

1-508-832-6492

AUBURN SPORTSMAN'S CLUB



50 Elm Street, Auburn, Ma



Calendar of Events

- 12/02/11 – ASC Meat Raffle
- 12/04/11 – Kids Christmas Party
- 12/10/11 – Adults Christmas Party
- 12/19/11 – Monthly ASC Meeting
- 01/01/12 – Fourth Annual New Year's Day Trap Shoot
- 01/06/12 – ASC Meat Raffle



Wild Turkeys – from http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/mwnews/2011/mwnews_1111.htm

With the fall turkey season ending this week and the approach of Thanksgiving, wild turkeys are the seasonal focus of attention. Wild turkeys are found throughout Massachusetts even in suburban and some urban areas, but did you know that there was a time (for over 120 years), when there were no wild turkeys living in the Bay State? In the 1600's during colonial settlement, the wild turkey was widespread in Massachusetts, ranging from Cape Cod to the Berkshires. As settlement progressed, however, the clearing of hardwood forests and market hunting caused the range of the turkey to shrink. By 1830, 80% of the state was cleared of forests and turkeys were rare. The last known native bird was killed in 1851. During the period following the Civil War, land use patterns began to change. Farms were abandoned, factory towns grew and the forests began to re-grow. The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife made several unsuccessful attempts to introduce game farm raised birds, but the birds could not survive on their own. Learning from other state wildlife agencies that releasing strictly wild birds was highly successful, Massachusetts secured permission from New York to live-trap wild birds for transfer to Massachusetts. Between 1972 and 1973, 37 birds were captured in New York and released in southern Berkshire County. The new flock grew slowly at first, but expanded rapidly after about 1976 with the estimated fall 1978 population totaling about 1,000 birds. Supplemented by an overflow from adjacent states, turkeys ranged throughout most parts of Massachusetts west of the Connecticut River. In-state transplants of the birds, conducted from 1979 to 1996, expanded the range of the bird into the central, northeastern and southeastern parts of the state. The current estimated population of wild turkeys in Massachusetts is now 40,000, creating turkey viewing and hunting opportunities for everyone! See the [Wild Turkey web pages](#) for more information on the state's official game bird.

Trap – Cheryl Baribeault

The elusive perfect score seems within reach lately... lots of high scores including Ron Hebert Sr. (yes you read that right Sr.!) hitting 24 out of 25 and dusting the 25th too bad we don't count dust! Remember, we are in the planning stages for our annual New Year's Day shoot. We look forward to seeing you all then. As always, we are open on Sunday mornings at 11:00am. Good luck to all the hunters!

Hunter Safety

With Shotgun season upon us, it's important to remember SAFETY FIRST! These "10 Commandments of Hunter Safety" can be found at: http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Hunting/hunt_ten_commandments.htm

1. Treat every firearm with the same respect due a loaded firearm.
2. Control the direction of your firearm's muzzle.
3. Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.
4. Be sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions.
5. Unload firearms when not in use.
6. Never point a firearm at anything you do not intend to shoot.
7. Never climb a fence or tree, or jump a ditch or log, with a loaded firearm.
8. Never shoot a bullet at a flat, hard surface or water.
9. Store firearms and ammunition separately.
10. Avoid alcoholic beverages or other mood-altering drugs before or while shooting.

Chicken Wing Cook-off

Congratulations go out to "Master Chef" Tim Baribeault for winning the chicken wing cook-off with Mrs. Krom coming in second. Thanks to all the cooks who participated!!



I'm dreaming of a white Halloween???

ASC Meat Raffle – December 2nd – 7:00pm

All are welcome, so come on down and bring a friend for a night of fun.



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December 2011 Newsletter

President's Message – Jim Nishan

I wish every member happy and joyous holidays, whichever path of beliefs you may choose to follow.

It is still my hope to have a club game dinner in the spring, but we need some donations to lower costs. Right now the event has available 42 lbs of ground venison to include some Cajun sausage and sweet Italian sausage. It also has some venison stew meat and steaks available. Some members are talking of a trip a NY game farm which may provide some variety, but I do ask that any members out there who have something they wish to donate to the event, please contact me or drop it off at the lounge to be put in the kitchen freezer. We will be looking to firm up the dates and how the event will be run at the December meeting.

