

Next Monthly Meeting
SEPTEMBER 19th 2011

Monthly General membership meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month
@ 7:30pm

PLEASE CALL

If you live a great distance from the club, call prior to leaving home, to verify the ranges are open.
(215) 624 9454 8am to 4pm

Current Club Schedule

Saturday to Thursday

7am To 11pm

Friday 5pm To 11pm

Weekly Activities

Saturday And Sunday

Open Skeet 9:30am To 3:30pm

Monday (Daytime)

Open Skeet And Trap 9am To 1pm

Monday Night Sr Rifle (Indoors)

7pm To 10pm

Tuesday Night Open Trap

6pm To 10pm

Jr Rifle (Indoors) From

7pm To 8:30pm

Wednesday And Thursday Night

Open Skeet 6pm To 10pm

Friday Night

Jr Skeet & Trap

DUES not paid by April 31st 2010 are **Delinquent**. Your **Holmesburg News** will not be mailed until your dues are current.

After April 31st there will be a \$10.00 late charge added to your dues each month.

Do NOT send CASH!

Send a check, payable to the club.

Mail To:

Carmen Cancelliere

1044 Broadview Ave

Langhorne Pa 19047-2675

*Newsletter Published by
Holmesburg Fish & Game
Protective Association, Inc.*



Fish & Game

HOLMESBURG
PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

5100 Pennypack Street Philadelphia Pa 19136-1620

Organized 1930 Incorporated 1942 NRA Affiliated

An equal opportunity recreational facility



September 2011

www.holmesburgfishandgame.com

Issue No. 9

The President's Column

Outing! Sunday September 18th

By Kevin Kubacki

What else do we talk about in September at HF&G? For you new members, the outing is our annual open house and you really should come check it out. This is one of the days when we invite the community and our members to come and mingle. Yes, we're looking for new members, but there's a flea market, presentations by the PA Game and Fish & Boat Commissions, and this year the Navy (NSA actually) will be joining us. No open shooting the day of the outing, so leave your usual gear at home, but there will be plenty of shooting games of skill/chance so you can show off or challenge your friends and neighbors. Check the home page of our web site for an advertisement you can print for yourself or that favorite bulletin board. Do you know anyone who's been thinking about joining HF&G? Get them to the outing! This year the deal we are offering is that if you join as a new member the day of the outing, your \$100 dues will buy you all of 2012 and the rest of 2011 to boot! That's literally a lot of bang for your buck. We are also prepared to sign new and old members up for the NRA, so come see us at the membership table if you need to renew - remember, keeping your NRA membership active is required at HF&G. If you didn't get your chance books in, please do that soon. You can't win the \$500 main prize if you don't play! Extra chance books will be available at the club that day if you want to better your odds. We have other prize raffles going off as well. We'll be serving breakfast and lunch all day, and as a special treat, cupcakes will be served later in the day. Machine gun demos and your chance to fire full auto will round out the day. This fun for everyone event is not one that you want to miss, so mark your calendars, come on out and bring plenty of sunshine with you. Now for the status report part of the column; our restrooms are getting a sorely needed remodeling and the front of the clubhouse is being repaired too. Both jobs should be completed in time

for the outing. Our web pages are in need of updating. Send any new content and pictures to webmaster@holmesburgfishandgame.com. Division and activity chairpeople especially, let's see what you've been up to. Lastly, an important reminder; at HF&G we put the onus for safety on the member. Remember, we are all members and so we are all range officers. Each of us is responsible not only for the shooting we do, but also for the shooting that goes on around us. If you see something you know is wrong or contrary to the club range rules, you are obligated to (in a friendly way) make sure all is safe and correct before shooting may resume. Please, folks. This message is paramount if we are to keep our traditions alive at HF&G. Thank you and see you at the outing!

