

The Nimrod League Newsletter

November 2019

Monthly Meeting

Happy November! The air has a chill in it as I start this newsletter. We hope all of you who enjoy the chase are up and about the woods and fields. It is our time of year. Enjoy!

To go along with the hunting season, we had only a little reporting in the Good and Welfare section so I added one from my experience just a couple of weeks ago. Please enjoy the story because I certainly enjoyed the day. It's titled ***Emotional Observations***. It's on the end of the newsletter.

Our November opened with brevity as Maryanne didn't have much to say in her Secretary's Report. She had been absent at the last Eboard meeting, so we did not have any minutes to review. Cindy followed with the Treasurer's Report which was unremarkable.

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 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...

Communications

We had newsletters from 8-Point and Goal and the latest issue of American Hunter.

Speakers

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

Monthly Safety Tip and Topic for Discussion:

“Always wear your safety harness in a tree stand.”

New Business

Chris Erali volunteered to head up a nominating committee for election of officers. If anyone would like to join me, please volunteer. It is not heavy lifting. I contact the present officers asking whether they intend to run again. After we receive all names of candidates, new and incumbents, we then run the election during a monthly meeting. Light computer skills are nice to have, but not necessary. Counting ballots and votes is the hardest part. Let me know via my email: eralic23@gmail.com. Thanks!

Old and Unfinished:

The Trail Camera contest is on! Participants and interested parties can contact Linda for more info. Sam Ganeson is contacting the installer to schedule the wiring for the internet.

Next, there was much discussion on holding a Girl Scout function similar to Women on Target. Obviously, the discussion went in many directions. We discussed restrictions, liability requirements, and the like. Options of mother/daughter, father/daughter, adult and child, and parent and child were all suggested. Cost was brought up including meal and ammunition. The event is in the planning stage and will continue. Volunteers are welcome on the committee.

Lastly, The Title on the tractor is in! We have finished the payments! We own it!

Membership

All membership renewal documents went out in regular mail. You should have received them. Isaac reports that our online credit card system for paying membership dues is ready. Next year's dues can be paid easily on our website. No more writing checks if you prefer. There will be a nominal fee for the convenience. Our member orientation program will be starting in January.

We have one new member to be voted on at the next general meeting. He is Ralph Sahakian. Ralph, please join us on Tuesday, November 12th when we welcome you to our club! The best \$5 meal around!

Board of Trustees

There will be an email going out to the board to schedule a meeting.

Trap/Skeet

The turkey shoot will be Sunday, November 10th, and we'll need help in the kitchen and with other various tasks. Raffle tickets are on sale at the General Meeting.

Summer Trap League Winners

Group A

- 1. Kevin Chviruk**
- 2. Kurt Pearson**
- 3. Lee Emmerson**

Group B

- 1. Doug Harvey**
- 2. Kriss Koss**
- 3. Brian Diehl**

Remember, Trap and Skeet is every Thursday evening. It is open to the public, so bring a friend and join in a night of good fellowship and shooting.

Important Date: *November 10, 2019 Turkey Shoot*

We are looking for help in the kitchen and other help inside and out.

Kitchen

All is well in the kitchen. Cleanliness is being maintained and supplies are purchased as needed. The dish washer was being checked for an "error message."

Scheduled Cooks

November's meeting will be Cindy Smith, with Tracey Kohler in December, and Sam & Robin Ganeson in January. Many thanks to these folks for volunteering to serve as cooks. **Please remember they can use HELP!** Contact them for times if you can come help prep before, and during the meal. **Clean-up help is even more appreciated. Most times people have already been at the club for several hours. Clean-up is the last thing they want to do. If you have 30 minutes or so after dinner, come into the kitchen.** Someone will show you the routine for washing dishes, the tables, and the floor. Many hands make light work and it is much appreciated! In most cases you only miss a little info from the general meeting. And not listening can be a bonus for your digestion! Thanks to all!

Game Dinner

ATTENTION! VERY IMPORTANT!

We are looking for a person or persons to be the Head Chef(s) for the game dinner. You'll organize the committee, help, and direct preparation and service of the meal. Please note, this has always been one person, but it could be two of even three people. There is strength in numbers. Numerous volunteers make it easy to schedule and no one person gets overloaded with hours. This past year we had several members come up and chop of a couple of bowls of onions or carrots. We didn't stay long but things got done! Make a commitment for one weekend! Working with other club members is great for fellowship! We have deer, moose, pheasant, and fish! Lots of fun! Even if you don't know how to cook, you can always chop vegetables. We need YOU!

Rifle Range

Ed's wife was having a heart procedure. We send them our best wishes. A work party will be scheduled sometime after bird season.

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

Plowing bids came in. Thanks to Trevor Dion and Rick Longbottom. Rick was awarded the contract. Grounds chair, Neal Whitehead, is seeking new committee members and help. Contact him if you are interested.

Land Use

The gate for the powerline border is in. An installation date will be set.

Finance

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

Bar

It's been quiet with just one event. Somehow the product keeps selling. Imagine that?

Birds

Our Youth Hunt was last weekend. Many thanks to our friends at Leroux's Market for their generosity on this event! Kevin is looking for some help, particularly on Saturday mornings. Any members that might be interested in pheasant hunting should contact him. You'll see how the operation works on Saturday mornings and get to meet some of the regulars. Again, it's an easy and fun way to be involved in YOUR club.

Revenue

No report and no current projects listed.

Archery

Good luck to all our archers in pursuit of deer this year.

