



**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.**

Rangeley Region Guides' & Sportsmen's Association

**P.O. Box 244
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www.rangeleyoutdoors.com
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Winter 2014 - 2015

2014 JUNIOR GUIDES SUMMER PROGRAM

By Elaine Holcombe

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's Report:

My sincere thanks to the RRG&SA Board of Directors and the many volunteers who made 2014 a successful and fun-filled year for our organization. We were fortunate to have good weather for all of our major summer events. Club leaders are already brainstorming ideas to make these events bigger and better than ever in 2015. Our monthly potluck dinners have been very well attended, featuring great food with informative and entertaining speakers.

RRG&SA and the Rangeley Skeet and Trap Association (RSTA) both received federal grant funding for their respective range improvement projects. These grants will allow both organizations to better align their ranges with best management practices for range design and operation. Preliminary ground work has begun. The projects will be completed by September, 2015. When completed, there will be increased sport shooting opportunities for club members, the general public, and individuals with physical disabilities. I hope everyone will visit our rifle/pistol range on the Morton Cut-off Road, our archery range adjacent to the Clubhouse, and the trap and skeet range at the end of Old Skiway Road. I will post pictures of the construction on our web page www.rangeleyoutdoors.com and on Facebook www.facebook.com/RangeleyRRGSA

Wishing all a joyous holiday season and good health in 2015.

Sheri Oldham

Skulls? Pelts? Jawbones? Animal toenails? All of these items and more were examined in the 18th year of RRG&SA's Junior Guide experiential-environmental basic program. The advanced Junior Guide Program emphasized challenging outdoor activities that included GPS, map skill work, overnight camping and canoeing.



Special presentations were given by our many volunteers: trapping, laser shot, first aid, compass reading, canoe safety along with special visits to our shooting range were a few of the offerings. Bruce Farnham from Mount Blue State park every year brings special mounts to test our participants' knowledge of Maine animals. We were very fortunate this year to have been able to offer a day of panning for gold with Tom Clough.



**YES, I WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES
PLEASE CONTACT ME.**

_____ JUNIOR GUIDES _____ HABITAT RESTORATION _____ FUND RAISING
_____ ARCHERY COURSE _____ SOCIAL EVENTS _____ GRANT APPLICATIONS
_____ KEEPING FISH LOG _____ OUTDOOR SPORTING HERITAGE

NAME(S) _____
ADDRESS _____
TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

The culmination of our program this year took place at the Bryant Pond 4H facility where youngsters experienced zip lining for the first time. Junior guides who finish both RRG&SA programs might consider continuing honing their skills by registering for the 4-H Camp's special programs. In addition, our newly cleaned and restocked pond improved the fishing success of all our youngsters.



Nini Christensen (left) was presented an Outstanding Service Award from Club Secretary Elaine Holcombe (right) for her 10 years as instructor for the RRG&SA Advanced Junior Guides Program.

We are looking forward to another exciting year in 2015. To pre-register or get more information, please call or e-mail Joyce Fay at 864-5196 or Joyce5196@aol.com.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

by Joyce Fay

We had perfect weather for the Annual Strawberry Festival in Oquossoc. Those who attended were pleased to see their favorite crafters return, along with several new vendors, coordinated by Renee Sopol. Of course our strawberry shortcake was a big hit thanks to Carol Harvey and her "strawberry" team. Many treasures were found thanks to the efforts of Rose Collins who organized the yard sale portion of the event. Our grill masters served up burgers and hot dogs and you'll want to try the delicious french fries that are being added to next year's menu!

This is one of our major events and is not possible without all our wonderful members who volunteer their time. The festival is always the 2nd Thursday in July so mark your calendar for July 9, 2015. For more info call 864-5196.

RANGELEY SKEET and TRAP ASSOCIATION

by Dave Kretzing

As I write this report for the newsletter, construction has begun on the RSTA range improvement project. When completed in 2015, skeet shooting will return to

the Rangeley area. A new handicapped accessible combination trap and skeet field will be built. Sporting clay stations will be rebuilt, and some new sporting clay stations will be constructed.



