

Monthly Meeting

This month's newsletter started before I even parked my car! As I drove in to the NIMROD parking lot for the EBoard meeting, I saw Kevin Chviruk driving across the grounds on the tractor. He took advantage of the break in the weather to cut the grass around the clubhouse. Way to go, Kevin! Kevin has been keeping up the Grounds when Neal Whitehead has been busy this summer. The Grounds Committee can use some help if anybody has any extra time. Driving the tractor can be fun and it's a great way to get your volunteer hours in. Kevin can give you lessons. If you're not too sure about driving it you can always help by just going around with the string trimmer/weed whacker and cutting the areas the tractor cannot reach. Kevin is going to be busy at work soon. I believe he's opening a new school. He certainly would welcome any help from the membership. Contact him if you'd like to help.

Then, for all history buffs, I walked into the clubhouse, and John Meyer was very excited about a recent discovery he made while going through some boxes in the attic. He found a framed letter to the NIMROD membership dated back to **June 24, 1940**; at our club's inception! It was a discovery of one of our club's founding documents! The letter was to the membership, stating:

*"The Board of Trustees, acting on instructions given them by the club, purchased over eighty-five acres of land, in the towns of Holden and Princeton, and known as the **Clarence Howe Estate.**"*

It then went on to state that the actions were taken by the Board of Trustees and invited the membership to join in the very first Clean-Up day. Everyone was invited to bring picks, shovels, rakes or anything that might be "handy" for the day. This was the **VERY BEGINNING** of our club! Just think how far we have come! The letter was signed by Fred C. Allen, Chairman; Albert F. Newell, and Thomas Warren Kingdon, Grounds Committee. Great find, John!

Please send me any outdoor stories you may have. We'd love to hear about your latest exploits! I'll serve as editor and get the story into a presentable format, subject to your approval before publishing. Please email me, Chris Erali, at eralic23@gmail.com

Monthly Meetings are always the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Clubhouse – next Meeting August 8, 2017. Make it a point to attend if you can. From 6:00 – 6:45 pm for a cocktail and

socializing – then we serve the best \$5 meal in town! Club business discussed with occasional guest speakers from 7:15 - 8:30 ish. It is usually an early night unless someone gets long-winded...

Our Board meeting started with Maryanne Lane's Secretary's report followed by Treasurer Cindy Smith's report. It was an expensive month. There was a lot going on at the club in July. We had some repairs and the excavation at the Rifle Range that were atypical expenditures. The excavation was planned, but still costly and not the usual.

Speakers

Please let us know if you have a suggestion for a speaker at a future meeting.

Monthly Safety Tip and Topic for Discussion

“Wear Sunblock!”

We now know that sun-damaged skin is cumulative and we need to be smart when heading outside in the sun. Use on all exposed skin. Remember, even when fishing wear a hat with sunblock on your face. There's a great deal of reflection off the water! I can recall working at the water's edge for an AKC hunt test with a buddy who didn't use any sunscreen. He had to leave early and had the chills and a headache from too much sun. Be smart! Cover up and use sunblock.

New Business

We received the 8-Point Newsletter and an update on Ground Rules at another club. It's always good to see how other clubs deal with various issues. We also received a thank-you note from Veteran's Inc. for our donation of \$80.00.

We received an invitation/notice/request from the Riders of the American Legion. This involves a motorcycle group planning a memorial ride honoring one of their late members. The title was “Eric's Ride.” It may involve some use of our grounds, but the board was hesitant because of a lack of information. The matter was tabled until we could get more details.

Where was the group from? Were they local? How many riders? Pending our investigation, we may consider a donation. More news to come...

Membership

We have 2 applications this month. They will be voted on at our next general meeting. They are David Geene and Gregory Jacobs, both from Jefferson. To our 2 new prospective members, please join us on our next general monthly meeting, Tuesday, August 8, when we welcome you to our club.

Locks have been purchased for next year. The plan is that we would like to be fully electronic in two years.

Board of Trustees

The board still has been unable to schedule a meeting to finalize the audit report. It's a busy summer. It was decided to meet before the September general meeting on September 12 at 5:00 PM.

Trap/Skeet

Thursday nights have been a little quiet, but Paul Fraser reports, "We're still trucking along." Remember, Trap and Skeet is every Thursday night from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. It is open to the public, so bring a friend and join in a night of good fellowship and shooting.

Kitchen

I saw Dave Oriol at a Wachusett Area Rotary meeting. He reports the dishwasher has been repaired. The problem was a temperature sensor in the rinse cycle. The sensor has been replaced and the bill paid. Bruce Ebbeson is going to restock some of the staple paper goods.

Game Dinner

Please leave any donations for next year's dinner in the kitchen freezer and notify Bruce Ebbeson at 508-853-1589.