Now It's Wildlife Forensic Science

Now it's CSI: WildlifeForensic science increasingly is being used to solve cases of poaching and other types of illegal hunting. By P.J. Reilly, Lancaster Sunday News - Aug 21, 2011 Chad Eylar was confident the 19-year-old York County man before him had poached the 175-inch buck nicknamed "Buckzilla." A wildlife conservation officer with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Eylar had solid eyewitness testimony declaring as much. But still, he wanted irrefutable proof. Through forensic science, he got it. And

Continued On Page Two

Club Outing

Club outing will be held September 18th, 2011. We will have our usual flea mart, The Pennsylvania Game Commission and Fish Commission will have a booth set up, there will be black powder shooting, pistol shotgun and rifle shooting and much more. So don't forget, keep this date in mind.

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Small Bore Prone & B R**Chairman**

Martin Vogt

Alternate

Steve Frank

Centerfire Hunters Benchrest**Chairman**

Steve Frank

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ARA Rimfire Bench**Chairman**

Martin Vogt

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Continued From Page One

he helped make history in the process. Forensic science is used to analyze evidence found at a crime scene, helping to tell the story of what happened during the commission of the crime. It's a time-honored tool for police officers, but a fairly new one for wildlife cops. And it's the wave of the future for catching poachers, wildlife officials say. "It will continue to be a valuable tool, and probably utilized more in investigations as techniques and capabilities improve with new science," said Rich Palmer, director of the PGC's Bureau of Wildlife Protection. "It was shortly after opening day of Pennsylvania's 2009 archery deer season when Eyler got a call from a confidential informant about a 16-point buck that allegedly had illegally been killed in York County by a 19-year-old hunter. The officer launched an investigation and found the hunter claimed he shot the buck on opening day in Lycoming County. Eyler quickly gathered statements from folks who said the deer had been shot before the season opened, and it wasn't killed in Lycoming County. We were confident with the information we had, but we wanted something more concrete," Eyler said. As the investigation continued, a West Manchester Township police officer told Eyler he thought the poached buck was one he and his buddies had been chasing for several years on a farm they hunted near home in York County. They had nicknamed the deer "Buckzilla." York County is a good 150 miles from Lycoming County, so Eyler knew if it was the same buck, there's no way it migrated to where the hunter said he killed it. A farmer who tills ground three-quarters of a mile from where the police officer said he'd been chasing the buck gave the officer a set of impressive sheds he'd found in one of his fields a year earlier. Even though they only carried 14 points, the sheds looked very similar to Buckzilla's unique 16-point rack. The police officer gave the sheds to Eyler, telling the WCO he was certain they belonged to "Buckzilla." "He and his buddies had been hunting that deer for a couple of years," Eyler said. "They knew it pretty well." With that information, Eyler seized the hunter's rack and sent it along with the sheds to East Stroudsburg University's Northeast Wildlife DNA Laboratory. There, laboratory director Dr. Jane Huffman took samples from both sets of antlers and confirmed Eyler's suspicion. We did a DNA comparison and they were a perfect match," she said. "The sheds came from the same deer the poacher had shot." It was the first time in North America that DNA tests were used to match a shed antler to one a deer was carrying when it was killed. Eyler now had solid proof the hunter lied when he wrote "Lycoming County" on his harvest tag. And faced with that hard evidence, the hunter admitted he shot the buck in York County prior to the start of bow season. Unfortunately, that guy deprived that police officer and his friends of the chance of taking that magnificent trophy in a lawful manner," Eyler said. One of the primary goals of wildlife forensics is bringing to justice those who steal game from the lawful-hunting public, said Dee Dee Hawk, director of the Wyoming Game & Fish Wildlife Forensic and Fish Health Laboratory in Laramie. "As the science of wildlife forensics gets better, we can make it harder for poachers to get away with their crimes," she said. In 2009, wildlife forensic scientists from all over the



