

Reminiscence

# Tim Frost Shoots A Bear

By Tim Frost  
For the Beacon

Recent pictures and stories in the *Beacon* of successful bear-hunting experiences reminded me of my one and only bear, shot on Taunton Hill in the fall of 1967.

My "adopted" dad, John Graves Sr., taught me to hunt and shoot. (I worked for him on his chicken farm as a teen). One weekend in the fall of 1967, John asked me to come up to his house to see the damage done to his fruit trees by a bear. Tree limbs had been torn and broken off most of his peach and apple trees. He suggested that I spend a night or two in the upstairs of a garage (now owned by Alex Bernhard) which overlooked the trees.

I talked to the local warden and his chief, and they both told me to "go for it." The damage was usually done at daybreak ... bear breakfast! I took a chair and blanket, my .35 Remington with five shells, and hot soup in a thermos.

The first night I was accompanied by a friend, Tom Fairbank. It was a long, boring night. However, I was back at it the next night, this time alone.

At daybreak I was awoken by a loud holler that gave me "buck fever." I got my gun ready, looked out, and saw a huge bear up in one of the peach trees, breaking limbs off.

It was light enough to shoot, so I shot three times with my rifle, and the bear fell out of the tree. He then got up and began to walk towards the open door of the garage, when he suddenly fell down and died.

John and his wife, Cordelia, heard the shots, and John came running out from his house in his pajamas carrying a shotgun. By then I was having an attack of the "shivers." John went back to



Tim's nieces, Debbie and Cherie Fenton, are holding Tim's daughter Jennifer in front of the bear hanging in John Graves' barn in 1967.

the house and got dressed, then he got his tractor with the bucket. We managed to get the bear into the bucket and take it to the barn and hang it on some scales that John used to weigh quarters of his beef stock. The bear weighed in at 435 pounds, which was a record back then.

I went home about 8 AM for a shower and a nap, not telling my wife what had happened. Soon there were guys knocking on the door wanting to hear my story. One older man accused me of "jacking" the bear ... which I did *not* do! The Fish and Game warden came by and told me to have anyone call the department, as they had given me permission to do this.

We dressed the bear out and had about half a dozen steaks. We cooked them, and the meat was very tough and tasted like shoe leather! The only part that tasted good was the liver, which was sweet from the peaches and apples. The rest of the meat was ground up and given to a couple of guys who had bear and coon dogs, one being an old friend, Don Miller.

## Pine Hill Ski Club

Here is the calendar of events for the coming season for the Pine Hill Ski Club.

**Sunday, November 22**, 1 to 3 PM: Members Trail Work Afternoon; bring clippers and gloves.

**Sunday, December 27**, 11 AM to 12:30 PM: Tune Up Ski Class, \$10 (free for members).

**Monday, December 28**: Kids Day: Free Lesson, Rental, and Trail; Lesson at 11 AM. Call if you need rentals.

**Friday, January 1**, 7 to 9 PM: Full Moon Guided Ski Tour, \$10 (free for members).

**Saturday, January 9**: Robb's Ski Hut opens for the season, 11 AM to 2 PM.

**Saturday, January 23**, 10:30 AM: Ski the Edge, 11 km Par Course. Try anytime during the day, or mass start at 10:30 AM. Classical track course.

**Saturday, January 30**: Full Moon Guided Ski Tour, 7 to 9 PM, \$10 (free to members).

**Saturday, February 13**: Ski the Edge, 11 km Par Course. Try anytime during the day, or mass start at 10:30 AM. Classical track course.

**Saturday, February 20**, 11 AM to 2 PM: Blueberry Pancake Brunch at Robb's Ski Hut, \$6.

**Sunday, February 28**, 7 to 9 PM: Full Moon Guided Ski Tour, \$10 (free to members).

For more information, contact Pine Hill Ski Club, PO Box 112, Wilmot Flat 03287, 381-8685.

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