

**Monthly Meeting**

First, my apologies to everyone for the lateness of this month's newsletter. My mother passed away in Utah. The travel and arrangements were extensive and I was unavailable. The good news... Here is the Newsletter!

**Special Event this Saturday, May 20, 2017, Our GAME DINNER!!!**

First Course served at 5:00 PM! Main Courses and we emphasize the plural will be served at 6:00 PM. The menu is extensive so don't miss it! There may be a few tickets left. We are still looking for **DONATIONS** for the **YANKEE SWAP!** The Bar will be open!

Please enjoy another story from member Ken Baer on spring turkey hunting.

***A turkey hunt, 85 years in the making.***

Ed was excited about the hunt. He has hunted deer all his life but never a turkey. We had been scouting turkey since February and saw plenty of the birds in our North Central Massachusetts area. Thanks to the efforts of the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife we are able to hunt this, once extinct from Massachusetts, game species. According to the MDFW website, starting in 1972 in cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Division live trapped 37 wild New York turkeys and released them in the Berkshires. By 1978 the birds had established themselves and the Division was able to trap 561 native Massachusetts turkeys from 1979 to 1996 and release those birds across the state. The state flock grew and is now a sustainable population that sportsmen are able to hunt again. Wildlife biologists know what they're doing.

This hunt was 85 years in the making for Ed Berube. I explained to him that we would drive around the Friday night before, at dusk, and locate some roosting toms. Then, be in the woods before dawn, set up and call the birds in. We found plenty of turkeys Friday evening. The best chance would be on some new Fish and Wildlife land near our homes. There is a good cart road that is easy walking and it has stone walls on either side that would give us decent concealment.

Ed showed up at my house at, "Oh my god, it's early," in the morning. We jumped in the truck and drove to the spot we picked the night before. When we got out of the truck in the dark, I hit the box call and immediately three toms answered back. We moved down the road

and found a good spot to hide. We sat for a while before I hit the call again. Waiting for shooting light, Ed and I listened to the forest wake up as the sky changed from darkness to dawn. I love that time in the morning. The songbirds were talking throughout the forest. We could hear several male partridge drumming some logs and the woods began to lighten. The time was right so I hit the box call. Nothing!?!? I called for about a half hour and nothing answered. I went to collect Ed and told him we needed to move.

We walked to the top of a hill and I struck the box, a gobble was heard from somewhere below in the alder swamp we were overlooking. I rubbed the box to see where the turkey was. The tom quickly closed the distance and was right on top of us. The gobble was no longer a distant commotion. It was happening just yards in front us! Hurriedly, I told Ed to hide behind some low spruce trees and I would set up behind him. "Why?" Ed asks. " Because the turkey is coming," I replied.

"How do you know?" Ed asked.

"On account he's getting closer. Get behind that clump of trees, now!" I quietly demanded. The area above the swamp is low softwoods with big oaks mixed in. Once we got settled in I rubbed the call another time. The turkey continued to answer with a vengeance. I clucked and yelped, the bird kept moving closer. The tom was right in front of us, close enough so that when I called and bird answered, I jumped; yet I still hadn't seen him. I glanced over at Ed and I saw him slowly swinging his gun towards something. I gave a cluck, the tom gobbled and Ed's twelve gauge barked.

There was a fury of feathers and squawks. The tom recovered from the blast and came running towards me, trying to gain altitude without success. Ed walked over to me and said, "Now that's as good as deer hunting. Go find my bird."

I swept through the forest and found the tom laid out along a stone wall, not far from where we sat. I picked it up and brought it back to Ed. With a satisfying grin that pleased me as well, Ed said, "What ya got there?"

