

The Nimrod League Newsletter

March, 2019

Monthly Meeting

Ah, it's March and when we get a snowstorm while we're waiting for winter's end, I often fondly remember a scene from the film, *Jeremiah Johnson*. Jeremiah, the famous mountain man, played by Robert Redford shares a meal with an old friend and mentor, Bearclaw Chris Lapp, played by the late Will Geer. In conversation, Johnson asks if Bearclaw knows what month it is? Bearclaw in classic mountain man dialect answers:

"March maybe. I don't believe April. Winter's a long time going, huh?"

"Stays long this high. March is a green, muddy month down below. Some folks like it. Farmers mostly. You've done well to keep so much hair when so many's after it. I hope you will fare well."

It is a cinema classic if you haven't seen it. I know it's available on Netflix, Amazon and the like. Highly recommended!

Chris Craig was working, therefore vice president, Kevin Chviruk, presided over the Eboard meeting this month. As is typical, Maryanne Lane and Cindy Smith gave the secretary's and the treasurer's reports respectively. All was in order. Incidentally, the meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM. Nice job, Kevin! Very efficient!

We have another story from Ken Baer this month. He tells of his and his family's latest deer season. We all try to pass on our legacy of enjoying the outdoors to the next generation. Ken has a story of success in that regard to share. It is included under Good and Welfare at the end of the newsletter. Enjoy!

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

Monthly Meetings are always the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Clubhouse – **Next Meeting: March 12, 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...

General Announcement:

The February general meeting will be the third and final vote on a change to our bylaws. Please attend if you can, thanks.

Communications

We received the 8-Point Sportsmen's Club newsletter, one from the Massachusetts Sportsmen's Council and the Sportsmen's Alliance of Maine. And finally, we also received, a nice thank you note from the Ingemi family, Matt, Jen, and Nicholas.

Speakers

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

Monthly Safety Tip and Topic for Discussion:

“Don't slip on the ice!”

With all the temperature changes this time of year it can be slippery. Be careful!

Ice Fishing Derby

The Derby was well attended, and a good time was had by all. Thanks to all who helped make the day a success. Linda has pictures! And the Patriots won AGAIN!!! It is their 6th title in the Brady/Belichick era.

New Business

EJ proposed a first annual Steak and Cigar Smoker Night on April 13th. He will try to secure Zack from the Owl Shop. This could be a very popular and well-attended event!

Summer Function

The Summer Function date will be reset due to a conflicting event.

Old and Unfinished:

Cindy quoted \$408.00 for 4 dozen plates and 4 dozen bowls. There was some discussion regarding storage and number to purchase. We have room and it was decided to get an extra dozen of each in case of breakage and such. Motion passed to spend \$500.00 for 5 dozen plates and bowls. Cindy will make the purchase. She'll have to see the treasurer regarding reimbursement.

Conservation Camp

No report.

Scholarship

Roy Baer was out due to surgery. Applications are out and due on April 15, 2019.

Membership

We have Game Dinner Tickets available. See Paul Fraser for tickets.

Board of Trustees

No Report

Trap/Skeet

Remember, Trap and Skeet is every Thursday afternoon/night (afternoon until the daylight hours get longer). It is open to the public, so bring a friend and join in a night of good fellowship and shooting.

Important Date: **May 5, 2019 Ham Shoot**

We are looking for someone to run the kitchen for this event???

Kitchen

No report.

Gas valve will be replaced with an automatic valve. Instructions are forthcoming.

Game Dinner

Our 2019 Game Dinner will be held on Saturday April 6, 2019. Ticket sales are slow. We could still use more deer and moose meat. **WE NEED RAFFLE DONATIONS!** Gift cards, bottles, guns, any and all items. Think an upscale yard sale! We will do all legal transfers on firearms and ammunition. Plants, fishing rods, or re-gift a thoughtful but unused Christmas gift. 100% of proceeds go to our club! Be a supporter! Contact EJ with your loot!

As usual, apps, chowder and chili at 5 PM and entrees at 6PM. Come hungry and bring zip locs for take-home.

See Paul Frasier for tickets.

This is Bruce Ebbeson's last year as Head Cook. We need a replacement for 2020.

Please contact Paul Frasier to volunteer. He or she can work with Bruce at this year's dinner.

Bruce will insure that the turnover is an easy one and will continue working at future Game Dinners.

Rifle Range

Ed Reitz had an estimated cost of \$1,060.00 for cameras and extended battery service in a surveillance package. A motion passed to appropriate \$1200.00 passed. Renovations for the range will continue, weather permitting. Rifle Range event dates were discussed, and Range closure dates were as well due to archery events. Specifics are forthcoming.

2019 Rifle and Pistol Matches

Based upon feedback from members, here are the proposed matches for 2019:

- **22 Rimfire Benchrest-** iron sights at 25 yards, optics at 50 yards. Target will be NRA A17 Smallbore.

- **Black powder Rifle and Slug Gun**- iron sights 50 yards, optics at 100 yards. Target to be determined but leaning to a fun "know your limits" or hunting oriented target. This will be timed in early fall to facilitate sighting in for our hunters.
- **Pistol** - any caliber, iron sights and optics/open classes. Target TBD, but I'd like to organize something fun given our paper target restriction.
- **Centerfire Benchrest**- hunter barrel, heavy barrel, and now adding precision pistol class. Rifles shoot for smallest 5-shot group at 100 yards, pistols at 50 yards. Anyone have a Thompson Contender, XP100, or long barrel scoped revolver?

