

Monthly Meeting

Hello to All, and we begin with a great story and an accompanying picture for our Covid-19 year of 2020. We can all take a lesson and get outside and fish. Ken Baer's timing is perfect on this one! Enjoy!

From Small talk to BIG Fish

As all of us do, we need to get out and do some fishing. We have all been in this Covid lockdown since it began. My uncle Gary Bowman, cousin Pete Bowman, nephew Jonathan Bowman and me decided we would try some fishing around the Merrimac River for some stripers, we got more than we expected for a day on the water.

We met up and were fishing the outgoing tide, the reports were spotty, but we just needed to get out. Being the first time this year we were able to get out, it was like opening day of deer season, our expectations were high. The plan was to run out to "Breaking Rock", "pick up some "macks", and drift the river. Well, it did not go as planned. We had trouble finding the mackerel, only catching 4. After a couple of hours of that, and the tide had turned, we decided to troll back to the mouth and see what was going on. It was not much better. There were some "bunker" breaking at the mouth and we decided to snag a few of those for some more live bait. We drifted the river several times and only caught one small schoolie. We resigned ourselves to the fact that the fish just weren't cooperating this day, it was slow fishing, almost dead.

Not willing to give up we decided to troll out in front of Plum Island. We set up a three-rod spread, two on the outside and one down the middle, the port rod, manned by Johnathan with an 8 inch jointed, Mackerel colored Rapala, on the center rod Gary, with a multitude of colors and shapes, he likes to change it up frequently, and at the starboard rod, I put out my old faithful, red tube and worm on wire. Peter was driving the boat. We trolled in and out of lobster pots. We trolled along the edges of drops and sand bars. Nothing! It was a nice day for a boat ride.

Seeing that the fishing was slow we all started to do the things you do on slow fishing days. Uncle Gary pulled out a folding chair and sat in the middle of the deck holding his rod and lazily jigging. Peter started playing with some of the electronics, reading the charts and playing with the side scan. Jonathan and I decided to munch on some food and sit up front making small talk.

Pete casually says "We just went over something, we might get..." was all he got out of his mouth.

Jonathan's rod started pulling drag and we tell him to take it because he is hung up. He picks up the rod and utters, "It's not hung up! I have a fish!" and it was not slowing down. Uncle clears his rod and I move to clear mine.

Now, the wire line starts peeling off the reel. Pete says "Well, you're definitely hung up."

I raise the rod tip and feel a head shake. I say, “Nope, it’s a fish and we are going to run out of line really quick here, mark that spot!” Pete pushes the mark on the chart plotter then begins to move us out of the lobster pots, so we don’t lose the fish in them.

All heck is now breaking loose on the deck. Jonathan’s fish is still not under control with a couple hundred yards of braid trailing behind the boat, I am cranking down on the Penn 113H’s star drag trying to save some line on the reel and it is still going out. Uncle Gary is trying to clear the deck of his chair and the lures he had been playing with in the down time and Pete is dodging lobster buoys trying to keep the fish away from the gear.

We finally slow the fish down and get clear of the lobster gear. Jonathan’s fish was the first to be subdued. He is able to maneuver the striper into the wake of the boat, “We are going to need the net” Uncle Gary yells. Unfortunately, after several attempt it is obvious the fish is not going to fit in the net! Pete is able to fit his hand in its mouth and drag it over the side. Whoops and hollers all around!

Then the realization hits that we still have one out there that has yet to stop pulling drag. Through some boat maneuvers and the fish tiring, we are able to bring this fish to the wake. This fish is much bigger than the first, it definitely and defiantly is not going to fit in the net, we need a better plan to land it. I start telling John to get all the gear to the front deck from the side so we can fight the fish. He scrambles! We also realize no one has been driving the boat for a few minutes! Uncle Gary takes over that chore. After several attempts Peter is able to get his hand into this stripers mouth and haul it over the side.

Knowing these stripers are well beyond the slot limit, we start to work fast to get some measurements and pictures so we can get them released. Holding up the larger of the two fish, I step back to get a picture and put a #7 circle hook through my foot, and I yell in pain “I just put a hook through my foot!” Peter continues to take pictures of John and me as Uncle Gary assesses the hook situation.

“I think I’m just going to pull” he says to me. “Ready?”

“Yup!” I reply and he yanks. The look on my face in the picture explains everything.



After all is done the crew boated a 36 lb. striper and a 45 lb. striper. We just missed the magic number 50!

We weren't disappointed though and we learned a thing or two. First, never give up, you never know. Second, keep the deck clear and always be prepared for anything. It will happen fast. Third, get out on the water whenever you can, you never know when a trophy will show up.

_____ **Ken Baer**

To everyone, please send me any outdoor stories that you may have. We would love to hear about your latest exploits! I will 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 – The July meeting is on and will happen on Tuesday, August 11, 2020. It will be held outside from 6 PM to 8 PM. The grill will be up and running and we'll have ready-made sides purchased elsewhere. Having burgers and hot dogs outdoors makes compliance with state guidelines easier. Make it a point to attend if you can.

Communication

I did not attend the Eboard meeting, so once again I am especially grateful to Maryanne for her minutes of the meeting. We filed our July issue of the Nimrod Newsletter and received American Hunter Magazine.