2014 was a busy year at the range with over 200 people participating in trap shooting and sporting clays. Please remember that your RRG&SA membership allows you to shoot clays at member rates. The range is open to the public as well. I hope you will visit the range in 2015.

RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGE

by Harold Fay

The summer of 2014 was another successful season at the range. The facility was open to the public from 9AM until 1PM on the second Wednesday and last Saturday of the month from June until mid-October. On those days there were trained Range Safety Officers on duty to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for our guests. There was a nominal fee of \$5 per non-member shooter on those days as well as having target backers available for rent and paper targets for sale. Most of the public participants became new members of the RRG&SA after their attendance at the range.

The 6th Annual Turkey Shoot was held on Sunday, October 5th and a good time was had by everyone who participated. In all we had 6 adult and 6 youth winners who brought home gift certificates for a turkey or a ham. Many thanks to Tom Reed, Bill Brittain, Sheri Oldham, Dave Kretzing, Doug Erale, Marianne Erale and Joyce Fay for their invaluable assistance in making this a fun and successful event.

The RRG&SA Rifle and Pistol Range ended the season with great news. Our range improvement grant has been finally approved and the money has been released for the start of work on the upgrades. The initial phase of the project consists of the earthwork for re-alignment of ranges, grading and construction of new berms for both safety and lead containment. Over the course of the winter and into the spring, we will be building additional

2015 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Mark your calendars for these 2015 events

- o 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 16: Rifle & Pistol Range opens for season
- o May 30: Trap & Clay Range opens for season
- o June 1: Archery Range opens for season
- o June 6: Casting For Recovery
- o June 10: Public Range Day
- o June 27: Public Range Day
- o July 6: Junior Guides, 6 consecutive Mondays, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- o July 8: Public Range Day
- o July 9: Strawberry Festival/yard sale
- o July 16: Annual Cookout 5:30 p.m.
- o July 25 Public Range Day
- o July 28, 29, & August 4, 5: Hunter Safety Course
- o August 11: Outdoor Sporting Heritage Day
- o August 12 : Public Range Day
- o August 22 : Public Range Day
- o August 29 & August 30: Skeet & Trap Tournament
- o September 9: Public Range Day
- o September 26: Public Range Day
- o September 30: Trap & Skeet Range closes for season
- o October 4: 7th Annual Turkey Shoot
- o October 14: Public Range Day
- o October 24: Youth Hunt Breakfast
- o October 31: Public Range Day, Shoot Range close for season

ENDOWMENT FUND

"100 years from now it won't matter how much money you made or how big your house was what will matter is that you helped preserve our outdoor sporting heritage for future generations"

An endowment is available to you as a way of becoming part of RRG&SA's long-term future and leave a legacy for future generations. The fund continues to grow as a result of lifetime memberships, annual contributions and member donations. Contact Don Palmer for information.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

We would like to sincerely thank the following Club Members who serve on our Board of Director's. This year we welcome one new Director, Nick Leadley.

PRESIDENT – Sheri Oldham
 VICE PRESIDENTS – Kevin Sinnett
 SECRETARY – Elaine Holcombe
 TREASURER – Doug Rose
 DIRECTORS: Marcia Baker, Bill Brittain, Tom Clough, Don Curtiss, Brett Damm, Harold Fay, Joyce Fay, Rusty Harvey, Kirby Holcombe, David Kretzing, Nick Leadley, Sam Spaulding, and Gerry White

Newsletter Editor – Kevin Sinnett



shooting benches, target bases and gun racks. For this part of the project we will be looking for volunteers to assist. Every hour of volunteer labor or donations of material can be billed against the grant to offset our required portion of the costs. Anyone wishing to help can e-mail hfay@aol.com.

As winter closes in on us, we anxiously await the 2015 season at the newly renovated range. We plan on introducing more fun shooting events over the course of the summer and look forward to seeing everyone at the range.

