



Newsletter December 2007



Some of the November raffle prizes and Joe Biotti reacts when he receives his prize of pickled pig's feet

December Meeting on the 20th

The December meeting will be held on Thursday, December 20th at 8:00 PM. Before the meeting, the annual Christmas dinner will be served. We'll have a raffle and some good prizes! We could use more prizes for the raffle, so donations are welcome.

This will be great evening. We'll have good food, great prizes (there are no more pig's feet!) and a hot stove. The officers have arranged some entertainment that is not to be missed!

Membership Renewal

Jon Cave has created a renewal reminder letter that will be mailed to all current and recently lapsed members. The board has decided that dues will remain unchanged for 2008 (\$125 for adult members). Most of us realize what a bargain this is; don't forget to renew!

We hope to encourage members who have let their membership lapse to return to the club. Thanks to Jon for creating the letter, Ray Capobianco and Richard Marashlian for folding and mailing them.

November Meeting

The November meeting started with some excellent pizza with potato and macaroni salad. During the business meeting, Jon

Cave distributed the results of his analysis of the club's membership since 1999. The results showed a decline from 1999

through 2004, but a generally increasing trend over the last couple of years. Jon's numbers showed that the key to keeping the membership numbers where we want them is the retention of members after they've joined.

Another interesting event at this meeting was a guest from the Orvis Company. Dean Tsantillas from the Manchester office dropped by. He came to tell us that Orvis Boston is interested in setting up days for organizations like ours to set up a table in the store to promote themselves. This would occur on a weekend in the Spring. Jon Cave is the contact to figure

out if we can do it and to make the arrangements.

After the business came the turkey raffle. The raffle prizes included two turkeys, a whole ring neck pheasant skin, many fly boxes, a couple of the red-eyed lures recommended by Ed Nowak for stripers, personal grooming products (was that a hint to some members?) and the usual brown bread, etc...

For some reason, Dave Matthes' tickets were drawn at least three times, including the first two picked. Does this require an investigation into presidential raffle fixing? (Dave donated back most his prizes.)

Decision 2008

The annual election cycle is starting this month. The big money isn't involved, as in New Hampshire and Iowa, but we still need the participation of all members. The positions to be filled are all the officers (president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer) and 3 board members.

The election schedule is:

December 20, Nominating committee appointed by president.

January 17: The slate prepared by the nominating committee is announced at the monthly meeting.

February 1: Nominations from the general membership are due to the secretary.

February 21: The elections are held at the annual meeting.

For details on the election process, see the club charter, which is available on the web site.

Participation

The turnout for some of our recent events has been very high, notably the spring opening day and the Fall clean up day. It would be great to see more members at the monthly meetings, especially during

the winter. Come out - a lively meeting makes the club better for all of us. What else have you got to do on a cold Thursday night?

Fishing Report

The water is a little hard (not to mention it's hard to cast between the hockey players), but we can look forward to a January thaw.

Happy Holidays from the Needham Sportsman's Club

Needham Sportsman's Club

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