

Rangeley Region Guides' & Sportsmen's Association
41 Old Skiway Rd.
P.O. Box 244
Rangeley, Maine 04970
www.rangeleyoutdoors.org
info@rangeleyoutdoors.org

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Dave Kretzing

First off, I need to thank the wonderful people on our Board of Directors for your many hours to keeping the Guides up and running. Although many members volunteer to help with our functions and fund raising there is always room for you to help.

The Junior Guides program is still going strong. There have been some changes with the leadership. After many years of heading the Guides, Elaine Holcombe has stepped down from heading the program to be an adviser. Also, Joyce Fay has moved to Texas to be closer to family. I personally want to thank them both for the many years of hard work to make the guides the program it is today. Taking over for Joyce Fay will be Karon Noyes. We hope that Beth Hanna, Ashley Greene, and Kim Syrel will volunteer again next year. Last year these three did a wonderful job providing our kids with the learning experiences offered by the Guides program.

In September we offered a Hunter Safety Program for the first time in several years. We will be offering another class in late August or early September of 2025. As of now we only are offering the firearms program but hope to add the archery version in the near future.

Our membership for 2024 was the second largest in the history of the club. One interesting fact is that although there are over 1000 members only 114 members have a zip code for Rangeley or Oquossoc. I would like to welcome Ann Franklin as the new membership chairperson who is taking over from Patrick Hayden.

Some of you long-time members may have forgotten, and new members don't know, that we have a Pot Luck Dinner on the third Thursday of each month, except in April. There's always great food and an interesting speaker. Board member Sonny Pierce and his group are doing a wonderful job planning and coordinating the meetings.

The Kids' Fishing Derby was a big hit again this past year.



After several years of perfect weather, we got a little wet but then it stopped raining and kids were catching trout.

We continue to participate in the radio tagging of salmon and brook trout on Mooselookmeguntic Lake. This program, run by MDIFW and partnered with Rangeley Lake Heritage Trust and your club, is still going strong and producing a lot of important and interesting information.

On a personal note, I drew a moose tag last year, but having shot one in 2017, I told my son who lives in Pennsylvania that if I drew another tag, it was his turn. After four hard days we found a really nice bull. Just like your kid will do to you, the antlers were two inches wider with bigger palms than mine. Watching him jump up and down after it went down, I thought I was looking at my twelve-year-old son after shooting his first deer than the forty-year-old man he is today. I mention this to remind you to take every chance you get to introduce a kid to the wonders of the outdoors for a lifetime of enjoyment.

Enjoy the outdoors every chance you get!

KIDS' FISHING DERBY

By Dave Kretzing

On Saturday July 6, 2024, the club held its third annual Kids Fishing Derby.



This event would not be possible without the generous support of the Rangeley and Oquossoc business community. A huge thank you to our sponsors this year:

This year turned out to be a little different. We shifted the day from a Thursday to a Saturday so that we could get more working parents involved. While that appeared to work, the weather did not cooperate nearly as well as in prior years. We had rain come through and drizzle continue through the start of fishing. So, after a couple of years with more than 100 kids participating, this year was slightly under.

But... everyone seemed to have a terrific time. For so many of the participants, this might be the first opportunity to catch a fish. The pond is always well stocked (thanks to our suppliers and sponsors!) so there is a very good success rate.

The trophy winners in the 4–6-year-old age group were:

1 st Place	Ellie Brown	12"
2 nd Place	Ella Waugh	11" & 10.75"
3 rd Place	Margaux Gilbert	11"

The trophy winners in the 7–9-year-old age group were:

1 st Place	Gage Myles	11"
2 nd Place	Harvey Gilbert	10.75"
3 rd Place	Mackenzie Halloran	10.5"

The winners in the 10-15 age group were:

1 st Place	Mattie Lorie	10.75"
2 nd Place	Addison Quimby	10.25"
3 rd Place	Reese Hayford	10"

We will continue to innovate and find ways to introduce more of our youth to the fun of fishing.

Gold Sponsors:

Rangeley ATV Club
Boss Power Equipment

Silver Sponsors:

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Oquossoc Grocery
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Blue Flame Gas
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Morton and Furbish Insurance
Rangeley IGA
Franklin Savings Bank
Rangeley Region Sports Shop
Koob's Garage
Oquossoc Marine
Saddleback



STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

By Joyce Fay

The annual Strawberry Festival started out as a perfect day, but Mother Nature changed that. We had many returning vendors along with several new local artists and crafters who weathered the storm. The Strawberry Shortcake Team did a great job serving up our fresh strawberry shortcake with real whipped cream and the grill masters were cooking up delicious burgers and Guides fries until the rain came.



