



RANGELEY REGION GUIDES' & SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 244
RANGELEY, MAINE 04970

OUR MISSION IS THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF WILDLIFE FOR SPORTSMEN, SPORTSWOMEN, AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

2018 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Regular membership potluck supper & meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month. No meeting in April. Potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by Club meeting and guest speaker, at the Clubhouse.

- o May 19: Rifle & Pistol Range opens for season
- o May 19: Shotgun Range opens for season
- o June 2: Archery Range opens for season
- o June 18,19,25,26: Hunter Safety Course
- o July 3: Town Park Event
- o July 4: Shotgun Tournament -Shotgun Range
- o July 9: Junior Guides begins, 6 consecutive Mondays, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- o July 12: Strawberry Festival
- o July 19: Annual Meeting at Clubhouse
- o August 7: Outdoor Sporting Heritage Day
- o August 25, 26 : Shotgun Tournament – Shotgun Range
- o October 7: 10th Annual Turkey Shoot – Rifle/Pistol Range
- o October 20: Youth Hunt Breakfast
- o October 28: All Ranges Close
- o December 13: Christmas Party

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

This year we welcome one new Director – Jim Graul.

The RRG&SA Board of Directors
 PRESIDENT – Sheri Oldham
 VICE PRESIDENT – Kevin Sinnett
 SECRETARY – Elaine Holcombe
 TREASURER – Raymond Roy
 DIRECTORS: Harold Fay, Joyce Fay, Jim Graul, Scott Hatfield, David Kretzing, Gary Langille, Nick Leadley, Dick Moore, Sam Spaulding, Jack Tourtillotte, and Gerry White

STAY CONNECTED ON LINE

Stay up-to-date on the Club activities by frequently visiting our web site: www.rangeleyoutdoors.com and Facebook page: www.facebook.com/RangeleyRRGSA.

Newsletter Editor – Kevin Sinnett



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Winter 2017 - 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the board of directors, our many volunteers, and the membership for another successful year for RRG&SA. Although the sun did not shine for our Strawberry Festival and Outdoor Sporting Heritage Day, many folks braved the elements to support these important fundraising and educational events. Our hunter safety classes and Youth Hunt Breakfast had large numbers of participants. Our monthly potluck suppers and educational programs were generally well attended. Thanks to leaders Elaine Holcombe, Joyce Fay, and Scott Hatfield the RRG&SA Junior Guides Program provided many youngsters with a fun-filled outdoor educational experience.

This year, RRG&SA successfully rolled out an online membership renewal option. Thanks to membership chair, Paula Hatfield, and board member, Scott Hatfield, there will be expanded online options for membership next year. The theme for the 2018 Outdoor Sporting Heritage Day will be fishing. New board member, Jim Graul, will organize this event. Members and the public can look forward to some friendly marksmanship contests at the rifle/pistol range next year.

On a personal note, I was extremely happy to cross-off a major outdoor bucket list item! My husband, David, and I enjoyed a successful moose hunt right here in Zone 7. This hunt reinforced my love of the sights, sounds, and critters to be found in the Maine woods. Wishing all of you good health and fun-filled outdoor adventures in 2018, Sheri Oldham

Sheri Oldham



TIM BAKER TRAIL – STORY TRAIL WALK

By Donna Brown,
Rangeley Lakes Regional School

The multiage students (grades 1 and 2) at Rangeley Lakes Regional School recently visited the Rangeley Region Guides and Sportsmen's Associations' clubhouse in Oquossoc.

The children were greeted by Elaine Holcombe and other members of the association who then guided them through the 'Story Trail'. This special hike was immensely enjoyed by the children because it highlighted a delightful tale called the "Possum and the Peeper". As the children traveled along the trail they would come upon a new page of the story. Anne Hunter, author and illustrator, has done a superb job in creating a whimsical story about animals awakening in the spring. Our classes loved the story and the experience and we hope this project continues year after year.



HUNTER SAFETY COURSE

by Dick Moore

Each year between 18 and 40 students are certified in our Hunter Safety Program. There is no cost to the students for the 12hr course. We have a closed class at the Rangeley Lakes Regional School in April and an open class for all at our Clubhouse in June. We also have a range day at both our shotgun and pistol ranges on a Saturday morning. Our certified instructors are: Harold Fay, Bill Brittain, Ken Lemke, and Dick Moore. We are working to have common subject classes with Bow Hunting in the future. Gary Langille will be the instructor for Bow Hunting.

The 4-day Hunter Safety Course for 2018 will be offered on June 18, 19, 25, 26.

JUNIOR GUIDES PROGRAM

by Joyce Fay



The Rangeley Region Guides and Sportsmen's Association (RRG&SA) completed another great Junior Guides program this summer full of fun and learning. Activities included fly tying and casting, canoeing, archery and hiking. This program credits its success to the many volunteers who share their time and expertise. The Junior Guides program runs for 6 consecutive Mondays and is a 2-year program that builds on the previous year's activities. The graduates from the Basic group 'graduate' to the Advanced program the following year. For those wanting to participate in 2018 in the Basic Program, ages 9 through 12, registration will be held in the Spring. For more info visit the Club's website at www.rangeleyoutdoors.com



STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

by Joyce Fay

It was a rainy day for the Annual Strawberry Festival in July, but that didn't stop our dedicated vendors and volunteers. The public showed up armed with umbrellas. Renee Sopol was there in her raingear to oversee the craft section of the show. Carol Harvey's team served up our delicious strawberry shortcake and our grill masters stayed busy with great offerings from the grill.