Continued From Page Two

world banded together to form the Society for Wildlife Forensic Science. There are now 52 laboratories with membership in the society, including Huffman's. Hawk is the organization's president. "Our No. 1 goal is to better the science," she said. Already, progress is being made. According to Huffman, her laboratory can now provide evidence that a deer was in the back of a poacher's truck if a wildlife conservation officer brings her just a single maggot. "Assuming that maggot was feeding on a deer that was in the hunter's truck, we can remove the crop from that maggot and extract DNA from that deer," she said. One of the pressing issues facing the wildlife forensics labs is developing databases of known DNA samples. That's necessary, Hawk said, so that scientists can match samples of blood, meat, hair, etc. or rule out a match with a reasonable degree of scientific certainty. It's a question of probability, she said. Hawk can show through DNA tests that a speck of blood on a hunter's jeans genetically matches a confiscated carcass. But making the match is not the end of the work. Hawk then must show it's statistically improbable that another deer would have the same DNA. This is where the databases come in. Because a whitetail from New Jersey looks different than a whitetail from Missouri on the genetic level, Hawk said she can't use DNA from a New Jersey deer to establish the statistical probability that two samples from a Missouri deer would match. Scientists need localized databases of DNA samples to properly compare apples to apples. Since the Northeast Wildlife DNA Laboratory opened at East Stroudsburg University in 2005, Huffman has kept her students busy entering DNA samples collected from animals in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey into the lab's database. Using that data, Huffman was able to prove beyond any reasonable doubt that an adult hunter had stolen a three-point buck from a 12-year-old boy during Pennsylvania's 2008 firearms season. It was the boy's first deer. The boy's proud father had taken the deer to a butcher shop and left it outside the day after his son shot it. When he called the next day to make sure the butcher got the buck, the butcher said he hadn't. So the butcher called Lycoming County WCO Jonathan Wyant to investigate a stolen deer. In an article that appeared in Pennsylvania Game News, Wyant admitted he thought the deer was long gone. But he promised the boy and his father that he'd keep his eyes peeled for

it. As luck would have it, Wyant was checking a report that a local man might have some questionable deer in his possession a few weeks after the boy's buck was stolen. At the man's house, Wyant found a buck head that had been tagged by the man's son, but Wyant could tell the information on the tag had been altered, the article stated. As it turned out, the man used the same butcher as the father and son. And at the butcher shop, Wyant saw posted on the wall a picture of the beaming boy posing with the three-point buck after he shot it. The rack on that deer looked like the rack Wyant had seen in the thief's garage. Wyant went to the thief's house and told him he thought the man had stolen the deer, but the thief clammed up. So Wyant seized the deer head and then called the father of the 12-year-old to see if he had anything that might still have some of the deer's hair, blood or meat on it. The father checked the folding knife he'd used to gut the deer and found a nice chunk of tissue in the hinge. Wyant took the knife and the deer head to Huffman, and she proved there was just a 1 in 12.2 trillion chance that the material on the knife came from a deer other than the one Wyant had found in the thief's garage. That case was particularly satisfying for me because this was that young man's first deer," she said. Huffman is quick to point out that as the science of wildlife forensics has advanced in recent years, so too have the investigative skills and knowledge of conservation officers. Good police work is the key in these cases," she said. "All we do is test what they bring us, so they're the ones who do the hard work." According to Palmer, today's wildlife officers are being taught more about forensic science than ever before. "It is an evolving field," he said. "WCOs [in Pennsylvania] are issued kits with supplies for evidence recovery that are far more advanced than they were at one time." Wildlife forensics is not just about making DNA matches. Huffman said she's often asked to identify species and the sex of an animal through minute fragments of tissue, hair, feathers or blood. She also has been called on to determine the projectile that was used to kill an animal. It might seem like a no-brainer to look at a perfectly cylindrical hole in a deer's hide and know that it was not killed with a broadhead. The broadhead's blades, after all, would leave slices extending out from the center hole. But just having that knowledge about hunting equipment isn't sufficient in court. "Defense attorneys are saying, 'Prove to me that couldn't be a bullet hole,' "

Huffman said. "That's where a lab like ours comes in. We can show, scientifically, the differences in the way a broadhead goes through a hide compared to a bullet." A bullet will singe animal hair when it passes through a hide. Huffman once debunked a hunter's claim that he had killed a trophy buck during archery season with an arrow tipped with a field point by finding burned hairs around the projectile's entry hole. "You're not going to find any arrow out there that does that," she said. Huffman and Hawk both joked they fear the science they practice one day might put them out of business. "The time might come when all an officer has to do is say, 'Don't make me take this evidence to the DNA lab,' and the poacher will confess right there," Huffman said. "It's hard to put up a defense against the kind of evidence we're coming up with." **From Aug. 21 Lancaster Sunday News**

Email From Jerrold Czech

NRA Pennsylvania License Plates are now available!