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 sunscreen and stay hydrated.”

Bar

Gary will be out for a while. We will have coverage.

Birds

New poles and nets are up in the pens at the jail. Permits for the upcoming season are in the works.

Kitchen

We can now light the pilot from inside the oven. It will take some time for the instructions to be learned by everyone. Bruce Ebbeson sent the following email:

The kitchen remains closed as we are not compliant with Covid restaurant regulations. Kitchens serving the public must have a Serve Safe Certified supervisor in the kitchen at all times to ensure that there is compliance with the new regulations. Dave and Bruce recommend that we serve restaurant take-out and use paper plates and plastic tableware that are available in the kitchen. Single use condiments must be used and are in the kitchen. The days of buffets and shared large containers of condiments are over.

BE SAFE out there. This is the new normal.

Trap

Adam and Etta Goodband are doing a great job and our Thursday night Trap is running smoothly. A date for the Turkey Shoot is being discussed along with format. We may grill outside or perhaps have a food truck come in. We will most likely eat outside.

We will be following the CDC Guidelines and here are some of the specifics:

- Wear a mask or follow Social Distancing (6ft apart).
- Club house doors will be open for access to the bathrooms. Main bathroom doors will be propped open.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided at multiple locations.
- Weather permitting, the gun rack will be located outside on the patio. We will not be using the inside tables for staging shooting equipment. We will have picnic tables outside spaced apart and the covered pavilion area available for stage your shooting supplies, people also have the option of working directly from their vehicles in the parking lot.
- When signing up only the person running the table will handle the pen and sign shooters to their squad as requested.
- The Skeet squads will be reduced from 5 to 3 shooters to allow more space.
- The Trap crew will ensure that inside surfaces get sanitized on a regular basis.

House

Our website renewal fee is due. Be assured Cindy will be on it.

Grounds

Grass is looking brown. We repaired some of the picnic tables. We need volunteers to paint the replacement lumber. Many thanks to Kevin for spreading the high quality road grindings the we purchased. We are very pleased with the widening of the road to the Range. The contractor did a nice job.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!! There is always some way you can contribute to **YOUR CLUB**. Talk to Neal Whitehead on where he can use help. The Grounds need constant updates from trimming to weeding flower beds. The above painting assignment is available too. Bring the kids and the dog and put an hour or two in. Thanks!

Rifle Range

Ralph now has the plans for the barriers. We can now move on to that phase of the project.

Worcester County League of Sportsmen

Check out the WCLS newsletter online. There is a board meeting on Thursday July 10 for the purpose of discussing Conservation Camp. We are currently in Phase 2B in the opening up due to the coronavirus. Phase 3 may bring about charter fishing with tournaments, derbies, and possible boat rentals at Quabbin. Be sure to check the website. No leadership changes for the League except that Pete Silva has stepped down. Pat O'Day will replace him. The League is also communicating with the Town of Shrewsbury to clean up one of the old rivers.

Archery

From an email to Chris from Chair Jason VanHillow: There will be no organized shoots at Nimrod for 2020. All have been cancelled. The Annual New Year's Day Shoot is on for January 1, 2021. The committee is looking as May 1st and 2nd in 2021 for the IBO.

Land Use

There is more signage work to be completed. Some small signs for property lines and large ones near Oak Circle and other points of entry.

Membership

We could not hold the Game Dinner, but we did hold the raffle. We had 3 winners. Nimrod made about \$400.00. We have 5 new members to bring before the membership on Tuesday the 11th. There are as

follows: Karl McHugh, Karl Otto Graf, Edmond Matthews, Eric Bruneault, and Louis Mordillov. To all our new inductees, please join us for the best \$5 meal in town, this Tuesday, as we welcome you into the club!

Scholarship

Roy has sent 4 scholarships awards to the recipients. The recipients are Kelsea Dowd, Kyra Ceryanek, Jordan Smith, and Ryan McCarthy. All of our scholars are involved in current environmental projects or activities. Congratulations and best wishes to all of you!

Documentation

No report.

Grant Writing

Al Afonso has reached out to Tina twice and is awaiting a response. With the pandemic it is difficult to assess what monies will be available through grants. Al is anxious to get going.

Rentals

We are clear of rentals for the foreseeable future.

Conservation Camp

We are not sponsoring this year and are awaiting our deposit to be returned.

Old and Unfinished Business

We voted to proceed with electronic access to the club and clubhouse. Replace the trap walkways and build the Rifle range barriers. It may sound like a lot, but it is really a package deal that will get done in stages. The electronic access will occur first, and the demolition of the old walkways needs to happen before we get a paver contractor in to replace the walkways. Measurement will also need to happen. Finally, the phase of our Rifle Range project including the barriers will be completed. We are looking at an extended period of time before all is finished.

New Business

Kevin is going to give the grappler a shot at the demolition of the old trap walkways. We will need to truck out the waste. Joe shared information that some clubs are setting up memberships as a subscription with automatic renewal. Isaac sent out an informal survey to gauge our club's feeling. I am sure he is still waiting for responses.

Good and Welfare

Everyone STAY SAFE! It looks like this life may be with us for a while.

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 will see that it is included.