The success of this event is made possible with the support of all who attend and our wonderful members who volunteer their time. A big thank you goes out to Mike Koob, Mary Anne Tedesco and the Rangeley Fire Department for the use of their properties. The festival is always the 2nd Thursday in July, so mark your calendar for July 12, 2018.



RANGELEY SKEET and TRAP ASSOCIATION

by Dave Kretzing, President RRSTA

2017 saw Rangeley Skeet and Trap become a lead-free clayshooting facility. I want to thank everyone for their cooperation in this major change. I know there was some frustration early in the year, as we all had to adapt to the differences in steel shot. By the end of the year, average scoring rose to 2016 levels. The addition of the 5-stand course was very popular. This new venue also provided an excellent site for clayshooting instruction while regular trap and skeet shooting was occurring. Our July 4th and year end tournaments were well attended, and, as usual, produced some great shooting in closely contested classes.

In 2018, I plan to "spruce up" (literally and figuratively!) the sporting clays course. We will need some volunteers next spring to help with brush removal and the creation of new shooting lanes. I hope these renovations will present new challenges and, more importantly, lots of fun!

Please remember that your RRG&SA membership allows you to shoot at RRSTA member rates. We offer trap, wobble trap, skeet, 5-stand, and traditional sporting clays. You can check our website www.rrsta.org for further information about our 2018 events and shooting schedule.



RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGE

by Harold Fay

We had great weather for our 9th Annual Turkey Shoot which was held on Sunday, October 1st, and a good time was had by everyone who participated. We had 7 winners who brought home gift certificates for a turkey or a ham.

Thanks go out to Bill Brittain, Marianne Erle, Dave Kretzing, Sheri Oldham and Joyce Fay for their valuable assistance in making this a fun and successful event.

We will continue to have open public days in the 2018 season with trained Range Safety Officers on duty to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for our guests.

Plans are also in the works to introduce more fun shooting events over the summer. Check our website for dates and additional information.

YOUTH HUNT BREAKFAST

by Kevin Sinnett

The Rangeley Region Guides and Sportsmen's Association (RRG&SA) hosted their Annual Youth Hunt Breakfast on Saturday, October 21st. A total of 16 area youth enjoyed a free breakfast before heading out into the woods with their accompanying adult.

RRG&SA Members Ray Roy, Ray Heaton, Don Curtis, Mary Ellen Moroney and Doreen & Kevin Sinnett prepared and served breakfast for the young hunters. The Club is proud to support this, and other activities, that encourage the youth of the region to carry on the tradition of hunting while safely enjoying the outdoors.

Pictured are two local youth who were successful on their hunt. Congratulations to Keegan Austin and Lauren Eastlack.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

By Paula Hatfield, Membership Chair

Again this year RRG&SA has had a terrific membership season. As I write this with a few weeks left in 2017, our membership once again sits right at the 1000 mark. We couldn't have done this without the support of our many long-time members, in addition to the new members we welcomed into our organization this year. We value each of our members and your commitment to help us to conserve, protect, and restore the fisheries and wildlife populations of the Rangeley region.

In 2017 we piloted our new electronic renewal system. All those members with an email on file received an invitation to renew online. We had a very good response to that program, and those who participated received a coupon offering a discount on RRG&SA merchandise. This year we expect to expand our capabilities and allow anyone to register online with a credit card.

Our membership year runs from January 1 through December 31. In January 2018, we will again seek electronic renewals first, followed by a mailing inviting renewals. This year, your renewal forms will show each member's information as currently captured in our database. Please take

a minute to review that information and provide any corrections or additional information. As always, we appreciate your flexibility. This new system has offered a dramatic decrease in required volunteer effort, while also saving our members postage and time. Many members inadvertently fail to renew their memberships as things get busy in the Spring. By renewing your membership as soon as you receive it, you can avoid letting your membership lapse.

All membership dues will remain the same as last year, \$25 for individuals, \$30 for family memberships and \$10 per person for senior memberships. If you are able to renew at a higher level, such as Contributing or Business for \$50, Sustaining for \$100, or Sponsoring for \$500, it will help us to improve and provide programs and activities for our membership and the community. You may also renew in person at River's Edge in Oquossoc.

I hope to see you next year at one of our monthly meetings or events. If you have any questions regarding your membership, please contact me at membership@rangeleyoutdoors.com

RRG&SA PAYS TRIBUTE to DON PALMER

At the June meeting of the Rangeley Region Guides & Sportsmen's Association, the organization unveiled a memorial bronze plaque to honor its past president, Don Palmer.

With Don's wife Stephanie, their sons, and grandchildren in attendance, RRG&SA Secretary, Elaine Holcombe, read the inscription.

Richard "Don" Palmer 1939-2016

Rangeley Region Guides and Sportsmen's Association President, 1994-2010

The association salutes its past president, Don Palmer, for his vision, devotion, and leadership in his tenure as president.

Don revitalized the organization into one of the largest, most dynamic, and influential sporting clubs in Maine.

Don's passion, integrity, and intrepid vision, swept hundreds into our mission of preserving, enjoying, and promoting Maine's sporting heritage. He leaves a legacy of service and fellowship that we will not forget.

Following the unveiling, DIFW Commissioner Chandler Woodcock, and Game Warden Harry Weigman, presented the Palmer family with a beautiful print of a Maine black bear.

After the ceremonies, the large gathering entered the clubhouse to enjoy a potluck supper and an educational program presented by Commissioner Woodcock.

