

The Nimrod League Newsletter December 2016

Monthly Meeting

Invitation: We'll start December's newsletter with an invitation to all members. If you have an interesting story to tell, please send me an email with a streaming retelling of the incident. It might be fun to share it here with the rest of the club. Don't worry about your writing skills. 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

I'll get us started with a story of my own. As some of you know, I'm a retriever guy and presently have 3 golden retrievers, two old-timers and a 19-month-old youngster. I've been in the game for over 25 years and have titled my dogs at various AKC events as well as hunted with them for grouse and woodcock in Maine to sea ducks in Boston Harbor. Right now, I am in the middle of training Vinnie, my young pup.

A couple of weeks back Vinnie was making a retrieve of a dead hen pheasant when a second bird was shot. We train the dogs to complete a retrieve and not switch if another bird falls. We want them to mark the fall of the second bird, and then deliver the bird in their mouth, and be rewarded with the opportunity to retrieve the second fall. The hen had landed out of sight on the edge of the woods. The second bird, a rooster, landed just as Vinnie was starting to head back to me. The big male pheasant was only wounded and hit the ground running. Vinnie took it upon himself, despite his training, and my yelling, "NO!" to drop the hen and take off after the crippled rooster. After securing the cock bird, he started his return to me. When his route took him close to the hen, he stopped, looked down, probably recognized I was not pleased and figured the best way out was to bring back BOTH birds! Somehow, he got the still alive rooster and the dead hen in his mouth and trotted proudly back to me. In 25 years of training dogs, this was a first. Vinnie brought back TWO birds and delivered them to hand! I have never had that happen before! I was so shocked that all I could do was laugh. The rooster was still alive as he had managed, despite the mouthful, not to crush either bird. I guess we need to revisit "not switching during a retrieve." Training is always challenging, but those surprising moments when our dog makes us laugh make the time all worth it.

That's my story. I look forward to hearing some of yours. Send them in!

Monthly Meetings are always the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Clubhouse – next Meeting December 13, 2016. 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. Home in bed by 9:00.

Speakers

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

Monthly Safety Tip

“Watch your step. It’s getting slippery.”

New Business

The purchase of new chairs was discussed. We may need to pick up a few more for the clubhouse. Sometimes they can be a little scarce for certain events. Decision is forthcoming.

The topic of dirt bikes, ATVs, or 4-wheelers was brought up. We may be creating/restoring a standing rule to not allow dirt bikes at any time on the property. It was also mentioned that our website mentioned that Nimrod was a place you could ride your 4-wheeler. That is false, and the E board voted to have that phrase removed from the website. Due to several of our older members who are still active, there are times when an ATV can come in handy. Some of us have a little difficulty getting around. The Board voted that ATVs can be used for hunting and club events. Recreational riding is NOT allowed.

Due to the coming change of law regarding marijuana use in Massachusetts, the E Board also voted that marijuana is not to be consumed on the property. The vote was unanimous.

The possibility of a physical disability preventing a member from completing their 8 hours of volunteering to fulfil the work requirement as a member was discussed. It was decided that a waiver could be voted on if necessary.

Exciting news from the grant committee. Tina Gianos found a grant from Mass Wildlife and the DCR. Working with Kevin Chviruk on the application, the club has made contact with a number of state officials who appeared to like our proposal. We’re a long way from getting the grant, but the possibilities for the future are there. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if a busy spring was in our future? Time will tell, but kudos to Tina and Kevin!

Membership

Our membership is growing larger on a monthly basis! The Board accepted the following people as candidates for membership with a vote scheduled at the next general meeting: Dennis Pickett, Derek Fournier, Duncan Phyfe, Joshua Wainrib, Derek Briarly, David Steele, and Pat Barry. The Nimrod Club can take this interest as a sign that we are doing something right. AND it’s always good to keep Paul Fraser and Dave Fallow busy! Thanks too to them for helping me get the correct spelling of all the names!

Dues notices have gone out including a packet of raffle tickets. There are 3 prizes being awarded: 1st Prize is a new muzzleloader (or \$900), 2nd Prize, a pheasant hunting

package (or \$350) and 3rd Prize worth \$150. The winners will have a choice to take the prize or the cash. Good luck! Dues for 2017 should be paid by the first of the year. Thanks!

Checks can be sent to

Nimrod League of Holden, Inc.,

PO Box 254

Holden, MA 01520

Board of Trustees

We received a donation from the Massachusetts Forest Alliance. Thank you.

Our need for an audit was discussed. It is a natural time to complete one as Roland Morse is finishing his term as treasurer and it would be wise to start fresh with a new treasurer and recently audited numbers in the books. A date for the audit is forthcoming, as soon as Chris Craigue can find a date amenable to all the people involved.

Trap/Skeet

Thursday nights have been quiet. Consequently, it was decided not to open the kitchen for the coming weeks until the enthusiasm returns. The holiday season, weather, and deer season may all be contributing factors for the downturn.

Trap and Skeet is every Thursday night. We encourage everyone to come out on Thursday evenings for a night of shooting and fellowship.

Kitchen

We are having more problems with our freezer! Much of the meat we had stored for the Game Dinner was spoiled. Repairs are being investigated. The problem may be electrical.

Volunteers for cooking at upcoming general meetings are as follows: December: Arthur and Rick Spokis, January: Pat Orrell, February: Bruce Ebbeson, March: Russ Chapel, and April: Bob Horgan. June and July are open if anyone would like to volunteer.

