



Winter 2020 Newsletter



Another year has come and gone way too fast. We had 393 members for the year, and that was great! I want to take this opportunity to thank the members for helping get our membership files in better shape by sending their renewal paperwork with their check. The renewal form is the most important piece of paper in your membership renewal. It gives us a hard copy to track down, when we have a question during your first year of membership.

If you don't have a printer or computer, please let membership know that. We can add a note to your file, telling us to mail your renewal forms to you. That ought to make your life easier! And I'm sure most of you don't know that if you have been a member for 20 years without missing a renewal, you become an earned Life Member. That is a great added benefit for you, so keep track on your end!!! (Of course you'll have to admit to being over 65.)

I hope you all are having a great start the new year, and find more ways to enjoy your membership at Knox County Fish and Game Association. If you have any questions, feel to call or write.

Bruce O'Donal, Membership odonalbruce@gmail.com

Ice Fishing Derby

This years' derby will be held on Sunday, February 16th. Come join the fun and lend a hand.

Tickets will be for sale at the following locations: Chucky Farmers Bait in South Hope, Pushaws Trading Post in South Hope, Hope General Store, Jackson's Corner Store in Washington, and Johnsons Sporting Goods in Rockland. There will be flyers posted with the rules, classes and prizes at each of these locations in the next couple of weeks.

A portion of this years' proceeds will be donated to "House in the Woods" out of Lee, Maine. *House in the Woods* is a non-profit organization that blesses Combat Wounded Soldiers, locally and abroad the US, with guided hunting and fishing trips. Paul House started the organization after losing his son in Iraq in '07, and since, has helped with the outdoor therapy of hundreds and hundreds of other Combat Veterans.

If you planned to shoot skeet at the range that day, come get in some fishing time before the skeet start flying at 09:00. Or stay at the range for some of Judd's chowder and then come spend the afternoon fishing. Weigh-in doesn't close until 5:30.

If you have Facebook, please watch the page for continuous updates for the derby.

Times are Changing

We figure we have just shy of 400 members, or will once again once everyone gets their act in gear and renews. That's plenty of like-minded folks to keep the rifle range, pistol range, archery range, the beach, and the campground all going nicely. The problem in recent years is finding members willing to oversee operations.

Few people actually look forward to meetings., and those who do are suspect. That has been painfully obvious of late. Life is busy for all of us, but the fact remains that we need officers. What to do? State regulations compel us to have an annual meeting because KCF&G is a corporation. Would you be interested, say, if we offered an alternative to attending meetings at the lodge? If we set up gotomeeting software you could be part of the decision-making sitting in front of your own computer at home or even on your phone if you were away from home.

Interested now? I certainly hope a few of you are because come May we are going to need someone to fill vacancies, at the very least someone to take minutes, and likely other offices as well. When we know for sure, we'll let everyone know.

In another step into the 21st century we are also considering online registrations—or at least being able to fill out renewal forms electronically. Again, you would be able to sit down in front of your computer, fill out the forms you need, click send, and then just drop a check into the mail to complete the process. Right, not everyone has a computer. Those folks will still have the opportunity to use snail mail just like they do now. If we go that route, the rest of us will be able to use computers or smart phones.



In that same vein, members should be aware that our primary means of communication is by email. If you have not been receiving emails and want to know what is going on, send your name and email address to Vic Maccallum at mainelyretired@yahoo.com.

The same holds true for the range. If you want to be included on the range email notification list, you need to let us know. Both of these are set up so that you can opt out at any time. Contact Walter Simmons at 1ducktrap@gmail.com.

**Do you have ideas to improve or update KCF&G?
Don't keep them to yourself. We need your input.**

Range

We pride ourselves on providing a safe venue for members and guests to practice, and I'm thankful to report that our range safety record continues intact. Thank you all for being a part of that.

Membership numbers have remained nearly constant. Attendance for regularly scheduled monthly shoots has been dwindling, while ladies', youth, and pistol range shoots have flourished. Perhaps that's a lack of communication on our part, though scheduled shoots are posted on the web, on the bulletin board out by the road, and through our range email network. If you aren't part of the range notification group, let us know and we'll add you to the list. There are 263 folks on that list currently.

Even with that many on the list, curiously enough, if you can find time during the day to get to the range, chances are excellent that you will have the place all to yourself. That's an unanticipated benefit of membership.

The grounds have been better maintained than in the past, thanks not just to our caretaker but to individual members, who mowed, raked, ran string trimmers, and policed the range. When you leave the range better than you found it, you are contributing, and it is much appreciated.

Though we didn't get as many projects accomplished as we thought we might, we did complete significant safety upgrades to berms and fencing. In 2020, we will be extending the stockade fencing along the road and planting evergreens to aid noise abatement. If you can put in a little time here and there to lend a hand it would be much appreciated.

There is an old poster in the clubhouse that says that guns have only two enemies, politicians and rust. Sadly we have to deal with more than that now. I was all alone at the range cleaning up one afternoon this summer when I got a call from a "concerned neighbor"...