Thanks to the efforts of Mass Division of Fish and Wildlife, I delivered 85-year-old Ed Berube's first wild turkey to him, twenty-one pounds with a nine-inch beard. A success for all involved.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Ken Baer**

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 April 11, 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**

#### **“Watch out for ticks!”**

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](mailto:eralic23@gmail.com)

### **New Business**

Treasurer Cindy Smith kept us current on our latest expenditures. We received *8 Point Sportsmen's Club's* latest newsletter and a thank you note from the Johansen family for our donation in Bill Johansen's memory to Immanuel Lutheran Church. Maryanne Lane raised the idea of a plant sale as well as having our very own “pumpkin patch” on the property. It would be relatively low maintenance and we could have a pumpkin sale this fall.

### **Membership**

We had 3 applications this month. All were voted in. They are Keegan Mitchell, Kevin Werme, and Rob Gorton. Welcome gentlemen! Galen Miller was granted a Senior Membership as well.

### **Board of Trustees**

Bar and investments audit is complete. They are working on the trap and membership portion. Audits take time. More information to come.

### **Trap/Skeet**

Thank you to the many members who assisted at this month's Trap Ham Shoot. Special shout-outs to: the Kitchen: Phil Goodman, Ralph Cochran, Dave Fillow, House with Bob Averdisian and Mark Fraser, Shoot Outside: Carlo Cappuccio, Dave Wilson, Steve Gogos, and Neil Hassett, Shoot Inside: Paul Frasier and Ron Lesniak. Our net income was \$866.00. Great job!

## **Kitchen**

Kitchen clean-up went well. Many thanks to all who helped. The next one will be in mid-September. Volunteers as chefs for upcoming meetings are June; Joe Afonso, July; still looking for someone, August; Ken Worney and his wife, Diahann, September; Ed Mathews, October; Bruce Ebbeson.

## **Game Dinner! This Saturday, May 20, 2017**

### **Rifle Range**

Renovations continue at the Range. Tom Wiegand reports the 25 and 50 yard berms have been rebuilt and target holders set out at 25' and 50' for the pistol range. Please do not move these. Nor should they have bullet holes in them. Do NOT set targets, plinking objects and such, on these holders (ground rails). They are supposed to last! Use upright targets only, please. New benches are being stained and prepped for installation. Remember to pick up all shell casings.

### **House**

Camera system is in at the barn. It covers the gate, outside and inside the barn, and the road to the range. Well done, Ralph and those who helped! Thank you!

### **Executive Board**

This month's meeting adjourned at 9:20 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.

### **Special Committee (Scholarship)**

Applications are available.

### **Grounds**

We had an issue with the compressor and ended up purchasing a new hose to solve that problem. We also picked up a bench grinder to maintain the mowing blades. Doing that ourselves will save money in the future. We may need to replace some picnic tables. More news to come.

## **April 21 Clean-Up is scheduled. 9:00 AM start time.**

Volunteers welcome! Garden beds, downed limbs and old wood, and mowing will all need to be done. Our grounds always look good. Please volunteer if you can. The work doesn't get done by itself.

### **Finance**

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

## **Bar**

Thanks to Eric, Barbara, and Bob for filling in as bartenders. Proceeds from their efforts amounted to \$1000.00.

## **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 this past weekend. We'll get a report from Tina for next month's newsletter. Sponsors were Polar Beverages, Brainart Targets, Leroux Meats, Mapleleaf Targets, and Oncor.

Jason Vanhillo has volunteered to be co-chair. Thank you, Jason. We have added another event on July 15, 2017, more news to come. We have 11 new bows in the basement. We need arrows. Donations are being accepted.

## **Worcester County League of Sportsmen**

At the Executive Board meeting, the Westminster situation was discussed. Many topics were raised including increase use, noise, and roads. The Youth Gun Trap Shoot was discussed also. The cost to Our Club will just be for the clay targets. The date, August 13, 2017 is being considered for the finals competition. Nimrod voted to host the finals.

## **Good and Welfare**

Josh Watkins, one of our members, and his wife have a new baby! Congratulations!

Chris Erali's mother passed away in Utah.

Reports are Don Doherty is doing better after his encounter with a tree. Way to go, Don!

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.