We are still looking for donations for our game dinner. If you have any game, leave it in the refrigerator and call Bruce at (508) 853-1589. He will vacuum package it for the freezer to prevent freezer burn and keep it fresh for our dinner. Thanks!

Upcoming Event: Game Dinner on May 20, 2017

Rifle Range

All is well at the range. We still would like to get our 25-yard berm built up so that we can move the pistol range to shoot in the same direction as the rifle range. The matter is not pressing, but it would be nice to resolve this matter.

Remember! Please raise the flag when using the range and lower it when you leave. There have been times when the flag has been up and no one was using the range. Please make an extra effort to take care of this as you close and lock the gate when exiting.

The range will be closed May 13-14, 2017 for the Archery IBO Shoot.

House

Ralph Cochran is trying to complete all inspections. We're hoping to have everything ready for the week of December 12-16 and get them done. Many thanks to Ralph for his efforts in this regard. The security system was discussed at length again at this month's E Board meeting. Nothing has been ordered as of yet. We just received a Nimrod charge card. The thought is we will purchase our cell phone booster with that. Both the security cameras and the booster are prudent steps for our club to take. Technology is expensive but, in this case, a very smart expenditure.

Executive Board

Another long meeting that did not adjourn until 9:45 PM. Much discussion and decision-making on a variety of issues. 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'd 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.

Special Committee (Scholarship)

Donations for the Peter Brewer Scholarship funds was discussed at the Executive Board meeting. Linda Brewer presented to the club another \$2,000.00 at the meeting. The club has recently received and accepted donations totaling \$660.00 in memoriam of Jim Gibbons. They were from the list of people below in varying amounts. Our thanks go out to the following donors:

Diane Oslebo	Deborah Lindgren
Marie Newcomb	Mary Ann McGrain
Nancy Fournier	Karen and Gary Gaskin
Karin, Charles Brewer	Lisa and Michael Davis
Thomas and Dianne Hughes	CMSC Auto School
Timothy Cooney	Duncan and Heather Stewart
Matthew and Ruth Ryan	Gayle Marshall
Brian and Leslie Majoy	

The discussion continued with Linda and her thoughts on how to disperse the funds. Various ideas were floated including increasing the amount that we award along with creating a fund that could be added to and make the account perpetual. An ice fishing derby was

suggested as a fund raiser. It was a refreshing discussion with a lot of brainstorming various thoughts on the scholarships. It was decided to table the issue for now, but obviously, the Scholarship Committee will be revisiting this issue.

Grounds

The tractor is scheduled for an oil change. Neal Whitehead and Kevin Chviruk can always use some help with the Grounds. Rick Longbottom is all set for snow removal. Please be aware that we will need volunteers for shoveling and snow blowing.

Finance

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

Bar

All is well. Some cash came in from the special bird hunt. Everyone enjoyed the clubhouse as well as the hunt. Audit was discussed. The bar hands in monthly reports so any audit would be brief and straightforward.

Birds

Kevin Chviruk reports that the Special Bird Hunts paid for themselves and were enjoyed by all. There is one more Special Hunt scheduled for December 11th. Contact Kevin for more information.

Kevin completed payment for this year's birds after a lot of running around trying to get a check signed. Everybody he needed was out of town at the time. The Board discussed adding another person to the checking account with a valid signature. The hope is that our new charge/debit card may alleviate this issue.

A clean-up work party is in the future. The hunting area is shaping up into very good bird cover. There is however, a lot of timber lying on the ground that needs to be picked up and piled. Keep this party in mind for volunteer hours. This would also be the area affected by the Mass Wildlife grant if that comes through.

Revenue

Roland Morse reported our expenditures and balances for the month.

Archery

Tina Gianos reports that shooting on Friday nights continues. Wood targets are being replaced with the real targets. That's another step in improving our archery range. All is well. **Upcoming Event:** Nimrod will host the IBO Shoot on May 13 & 14, 2017. The Rifle Range will be closed that weekend.

Worcester County League of Sportsmen

Joe Afonso encourages everyone to visit the new website. You can find links to various new functions on the Mass.gov website. Several clubs have procured their allotment of wood

duck boxes, walking sticks, and bird houses and are preparing for Kid's Day activities. The clubs include The Fox and Coon and Otter River. The league is still looking for someone to chair that event here at Nimrod.

Here's a perk that some of you may be interested in acquiring. The League has a new insurance discount program. Any club member that belongs to the Worcester County League, Nimrod is a member, can receive a discount on their car and/or homeowners insurance through Commerce. Scott Winchester has set this program up with his affiliated insurance agencies.

Finally, just a heads-up to everyone. Please take advantage of what the WCL has to offer. If you only visit our Nimrod site online, you're missing out on something that further extends the value of your membership. Put both the Nimrod's and the League's websites in your favorites and visit them regularly. Lots of good stuff!

Good and Welfare

We extend our deepest condolences to the families of several of our members this month. All friends and families have fond memories of their loved ones and will cherish those memories forever. It can be so strange what triggers such thoughts. You may experience a smell, a song, or perhaps a flower that was a favorite of theirs, and suddenly they are in our thoughts again. These are people that touched our lives in ways immeasurable. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers this month.

Eric Johanssen's father

Maryanne Lane's mother.

Herman Schlegel (father of 2 members, 3 as grandfather, and 1 as uncle)

Neal Whitehead's father

Linda Brewer's father

In addition, Roy Baer is feeling much better. He had hoped to attend the E Board meeting but was unable to attend. We are all looking forward to seeing him soon. John O'Leary continues his battle with cancer. Keep both of them in your thoughts and prayers as well.