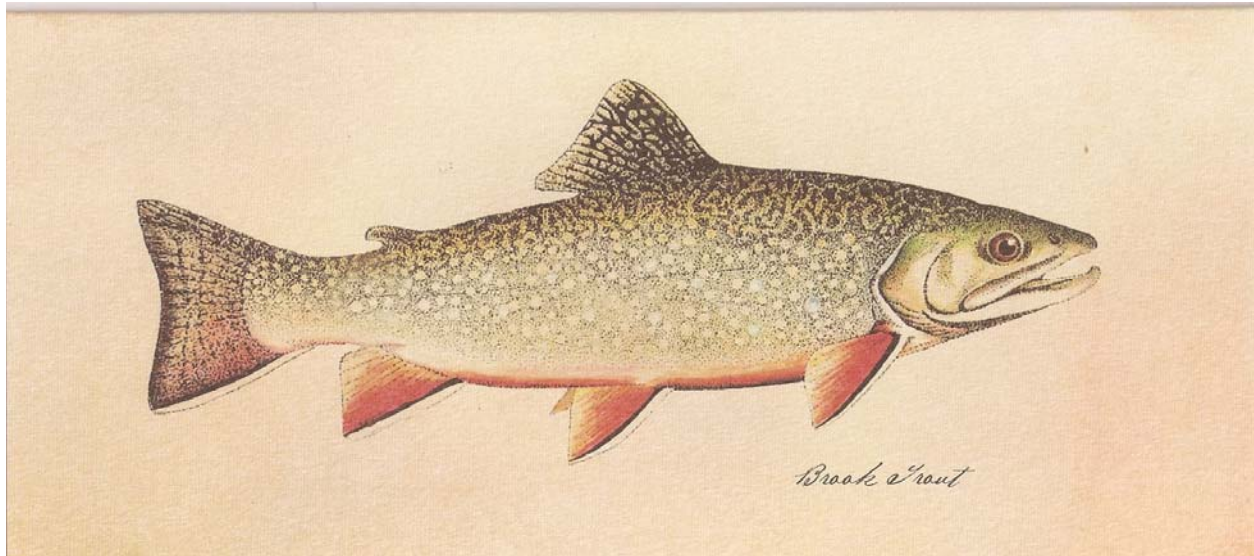
If you have any special interest or ideas to improve existing programs, would like us to consider new events, or be on a special work assignment, cook breakfast, stock birds, etc., please let me know where you would like to participate. I also believe in succession planning, which means that if you aspire to become the committee chair, we can discuss that too. My email address: [cteifert@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cteifert@sbcglobal.net)

---

### *This 'n' That*, continued from page 3

Look for a \$2.00 increase (to \$22) in the ticket price when steak dinners begin in October, as per Kevin. Porterhouse steaks are very expensive, but you can only pass on just so much to patrons before attendance diminishes. (As some regular steak dinner attendees said they would gladly pay \$25, a \$5 bump had been discussed during the budgeting process earlier this year.) Also, in line with compressed margins, Jim Armstrong indicates that bar pricing for public events will increase.

Earlier this year, member Steve Curry resigned from the board of directors because of illness. Steve has chronic myeloid leukemia and spent 35 days at Yale-New Haven Hospital undergoing chemotherapy. Recently, a growth was removed from his left kidney (results pending), which delayed a proposed stem cell transplant. Steve misses everyone at the club (we miss him too) and would like to be remembered to all. He wants to "wet a line" now and then, but for now his immune system is out of whack. Please join me in wishing Steve all the luck and medical successes that are possible. I know your continued prayers and best wishes for one of our own will facilitate Steve's recovery. (P.O. Box 52, Niantic, CT 06357)



## Fishing Rules & Regulations

(Revised as of 5-12-08)