OUTDOOR SPORTING HERITAGE DAY 2014 by Elaine Holcombe

Outdoor Sporting Heritage Day was held on Tuesday, August 12th with young and old enjoying the Maine outdoors. The Rangeley Guides and Sportsmen's Association is in its 18th successful year in bringing to the public presentations, vendors, hands-on activities that celebrate the unique heritage of the Rangeley lakes area.

The Club wishes to thank everyone who was involved in making this year an extraordinary one.



Outdoor Sporting Heritage Day Competition Winners

THE YOUTH SPIN CASTING CONTEST

- 1st Place: Dalton Thurlow, Strong, ME—17"
- 2nd Place: Addison Dodge, Hancock, NH—16"
- 3rd Place: Meghan Fay, NJ—11.5"

FLYCASTING FOR DISTANCE CONTEST

- 8 and under: John Kelly—33'
- 9 and 10: Addison Dodge—35'
- 11 and 12: Boden Washington—39'
- 13 and 14: Jocelyn Lysick—43'
- Open: William Palmer—61'



APPLE TREE RELEASE PROGRAM

By Kevin Sinnett

Spear-headed by Marcia Baker, and supported by club members, over 40 apple trees were cleared this summer. Clearing around these choked apples trees allows more sunlight thus increasing apple production for wildlife. A great way to give back to our wilderness.



ANNUAL COOKOUT

by Sheri Oldham

Our Annual Cookout and Event was held on July 17. Over 100 people attended, and many in the group participated in rifle/pistol shooting, trap shooting, archery, and fly casting for a chance to win fabulous raffle prizes generously donated by Cabela's.

RRG&SA was pleased to honor two individuals who have made significant contributions to our organization and the Rangeley Region. Maine Game Warden, Reggie Hammond, was thanked for his 22 years of service, conserving and protecting our fish and game resources. Stephanie Palmer was honored for her 17 years of leading the Junior Guide Program. Reggie and Stephanie were awarded

commemorative plaques in appreciation of their hard work, dedication, and leadership.



After the awards ceremony, the membership voted to accept the recommendation of the Board of Director's for board members and officers. Marcia Baker, Tom Clough, Don Curtiss, and David Kretzing were elected to three-year terms on the board of directors. Sheri Oldham-President, Kevin Sinnett-Vice-President, Elaine Holcombe-Secretary, and Doug Rose-Treasurer were re-elected to their current positions.

The crowd then heard a presentation from Jason Clere and Peter Brockett of Brookfield Renewable Energy about the current status of the Upper Dam construction, as well as the plans and timeline for project completion. Many questions from the audience were asked and answered.

RRG&SA wishes to thank the many club member volunteers who helped make this such a fun-filled and successful event.

YOUTH HUNT....PASSING ON A TRADITION

By Kevin Sinnett

We hosted our annual youth hunting day breakfast on Saturday, October 25th. A larger than normal group of 15 children (and 17 adults) enjoyed a hearty breakfast prepared by Club members Doreen Sinnett and Nick Leadley. The meal was free for the children with each child also receiving a complimentary blaze orange Club ball cap.



Following breakfast the children, with their accompanying adult, took to the woods in search of the elusive white tail deer. Congratulations to Natasha Haley on her successful hunt!!



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

By Kathy Brittain, Membership Chair

Thank you for making 2014 a banner year for memberships. We appreciate those of you who are long-time members and welcome our new members and hope you will remain members in the future.

Our membership year runs from January 1 through December 31. In January you will receive a renewal application in the mail. Each year some of our members inadvertently fail to renew their membership. You can avoid having your membership lapse by renewing your membership as soon as you receive it. The Board of Directors has increased the dues for individual memberships to \$25.00 for 2015. All other membership levels will remain the same as last year, \$30.00 for family memberships and \$10.00 for individual senior memberships. If you are able to renew at a higher level, such as contributing/business for \$50, sustaining for \$100, or sponsoring for \$500, it will help us to improve and provide programs and activities for the community. If you have any questions regarding your membership, please contact me at rrgsa@myfairpoint.net. You can also download a membership application from our web site: www.rangeleyoutdoors.com

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.