

Monthly Meeting

As many of our members embark on a variety of fishing adventures, the words of Henry David Thoreau come to mind:

“Many men go fishing all of their lives not knowing that it is not the fish they are after.”

_____ **Henry David Thoreau**

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 June 13, 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...

Maryanne Lane started the Board meeting off with her usual thorough Secretary's Report. Treasurer Cindy Smith kept us current on our latest expenditures. We received *8 Point Sportsmen's Club's* latest newsletter, Massachusetts Sportsman's Council April and May 2017 edition, as well as WCLS version.

Speakers

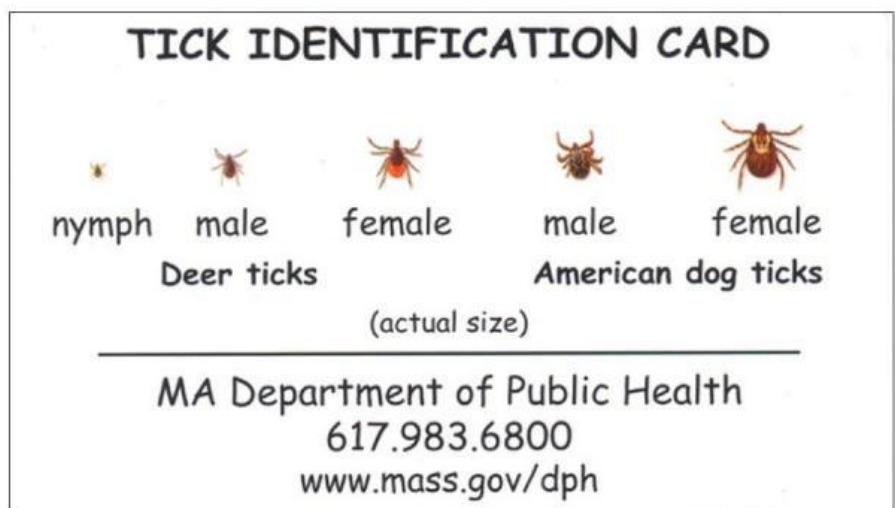
Please let us know if you have a suggestion for a speaker at a future meeting.

Monthly Safety Tip and Topic for Discussion

“Watch out for ticks!”

Here's a link to a helpful card on the Mass.gov website:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/images/dph/cdc/tick-id-card.jpg>



And while we're on the subject. We're taking recommendations for preventative measures and practices for our dogs and us. Be extra aware on warm days. Use Deet and other repellents. Follow all instructions and warning labels. AND do a tick check when you come out of the woods or field. Be aware there is a new virus that has been diagnosed this year. Lyme isn't the only one!

If you have any tips or suggestions in the battle against these little critters, including dealing with them on our own person, please send them in! Email: eralic23@gmail.com

New Business

The Board discussed the possibility of a plant sale. Timing and scheduling seems to be an issue. Our gas grill is getting old and the options of rebuilding versus a new one was discussed. A Weber 4 or 6 burner grill is \$800.00 to \$1000.00. No decision yet, as pricing for rebuilding will be researched. A request for 6 steam pans was discussed. At this year's game dinner, we held meals in the oven rather than steam pans and that affected the quality of the food. Steam set-ups are \$35.00 apiece. No decision has yet been made. The dishwasher needs maintenance. The water temperature is not up to standards on the rinse cycle. This will be taken care of as soon as possible.

Membership

We had 3 applications this month. All will be voted on at our next general meeting. They are Robert Chamberlain from Jefferson, Linda Brewer of Rutland, and Connor Grady of Hubbardston. To all of our 3 new prospective members, please join us on our next general monthly meeting, June 13 when we welcome you to our club.

Board of Trustees

More information will be forthcoming.

Trap/Skeet

We're hoping for a good night of weather! It has been rainy and that has certainly put a damper on Thursday nights. We'll see if our luck changes this week?

Remember, Trap and Skeet is every Thursday night from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. It's open to the public, so bring a friend and join in a night of good fellowship and shooting.

Kitchen

The kitchen has been kept clean by users during a very busy schedule of events including the IBO Tournament and our Game Dinner. Thanks to our member volunteers for doing such an excellent job.

Game Dinner

Our May 20 Game Dinner was sold out and enjoyed by our members and guests. Several new items were big hits and we will serve them again at future dinners if we receive as many generous donations as we did for this dinner. However, our freezers are empty now. Striped bass have started to run and we can start filling our larder anytime. Please leave donations in the kitchen freezer and notify Bruce Ebbeson at 508-853-1589. We also need any road kill deer, bear and moose. EJ (Eric Johansen), is our Road-Kill Chairman, you may call him at 508-829-6380, or more likely he may be recruiting you to help "pick up" an animal.