Next Event: January 1 New Year's Day Shoot

Worcester County League of Sportsmen

Joe went through a list of the latest happenings at the League. There were contributions for Maher High for pheasants, lobbying at the statehouse, the town of Harvard working with Mass Wildlife on hunting issues, letter-writing campaign regarding coyotes and the crossbow bill,

Business Records:

Linda Brewer reports the infrastructure for use in the cloud is ready. She will work with Committee Chairs to upload documents. She has created a "Committee Document Organizer" to preserve and organize the files. Committee heads are encouraged to meet with Linda when both you and she are ready.

Historical Records

Things are quiet right now. We are looking for a used gun safe with above-adequate fire protection. This will be used to store documents, so the fire protection must have good numbers regarding time and temperature. Please keep your eyes and ears open for any deals.

Photography

It's not too early to get your trail camera up and operating. The Trail Camera Photo Contest is coming in January 2020!

Grant Writer

Tina Gianos is stepping away as our grant writer. We are looking for a member to take on this task. Tina has everything in place to make this a pretty straightforward process. She is happy to show our new grant writer the ropes!

Good and Welfare

Dan Ganeson will take over as Good and Welfare chair. Thanks to Al Afonso for his time of service. Al isn't walking away though. He is taking over Rentals. See Al for any Rental information.

Emotional Observations

My dog Vinnie has been a bit restless. He knew things were changing. The leaves were turning colors and falling. The mornings were cooler. He was blowing his coat, and in case I didn't know, my darling bride reminded me of this fact quite often, and not just when she was vacuuming up his dog hair. Now, Vinnie is a golden retriever and really should be brushed about once a week. With me as his boss it's more like once a year. He does tend to be a little overbearing at times. He is well-bred and therefore has plenty of athleticism and drive. Every time I would put on a pair of shoes he would bounce off the walls in excitement! I went to shoot sporting clays one day. I thought he was going to explode! The preparation, the gun case... He knew...

I haven't done much training with him this summer and I was worried. Would he remember his training? Would he be steady? Would he deliver to hand? Could he run a blind retrieve? Would he mark the falls as well as he had last year? I was as emotional as he! Usually I always give my dog(s) a pre-season tune-up. This year I hadn't.

The first bird, a big noisy cock pheasant, went down and dropped deep in a marshy wooded area. We could see the fall, but retrievers tend to hunt short when there are multiple factors in the field. We had "decent" vision for the fall, but there were deadfalls and water to slow him down? He stayed steady. I always change his name to, "Sit, Vinnie," in early season. The sit command reinforces steadiness because he is usually

ready to blast off like he was running out of a burning building. His name is his release command. Some guys use "Fetch," but we sometimes have other dogs around, and such a command can turn a simple retrieve into a duck blind disaster! Two 70 pound-plus wet retrievers going at the same time is a calamity! I watched the bird and glanced down at Vinnie to see how he was doing. He was steady as could be but shaking in anticipation. His whole body quivered with every muscle taut. I held my hand flat and over his head pointing the direction. Probably not necessary, but again it is exerting a little more control for the early season work. I commanded, "Vinnie." He fairly shot away in a straight line without a waver to one side of the other of the line to the bird. The straight line is the thing with retrievers. We teach them that they don't go around anything. They lose points in a trial anytime they lose the direct line to the bird. They're taught to go over, under, or through any obstacles, never around. Two deadfalls in his path looked like Olympic hurdles that he fairly flew across, splashing as he ran. His training was spot on as he drove through the factors and deep right to the bird! He scooped it up and headed back to me.

It's always great to see a dog work at whatever it is that they are supposed to do. Working dogs are so easily respected. They simply love it! They love the work they are bred and trained for and you can't help but feel the thrill. "Atta boy!" I called as he picked his way back over the deadfalls. He was only half done. I readied myself for the correction if he was "mouthy." Again, in a trial you lose points if he drops the bird, picks it up, puts it down, regrips to get a better hold, anything that doesn't make for a smooth and efficient retrieve. The size of the pheasant just complicated things. But my readiness was not necessary. He trotted happily to heel and sat. I reached down grasping the rooster and commanded, "Give." His mouth backed off the bird delivering it into my hand.

His first retrieve was perfect. My worries were unnecessary. Later in the day, another handler couldn't get her dog across a brook. He just didn't want to hunt the other side of a stream. The handler gave me an idea where the bird was, and I lined Vinnie up for a "blind." In retriever language this is a bird that the dog doesn't see fall. You may have seen it on television. The handler must use hand signals if the dog loses his line to the bird. Vinnie's initial cast took him left of the line and short of the brook. I sat him and gave him an "angle back right" cast which he took on a line across the stream to where I thought the bird was. He missed it or the bird was a cripple and had moved. He ran about 20 yards beyond and I blew a sit whistle and Vinnie turned and sat facing me. I tooted him in with a "here" whistle until he was about as deep as I thought the bird was. I was hoping he would wind it with his nose if I got him close. I gave him one more cast and I could tell from his body language that he had it. The next look I got of him was as he emerged from the brook and the cover. Dutifully, he returned and delivered properly.

I always feel the thrill and pride of, "That's my dog!" at these moments. The breeding and temperament issues in the house are all forgotten. Emotional for both of us, I thought later as I sat by the fireplace sipping my favorite single-malt scotch. Oh, by the way, Vinnie's AKC registered name is "Vintage Smooth Balvenie," his call name, "Vinnie." *Balvenie, 12 year-old Doublewood* is my favorite scotch. Appropriate, don't you think?

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.