
❖ **North Berwick Rod & Gun Club Newsletter** ❖

President Steve Rand –646-3472

Editor Steve Beckwith

January 2024

2024 RENEWAL APPLICATION ATTACHED

Inside This Issue

Annual Meeting Notice –Steve Rand

Hunters Trap - Pete Waterman

Benchrest Air Rifle - Pete Waterman

USARB - Pete Waterman

Membership - Ralph Gamache

Youth Activities- Ralph Gamache

Archery Report - Bob Pelletier

ANNUAL MEETING

Although the weather cancelled our annual meeting at the North Berwick Rec. Center last year, we are scheduled to hold this year's (2024) annual meeting at the center on January 25th. We will have a bean supper starting at 6 PM all are welcome to attend. The annual meeting will start at 7 PM. We will have an election for all offices and 2 board members for 2024. If you have interest in running for an office please let one of our current board members know.

Hunters Trap

No trap season is the same. This year we saw several rain outs and a time where the trap needed a new throwing arm causing us to lose two weekends as well. We persevered and got back to the business of breaking (trying to anyway) birds. We had a successful season with shooters making their way to the end game of row 12. Nobody made row 12 but Larry Smith was ultimately the best shooter again making

row 10. Many shooters were dispersed across the field finding success and/or new personal bests. We have plenty of birds to start the season near the end of May. We also have enough dreaded green birds to challenge the shooters. In all the Hunters trap season was a successful and fun time once again. We gained some new shooters near the end of the summer and their expressions are that they are excited to have discovered Hunters Trap and are planning to return this coming year for a full summer of trap. Load up some shells or keep an eye on the sales at the stores so we all can be ready for the beginning to the coming session.

Benchrest Air Rifle

Monday night 6 PM fun shoot has been sparse at best. Each week there seems to be a few shooters show up but it is not consistent week to week. If we had all shooters showing up each week we would have a good showing but there seems to be many distractions in today's world that makes the attendance thin. The world of air products has grown tremendously so the variety of air guns is huge. We shoot only .17 or .22 caliber only as the containment boxes can't handle the bigger calibers. It's impressive where the world on air products has matured to. As always we are open every Monday night at 6 PM in the indoor range for this fun event. This is a great place to start young shooters on their journey to learning the safe sport of shooting.

USARB

The competitive world of air rifle bench rest shooting has grown tremendously it NBRGC. Since we joined the national organization we have been slowly and steadily growing the participation. Our shoot in November hosted 18 shooters from 3 states, As the experience grows so has the need to develop a more disciplined structure to manage the shoot undertaking. From continuously growing the management of the shoot to adding structural support in scoring has been a challenge. We have made strides in both efforts. As the shoots progress this summer we will be evaluating our performance and working towards continuous improvements so as to provide the best in the country of shooting events in competition air rifle. There has been wonderful success but it never stops getting better.

Membership Report

Our membership count is 835 as of the December meeting.

Membership renewals are due. If you joined as a new member at this year's September meeting or after, your membership is paid through December 31 of 2024, so you don't need to send in a renewal. For everyone else, other than life members, your renewal is due now. For uninterrupted access to the club, please send in your renewal form available at the 2024 renewal from link as soon as possible. If there is no change to your information, please check the

“no change” box on the application. It really saves time if we don’t need to compare everyone’s information to what is on the database. If you have questions on your renewal status you can e-mail me at rgamache@maine.rr.com.

We are a strong and active club and will continue to provide our members with an outstanding facility and activities. Please continue to support the club and renew your membership. Also consider an NRA and a Sportsman’s Alliance of Maine membership.

Youth Activities

The fishing day was very successful with a good attendance and fun had by all. See photos on the club website.