Through the cooperation of Friends of NRA committees across the state of Pennsylvania, citizens residing in the Keystone State are now able to purchase their own NRA-specialized license plate while also helping raise money for the future of the shooting sports! If you are interested in becoming one of the first Friends of NRA supporters in the State of Pennsylvania to receive the specialized license plate, You can get in contact with Anna Mae Guille by Email crymagnet@aol.com or call her at (215) 338-3114

Irene Forces Postponement

We were supposed to have shot our second Standard Military Pistol match of the year on August 28th, but hurricane Irene was not yet done with us and Mayor Nutter did not lift the state of emergency for Philadelphia until noon that day so, no match. I've scheduled a make-up match for Sunday, October 2nd, so pack up your fixed-sighted, center-fire handgun and sixty rounds of ammunition, and we'll see you then. Don't forget to bring friends and family to share your sport!

September 2011

Sunday 4th 2011

2 Gun Mill/Tactical
50 Round Match

Sunday 4th 2011

ARA Benchrest

Wednesday 7th 2011

Outdoor Steel Silhouette 4PM 'Til Dusk

Sunday 11th 2011

Military Rifle League

Wednesday 14th 2011

Outdoor Steel Silhouette 4PM 'Til Dusk

Saturday 17th 2011

Outdoor Steel Silhouette
8am Setup/Practice

Sunday 18th 2011

CLUB OUTING

Wednesday 21st 2011

Outdoor Steel Silhouette 4PM 'Til Dusk

Saturday 24th 2011

NRA-100/BR-50

Sunday 25th 2011

Mill Pistol Side Ways (7)

Sunday 25th 2011

Tri-County Rifle League

Wednesday 28th 2011

Outdoor Steel Silhouette 4PM 'Til Dusk

Next General membership meetings will be on September 19th 2011

October 2011

Sunday 2nd 2011

ARA Benchrest

Sunday 9th 2011

Military Rifle League

Sunday 16th 2011

Bulleseye Pistol

50 Rounds .22 &

50 Rounds CF Rapid Fire

Saturday 22nd 2011

NRA-50/BR-50

Sunday 23rd 2011

Tactical Pistol (3) Start 10am

Sunday 30th 2011

Mill Pistol Backwards (8)

DELAWARE VALLEY PISTOL LEAGUE

The Delaware Valley Pistol League finished its season with PENN RIDGE (the Holmesburg team) winning both guns. Ron Steinbrecher and Mark Hladchuk won medals for their scoring average. Delaware State finished second and Delaware Rifle and Pistol was third overall. League shooting begins again in October. Matches are indoors at 50 feet with each match consisting of a National Gallery Course of 30 rounds with the rimfire and centerfire guns. We have 16 total matches against 4 other teams in the League. If you are interested contact Andrew Blum, the team captain, at 215-852-7702 Ron

National Wild Turkey Federation Banquet

The banquet for the National Wild Turkey Federation will be run by the Philadelphia County Fightin' Spurs. It will be held at Canstatter's at 9130 Academy Rd, Philadelphia, PA 19114. This banquet is a fundraiser for wild turkey conservation and important programs that introduce the outdoors to women, children, and the disabled. This banquet is similar to the Friends of the NRA banquet. The NWTFF puts a great banquet package together. It includes auctions, raffles and great food. Doors will open at 5PM. Tickets are \$55 and include dinner and a one year membership to the National Wild Turkey Federation. Please contact Larry DeRose at (215) 336-1710 for tickers and further information or send payment to: Philadelphia County Fightin' Spurs

c/o Firing Line Inc
1532 S Front Street
Phila, PA 19147
Attn: Greg Isabella



Newsletter by email.

To all club members and especially our new members, any member can receive the Holmesburg newsletter via email. Just send me your email address. Send all requests to paridgerunner@comcast.net