A special thank you to our wonderful club members who volunteered their time and stuck it out even though they were soaked by the end of the day. Thank you to Mike Koob, the Rangeley Fire Department, and Patrick from the Parks Department for their continued support of our organization. The festival is always the second Thursday in July, so mark your calendar for July 10, 2025.

JUNIOR GUIDE PROGRAM

By Elaine Holcombe



The Rangeley Junior Guides 2024 summer program completed another successful and engaging year. Both the

basic and advanced groups were involved in ambitious and challenging indoor and outdoor learning experiences.

Our Basic Program explores the habitat of Maine's native animals, offering hands-on exploration of tracks, skulls, jaws, teeth, and pelts. Experts mentored the group in the art of fly tying and fly casting, how to identify the critical insects used to catch the perfect trout. They learned water craft safety and techniques involved with using a canoe, kayak, and paddle board. An expert trapper talked about the equipment a trapper needs. Instruction in archery was also offered.



The focus of the Advanced Group dealt with aspects of Rangeley's special environment with additional learning experiences offered from our local law enforcement and emergency / first responders. The group participated in more vigorous hikes as well as a wonderful all day of mentored fishing experiences on Kennebago Lake hosted by the Kennebago Camp Association. The group visited the rifle and pistol range and participated in shooting clays as well.

We are grateful for Beth Hanna, Ashley Greene, and Kim Syrel for stepping up this summer to lead program sessions for 2024 and look forward to their leadership in 2025. The advanced group will continue with Susan and Bill Lewis as the dual leads for that part of the program. We appreciate all the volunteers that helped especially those who offered expert teaching for the special aspects of our program.



Students who want to participate in the Junior Guides program must start with the Basic program for 9-and 10-year-olds. Children must be 9 years old by January 1st of 2025. The 2024 basic group automatically transitions into the advanced group but registration is still required.

This program is offered on Monday and Tuesday for three consecutive weeks beginning on July 14, 2025. This entire program is free. To register for the 2025 Junior Guides Program, please contact Karon Noyes at 207-650-5489.

SLIDE OUT OF SUMMER

For 2024, we added one additional event to the tail-end of the season. We supported Rangeley’s Parks and Recreation department by offering food and drinks at their Slide Out of Summer event.

We get many Rangeley youth out to enjoy the water slides and games. This is a true small-town event. We hear many guests comment on how they can’t believe that you can just show up and enjoy the day for free!



JUNIOR GUIDES’ SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Congratulations to Rangeley Lakes Regional School students Bree Quimby, Angelica Woodard, and Anna Ross. These three young ladies were granted awards in 2024 from the Junior Guides’ Scholarship Program.



Bree was awarded \$1,000 and both Angelica and Anna received \$500.



We wish them all well as they continue their education at the collegiate level.

As a reminder, each year any money you donate above your selected membership level is directed to our scholarship program. Awards are announced in the Spring for presentation at Rangeley’s graduation ceremony.

RANGELEY SKEET and TRAP ASSOCIATION

By Dave Kretzing, President RRSTA

Please remember that your RRG&SA membership allows you to shoot at the shotgun range at member’s rates. We are open beginning May 15 until October 31. Shooting occurs on Wednesday and Thursday starting at 4:00 PM, Saturday starting at 10:00 AM and Sunday starting at 1:00 PM. The different shooting games include trap, skeet, wobble trap, five stand and sporting clays.

If you are a novice shooter or experienced shooter we have room for you. We have guns for rent and can offer you instruction at no cost if needed.

This past year we had many new shooters as well as long timers shooting. We hope to see you at the range this summer.

RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGE

Our Rifle and Pistol Range continues to be one of our most-used resources. We estimate that we get more than 3000 person-visits to our range each year.

We had some wind damage to the tent-tops, so we will need to replace some of them in the spring. We are happy with our new approach to providing target bases, frames, and paper targets. There is less debris. You can also bring your own paper targets that you want to attach. As a reminder, do not bring lumber, glass, or anything that will create a dangerous situation. Never shoot at rocks or the target bases. Please be considerate of the next person and pick up any trash or brass that is on the ground and put it in the containers provided.

Members are permitted to use these facilities, free of charge. That is a terrific resource! Simply stop in to River's Edge and sign a release. Each participant must sign, each year. When you do, you will receive the gate code.