"Hello, I want to report automatic weapons fire at the range!"

"When was that?"

"It's going on right now!"

"Are you sure?"

"Yes, right now!"

"Okay, thanks, I'll report it to the police. What's your name?"

[Click]

Community Relations

Sadly but predictably a few neighbors continue to try to shut the range down with a flurry of specious accusations, but that goes with the territory. Some of the allegations leveled against us by those same concerned neighbors include:

- Excessive noise (the perennial favorite)
- Shooting before and after hours
- Decreasing property values
- Polluting the groundwater
- Throwing shotgun shells on a neighbor's lawn (That was true.)
- Violation of the town noise ordinance
- Change of use
- Greatly increased use
- Being bad neighbors
- Threatening with a firearm (which is a criminal offense)
- Being racists

That last doozy was apparently prompted by photos on our site of a couple of targets on the pistol range. They are commercially available scenario targets for heaven's sake! Sorry, not all bad guys are WASPs, or even guys for that matter.

Not satisfied with the town's responses, one so-called neighbor who lives more than a mile away from the range as the crow flies, even managed to get an "interview" published on *Village Soup* that was chock full of untruths. The reporterette never so much as fact checked before running with the story. Nice, huh?

Of course it's a crock, but it can affect the general public's preception of the range and KCF&G. All of those using the range need to understand that the way we interact with the public does matter and that there is no reason for any of us to be less than cordial. If you can't manage that, at least be quiet. As long as we continue to follow our own rules posted online and at the range, we will do just fine. Close down the range and several hundred folks would be practicing heaven-knows-where, without benefit of containment berms. Not smart.

We're not interested in political leveraging of any stripe, simply in providing a safe environment for instruction, competition, and practice.

Come enjoy the range, practice often and stay safe. We've got your back.

'Bet you didn't know this...

We spend approximately \$15,000/year maintaining Beaver Lodge Road (which the association owns). No fewer than 35 property owners benefit and yet only two of them contribute to the ongoing maintenance. Even so, none of them seem to have any problem grousing about mud and potholes. What was that about being good neighbors?

Maine Bowhunter Association Provides KCF&G a Grant

The Maine Bowhunter Association has given Knox County Fish & Game a \$500 grant to support our youth shooting sports program. Each year MBA makes grants to organizations that promote youth outdoor education in Maine. The grant will be used to purchase archery equipment for our programs. We have been borrowing archery equipment for both the ladies day program and the youth program and are pleased that we will now be able to have everything we need to teach the archery component of programs. We appreciate the generosity of the MBA and if you are a bowhunter, please consider joining this fine organization and sending them a thank you email. Their website is <http://www.mainebowhunters.org> where you can find a link to contact them.

Speaking of Archery...

We are excited to announce the archery range has moved! Look for us this season across from the rifle range, you'll find the new trail head along the back edge of the range parking lot. This location offers better terrain, new shooting lane scenarios, and did we mention parking!?

This course is just shy of a 1 mile loop that will have 8 stations along the trail, with 3 targets at each station. This setup will allow archers an opportunity at every station to take a 20 yard, 30 yard, and 40 yard shot. The goal was to have a course that offered something for everyone whether you're a novice or advanced archer. Additionally the new location will be a big help in streamlining all range events to include our Archery shoots, the Ladies' Day program, and Youth Day programs.

We aim to get any necessary tree work done and the new tree stand element built before the black flies get their act together this season; any volunteers that are available this spring and interested in working off some membership hours are appreciated.

Want to help? Please email Sarah at sarahrose.simmons@gmail.com

2020 Youth and Ladies Day Programs

We are in the process of setting up our youth and ladies day programs for this summer and fall. There will be two youth shooting sports days and two ladies day programs. These programs are designed for folks with little or no experience using firearms or bows and arrows. Youngsters shoot .22 rifles and archery and ladies shoot .22 rifles, handguns shotguns, and compound bows. These programs have been well received by participants. More information will be sent out in email blasts to the club membership as well as on our website. We could always use some help with instruction. You don't need to be a great shooter. You just need to have a basic knowledge of shooting and safety and have an interest in helping first time shooters.

Contact Vic Maccallum at mainelyretired@yahoo.com for more info and to get involved.



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**KNOX COUNTY FISH & GAME
ASSOCIATION
2020 ICE FISHING DERBY**



FISH ENTRIES ACCEPTED FROM ANY BODY OF WATER WITHIN
A 50 MILE RADIUS OF BEAVER LODGE

**WEIGH INS FROM 11AM UNTIL 5:30 PM AT BEAVER LODGE
DOORS WILL BE CLOSED AT 5:30 PM**

DERBY ENTRY \$10 ADULT / \$5 UNDER 16
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: BRETT BURNSIDE (912) 977-9533 OR LINDSEY KIMBALL (207) 701-1178

OVER \$3,000 IN PRIZES