



## Newsletter January 2015



*Holiday festivities at the Sportsman's Club 12/18/2014 (photo by Mike Herman)*

### **January Meeting on the 15th**

The January meeting will be held on  
**Thursday, January 15th at 7:00 PM.**

We'll have a meal of Rollie Stewart's famous fish chowder. This is a treat that is not to be missed, especially on a cold winter night – it'll warm you up!

Our speaker Brad Voight will tell us about some of his favorite fishing spots in New England and in Montana. You'll want to take notes at this meeting!

## Fly Tying February 3rd

The Tuesday evening fly tying session for February will be on the 3rd at 6:00 PM. This is a chance for experienced and inexperienced fly tyers to share knowledge. All levels of experience are welcome.

Bring your fly tying tools and a selection of materials (everyone shares whatever they have to make the evening's patterns).

Members chip in for some pizza so you don't have to miss dinner.

## Dues for 2015

The board of directors has decided to set the **dues for 2015 at \$150** for adults, the same as for 2014. Junior members' dues will remain \$50.

Dues are payable by January 1<sup>st</sup>. Members cannot fish in the pond until their dues are paid. You can pay by check through the mail, or in person at a meeting, or use the PayPal account on the club website.

The board has also approved a voluntary fee of \$25 for adult members who do not wish to participate in some of the work to run the club. This is proposed in place of a rise in dues. An adult member who does not plan to participate in any of the work activities for the benefit of the club is asked to add \$25 to their \$150 dues for 2015. The work activities can be organized, (like cooking breakfast on opening day, clean-up day, painting day, giving a presentation or class), or unscheduled, (like spending an hour or two

clearing branches from the path, or stocking the clubhouse wood box with firewood).

New members and members who are physically or financially unable to contribute labor or money are not expected to make the additional contribution.

Members have a duty to participate in the activities of the club (bylaws, Section 2.05). There is a core of members who do most the work activities around the club: clean-up day, cooking, teaching, work around the clubhouse; we see the same people and we appreciate all that they do. But there are others who rarely participate in these essential activities. In many cases this is a matter of available time and that is a member's choice, but the work still must be done to maintain the property and run the club activities. The board feels that this additional fee will provide needed revenue for the club and help make what all members contribute towards support of the club more equitable.

## Club House Lock Combination

The combination for the clubhouse door lock will be changing. The new combination will be on the back of your 2015 membership card that you will receive after you pay your dues.

## Elections 2015

The board has decided to postpone the 2015 elections by a month, until March. We need to form a nominating committee at the January meeting and announce the candidates at the February meeting. Our long serving Treasurer, Doug Donaldson, has decided to step down from his post after this year. Doug has done a great job for the club and we are

sorry to lose his help, but he has other activities he wants to devote more time to. So, we are looking for someone to take over this critical role. Doug will train his successor in his very successful procedures for handling the club finances. Doug will remain as a member, and you will see him around the pond this year.

## **Ice Fishing**

A proposal to have an ice fishing event on the club pond is under discussion. The idea is that one day we'll drill a few holes in ice, and see what we can catch through the ice. We'll warm up the clubhouse and spend an afternoon hanging out in the warm clubhouse;

and take turns checking the tip-ups for bites. Details need to be worked out. This would be a one-day event, not an invitation to a season of ice fishing. We'll discuss it some more at the January meeting.

## **Club Dinner**

A special evening for members and their guests is being planned. We hope to rent a hall and have dinner and drinks. This will be an opportunity for your significant other to

find out if your friends at the club are actually as good-looking, intelligent, and charming as you've said they are. Details will follow in February.

## **Fishing Report**

The fishing was good until the ice formed and shut it down. The fish were healthy and strong, and this bodes well for the spring!

## **Articles Welcome**

Members are always welcome to submit articles for the newsletter. They should be original (not copies of an article from somewhere else) and of interest to the members. Mating habits of salamanders don't qualify (sorry, Dr. Hagar).

*Happy New Year from the Needham Sportsman's Club*

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