

Wawarsing Rod & Gun Club

The *Wawarsing Rod & Gun Club* (a.k.a. *Wawarsing Sportmen's Association*) had its beginning in 1938 following the amalgamation of the Cotton Tail Club, the Southern Ulster Fish and Game Club, and the local chapter of the Izaak Walton League. It began its meetings on land now owned by *Barthel's Farm Market* and stayed there until they purchased the 80-acre *Sutta Bungalow* property on **Honk Lake**.

Ever since its formation, the **WR&GC** has been a major presence among hunters, shooters, and fisherman in this region. Now numbering almost 700 members, the Club is probably the largest sporting club in southeastern New York State. Membership is open to both sexes and ranges in ages from Junior members (\$2 a year) to life members (free membership after ten years). New members pay a one time \$50 initiation fee that is set aside for capital improvements. Yearly dues are \$35. It has always been the policy of the *Sportmen's Club* to have an open membership to any and all sportsmen and sportswomen who support second amendment rights. In this capacity, the Club is NRA-affiliated as well as being a member of the Ulster County Federation of Sportmen's Clubs and the New York State Rifle and Pistol Club.

A highlight of every month (except July and August) is the arrival of the monthly newsletter and the monthly dinner, held on the second Tuesday, with dinner beginning promptly at 6:30 PM. A full course dinner is prepared and served to an average crowd of about 70-80 people. The major gala of the year is the annual venison roast.

The **Club** is open to all forms of shooting, including bench rest .22's, Bow, Trap, Skeet, and Rifle (100-200 yards). Each activity has its own range and committee. Entry fees and other income is returned to the main club, which sees to it that each department has adequate supplies. For years, the *Wawarsing Trap Team* has been the premier team in the Ulster Trap circuit. Nighttime trap

shooting is available during the warmer months.

In addition, the **Club** boasts of a large clubhouse that can seat over one hundred. Recent renovations were made to the main hall, with new bathrooms next on the schedule. You will also find, housed on our site, a full-time caretaker who grooms our grounds during the summer. And finally, to complete our offerings, we have an in-house Camping Division called the Shongum Shockers who have their own clubhouse and camping facilities, including hook-ups.

For years the **WR&GC** has championed the cause of hunters and shooters. Their hunter training classes and bow classes are among the oldest and best-attended classes in the area.

The **Club** also sponsors youth to DeBruce Conservation Camp each summer. The *Junior Rifle Club* is also active teaching young people the safe use of various firearms. The **Club** also sponsors the very popular annual fishing contest that the Ulster County Federation joins this year. Each year the **Club** hosts the annual Father & Son and Father & Daughter dinner.

Through the years, the **WR&GC** has had excellent leadership and volunteer work. Their vision is to continually upgrade the facility, making it more available to more sportsmen and their various specialties. Its membership extends as far as New York City and New Jersey, where opportunities for shooting are few and far between.

The **Club** is located off **Rte. 55**, west of Napanoch, just before the **Honk Falls Bridge**. For further information, write them at **POB 305, Napanoch, NY 12458**. ✨

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