

**Monthly Meeting**

We begin this month's newsletter with a story submitted by a NIMROD member and friend... Jim Crystoff here, prodigal member now residing on Kodiak Island in Alaska. I thought everyone might enjoy this story about ***Hat, the Fox.***

I live pretty far out of town, 60 miles by air, 100 miles by water, so deer season is pretty important for getting red meat for the winter. It was mid-December, cold and snowy, good hunting weather. I decided to try to fill my last deer tag. I killed a spike buck about a mile behind the cabin, and got it boned out to pack home, as it was getting dark and snowing quite steadily. We don't drag deer here because the bears follow the blood trail to the cabin. When I got home I found I had lost my favorite old hunting knife, probably dropped it at the kill. I went back to look for it the next morning but there was too much new snow.

Here is where the fox comes in. That afternoon I went out on the porch and here was a great big red fox walking by with my knife and sheath in its mouth. Amazed... I blurted out "Hey! That's my knife!" Well darned if that fox did not drop the knife and sit down like a dog that had retrieved a bird. I thought that fox would make a nice hat, so I went to get my .22, but thought better of it and got a cookie instead, which the fox, now called, "Hat" took gently from my hand and ate. Hat hung around all winter mooching food and being good company. When the cannery freezer failed that winter, I inherited a quarter bushel box of butter pats. I spent a lot of time peeling them and feeding them to Hat. A fox can eat a lot of butter. Come spring another fox showed up, and Hat turned out to be a Hattie. They went off and had a litter and I never did get my fox hat. This is the only picture that I have of her.



She looks like she's well-fed on plenty of butter, Jim! Great story! Thanks, from all of NIMROD!

Maryanne Lane started club business with her secretary's report of the last Eboard meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup>. It had been postponed from our regular last Tuesday of the month date. Cindy Smith followed with her treasurer's report. Both reports were unremarkable, and all was in order.

Needless to say, we received a great story this month from Jim Crystoff. Thanks again, Jim! To everyone, 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](mailto:eralic23@gmail.com)

Monthly Meetings are always the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Clubhouse – **Next Meeting December 12, 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...

### **Speakers**

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

### **Monthly Safety Tip and Topic for Discussion:**

**“Be sure of your target and background.”**

### **New Business**

We received the 8 Point Sportsmen's Club newsletter. We are looking forward to March, 2018 for Hunter Safety instruction. We are looking for volunteers for the Sportsmen's Show in Boxborough, January 26-28, 2018? A nice selection of books is available in the reading room. The issue of “leftovers” from dogs after the bird hunting season was raised to the board. If our dogs are poorly mannered and can't wait until they get in the field to empty out, the owner/handler/hunters need to be better mannered and clean up after them. Please take care of this issue. Thanks.

**Upcoming elections for club officers will take place at the next general meeting.**

## **Membership**

Paul Fraser reports that when you get your dues paid, you will receive a key. Remember, dues are collected also on Thursday nights during Trap. We have one nomination for a Senior member, Gene Supernor. Motion made to accept, seconded, and passed unanimously. We also have new member applications from Shannon Pusey, Shaun Picote, Brendan Ashberg, and William Walker. To our 4 new prospective members, please join us on our next general monthly meeting, Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> when we welcome you to our club.

***Important Reminder: If you have not received your envelope packet with raffle tickets and membership documents, the club may NOT have your CORRECT ADDRESS! Please contact Dave Fillow to update your club profile. All dues for next year should be submitted by January 1, 2018. Thanks!***

## **Board of Trustees**

The Auditing Committee reports that the Archery audit has been completed. Everything is in order.

## **Trap/Skeet**

Thursday nights are still a little quiet, but we're still shooting. I was deer hunting until dark in my stand on the other side of the power lines last Thursday, and for all the deer I saw, I probably could have had a nice nap, IF it was a little quieter! 😊

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.

Dave Fillow was approached by a member to do 2 days of trap shooting for security personnel on our 2 fields. There would be 10 people for 2 days. A Thursday night and Friday morning was discussed as a possibility. The discussion included the following topics: 1. No alcohol involved. 2. We would have the shooters fill out a waiver. 3. It would not be a rental. Dave Fillow would run it as a Trap Activity. 4. The only use of the clubhouse would be the rest rooms. Further discussion was in regard to why the Princeton Police Department do not already have a waiver? They have coverage through the town. We will ask the town for a certificate of liability. We typically ask a heavy equipment operator for their proof of insurance. This circumstance may be the same situation. A decision was reached to run the event as a trap activity. Chris Craigue will contact our insurance agent to discuss any issues.

