

Monthly Meeting

It's bird season and to celebrate we'll start this month's newsletter with another story from our Alaskan Nimrodder, Jim Crystoff. This one took place in 1990 when Jim built a house and moved out of Holden. Enjoy!

George The Curious Partridge

Holden finally became too prosperous for me around 1990. I decided to flee to Hubbardston. Land was cheap there and it was only about 10 miles away. By the time the house was finished I had been adopted by a curious, tail-less partridge that I called George. One of the first things George did was to kill my two apple trees. My friend Ron had just finished pulling most of the apple trees from the orchard in Hubbardston center to make way for horses. They were nice young trees, and he gave me 2 to replant. As soon as they were planted George ate all the leaves off both of them. Since I was the new guy in the woodlot George got a pass on that one. A partridge is way more fun than apple trees anyway. He acted as if he was interested in all the goings on around the home place. He supervised the whole construction of the house and barn. I felt bad for him because he had no tail, though it didn't seem to bother his flying. He followed me all around, even coming in the house if the door was left open.

Sometimes we would go on walks, I would follow him around the woods, which amounts to the same thing. One day he led me to a big sugar maple that I missed when tapping to make syrup, and I am not making that up. Several times George flew into the open window of the pickup and sat quietly on the seat as I was leaving. His rides were always short though, I would shoo him out at the end of the driveway. Drumming on his log outside the living room window or pecking on the bedroom window would usually get me outside to feed him blueberries. This bird would eat a pint of blueberries at a time if I would pick them! And he would peck my foot if I stopped feeding him too soon. Don't let a partridge peck your bare foot. It really hurts!

George met his demise one early summer day when he flew into the storm door on his way into the living room. I guess partridges don't understand windows and screen. I sure wish I had left the door open that day. I was going to eat him but couldn't bring myself to do it. I buried him under his drumming log. I sure missed that little drummer, and hope he is stuffing his crop with blueberries in the big woodlot in the sky.

Below are pictures of George. Thanks for another great story, Jim!



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: November 13, 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 - 8:30ish. It is usually an early night unless someone gets long-winded...

Following the pledge and a moment of silence, Maryanne gave the Secretary's Report and Cindy her Treasurer's Summation. As usual, all was in order.

Special Event November 13th Club Meeting

We will have outdoor author and presenter, NIMROD's own Ken Baer, with his presentation entitled "What the Heck is That?" Ken will share a PowerPoint presentation and his animal skull collection gathered from the New England woods!

BRING THE KIDS!



Ken promises to be informative and entertaining with a "surprise ending"! All kids under 12 eat free for this event. President Chris Craigue promises club business will be concise and quick due to Tuesday being a "school night."

Communications

We received the 8-Point Sportsmen's Club newsletter. The Worcester County Sportsmen's League sent their newsletter as well. We received an invitation from the Holden Agricultural Commission to a speaker night on "Protect your land, protect your legacy."

Speakers

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

Monthly Safety Tip and Topic for Discussion:

"Wear orange! Be sure of your target."

New Business

Chris Craigue proposed an area inside the barn for meat processing. We have with a minimal investment the ability to be able to hang and butcher harvested wild game. A proper table for working would be needed as well. Providing water was also discussed. This area would be a nice perk for club members.

We have had trespassers on our property via the power lines, particularly recreational vehicles. A discussion of violators resulted in the Board calling for new signage indicating private property. The power company may own the gates and the lines, but their easement runs through club property.

Joe Afonso informed the Board that Princeton will be running lines of fiber optics for Wi Fi installations. He was going to reach out to the appropriate folks to make sure that we get on the schedule. A brief discussion then took place as to a location for our building to be tied in. There was also discussion of purchasing a large screen television for club use and for presentations. The Board felt that we need to embrace and keep pace with technology and appropriated the necessary funds to the amount of \$4,500. More information is forthcoming.

A Boy Scout troop has inquired to Jason about using our club for an overnight event with an archery component. More information is forthcoming.

Old and Unfinished:

Robert Vaughn will become a Senior member. Someone will contact the Princeton Light Department to repair or replace our parking lot light. The Board decided to inquire if Ken Baer needed any equipment/projector for his presentation. He does need a screen but is all set with any other audio-visual equipment.

