

Monthly Meeting

With fishing season now in full swing, we open this month's newsletter with another story from our resident Alaskan Nimrodder, Jim Crystoff. He has fond memories of fishing with his grandfather on the Quinapoxet River when Jim was just 6 years old. Enjoy the tone and the homespun flavor of the language as Jim regales us with some of Grampa's old wisdom from a day afield back in 1970.

Fishing with Grampa

My grandfather was born in 1888 in Lithuania, he left right before World War I and came here because he thought it would be bad in Lithuania. It was. His ways were those of a man who survived 2 world wars and the Great Depression and did fairly well doing so. He had known and lived in what we now call, "hard times."

This made him a lot of fun to go fishing with. To a six-year old kid like me, the fishing part was all that mattered. Grampa rescued me from church one summer Sunday and announced that we were going fishing. He drove an old Chevy Nova (that I wish I had today), that did double duty as a truck and off-road vehicle. We headed down to where Trout Brook runs into the Quinapoxet River. On the way we found a woodchuck roadkill that seemed to really make Gramps happy. It went in the trunk until lunch. There was a gate on the road down to the joining of Trout Brook and the Quinny, but that didn't stop Gramps. We drove the Nova up the drainage ditch, over a banking and into the woods to a tote road he knew. Then we drove right to the river. Gramps had worked on the Quabbin aqueduct in the 1930s, one of the access shafts to the aqueduct is right there, so he knew his way around pretty good.

We fished around the old lineman's crossing pool and didn't catch any fish. Gramps showed me the huge button pile from the waste wool mill that used to be right there. He remembered bringing wool rags there to be made into felt. That button pile was left over from grinding up the rags. We spent a couple hours piling up every kind of button you could imagine. We even found an old Native American head penny. Gramps went to relieve himself and unfortunately his wedding tackle contacted some stinging nettle so we retreated to his house for some liniment and lunch.

After lunch we skun the woodchuck, stretching the hide on a bundle of twigs, and put the carcass in the car for some reason that I couldn't figure out. We drove over to the Wagner place on Elmwood Avenue, the upper Quinny ran behind there. Gramps had a fishing hole down in the alders. For those of you who don't remember alders on rivers, we had more alders on riverbanks back when we could trap beavers. Beavers eat alders. We headed down to the brook, with Gramps carrying the woodchuck carcass in a paper bag. Drifting small worms into the alder hole got us a couple six-inch brookies... not too bad. The water was low

though, and the rest of the fish spooked to sulk in the recesses of the alders. Next thing I knew Gramps was wading right into the brook and hanging the woodchuck carcass in the alders right above the middle of the brook. He announced that we would return next Saturday and didn't say anything else about it. I shrugged and said, "Okay." ...The ways of adults are mysterious to a six-year old...

Sure enough, next Saturday found us back at the alder hole looking at a woodchuck-shaped mass of maggots hanging over the brook. They were falling into the water and I bet every trout in Jefferson was there to eat them. We drifted little fish worms down in there, caught six nice brookies, and left the rest to enjoy their feast.

Gramps never went to academic school as far as we could tell, but he sure was smart.

_____ Jim Crystoff

Thanks for the story, Jim! Isn't ironic that your buddy, EJ is our "Roadkill Chairman"! We'll enjoy some moose and deer from the state procured by EJ at our Game Dinner this month! Our meal though, will be much better than the trout's!

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

Monthly Meetings are always the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Clubhouse – **Next Meeting: May 8, 2018**. 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...

At this month's Eboard meeting, Maryanne Lane's Secretary's report was followed by Cindy Smith's Treasury update. Both were unremarkable, and all is in order in both departments. We as usual received the 8 Point Sportsmen's Club newsletter.

Speakers

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

Monthly Safety Tip and Topic for Discussion:

"Only paper targets are allowed at the rifle range."

New Business

Spending plans for the various departments of our club will be presented again at the next Eboard meeting. EJ is still looking for donations for our Yankee Swap at the Game Dinner. Some good advice was to check out yard sales for low cost donations!!!

Old and Unfinished:

Maryanne brought up applying for a grant for a bee pollinator garden. The idea of making it part of a Memorial Garden was raised. The board had discussed this in the past as an option to give families of a deceased member. There was much discussion but to create a new hillside garden right now is too big of a job. We are focusing on more pressing Grounds projects at present.