**The Trap Christmas Party is December 14, 2017**

## **Kitchen**

Bruce Ebbeson reports that as of right now the kitchen is clean and all appliances are in working order. Russ Chaplis had spoken about some new and different technologies. A remote condenser and an outside compressor were mentioned. Dave Oriol will research pricing. Upcoming chefs: Don French in December, Pat Orrell in January, and Bruce Ebbeson in March.

## **Game Dinner**

Our game dinner is scheduled for May in 2018. The hunting season is upon us! Keep NIMROD in mind when you bag something. We just received some moose, and we could use some more pheasant. Please leave any donations for next year's dinner in the kitchen freezer and notify Bruce Ebbeson at 508-853-1589.

Remember to label all packages to identify type of game and date.

## **Rifle Range**

Chris Craigue and Tom Wiegand are discussing the possibility of having co-chairs for the Rifle Range Committee. A question was raised regarding our engineering renovation records. We paid half in 2015, and we have a record of the check. We recently received an invoice on which the amount seems high. Cindy will investigate.

## **House**

Ralph is working on yearly inspections.

**Special request!!! Make sure the trash goes out, including cans and bottles from the Bar. We are getting fruit flies!**

The committee is concerned about getting hay put down over the septic line. Chris Craigue is getting the hay. Our last septic pumping was in the fall of 2015. It was decided to get this done now and grease the traps. Chris will also go to the Town Hall to take care of any necessary licenses.

## **Executive Board**

This month's meeting adjourned at 8:06 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.

## **Grounds**

Rick Longbottom secured the contract for snow plowing. We have moved things around in the barn to make more room.

## **Land Use**

Kevin Chviruk has done a great job widening and smoothing our trails. We will be renting the excavator again this spring. The brush hog and the York rake have been on active duty for several occasions. Chris Craigue paced off the distance from the stream to the proposed Rifle Range Pavilion location. It looks like we're twice the required amount. We shouldn't have any problems with permits. Kevin sends a big thank you out to Trevor and Alex for some tree work near the barn. Kevin also led a brush cutting team this past Sunday with Bob Gardner, Richard Smith, and Chris Erali, on a Land Management project. Thanks to all!

## **Finance**

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

## **Bar**

No report.

## **Birds**

We had a good bird season. Our bird total was about 475 good-size birds. We have a permit for a preserve license, and look to have 200 from a vendor for next year. We use the state birds during the season, but for special hunts we need the preserve license and the vendor. Many thanks to Kevin Chviruk for all his early Saturday mornings to make this project a success. Way to go, Kevin!

## **Revenue**

### **Special Committee: 30 Guns in 30 Days**

The committee reports that we did well with our fundraiser and it is almost complete. We have only 3 gift cards left to distribute. Total profit was around \$8,300.00. A suggestion was made to drop the price to \$20.00 per ticket. Ralph will have Scott Masterson helping him next year.

## **Archery**

Jason reports the Friday night league has begun. It will run until spring. The committee is looking for 2 by 2 feet cardboard for backing. We may have a member that can supply this. Lessons will start again on January 6, 2018 for 4 weeks. There are concerns on size of enrollment. There was discussion regarding blocking off lanes for lessons and assigning a time slot. We have about 32 targets and would like to grow to 60 so that we can hold IBO shoots. We have 30 Reinharts and about 20 Mackenzies. The committee will start rotating these out

so we can hold bigger shoots. The largest shoot we have held to date is 180 shooters. A large shoot can draw as many as 300 archers. We have an opportunity to purchase 19 Reinhart targets at a discount and start rotating these. A motion was made to buy the 19 targets at a cost of \$3,500.00. Discussion issues: Can we put it off to next year? The Archery committee is under budget for this year, so the timing is moot. It is a non-issue since it was in the budget, there is no need for a vote. The targets are very durable. The present ones have lasted through 7 shoots already. Finally, the Archery Committee will hold a New Year's Day Shoot.

### **Worcester County League of Sportsmen**

Joe Afonso is procuring lumber donations for Kid's Day. He is seeking volunteers to work on bat boxes and various other projects for the event.

### **Grant Writer**

Tina Gianos is the person to see if you have a source of funding. Even if you are not sure, please contact her so that she can research the entity. If a committee wants to have a program for kids or a community, she can look for grants in those areas. Time can be a factor. She needs at least 3 months to complete the application process. Thanks!

### **Good and Welfare**

No report.

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.