Dates and details TBD, but the plan is to schedule these on Saturday mornings.

House

No report. Waiting on Wi-Fi installation from the town.

Executive Board

This month's meeting adjourned at 8:54 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.

Grounds

Neal reports that we have a new flag that will go up as soon as the weather warms up.

Another reminder: Use your gate key to unlock dumpster door. Don't force!

We have a new chain saw locked up in the tool crib. We lost some shingles off the pavilion during the last wind storm. Kevin recruited someone to pick up the fork lift. Motion to have it taken away passed. Wood chips are coming to fill in low spots on the skidder trail.

Open Invitation:

Please remember that volunteers are needed to help with clean-up after a snowstorm. The walk-behind snow blower and the plowing still leave our grounds with plenty of shovel work. There are always stairs, doors and the like that need some light attention. Please no need to call or wait for a call, just show up the day after a storm, bring a shovel, or use our equipment, and pitch in!

Land Use

Kevin has a source for mulch at no cost. We will use it in the low areas, the “mud hole,” on the skidder trail. The tractor will be used to spread it as needed. Good hit, Kevin.

Finance

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

Bar

Gary reports there was some activity during the holidays. \$1,000.00 went back to the club today.

Birds

No report.

Revenue

No report.

Archery

Jason reports things are a little slow as we are in between seasons.

Worcester County League of Sportsmen

Joe Afonso thanks all who moved lumber and cut it up for Kid’s Day. At least 7 clubs had members who volunteered. We have pine cone bird treats, planters, pollinator seeds, and turkey calls for our youngsters. All for about \$4.00 per child. The event will end with our club’s day. Nimrod gave a check to Joe for 2 tables at the banquet. There will be some good raffles. The Mass Conservation Alliance will vote to have WCLS join them. WCLS is lobbying on behalf of some turkey legislation. **Kid’s Day** at Nimrod will be **March 31, 2019** with a \$400.00 budget.

Business Records:

When committee chairs are ready with information, please schedule a meeting with Linda to learn how to upload to the Cloud.

Historical:

No report.

Photography

Check out our gallery and Facebook page. Next up is a photo presentation of committee work.

Grant Writer

We are applying for 3 different grants.

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 too. Time can be a factor. She needs at least 3 months to complete the application process. Thanks!

Good and Welfare

Don French, Sr. was at the Eboard meeting. He looks well! Welcome back, Don!

Roy Baer had surgery. The club will send a card.

Life NIMROD member Fred Milton passed away on Thursday, February 28th. Fred was an outdoorsman and good friend. I trained 4 retrievers on his property in West Boylston. He was hard-working, generous and always had a hearty greeting and was pleased to have a chat with you about hunting, fishing, shooting, history, or just about any topic. We clinked glasses on many occasions. He will be missed.

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.

Here is the latest literary effort from Ken Baer. Thanks, Ken! Great job!

Putting the Time in, Is it Worth It?

How long does it take for your investment to pay off? About 22 years ago close friends and family started having kids. At that time, I made a promise to myself that I would spend as much time as I could with these young boys showing them what I could about the outdoors. We started camping with them when they were still infants and the experiences took off from there. As they got older we would expose them to more and more outdoor adventures.

We have taken them all over New England for fishing and hunting trips. A partridge hunt in the North Maine Woods at Baker Lake, trolling for salmon on Fish River Lake, a deer hunt in Vermont on the Canadian border, muzzle loader season in Massachusetts and countless other trips. I have often wondered if the time we spent with them would make a difference. This year told the story.

Dakota Holmes, who just finished his duty with the U.S. Marine Corp, and Cooper Holmes, brothers and my godsons, hailing from Ellsworth, Maine, took the November rifle season off and hunted every day. This was the first time they hunted without the guidance of their father or me and the first time the brothers had hunted together in 4 years. It took to the end of the season, lots of early mornings and late days, and a little snow cover for Dakota and Cooper to track one down but in the end they took a nice 8 pointer in Surry, Maine on November 16th. It was the boys', young men now, first deer by themselves



Cooper did a great job tracking this Maine buck down.

Then there is my nephew Nathan, he lives in Scarborough, Maine and is a freshman in college. He pays his way by clamming and lobstering. He is an avid outdoorsman. He took his first deer a few years back during the Maine youth day and hasn't stopped. He snuck away from his business for a few days but did not have a chance at one during the southern shotgun season, so he tried his luck during muzzle loader and came up with a nice 6 pointer in Scarborough. After Christmas Nathan decided he had not had enough and came south to hunt with the rest of the crew. He was out with his grandfather, Gary Bowman of Westborough, MA, and scored again with a respectable 8 pointer.



On the left is Nathan with his Maine buck and on the right is him again with his Mass buck. Both taken with his muzzle loader.

Not to be outdone they all showed up at the house for a couple of days to help me find one. We were hunting in the rain when Cooper and I met up behind a beaver dam swamp and we were waiting for Dakota to show up. Cooper and I were casually talking to each other when I see his eyes open wide and he says, "Here come some deer." I turned to see 4 large does making their way around the swamp. When one stepped into the opening and stopped, my muzzle loader belched a cloud of smoke and the doe fell.



Cooper, Dakota and I with a nice “smoke pole” doe.

The whole family helped make these young men the hunters they have become. They hunt hard and are willing to put in the time to be successful. It is commendable to them, in today’s world of instant gratification, that they have the patience to do what it takes to harvest a deer.

To pass on the legacy, get them while they are young; expose them to the outdoors and, over time, that investment will pay off. Take a kid hunting.