Rifle Range

Tom Wiegand reports the excavation of the 100-yard berm was a rousing success! He invites members to take a drive up to the range and get a look at the progress. He complimented the members for following the protocol which makes regular care and maintenance very efficient. Thanks!

Kevin volunteered to use the tractor and move the new benches up to the range. The committee is also researching pricing and payments as our range improvements continue.

House

Ralph Cochran plans on completing the installation of the cell phone booster. He also reported that we ran out of propane at the archery shoot. Kudos to the **House** and **Archery** for being well-managed in a crisis. We remind the members that all trash goes in the dumpster. Do not leave anything in bags outside. Thank you.

September 24, 2017 Chicken Barbecue

Executive Board

This month's meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM. We aim for the newsletter to convey the highlights. E Board meetings are held at 7 PM the last Tuesday of the month. Members are welcome if you would like to come and observe our club's operation. Our membership can be very proud of the board and the time and effort that is made by everyone to keep our club

running smoothly. Member concerns are always addressed. Many times, one board member will inform others that a single member voiced a certain matter that he/she found troubling. Our club can rest assured that any points brought up by a member are ALWAYS brought to the attention of the entire board.

Special Committee (Scholarship)

No report.

Grounds

Neal Whitehead has been very busy with his courses. Kevin Chviruk, as mentioned earlier in the newsletter has been filling in admirably. New skidder trails are in. The next step is to smooth out the trails. This will be a project involving volunteers and perhaps the boy scouts.

Finance

The market fluctuates as we all know. Smart investors stay the course.

Bar

Summer is a quiet time on the schedule. **Please be sure to CLOSE ALL REFRIGERATOR AND FREEZER DOORS.** It is very easy to shut a door while walking away and it bounces and stays ajar. We don't see it and the unit frosts up over time. Take an extra second and make sure all doors are closed. Thank you.

Birds

We're sure the chicks are growing, and we are planning for a Youth Hunt in mid-October.

Revenue

Special Committee: 30 Guns in 30 Days

Our fundraiser "30 Guns in 30 Days," has begun. Tickets are available for all members to sell. Cabela's will be our source for the prizes. We are selling 1,000 tickets for a chance to win gift cards for \$14,000 worth of guns. This year we have 7 months to sell tickets. We need to sell 500 tickets to break even. Finally, it is possible to win more than once. If a ticket is drawn, it will be returned to the barrel. This was a successful fundraiser last year and we did **not** sell all 1,000 tickets. We have an opportunity to make this a great producer of revenue.

Please call any of the following members for tickets!

Ralph Cochran, 508-769-2600

Howard Gelles, 508-751-9455

Greg McIntyre, 508-769-3632

Good luck! Sell those tickets!

Archery

Tina Gianos welcomed her co-chair, Jason VanHillo to his first Executive Board meeting. Tina reports she's working on an \$1800.00 NRA grant application. It's grant time so Tina has been very busy! The new expanded skidder trails are spectacular. They will give us access to previously unused parcels of club lands for archery courses. The reason it always seemed archery was encroaching on the Rifle Range was lack of access to other areas. The trails will alleviate that crowding issue. Dan Goldman volunteered to be an archery coach. Lessons will be offered and the first session is already filled. It will be for 4 weeks in August and is scheduled for Wednesdays.

Jason reported that the New England Trail Shoot was a great success. We had 59 shooters from all over the world! There was a lot of positive feedback that was verbal and on social media. There were 3 nationally ranked pros, 2 shooters from Denmark, one #1 ranked and others in the top 5. The shoot was so well-received that the hope is to expand and grow for next year with a cap of 200 shooters. NIMROD is making a mark in Archery! Well done, Jason and Tina!

Worcester County League of Sportsmen

Joe Afonso reported that Ron Amidon has been named the new Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game in Massachusetts. The final's qualifiers for the Young Guns Trap Shoot are almost complete. The turn-out has been mixed. Clearly the clubs with youth shooting programs are getting a better response with more participants. Spencer Fish and Game will have their qualifiers soon and the finals will be held at NIMROD, Sunday, August 13.

Raffle tickets are on sale to help defray any Youth Shoot costs. Prizes are a one year membership at the Gun Parlor, a 9mm handgun, and a couple of cases of buckshot. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. See Joe Afonso for tickets!

Big Mo is scheduled for September and a Kid's Day plan is in the beginning stage. Maybe bat houses??? More news to come...

There will be an NRA Youth Education Shoot at Auburn Sporting Club this fall, probably in November.

Good and Welfare

John D. O'Brien passed away. A donation in his name was made to the Josh Thibideau Helping Hearts Foundation.

Please if you have any news that you would like to have included in this section, good or bad, contact any member of the Executive Board, and we'll see that it is included.