I’m very happy to announce that we will be offering two (2) Anthony M. Dyer scholarships this year. The winners may select from the following camps:

Conservation camp:

Hunter Safety: Firearm (ages 10-13)

Conservation camp:

Hunter Safety: Archery (ages 10-13)

Conservation camp:

Hunter Safety: Firearm & ATV (ages 10-15)

Fishing Camp (ages 10-12)

Natural Explorer (ages 10-13)

This scholarship is open to **Maine residents only**. To apply send the applicant’s name and age, parent’s name, address, and phone number to the club mailbox: PO Box 33, North Berwick, ME 03906 or e-mail the information to rgamache@maine.rr.com with the subject line Conservation Camp. All entries must be received no later than **February 16th**. The drawing will be held at the February meeting and winners will be notified after that. Scholarships are valid for the 2024 season and will cover camp tuition only. Transportation and incidentals are the

responsibility of the winner’s family. For more information see the school’s website at <http://extension.umaine.edu/bryantpond/>

We will hold our annual “Get Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs Kids Fishing Day” at the beginning of June. Check the website near then to confirm the date. It’s a great event for all of the kids and for the members who work the event. We can always use extra hands, so please consider helping out.

NBRGC 2023 Archery

The North Berwick Rod & Gun Club archers had continued low attendance for most of 2023 during our indoor range evening practice shoots. In exploring possible explanations, some have concluded it is probably for two main reasons. First as suspected ever since the pandemic people got out of the habit of socializing with their peers who enjoy similar interests whether it is in activity at a local Rod & Gun Club or any other activity involving a group of people. Returning to a normal social life has been much slower than everyone expected and many of us are still in a continued routine of doing at home activities that became the norm during the covid days. Another possibility for low attendance in our weekly archery practice is a change in the State of Maine hunting laws. Maine has been slowly but effectively changing hunter safety classes from classroom to online. As a result, Maine has been slowly discontinuing the classroom style of Bow Hunter Safety Education. They have combined the bow hunter safety class and crossbow hunter safety class as one course that people can complete online. For that reason the North Berwick Rod & Gun Club will no longer host this classroom style bow hunter safety education class.

In the past, bow hunters have been a majority of archers who attend our Thursday practice evenings. In Maine, due to a hunting law change by the legislature, bow hunters may now use either a regular bow or a crossbow to hunt deer during the October archery deer season. Most hunters realized the chances of bagging a deer with a bow is very low and very time consuming. However, bagging a deer with a modern crossbow is almost as easy as using a muzzleloader. Consequently, many Maine bow hunters are now using this tool instead of using their regular bow during the bow hunting deer season. On a brighter side, there are many dedicated archers in Maine who will continue shooting their bows even though they may also hunt with a cross bow.

The attendance at the Maine Archery Association summer and winter shoots which the NBRGC host has been good and this is expected to continue. Since we are a Rod & Gun Club, and crossbows may become the weapon of choice for deer hunting in Maine during the October archery season we would like to hear from members who are interested in shooting their crossbows indoors during the winter months.

We will continue our Thursday evening practice from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm for our regular archery practice. In addition, we have been shooting our bows on Monday evenings after air gun at about 7:00 pm and 3 Wednesdays monthly from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. If anyone wishes to join us or as mentioned are interested in shooting their crossbows indoors, contact me for a discussion.

Bob Pelletier
Archery Director
NBRGC

North Berwick Rod & Gun Club 2024 RENEWAL Membership

Application REV: 10/24/23

Thank you for your membership. Please print clearly.

Check if no changes

Key card number _____

Name	
Street	
City	
State/Zip	
Phone	
Email *	

Membership Options - Please circle.

Membership Type	Membership Fee	Total Due
Adult – 1 Yr	\$60	\$60
Life – Under 65 yrs	\$600	\$600
Life – 65 yrs and over	\$420	\$420

Total enclosed: \$ _____ Expires December 31.

MEMBERS WILL NOT BE BILLED FOR RENEWALS AND NO REMINDERS WILL BE SENT.

Annual membership application go to: <https://nbrgc.org/join/> “Join”

Please circle area(s) of interest:

Archery - Action Pistol - Air Gun -Target Pistol - Ladies Pistol League - Rifle - Hunters Trap - Acton Fair
- Youth Activities - Venture Crew - Appleseed - NRA member - SAM member

Mail to: North Berwick Rod and Gun Club, PO Box 33, North Berwick, ME 03906-0033 or
bring application to meeting night **prior to 7:00.**

Monthly meetings: Jan-Oct on 4th Thursday. Nov-Dec on 3rd Thursday. See

<https://nbrgc.org/calendar/>

***By providing your email you grant permission for the club to email you with club business and to provide you with a login pass code to the club website. Your e-mail will not be sold or used for any other purpose.**