While my main concern while writing here is always the well being of our own club, I have been asked to put forward some bow shooting opportunities available to our members at our sister club Bay Path Archers (243 Guelphwood Rd., Southbridge MA / 508 765-9505). Bay Path is an archery only club and their facilities offer indoor shooting opportunities during the long winter months. They will be running an indoor spot league beginning 1-3-2012 on Tuesday evenings, an indoor animal 3D league beginning 1-8-2012, and a kids shoot starting 1-7-2012. They also offer archery lessons from certified instructors. Our own indoor archery nights are moving to a different night this winter and of course when there is a choice I hope you will support our own events. However, wherever Bay Path offers additional opportunities for archers/bow hunters to keep on top of their skill I encourage you to support our brothers and sisters down the road who have done so much over the years to promote the same outdoor activities and sportsmanship, we as a club are dedicated to.

As I left the range earlier this week, I noted Tom Mahoney's car parked up the hill where he bow hunts. Tom exemplifies the best of what we as a club stand for. Good luck my friend.

Please read the Archery column here for our indoor archery league as there are changes you should be aware of. Mark Goodwin will be running the league again this winter.

I wish all again good holidays and successful, safe hunts. Nish

Meat Raffle – Ginny Lilley

Our next Meat Raffle will be held Friday, December 2nd. The first drawing for our Big Tables will be at 7:00pm!

Don't forget that our first 2012 Raffle will be Friday, January 6th.

Thank you to all our members and friends who help make this event a great success!

Special Events – Debi Verseckes

It's the **MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!**

Sunday, Dec 4th, is the Kid's (12 & under) Christmas Party at 2pm - ?? Santa will be arriving around 3pm. Crafts, Pizza, Music and Lots of FUN! Members – please be sure to sign your kids up on the sheet in the lounge and anyone wanting to contribute baked goods is more than welcome!

Saturday, Dec 10th, is the Adult's Christmas Party!! 6pm - ?? What No Santa? Definitely a Santa's helper or two . . . DJ Dan to ROCK US AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE! There will be a YANKEE GIFT SWAP – min \$10 gift – for those who wish to participate, as well as a POT LUCK SUPPER. PLEASE be sure to sign up in the Lounge for both! We will be raffling gift baskets as well.

DON'T BE A SCROOGE and BRING YOUR GOOD CHEER!
SANTA'S ELVE'S ARE REALLY HAPPY THIS YEAR!!!!!!!



Worcester County League - Craig Cortis

The November League meeting was held 11/18/11 here at A.S.C. I'd like to thank our club for its generosity in hosting the W.C.L. and, especially, Denise, Alice, Cheryl and Tim for kindly providing food and refreshments for all who attended and taking care of the hall arrangements. Ron Amidon of Otter River Sportsmen's Club in Templeton reported on the club's status following a serious fire that pretty much destroyed their main building back in September. Ron thanked A.S.C. for the generous donation we gave to the Otter River rebuilding fund as an assist. Bill Davis, Central District Mgr. for MassWildlife, responded to a question I asked regarding the status of river otters in Massachusetts. Bill explained that otter populations are up and the animals have been thriving for many years now, due to their ability to easily escape from the only kinds of traps that currently are legal. This is a big problem, of course, for owners of private stocked fish ponds!

In last month's newsletter, I wrote at length about new procedures for obtaining all licenses, permits or stamps that we buy for fishing, hunting and trapping, etc. Starting next year, all such licenses will be sold through an online, computerized system. This system is expected to be functional by early December of this year. The November issue of the W.C.L. Sportsmen's News – available free in the A.S.C. lounge – will be available through at least mid-December. You'll find extensive information on this online licensing in pages 14-17 of that issue. A.S.C.'s own Jim Nishan mentions the new system in his special report on legislation, which will be found on page 6 of the November issue.

Next meeting of the W.C.L. will be 12/16/11 at Hubbardston Rod and Gun, 55 Williamsville Road, Hubbardston.