

Game Reserve Association

Summer 2020 Newsletter

Please note- from this point forward, all GRA Newsletters will be online, via gamereserve.club

A Word from our President, Tony Girard

This year is quickly rolling by as usual. That might be a good thing with all the turmoil going on in the world. I hope you, your family and friends haven't been affected by this crazy virus.

As you know our appreciation dinner was cancelled as was our May general meeting. We are planning on a normal hunting season as much as possible. Any news and last minute changes will be put on the website as soon as possible. We do have our fall meeting planned for Oct 27th at Sippo, but Sippo has been closed since April for all meetings. Time will tell if they open at all this year.

Thank you for your continuing support with the gun raffle. The club is in good shape financially, all due to our great members. Our bird suppliers are doing business as usual and we expect the state to give us the same grants as last year. We look forward to seeing you and your kids in the field this fall.

Again, this year try to volunteer some time to the club if you can. Work day help and help with the pheasants is always appreciated. Check the calendar or ask a trustee what help is needed. Most important of all is getting more property into the club.

Lastly, this is an important year to cast your vote for candidates at all levels- local, state and national that support the NRA and all the activities we enjoy. Have a safe and enjoyable summer and we will see you in the field.

Tony Girard
GRA President

A Word from Bob Black, Sargent At Arms

I hope everyone is being safe and healthy during these crazy times. Welcome to our first electronic edition of our GRA newsletter. I know everyone does not have a computer or smart phone so please pass along any vital info to those who are not in the electronic age.

Results of spring 2020 Gun Raffle

Thanks to everyone who sold their raffle tickets for the Spring drawing. Given that we were going through the pandemic and everything was shut down we still had a fairly successful raffle. Our revenue was off from what it normally was but we still did OK. We did not have our Spring general meeting since Sippo shut down their club house. A group of trustees met at the GRA farm and held the drawing. The following is a list of winners and who sold the winning tickets:

1st place—Mike Muncy Sold by Mike Muncy

2nd place—Paul Richards Sold by Paul Richards Donated \$200 back to GRA. Thanks Paul!

3rd place---Steve Carlise Sold by Steve Carlise
4th place—Duane Herdlick Sold by Duane Herdlick

We had the special drawing for people who sold over \$100 worth of raffle tickets. We had 17 members in the special drawing. The lucky winner was Chris Anderson who won \$150.

2020 Fall Gun Raffle

By now you should have received 11 raffle tickets along with your membership card. Sell 10 tickets and you will receive a free ticket. Our **drawing will be held Tuesday October 27, 2020** at Sippo Lake club house. Remember you must sell at least \$80 worth of raffle tickets for the year to be eligible to hunt on GRA property. During our spring raffle 24 members sold at least \$80 worth of raffle tickets. Last year after our 2nd drawing we had 136 members who sold their \$80 and were eligible to hunt. So you can see we still have a lot of members who need to sell their tickets to be eligible to hunt. Remember these two raffles are the only fund raisers we have so please make an earnest effort to sell your tickets.

We are again going to have a special raffle for any member who sells \$100 worth of raffle tickets with the chance to win \$150. For every \$100 you sell your name will be put in the special raffle. In other words, sell \$200 and your name will be put in twice.

If you need additional raffle tickets please contact-

Bob Black
6285 Race Rd. NW
Strasburg, OH 44680.
(330) 878-5294

Also please send your stubs and money to Bob or the GRA P.O. Box. Thanks for your help.

A Few Final Words...

I don't rightly know what year I joined the GRA. All I remember is, Max, who is now gone, was a pup, and Micah, who is now married, was a little boy. What I do remember is the newness of the GRA hunting experience.

I first walked in the clubhouse to puzzled looks that said, "who's the new guy?" Tinea was in the kitchen cooking up breakfast. She had her Bible out, doing the Lord's work whenever she could- (this group sure needed it.) Throughout my first season there, I met more than my fair share of, what we call back home, "characters-"

- Boots, who dipped snuff, behind his wife's back
- Blick, with the perpetually runny nose
- Bob Black, and his evil twin Dick Longfellow- those two literally see eye to eye (some of you will get it sooner or later)
- The Hendershot brothers, who seemed to know just about everything related to the GRA
- Then there was the odd assortment of scoundrels, ruffians, and lesser lights.

Early on in my first year, I began to feel at home at the club. I remember being excited as I loaded Max into his kennel in the back of the truck, and whatever shotgun I happened to be shooting that day. It kind of felt like playing hooky from work, the world...the normal responsibilities of life.

Over the years, people have generally gone out of their way to be kind and helpful; some friendly advice here, the loaning of a few shotgun shells there; in short, something like a loosely knit group of brothers. Yes, we bicker every now and again. I've also noticed that old men gossip like old women. That said, I've grown to love this group, and the place I refer to as "the farm."

At 58, I look forward to at least another 5 lustrums (look it up) of missing birds, telling lies, drinking bad coffee, and hearing the same old story from some hunting partner. That said, those lustrums are not guaranteed. Some of our number have gone on. I sure do miss my releasing buddy Dennis Kover, but I also know he wouldn't trade places with me. I'll see him again one day, Above.

And so, my friend, stay well, and out of Covid's line of fire. Pull down your shotgun off the rack, take it apart, lightly oil it up, reassemble it, and then gently put it back, looking forward to the first day of Pheasant season. I can't wait to hear more bad jokes, drink more bad coffee, and miss more birds.

Many Blessings,

Dr. Shane L. Johnson