We **NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS** to assist with maintaining our grounds.

Grounds Clean-Up Day: Saturday, May 12, 2018

Conservation Camp: Ages 13-17, early August, Mass Fish and Wildlife

"MJCC" Mass Junior Conservation Camp WCL sends 3 members.

Scholarship: We have 4 applications. Not all of them are complete, but we have 2 good candidates. We will present the names at the next general meeting.

Membership

The Board accepted the following people as candidates for membership with a vote scheduled at the next general meeting: David Parker, John Howland, Donald Bryden and Craig Jordan. To our 4 new prospective members, please join us on **our next general monthly meeting, Tuesday, May 8, 2018**, when we welcome you to our club.

Board of Trustees

No Report

Trap/Skeet

Kudos and a big thank you to Dave Fallow, Greg McIntyre, Paul Frasier, Ron Lesniak, Dave Wilson, Carlo Cappuccio, Charlie Stoneham, Neil Hassett, and Kevin Chviruk for their help in making another successful Ham Shoot this past Sunday. The club netted \$813.00. In June we will start a Trap League for the summer months. The fee will be \$30.00 and we'll have a nice dinner at the end.

The committee will need \$6,500.00-\$7,500.00 to keep our supply of targets where it needs to be. The order will most likely be for a half load.

Kitchen

The kitchen is in good shape and being kept clean. Pat Orrell reports that the meat slicer

has been repaired and cleaned. A reminder to all that this is an expensive, heavy piece of equipment. It must be cleaned in place and does not dismantle. Watch your fingers! It is VERY SHARP!

Upcoming chefs for our dinners are Pat Orrell in May, and he is looking for volunteers to help, Doug King in June, we need someone to volunteer for July, and Bruce Ebbeson in September. Regarding donations for our game dinner, if you have any game, leave it in the refrigerator and call Bruce at (508) 853-1589. He will vacuum package it for the freezer to prevent freezer burn and keep it fresh for our dinner. Thanks!

Upcoming Event: Game Dinner on May 20, 2017

Any volunteer help is welcome for this event. There will be preparation a couple of days ahead and the day of the dinner as well. Finally, following dinner we'll need a clean-up crew. Contact Bruce if you'd like to volunteer. No culinary skills required. Call Bruce if interested.

Rifle Range

Tom reports that trash is being brought in and shot up. There was a discussion of the idea of solar panels being installed to run video cameras. The issue was tabled until a future date. Tom and the committee have been gathering information for the orientation program. Good progress is being made. Again, there have been times when the range is being used without following proper protocol. **If you use the range, please put the flag up and close and lock the gate.** When you finish, **please pick up all your spent brass,** and then on your way out, **lower the flag and close and lock the gate.** Unless there is an event **the gate should be kept closed and locked at all times.**

Women on Target: May 6, 2018

Coffee and doughnuts in the morning followed by lunch at noon. Cindy has assignments for the kitchen. All volunteers should be at their posts by 1:00 PM.

House

No report.

Executive Board

This month's meeting adjourned at 9:35 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

The grounds need a sprucing up.

Work Party: Saturday, May 12, 2018

Finance

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

Bar

No report

Birds

Kevin received a check from Tina from the NRA Grant. There will be enough to cover the cost of feeding the kids and maybe purchase vests as well with "Nimrod" screened on them.

Revenue

No report.

Archery

No report.

Worcester County League of Sportsmen

Joe Afonso reports that Nimrod put on an amazing dinner for the League. The meeting was one of the most well-attended in a long time. The crowd was estimated at 60-70 people. Bill Davis spoke for his "official" last time. Hopefully, he will continue to attend as his club's delegate. The Wild Turkey Federation presented him a turkey call and a paddle signed by everyone in the League.

The Young Guns event will have nice t-shirts with club names printed on them. Raffle tickets are printed. Joe proposed a \$7,000.00 budget. We will offset the cost with donations. Sponsorship banners will be on display along with advertising. The tournament kicks off in mid-May.

There was discussion and a motion made to join the Massachusetts Conservation Alliance. This will include the remaining leagues, Whitetails Unlimited, and others. A key point was made that politicians will be invited but asked not to stump. WCL is looking to purchase 126 acres to use for dog training and timber harvest with an eventual goal to put a Conservation Restriction on it.

Grant Writer

No report.

Good and Welfare

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.