



The Bullet



The Newsletter of The Holliston Sportsmen's Association, Inc.

March 2005

2005 Officers and Directors

President: Frank Mayti

Vice-President: Ron Ober

Treasurer: Alan Lisak

Secretary: Paul Liss

Directors:

Bob Murphy

Rick Wester

Joanne Hulbert

Doug Brown

Dana Stagg

**2005 DUES INVOICES
HAVE BEEN MAILED.
PLEASE GET YOUR
PAYMENT IN
PROMPTLY. THANKS!**

Notice: March Meeting Wednesday March 2nd

The March meeting of the Association will be held at 8:00PM on Wednesday March 2, 2005. The annual meeting is out of the way and it is time to move on to the new year ahead. Come to the March meeting to hear about the upcoming events. The annual trout derby is set for April 30th and the fish committee is looking for help again. The snow will be gone soon and the building and grounds committees will be setting up work parties to get some basic maintenance taken care of. The attendance prize drawing will be held but you have to be there to win. Refreshments will follow the meeting. Let's have a good turn out so we can get things moving again. See you there.

Bicycle Riders Wanted

We tried to get a group of riders together last year to participate in the Cycle for Haley charity ride without much luck. The ride this year is on Saturday October 1st. No conflict with Holliston Days. We would like to field an H.S.A. team for the event. Members, spouses, kids, friends can ride. See Rich Girvin for information at the March 2nd meeting.

Holliston Days Booth Volunteers Wanted

We know it is a little early to be planning late September events. But last year we reserved booth space at the Holliston Day Fair and no one volunteered to help out. Can we do better this time around? Saturday September 24th we need four or five members to help set up, man, and take down an H.S.A. information booth. If you can spare a couple of hours at any time during that day for the Association you could make the difference between our having a booth or not having a booth. It's seven months away so you really don't have anything else on your schedule yet. Why not pencil this in and let the officers and directors know you plan to help out with Holliston Days.

Fishing Trips

We are trying to get some members together for fishing trips:
Cod Trip - sometime in April, need six members at about \$185 per person. This is a meat fishing trip, no catch and release.
Stripers and Blues - a Rock Harbor trip maybe Saturday June 25th. Six members needed at about \$110 per person. See Rich Girvin for more information.

Stay up to date ! See the H.S.A. on-line at www.hsaneews.com

March 2005

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2
8:00PM - March Meeting

March 6
9:00AM - Fly Tying Workshop

March 7, 14, 21, 28
7:00PM - Junior Rifle Club

March 30
7:30PM - Director's Meeting

Gun Control Debate Over in Massachusetts

With the recent release of the Weapon Related Injury Surveillance System (WRISS), the debate over the effectiveness of "gun control" in reducing crime is over in Massachusetts.

In November 2004, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) released the latest WRISS report that includes data through 2003 (the most recent data available). Since 1994, this system has been tracking "weapon related injuries" by way of a reporting system used in emergency rooms throughout the Commonwealth. The latest report provides clear and convincing evidence that Chapter 180 of the Acts of 1998 did Massachusetts residents far more harm than good. The WRISS system clearly shows that from 1994 to 1997, before the passage of Chapter 180, "assault related firearm injuries" **decreased** 57%. From 1997 to 2003, "assault related" firearm injuries have **increased** 49%. During that same time, "unknown intent related" firearm injuries have **increased** 48%. To be fair, the current WRISS report did show that there had been a 54% decrease in accidental injuries between 1998 and 2003. However, accident rates have been dropping for decades nation wide. Accidents in Massachusetts decreased 36% from 1994 to 1998, without new laws. A second report released by the Massachusetts DPH further proves harm has been caused since these ill-conceived laws passed. In June 2004, the latest update of the Injury Surveillance Program (ISP) revealed some startling information. (The most recent information in this report is from 2002.) It is important to keep in mind the ISP reports show that firearm related homicides decreased 56% from 1994 to 1998. From 1998 to 2002, firearm related homicides **increased** 48%. During the same time, firearm related accidental deaths have increased 200%. Five years of statistical information exists to prove that the social experiment of restricting citizens' rights to control crime is been a complete failure. There can no longer be any reasonable argument for further infringements on our Second Amendment rights. With this information at hand, the Massachusetts legislature should continue the work it began last year to fix or outright repeal Chapter 180 of the Acts of 1998, which may be more aptly called "The Crime Incentive Bill." - (this item is from Gun Owners Action League web site)

Fly Tying Workshop Sunday March 6th



The fly of the month for March will be the Black Ghost streamer pattern. Herb Welch is the creator of this pattern. Herb is thought to be the first to tie streamers. Tying starts at 9:00AM on Sunday March 6th. The cost for the session is \$5 to offset the cost of materials. Bring your tying tools and learn this classic Maine streamer pattern.

Gold, Silver, Bronze! Enter the Big Fish Tournament To win



That's right. You could win a Gold, Silver, or Bronze (colored) pin to display on your favorite fishing hat or vest. First, second and third place winners in each category receive a handsome pin. The first batch of pins were awarded at the Annual Meeting in February to the 2004 tournament winners. Do be left out this year. See the Tournament Rules in the right hand column on this page and send in those entries for 2005.

2005 H.S.A. Big Fish Tournament Now Underway

Open to: All H.S.A. Members (Junior, Senior, Life)

Dates: February 1, 2005 to January 15, 2006

Fees: None

Awards: Winner of each category will have their name engraved on an H.S.A. Annual Big Fish Tournament Plaque that is displayed in the Clubhouse. Fish Pins will be awarded for each category:

1st Place – Gold, 2nd Place - Silver, 3rd Place – Bronze
(Note: A member may win only one pin per year.)

Categories: Trout / Salmon, Large Mouth Bass, Small Mouth Bass,, Striped Bass, Bluefish

Location: No restriction

To Enter: Members must submit photo of fish caught (preferably with tape measure in photo) along with the following information:

Species and length;
Date fish was caught;
Location where fish was caught;
Method (fly, spin, boat, shore, lure, bait, etc);
Name of witness if any (witness not required);

Entries may be submitted at monthly meetings between 2/1/05 and 1/15/06 or,

Mail to: H.S.A. Big Fish Tournament
P.O. Box 6044
Holliston, MA 01746 – 6044

E-Mail to: rfgirvin@yahoo.com

Tournament Standings: All entries will be posted on the bulletin board in the H.S.A. Clubhouse.

To Win: Winners will be determined by overall length of fish measured from bottom lip to fork in tail.

Awards Presented at Annual Meeting - February 1, 2006

Middlesex County League Meeting at the H.S.A.

A small crowd turned out for the MCL Meeting at the H.S.A. on February 24th. In the photo on the right MassWildLife Fisheries biologist Todd Richards is seen discussing river habitat restoration in Massachusetts.



**MARCH MEETING
OF THE
ASSOCIATION**

**WEDNESDAY
MARCH 2ND**

8:00PM

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**The Bullet
Holliston Sportsmen's Association
137 Bullard Street
P.O. Box 6044
Holliston, MA 01746-6044**

Place
Stamp
Here

***Annual Meeting Reminder:
Wednesday March 2, 2005 at the HSA Clubhouse
Meeting Starts at 8:00PM***