Conservation Camp

No report.

Scholarship

No report.

Membership

Renewal packets will be mailed out soon for everyone for the purpose of keeping their membership status current for next year.

We have 4 new members to bring before the membership this month. They are Joseph Derr, who is a neighbor of ours on Coal Kiln Road, Erich Jaeckel of Rutland, Steve Gennatossio of Holden, and finally Joe McDade of Worcester. To our 4 new prospective members, please join us on **our next general monthly meeting, Tuesday, November 13, 2018**, when we welcome you to our club.

The raffle prize for the Game Dinner has been ordered.

Board of Trustees

No Report

Trap/Skeet

The Turkey Shoot was held this past Sunday and was a success. Many thanks to the Trap committee for their efforts and to those who attended.

We need 12 skids of targets that will cost 6 to \$7,000. We are partnering with another club and we don't know if they'll be a delivery charge to get them to NIMROD??? More information is forthcoming.

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

Kitchen

The temperature between the two ovens is off. The left one is 50 degrees off. We are still working on a solution or repair. Many thanks to Bruce Ebbeson for his efforts on this issue. Dave Oriol was scheduled to cook the November meal, but has another commitment. The result is Cindy Smith volunteered to fill-in. Thank you, Cindy.

Pat Orrell is scheduled for January with Bruce doing February.

We need volunteer(s) for cooking our December meal.... Anyone???

Game Dinner

Pheasant donation bucket is out on Saturday mornings and special bird hunts. Please donate. We have about a dozen pheasants and need more plus some deer and moose meat. **Please put any donations in the freezer and let Bruce know at (508) 853-1589.** Bruce will clean and vacuum seal to be ready in the spring. Raffle tickets for the game dinner will be in the Membership Renewal packets.

Rifle Range

Pictures of the .22 caliber rifle match are on Facebook. The range is generally in good shape. Plans for future matches are being discussed. More news to come.

House

No report.

Executive Board

This month's meeting adjourned at 9:01 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

Yes, we do have LED bulbs! Miracles do happen. Rick Longbottom was awarded the bid for snow removal.

We are looking for 2 sand barrels, one for the gate area and one for the rifle range. We will provide the sand if someone has barrels to donate.

Finance

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

Bar

All is well in the bar except that someone left the door open to the freezer and it has frosted up. There was so much frost that it prevented the door from being closed. A discussion took place to decide how and when to defrost it. Please make an extra effort to do a routine check when closing the bar. Check that all food has been removed and all doors on appliances are closed. Leaving the door open for the freezer has been an ongoing issue. Thanks!

Birds

The Youth Hunt went well. We had 7 young hunters who enjoyed the day afield.

The dates of the other **Special Bird Hunts are on Sundays:**

November 18th, December 9th, & December 23rd

Revenue

No report.

Archery

Our Friday night league will start on December 7th. The new bales have arrived and will be installed soon.

Important Date: January 1, 2019 New Year's Day Archery Shoot

I was perusing quotations this week for the newsletter and came upon this one from a very famous archer...

"Immerse yourself in the outdoor experience. It will cleanse your soul and make you a better person." --
- Fred Bear

Worcester County League of Sportsmen

Joe Afonso had a report from Mass Wildlife. They are considering some land acquisition in Hardwick. The fall stocking schedule has been completed. There has been some beaver problems and a sick moose that had to be put down. There was some discussion regarding the moose population in Massachusetts. Joe was informed that the moose population is not

expected to grow for the foreseeable future. The reason being that the moose to our north are not going to range this far south due to climate change.

Land Use

No report. Still waiting for the state.

Records

Business: No report.

Historical: John Myer is scheduled to meet with Kurt Pearson whose father was a past president of NIMROD. We may receive numerous historical documents. The receiving will require the club to address the issue of fire-proof storage. These will be primary sources and need to be preserved.

Photography

Linda received some entries for the contest. Some were from Alaska so the contest is well under way. She will post entries in the clubhouse and then eventually post them online.

Grant Writer

Tina Gianos is working on grants to acquire new microphones for Trap and another for our Rifle Range renovation.

Tina 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. is at St. Vincent's Hospital. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Congratulations to member Matt Ingemie, whose wife gave birth to a baby boy!

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.