1. NO FISHING AFTER 6 PM ON STEAK SUPPER NIGHTS.
2. TROUT LIMITS ARE 3 PER DAY / 6 PER WEEK. (SUNDAY AM THROUGH SATURDAY PM CONSTITUTES A WEEK.)
3. THE LOWER STREAM IS CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY FROM APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30. LOWER STREAM IS FLYFISHING ONLY.
4. THE DAILY CATCH AND RELEASE LIMIT IS 10 TROUT. (A TOTAL OF 13 TROUT CAN BE CAUGHT—10 RELEASED AND 3 KEPT).
5. THERE WILL BE NO FISHING WITH THE DAILY LIMIT IN THE NET, BOAT, OR CREEL.
6. ALL FISHERMAN AND GUESTS MUST SIGN IN **BEFORE** FISHING.
7. ALL FISH CAUGHT, KEPT, OR RELEASED MUST BE LOGGED IN.
8. TROUT MUST BE REGISTERED TO THE MEMBER OR GUEST WHO CAUGHT THEM.
9. ALL TROUT CAUGHT ON A TREBLE HOOK OR LIVE BAIT (I.E. MINNOWS, WORMS, POWERBAIT, ETC.) MUST BE KEPT.
10. CATCH AND RELEASE PRACTICES REQUIRE THE USE OF BARBLESS HOOKS.
11. TROUT AND BASS ARE NOT JUNK FISH. PLEASE RETURN **ALL** FISH TO THE WATER UNLESS THEY ARE BEING KEPT; THIS INCLUDES BLUEGILL AND PICKEREL.

12. ALL GUESTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED AT ALL TIMES BY THE MEMBER WHO SIGNED THEM INTO THE REGISTER BOOK.
13. GUESTS MUST BE WITHIN SIGHT AND EARSHOT OF THE MEMBER AT ALL TIMES.
14. PAYING GUESTS MAY ONLY FISH 3 TIMES PER FISHING YEAR.
15. NO GUESTS OF ANY CLASSIFICATION SHALL FISH ON OPENING DAY (THE SECOND SATURDAY IN APRIL). ONLY FAMILY GUESTS WILL BE ALLOWED FOR THE NEXT 13 DAYS AND ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE "THREE TIMES PER YEAR" RULE.

**FAMILY GUEST GUIDELINES:**

MEMBERS' WIVES, LADY FRIENDS OF SINGLE MEMBERS, PARENTS AND IN-LAW PARENTS, CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 21 THAT ARE UNMARRIED AND LIVING UNDER THE MEMBER'S ROOF, A MEMBER'S GRANDCHILDREN, ARE ALL CONSIDERED FAMILY GUESTS.

16. SUCH FAMILY GUESTS WILL BE ALLOWED TO FISH UNDER THE MEMBER'S DAILY AND WEEKLY LIMITS. IF A FAMILY GUEST WANTS HIS OR HER OWN LIMITS, THEY MAY DO SO BY REGISTERING AS A PAYING GUEST.
17. THE COST FOR A PAYING GUEST IS \$30.00. A PAYING GUEST IS ANYONE NOT SPECIFIED UNDER FAMILY GUEST GUIDELINES.
18. ICE FISHING GUESTS WILL BE AT NO CHARGE UNLESS THEY HAVE THEIR OWN TIP-UPS OR POLE, IN WHICH CASE IT WILL BE AS A PAYING GUEST (\$30.00).
19. THERE IS TO BE NO CLEANING OF FISH IN THE CLUBHOUSE. IF YOU CLEAN FISH ON CLUB PROPERTY, PLEASE LEAVE NO SIGN OF WHERE YOU CLEANED THEM.
20. LIFE JACKETS MUST BE WORN BY ALL NON-SWIMMERS AND CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 12 WHILE IN BOATS. ALL GUESTS IN BOATS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE MEMBER THAT SIGNED THEM INTO THE REGISTER BOOK.
21. ALL BOATS MUST BE RETURNED TO BOAT AREAS. OARS, SEATS, LIFE JACKETS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE STORAGE SHEDS. PLEASE KEEP THE BOATS CLEAN.

