

❖ The North Berwick Rod & Gun Club Newsletter ❖

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January 2025

2025 RENEWAL APPLICATION ATTACHED

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ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting will be held at the North Berwick Rec. Center on Thursday January 23, 2025. We will have a bean supper starting at 6 PM, all members are welcome to attend. The annual meeting will follow at 7 PM. We will have an election for all officers, 2 board members for 3 year terms and 1 board member to fill the remaining 2 years of John Riemen-schneider's term. If you have interest in running for any position please inform one of our current board members prior to the meeting.

Hunters Trap

2024 was a very successful season. The trap threw a bunch of birds for us to sometimes break and many times to watch with awe of such a beautiful flight and offer up reasons for the miss. A trip was made by myself and Spencer to Westfield Mass. to bring back 4 pallets of orange birds for the next few years. 36,000+ orange birds are resting in my barn for the coming four or more seasons. The trip take the better part of a day so we stocked up in order to make fewer trips in the future. An order for the Green Hecklers was later filled so our sup-

ply side os flush. Shooters were busy during the season pressing their skills and working for advancement in the field. At the conclusion of the shooting shooters were dispersed across the entire apron from the front to almost the back. One shooter made it to the 10th row and several were on 9 and 8 closely in pursuit. At the conclusion of the season we reworked the apron for a frost crack and gave the apron a first coat of sealer. Having never been done before it is going to take a second coat in the spring to finish the sealing and then we must re-number the stations. When done the apron should be "Good to Go" for many years to come. We welcomed some new shooters and expect that they will be eager to start the new season coming in the spring. Keep an eye on the Club Calendar for the start date which is contingent with the drying out of the field. I will try to send an email out before we start.

Air Gun

Another year of the usual activity on Monday night at 6pm for the 10 yard air powered shooters. We shoot in the indoor range so weather doesn't ruin or activity. Several new shooters joined us for the fun. Still not the busy time that we enjoyed before the disastrous covid episode but still shooting and enjoying the evening. The club hosts a fun gun shoot at ten yards in the indoor range weekly for about an hour for relaxation and a cup of coffee. We have tables to shoot from, a variety of targets and sometimes donut holes to coat the fingers thereby providing a coating on the pellets. An added benefit?? This is a perfect opportunity to bring the family and start young shooters with the knowledge of the shooting sports in a very safe environment. It's warm in the winter and not in the hot sun in the summers. Check it out and come have some fun.

US Air Rifle Benchrest

United State Air Rifle Benchrest shooting has been steadily growing at NBRGC. Monthly shoots have been active throughout the year. Participation increases in the winter season as the outdoor shooters competing at Field Target matches close out for the winter. Competitors travel from a significant distance to compete during the winter Saturday monthly matches. This year we are gearing up to host our Northeast Regional Championship in March. It's looking like we may have a record turnout. Lots of work and planning as this is a three day event that will be on our calendar. We have the good fortune of having the new USARB President participating monthly helping by giving us more publicity and recommendations. This is a very competitive sport the requires dedication and effort to participate. Yes, there are some extremely high goals to accomplish but just the fun of participating is a very ample reward.

Membership Report

Our reported membership count as of the December 2024 meeting is 856. This is up from 835 last year. 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 2025, 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 this 2025 Renewal link or on the back of this newsletter 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 rgamache73@gmail.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. Please also consider an NRA and a Sportsman's Alliance of Maine membership.

Youth Activities

We had another successful youth fishing day in 2024. Attendance was smaller than in the past but everyone caught some beautiful fish and had fun.

I'm very happy to announce that we will be offering two (2) Anthony M. Dyer scholarships this year to the University of Maine 4-H Camp & Learning Center at Bryant Pond. 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 (10-15)
- Fishing Camp (ages 10-12)
- Natural Explorer (ages 10-13)

This scholarship is open to Maine residents only and applicants must not have previously attended the camp on a North Berwick Rod & Gun Club scholarship.

To apply send the following to rgamache73@gmail.com with the subject line Conservation Camp.

- applicant's name
- applicant's age
- parent's name
- Address
- phone number
- email address

All entries must be received no later than February 15th. The drawing will be held at the February meeting and winners will be notified shortly after that. Scholarships are valid for the 2025 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 Archery – 2024

The North Berwick Rod & Gun club indoor and outdoor archery ranges continue to offer some of Maine's finest archery shooting opportunities. The Club is a member of the National Field Archery Association (NFAA) and a member of the Maine Archery Association (MAA). The Club has been adhering to these State and National guidelines for equipment and range setup. The 20 yard indoor and 20 to 80 yard outdoor ranges both follow these standard setup requirements both for safety and ease of use. When one attends other affiliated NFAA ranges anywhere in the country, most all will appear similar in their respective setup.

At our club members may shoot indoors year round on Thursdays from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm and on other announced evenings when possible during the winter months. However, we have seen a decline in the number of archers who typically shoot on Thursday evenings so there is plenty of room for additional members to shoot at that time. It should also be mentioned for those who hunt with a crossbow, thanks to member Jack Cooper, we now have an indoor target that will stop an arrow with a blunt field point and is easy to pull out. This target can be used during our regular Thursday night practice sessions. If anyone is interested in developing a more serious indoor/outdoor crossbow session contact us for a discussion.

For those members who enjoy shooting in competition, the club has been hosting 2 outdoor shoots during the summer and 2 indoor shoots during the fall/winter months. This year we have noticed an increase in attendance of archers at these scheduled MAA competitive shoots. The last shoot was held this month on January 5 with 36 shooters in attendance from all

over the state including New Hampshire and Massachusetts. For the first time since Covid we have had a couple of professional archers attend our shoot. Of course they shot a perfect score! The other clubs/shops with indoor archery ranges hosting these shoots are Coyote Creek in Rochester NH, Lakeside Archery in North Yarmouth ME, Howells Gun shop in Gray ME, West Gardner Rod&Gun Club in ME, and Old Town Archery in Maine.

Based on the number of arrow holes in the paper target faces, the outdoor archery range appears to be getting plenty of use during the spring, summer and fall time of year. We assume this is due to members being able to shoot at their convenience without scheduling or having a range officer on site which is a club rule for all indoor shooting at this time whether bows or firearms. Members have taken care of the outdoor archery range and no damage has been reported except for a few broad heads that have been used. Please do not use those as they cut up the foam bales.

Many have wondered why the indoor range is not open for archery without range officers present. The main reason for archers is still the same as hand guns and air guns which is building damage and member safety. Scheduling would also be difficult to manage if it was open to all for use at any time.

Safety: Archery is known to be a safer sport than hand guns but a bow and arrows can still be mishandled. A range officer must assure no one is down range when people begin to shoot their bows. This is the main safety rule and no one has ever been injured with arrows down range.

Building Damage: Damage can occur to the building by shooting arrows to high which would damage the roof, air handlers or the end gable wall of the building. So far with bows no damage has been reported.

If you already shoot a bow and want to hone your skills, or if you would like to try shooting and need some instruction, visit us on Thursday evenings between 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm at the indoor range.

Bob Pelletier

North Berwick Rod & Gun Club 2025 RENEWAL Membership

Application REV: 12/17/2024

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.**