

Monthly Meeting

**“NIMROD Newsletter, Final Edition”**

Here is my second posting of the day and it contains the last edition of the newsletter. In the interest of space, I'll condense the information about the ice fishing derby for the printed version that will not be received until after the event.

**Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020**

**Our annual NIMROD ICE FISHING DERBY! *We have plenty of ICE!***

*This is a can't miss event! And maybe our best club event for ALL our membership!*

**FREE ENTRY!!!**

***Free coffee, beverages and food, Trophies, Medals, Awards***

**No Equipment Necessary!!!**

**Bring the kids, grand-kids, wives, grand-parents, and dogs!**

*(I'd tell you to bring the family gerbil too, but we might use him for bait!)*

**Time: Dawn until noon**

**Where: Long Pond in Rutland**

*Don't worry, you'll be home in plenty of time for the kickoff!*

Stop by for a bit or stay the whole morning. Look for John Meyer! He's the guy in the fur hat.

Don't worry. It's just a hat and he doesn't bite. The hat, I mean... Come see what fish are biting!

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**January Monthly Meeting, January 10, 2020**

After a splendid dinner served by Sam Ganeson and his wife, Robin, our monthly club meeting was begun...

If you missed dinner, you missed a delicious one! Thank you, Sam and Robin!

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From here on I will combine the information from our monthly club meeting with the Eboard one from this past week on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Maryanne was absent and Cindy was late so the newsletter will serve as minutes for the meeting and the treasurer's report will be omitted.

To everyone, please send me any outdoor stories that 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 10, 2019**. 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 - 8:30ish. It is usually an early night unless someone gets long-winded...

## **Communications**

The Sportsmen's Alliance of Maine sent us a letter with a heavy dose of state politics of Maine that served as a fund-raising request. We also received a notice for the Worcester County League of Sportsmen touting the new Calendar of Events. Here's the link so check it out.

<http://www.wclsc.org/events.html>

## **Speakers**

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

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

**“Make sure ice is safe. Refer to Mass Wildlife for Guidelines.”**

*Here's the link:*

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/ice-strength-and-safety>

## **Archery**

**IBO Shoot:** May 2-3

Volunteers please contact Jason VanHillow.

Routine maintenance and expenses for awards were recorded.

## **Bar**

No report.

## **Birds**

Kevin happily reports that “Birds” are finished for the season. All the regular Saturday hunts went well and the special bird hunts too. He reports that the harvest yielded about 50% of the stocked pheasants. That is pretty typical for released game. The rest either escaped and are looking to survive the winter. Most likely the biggest number, served as a meal for one of our many predators be they on land or air. The coyotes and foxes along with others all get their share. The hawks and other birds of prey take a number as well. Over the years, I have heard of some that frequent a neighboring bird feeder and making it through until spring. Those are rare occurrences much to the dismay of bird-feeding humans. Hawks and such keep an eye out on feeders as they supply “easy pickin’s” to help their own kind get through the harsh winter. The balance that nature seeks to maintain is never-ending.

## **Finance**

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

## **Game Dinner**

Chris Craigue has volunteered to serve as coordinator for our game dinner. His aim is to somewhat reshape and redefine what our game dinner will be. Over the years our event has become so intimidating to our members that no one wanted to take it on. In past years, Bruce Ebbeson and his assistants have served up to 8-10 main game courses and an equal number of appetizers! Thank you to all! They were delicious!

The great Ralph Waldo Emerson opined, “Simplify, simplify, simplify...” His advice is well intended and taken.

Chris plans to serve appetizers, a variety, and fewer main courses plus dessert. He will need volunteer cooks to help prepare different dishes.

**Volunteers:** *Contact Chris Craigie with dishes you can prepare so he can plan the menu. He will also need volunteers to serve and clean up.*

Many thanks to Chris for offering to take on the restructuring of a great event. He will need volunteers so please contact Chris with dishes that can be cooked at home and reheated on the night of the event. I am sure many of our members have some great recipes that we would all love to sample.

**Date for the dinner: April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Grant Writer: We need a volunteer for chairperson!**

Tina Gianos is stepping away as our grant writer. We are looking for a member to take on this task. Tina has everything in place to make this a pretty straightforward process. She is happy to show our new grant writer the ropes!

### **Grounds**

Rick Longbottom has been plowing. It was decided to include an estimate to be added to our snow removal contract for clean-up after plowing. Volunteers for shoveling have been rather scarce. Thanks to those who have given their time and effort to keep our club accessible and safe throughout the winter.

Grounds chair, Neal Whitehead, is seeking new committee members and help. Contact him if you are interested.

**Spring Clean-up: Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.**

An FYI for everybody, the AFC Championship was watched on our television with plenty of food and drink. The refreshments didn't entice any shoveling volunteers. The burgers and wings were great!

### **House**

Ralph reports that licenses are in from the town.