-----  
Tear here

Bill Shipman of Groton, fine gun connoisseur and collector, friend to several SMC members, and a frequent guest at Snake Meadow, will celebrate 89 years of life on June 11. A few of us will help Bill commemorate this milestone. Happy Birthday, Bill!

I came across the following photo taken at the Annual Hunt & Banquet back in 2006. What it says to me is that we have our work cut out for us in order to bring a new generation of

sportsmen into our membership. Our kids do not always follow us into hunting and fishing pursuits. Many times, a generation is skipped. The two gentlemen in the second row, Hugh Lena and Richard Falvey, Sr. are fortunate in that they have sons who hunt and fish, in fact, Peter Lena and Richard Falvey, Jr. are both club members. Pictured, front row, I think, is/are Rich's grandson(s). I believe, at some point, the club should open the discussion about junior and

/or family memberships at Snake Meadow Club.  
We owe it to next generation...



The young and old(er) at Snake Meadow Club (11/25/06)

---

### ***Budgets, Dams, Etc.***

It's obviously a good feeling to know that we finally have a balanced budget for fiscal year 2008-09. It took some doing. First, the board needed a special meeting on April 21 to bring the budget into balance. Then, a special membership meeting was held on May 5 for club approval. It is evident, at least to me, that the budget process should start as soon as possible after the holidays – sometime in January; otherwise you run into delays extending beyond our annual meeting, as happened this year. I think the biggest hang-up was deciding on whether or not to purchase a new tractor. I believe much good thought went into the process, mostly pro but a few against. In the end, it was decided to purchase a new McCormick CT36 diesel with loader for \$18,189, net of our \$4000 trade-in. Financing is for 60 months @ 0%. Monthly principal payments of \$311.91 will come from cell tower income. As good a deal as this interest-free loan is, it may go away at some point later this year when we arrive at a final number for dam expenses, at which point we will refinance our current mortgage (July 2007) with a projected 70K balance (remaining principal of 86K clubhouse improvements). We have budgeted to combine the 70K, the reduced tractor loan balance of about 17K, and (finally) the dam expenses for a projected initial mortgage principal of approximately 187K. It could be more or less since the final dam expense is unknown. Inasmuch as we will be extending to a 15-year obligation, monthly payments should be less than our present mortgage payment of \$1672. As these are only budget projections, the numbers will probably change contingent upon the dam expense part of the equation. Depending on the projected

total cash flow out from the cell tower *income*, it's quite possible that the tractor loan could stand on its own – 18K at 0% compared to an estimated 6 3/4% for the tractor portion of the rewrite on the combined mortgage. Seems like a no-brainer, but we must continue to sharpen the pencil.

Regarding the dam project, all appears to be on schedule. I'd like to think that the real work (as in grunt) process will begin soon. The engineering has been completed, the DEP is on board for the lower dam, and I know of no insurmountable issues. I am sure Greg will have detailed reports at subsequent board meetings. It has been a long process since our dam breached in 2004, and we have already spent over \$34,000 in engineering and misc. fees, all paid from club reserves. The good news is I see the light at the end of the tunnel.

---

### ***From the Kitchen***

Well, summer is here and there is only the June steak supper to go. By the time you receive this newsletter, it will be history. It was a good season, with good numbers. Most months we had great participation from members, and the patrons left the club full and happy.

Updates in the kitchen include a new stove, and all the counters were wrapped in stainless steel; it looks great. If anyone is looking for a summer project, the woodwork in the kitchen could stand some paint, including the inside of our cabinets.

The kitchen, in conjunction with the Fishing Committee, will be hosting a surf and turf dinner during September, perhaps the 13<sup>th</sup>. This will also kickoff the Fishing Committee's big raffle, 30 guns in 30 days for 30 dollars. We will be sending out information to all members about both soon.

If there are any members that would like to make a donation of an 8-foot folding table, please call me. Cost is approximately \$125, and I will be gluing a brass plaque on each, noting the date and the member's name. Tables can even be donated by two members if they want to split the cost.

Thanks to all,  
Kevin

---

For the club,  
Lonesome Paul  
pchaseatrout163@att.net