

LEYDEN RIFLE CLUB NEWSLETTER #6

Leyden, Massachusetts

Affiliated with the National Rifle Association &
the Civilian Marksmanship Program

- ✓ **2006 LRC Memberships** : Membership annual dues are still \$25.00 per year. If you haven't renewed, please contact Elwin Barton and be sure to carry your 2006 LRC membership card with you while on the Club grounds; it is for your benefit as well as the Club's.
- ✓ **Spring Work Bee** : We will have a work bee to clean up the outdoor rifle range and the Clubhouse's grounds on Saturday and Sunday (as a rain date), April 22nd and 23rd. (???) The work bee will begin ~8:00 AM until ??? As usual, a luncheon will be provided to all LRC members who help. Plan to meet at Elwin Barton's house. We may need a leaf blower so if any one could bring one that would be great.
- ✓ **Unannounced gathering of LRC members** : On Sunday, January 8th, 2006, several members met at our rifle range. I estimate some 30 persons attended. The purpose of the meeting was to simulate a high power rifle match for the benefit of the Leyden town officials who wanted to hear and witness the (so-called) "noise" emanating from our rifle range and then judge the validity to the abutters' claim of the excessive "noise". That day in January was c-o-l-d and we do appreciate those LRC members who gave up their Sunday afternoon to support the Club. A special note of gratitude goes to LRC member, Frank MacDonald, who accompanied Leyden town officials about the various locations during the shooting. Since there were so many members who attended, I really didn't get an opportunity to show our appreciation to all attending members that day but on behalf of the LRC officers we say, "Thank you."
- ✓ **CMP Update** : I have been receiving several email messages from the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) that the supply of government-issued M1 Garand rifles is dwindling. All collector grades, select grades, and service grades of Winchester, H&R, and International Harvester are no longer available. What are only available are the Springfield Armory-made service grade rifles but even they're getting limited. If you haven't gotten an M1 from the CMP as yet and were thinking of getting one, my advice is act soon, -when they're gone, they're gone.

To qualify for an M1 surplus rifle, the purchaser must: 1) be a U.S. citizen at least 18 years of age, 2) be legally eligible to purchase a firearm, 3) be a member of a veterans' organization or state association affiliated with the CMP (like the LRC) and, 4) have participated in a marksmanship activity, e.g., a rifle match or satisfy other marksmanship criteria.

- ✓ **Welcome a new member** : At the January 8th gathering, I personally met one of our newest members of LRC named Rocky. He and his family are from Colorado and have recently moved to Western Massachusetts. He's quite the character and is a likable person. Aside from being a shooting enthusiast, he is an avid hunter (he's still learning about our Eastern whitetails as compared to Rocky Mountain elk) and was an armorer of military firearms in Colorado. As LRC President, I would like to extend a warm "Welcome" to Rocky and his family. If you should meet him at the rifle range, be sure to introduce yourself and make him feel 'at home'.
- ✓ **Junior Shooters** : The LRC is still actively trying to enroll junior shooters at our rifle matches. If you think any of your sons, daughters, nephews, nieces, next door neighbor's kids, etc. might be interested in rifle shooting, please bring them to one of the LRC rifle matches, even it just to watch; it's a start. If we are going to have any chance of continuing any interest in our sport to the next generation, it begins with us. Think about it.
- ✓ **Reloading tip** : Having trouble reloading .223 cal cases with stick powder? There's a simple solution: use a metal (aluminum) funnel. The problem is static electricity "clogs" the stick powder in plastic funnels just above the case neck; there is no static electricity using a metal funnel. I'm loading stick powders like IMR 4895 or Hogden 'Varget' all the time now in .223 cal and have since quit using Winchester 495 or AA 2520 ball powders. (Works for me...)
- ✓ **Four match tournament** : We are still planning to hold the Four Match Tournament for our 2006 high power rifle shoots. To qualify for the tournament, a rifle shooter must complete one match in the following: bolt action rifle, high power rifle, M1 Garand rifle, and reduced target (any rifle). For 2005, there were only 2 shooters that did all 4 matches. Never mind 'Got milk?', -got shooters?

Enjoy your summer and "Share your sport",

Joe Sipitkowski, LRC President

April 2006