We are still looking for someone to cook at our July General Meeting???

Game Dinner Raffle Winners!

First Prize went to Michael Peters! Alberto Santos took second prize, and Bob Davis was our third prize winner. Congratulations to all!

Rifle Range

Thanks to many who have helped at our two work parties. Both parties, including this past Thursday night were well-attended. Thank you, volunteers! All the old cardboard has been removed and the new 30" X 30" cardboard is in place. Thanks also to the members respecting the area and being diligent about leaving the range better than when they arrived. People are cleaning up and properly using the shotgun area to the left. Many members have commented positively on the work that has been completed and how much improved the range has been looking! Kudos to all!

House

Camera system will be checked and corrected if the camera position needs adjusting. Follow-up news will be coming.

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 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)

We have just one application from Jacob Van Hillo.

Grounds

Our May 21st clean-up day went very well. A new picnic table was built, mulch was spread, brush was cut, maintenance on machinery, and a general sprucing up was the order of the day. We removed some scrap lumber from the rifle range. The club really needs to find a better place to store extra lumber. Many thanks to the volunteers! On that subject, most of the people who showed up were either E Board members or members of their families. It is imperative that we get more of our membership involved in helping the various committees through volunteering. The general feeling is that there are just a few members who are always doing all the work. Please understand that this is not by choice! The committee chair people would love to have extra help join in their various projects. Even better, particularly for Grounds, would be for someone to help on a regular basis. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

We have also been informed that we need to find another option for our trash. We have been under a residential account. We generate far beyond the amount allowable for a residential account and Waste Management has notified us of our change in status. We have been getting a break on price for quite a while. We can get a 6-yard dumpster that will hold the equivalent of 6 barrels for approximately \$184.00 per month. We do have a line item in the budget for a dumpster. A motion was made and seconded to get the dumpster. Discussion followed regarding a location for the dumpster. Concerns about wires interfering with the collection process, having it within purview of the camera system, and not making it convenient for someone from outside the club to take advantage of it were all discussed. We will be able to lock it and Waste Management would have a key. A vote was taken and the issue passed unanimously. The hope is it will arrive by Tuesday, June 6, 2017.

Finance

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

Bar

Thanks to all who helped cover for the Game Dinner. One issue was raised in that we were short on cold water at the dinner. Plenty of water had been put in the cooler, but it was determined that a portion of it was used prior, due to a miscommunication of its intended use.

Birds

No report.

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. Please contact Ralph Cochran or Greg McIntyre for tickets. 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. Good luck! Sell those tickets!

Archery

The IBO shoot was a rousing success! We had 156 shooters which resulted in a net of \$4,300.00 for the club. Great job Tina and all her help! This was followed this past Sunday, June 5, with the Safari League Shoot. We also have another event coming up called a Trail Shoot. This one is scheduled for July 15, 2017 and there is a pre-registration. It will be a known yardage shoot. Please contact Tina or Jason for more information. Please remember that the 3D League is ongoing. It is every Monday at 6 PM and runs for 3 more weeks. Many thanks to Richard Schmidt and Mark Blanchard for repairs, new signs and maps of our Field Archery course. Archery extends out its greatest appreciation to all of those who have volunteered, as that has made this busy time run so smoothly!

The current plan is to continue with having 3 major shoots this year, like what we have done now for the past several years which require the Rifle Range to be closed.

In addition, the Archery co-chairs are working with a club member who is a Level 2 coach and teaches lessons with the S3DA Organization. Potentially, there could be instruction for a nominal fee for our membership. The Board and the Committee are also considering the feasibility of two other activities. One is a weeklong Summer Camp this summer, and also, the

member coach would like to make it possible for the Boy Scouts to use our range to earn merit badges.

Worcester County League of Sportsmen

Joe Afonso handed out brochures on The Outdoor Heritage Act. There are many parts of the bill that are pertinent to all who enjoy the outdoors, hunting and fishing. Senator Anne Gobi, the bill's sponsor spoke informatively at the WCLS meeting.

The Young Guns Tournament is moving forward. 9 clubs have agreed to hold qualifying rounds and scheduling is forthcoming. Gift cards for prizes have been acquired and advertising is already taking place. The league's last meeting will be at the Fox and Coon Club next month. Our League president will be chairing an NRA Youth Shoot. This shoot will include 2 active events and 2 educational courses. September is being considered for scheduling. Westminster has made positive progress with their issue and the town. Royalston received a grant from the NRA. Raffle tickets are on sale to help pay for the 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!

Good and Welfare

Our deepest condolences to Gary Girardi and his family for the passing of his father, Francis Girardi. We will make a donation to Veterans Inc. in his name.

Member Josh Watkins and his wife are expecting. Congratulations and best wishes!

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.