He also brought up that with Archery downstairs, the bulkhead needs to be open and shoveled out and off. It must be available as an emergency egress when any group is using our downstairs. It would be very difficult to open for some people in the event of a fire, not to mention if there was a foot or more of heavy snow on top of the doors! Fire Codes are VERY important! A new Standing Rule was discussed. Do not use under the stairs for storage. The old freezer needs to be cut up. Some lighting needs upgrades.

### **Kitchen**

Bruce did an informal inventory of supplies. Dave Oriol has a new part for the dishwasher. Thumbs up to Isaac on the kitchen portion of his orientation of new members.

### **Scheduled Cooks**

February is set with Chris Craigie. March is Bruce Ebbeson, April is Christine. May, Eric Twickler, June and July are open, with Bruce again in August.

Many thanks to these folks for volunteering to serve as cooks. **Please remember they can use HELP!** Contact them for times if you can come help prep before or during the meal. **Clean-up help is even more appreciated.**

**Most times people have already been at the club for extra hours. Clean-up is the last thing they want to do. If you have 30 minutes or so after dinner, come into the kitchen.** Someone will show you the routine for

washing dishes, the tables, and the floor. Many hands make light work and it is much appreciated! In most cases you only miss a little info from the general meeting. And not listening can be a bonus for your digestion! Thanks to all!

## **Land Use**

A discussion on planting the 4-stone wall site past the rifle range was briefly discussed. Chris is hoping for that area to be cleaned and begin a small orchard with full-sized apple trees to serve us and the wildlife that may partake. It would be nice to have a new area referred to as “the Orchard.”

## **Membership**

For January, we had two new members. They are Jeffrey Greiman of Boylston and Jeff Hatin of Rutland. For February, we also have Robert Leveille from Berlin, Laurie Asiante of Holden, Peter Goyette of Jefferson, and Shamus O’Day of Berlin.

### **Announcement:**

**Any members who have not paid dues for 2020, please do so ASAP!**

## **Photography**

The Trail Camera Photo Contest is up in our hallway gallery. Take a look!

## **Records**

**Remember!** We are seeking a fireproof safe to protect all our written records. It must be at least gun safe quality. Keep your eyes and ears working.

## **Business**

We are due for the office clean-up. Date is forthcoming. Scholarships can now be submitted online.

## **Historical**

A fireproof safe is requested.

**Revenue: We need a new Chairperson!** This is a good gig because if you hold one successful fund raiser you’ll be hero! We don’t have any scheduled, so the calendar is open for your ideas. It’s also a great opportunity to contribute to the club and meet your 8-hour commitment requirement.

## **Rifle Range**

The 25-yard berm has been rebuilt. Thank you, Kevin! The range is in good shape. Upon completion of our renovations a regrade of the parking lot and such will be needed for drainage issues. Right now, as the snow melts it can be a little soggy and muddy.

## **Standing Committees**

### **Scholarship**

Scholarship applications can now be submitted online.

**Standing Rules**, No report

**Summer Function**, No report

## **Board of Trustees**

The audit schedule is partially set. Completion date is March 31<sup>st</sup>. Trap and Membership are postponed to a later date.

## **Trap/Skeet**

Trap and Skeet is going well. It will continue going well as long as we can keep "Smokin' Joe" from lighting up. He tends to set off smoke detectors. Remember, Trap and Skeet is every Thursday afternoon/evening. It is open to the public, so bring a friend and join in a night of good fellowship and shooting.

## **Worcester County League of Sportsmen**

At the January club meeting, Joe Afonso summarized the following issues: cell tower, the Sportsmen's Show, and the Gun Show in Marlboro. Please check the League's website for all and other updates regularly. Put it in your "Favorites" or on your homepage.

Here is the link: <http://www.wclsc.org/>

At the January Eboard meeting, Joe announced that Townshend Rod & Gun rejoined along with the Beagle Club from Douglas. He also noted the new calendar mentioned in Communications, that was added on the website for all clubs' events. I'll repeat the link: <http://www.wclsc.org/events.html>

**Important Dates:** Kids' Day construction prep will be on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Lobby day will be in early March. The Crossbow bill is on the agenda.

## **New Business**

See Kevin Chviruk for information on our second "Cigar Night." **Date is April 11<sup>th</sup>!**

The Watannic Bowmen's Club clubhouse was destroyed by fire. A discussion was had to donate \$500 to help in rebuilding. So moved, seconded and passed. We have had some experience in such matters.

Joe Afonso brought up the need for \$325 for Kids' Day. So moved, seconded, and passed.

## **Important Dates:**

**Hunter Education** (*Register online with the state.*) *It will be at Nimrod.*

March 16<sup>th</sup> 6 PM-8:45 PM, March 18<sup>th</sup> 6PM-8:45 PM, March 21<sup>st</sup> 8 AM-4 PM, March 23<sup>rd</sup> 6PM-8:45PM

## **Women on Target**

May 17, 2020

## **Old and Unfinished**

We discussed coyotes and whether they are still viable fur bearers. This had to do with new regulations coming out.

## **Executive Board**

This month's meeting adjourned at 9:12 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 club 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.

## **Good and Welfare**

Josh Watkins wife had a baby girl, Gabriella! Congratulations!

*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.*