The land that our range is on belongs to Seven Islands Lumber Company. Please observe the range rules and encourage safety and respect. Your compliance and diligence will help us to operate this valuable resource for years to come.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Jack McNulty

I would like to report that RRG&SA remains in very sound financial condition. Our membership levels remain near record levels, our fund-raisers were pretty effective, and our expenses remain under control.

We put some increased attention on our investments. We always attempt to keep a reserve in place to fund major repairs and initiatives. These investments are intentionally managed in a conservative manner. This has meant a largely hands-off approach. This year we refreshed our lists of who has access and authority, while repositioning investments to better balance across funds. These investments should provide us the stability to weather unexpected events in future years.

We continue to do well with our insurance program for the rifle and pistol range. Risk transfer agreements are now signed by all users every calendar year. This effort has allowed us to determine usage more accurately, and provide assurance to our underwriter that we are a sound risk. This year we worked with our provider to assess the insured value of our clubhouse facilities. We've reset that to current market levels, even though that did increase our premium.

In summary, the club remains in sound condition, with positive cash flow. Thank you to all for your generous support. We could not do it without you.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

We had another strong year of membership. We will finish 2024 with a little more than 1100 members, right about at our all-time high.

Our membership drive is also the largest source of funds for our scholarship programs. This year, we received more than \$2100 while granting \$2000. Thanks to all those who help support our scholarship program.

Owing to inflationary pressures for services, utilities, and insurance, we did feel like we needed to increase our membership rates for 2025. Our Family rate will be \$50, our Individual rate will be \$40. Senior rates will be \$25 and \$35 for one or two people respectively. Our premium memberships will adjust as well with Contributing now \$100, Sustaining at \$250, and Sponsoring still at \$500.

For 2025, expect to receive an email invitation to renew in late January and a paper renewal form in late February. Our membership year runs from January 1 through December 31. As a reminder, you can always point prospective members to the membership tab on our website where they can either print out an application or complete the process online. You can also direct them to River's Edge Sport Shop where they are always happy to take a membership in-person.

If you have any questions regarding your membership, please contact us at membership@rangeleyoutdoors.org

2025 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

For 2025, we are trying to hold more monthly meetings during the year. Stay tuned for announcements regarding dates and speakers. Ideally, we hope to continue include January – March with a break during April for mud season. In any case, meetings will be held starting in May.



Meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of each month at starting at 5:30 p.m. A potluck dinner is followed by a short business meeting and then a different guest speaker. Meetings are held at the Clubhouse on Old Skiway Rd in Oquossoc.

Some important dates to remember:

- May 15: Rifle & Pistol Range opens for season
- May 15: Shotgun Range opens for season
- June 1: Archery Range opens for season
- June 15: Tim Baker Nature Trail and storybook walk opens
- July 3: 3rd in the Park Event
- July TBD: Kids' Fishing Derby
- July 7: Junior Guides begins, ages 9-12
- July 10: Strawberry Festival
- July 17: Annual Membership Meeting
- October 31: All Ranges Close

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

At our Annual Meeting, we confirmed a slate of officers and directors for the upcoming year. Thanks to all of those who assist us in so many different ways.

If you are interested in helping out with a particular program or as a Board Member, please reach out. We'd love to have you with us.

This year we recognize two Board Members for their service to the Junior Guides program. Joyce Faye served as Registrar for the program for fifteen years. She has also coordinated the vendor program for the Strawberry Festival. Joyce has relocated to Texas to be closer to family. We will miss her as friend and Board Member.



Elaine Holcombe has worked with the Junior Guides for 21 years. That is a lot of Junior Guides to have passed through her teaching. She's transitioning her role and passing the torch on to a new set of leaders. Elaine will remain on the Board. All of us offer our sincere thanks to those who have made such an impression on this award-winning program, as well as those now stepping into such big shoes. Thank you!

The current leadership is shown below:

- The RRG&SA Board of Directors**
 PRESIDENT: Dave Kretzing
 VICE PRESIDENT – Scott Hatfield
 SECRETARY – Elaine Holcombe
 TREASURER – Jack McNulty
 DIRECTORS:

- Vincent Catrini,
- Brent England,
- Patrick Hayden,
- Brian Holmes,
- Nick Leadley,
- Susan Lewis,
- Sam Spaulding,
- Sonny Pierce

STAY CONNECTED ONLINE

Stay up to date on the club activities by frequently visiting our web site: www.rangeleyoutdoors.org or our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/RangeleyRRGSA.

