FISHIN’ & FAMILY

Memories were made on September 10th, at the 17th Annual New England Paralyzed Veterans of America Bass Trail. We rolled into beautiful, lakefront Camp Robindel in Moultonborough, NH located on Lake Winnipesaukee. We are fortunate to continue to hold our tournaments here thanks to owners Nat & Ann Greenfield who continue to donate their exclusive 100 acre camp to us, as well as their head of operations, Joel Mudgett who continues to meet all of our needs that may arise. This type of generosity is the heart of our tournaments, as our philosophy is to enable ANY disabled angler the opportunity to get out and fish with no barriers. Our sponsors and donations from individuals, local businesses, and fishing communities, as well as fundraising throughout the year at weekend long sportsman shows enable us to continue to provide these opportunities.

A few quotes from the weekend: John Worrall- “It’s a beautiful spot, a lot of people bring their boats, restores your faith in humanity when you find all the giving that people do,” founder of 45 North, nonprofit weekend long retreats for combat Veterans (www.ww45N.org). Angler Tony Rinaldi- “I love everything about the event, especially the camaraderie, even if you don’t have a successful day, you just have a great time on the water. I just like the beauty of the camp and the lake.”

Attendees arrived on Friday, pre-fished, got settled into their weekend vacation home, and spent time catching up with new and old friends, often stated as their “bass trail family.” This location boasts areas for group gatherings as well as many remote spots for personal reflection. As the gathering began, so did the stories of the past year, fish tales, challenges, celebrations, the secret world of fishing, locations, tackle and technique. All were treated to a delicious buffet dinner with desserts donated from Picnic Rock Farms and acoustic music with new material provided by Mark Fournier, boat captain and Bass Trail BOD. You guessed it, then early to bed, early to rise, fish all day and……well you know the rest.

We continue to gain new participants, this year we were joined by new pontoon boat captains & volunteers Todd & Andrew Whitridge, and Manny & Kim Miranda. We are thrilled to say “they are hooked,” and have already volunteered for next year. Manny is an ARMY Veteran

continued on page 4

The winning team of (l. to r.) Boat Captain John Foster, Rod Kingsbury, and Duncan Banks (Rod’s nephew) shows off their catch at the NEPVA Bass Tournament on Lake Winnipesaukee on September 10th.
PARALYZED VETERANS of AMERICA
NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER
NEPVA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
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WALPOLE, MA 02081
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Monthly meetings are held every first Wednesday of the month at the NEPVA office in Walpole, Ma. The executive board meets at 10:30 a.m. Followed by the regular membership meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Cord Word is published twelve times a year by the New England Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America, 1600 Providence Hwy., Suite 143, Walpole, MA 02081 in the interest of Chapter members. Membership in NEPVA entitles you to a free subscription to Cord Word. Articles published in Cord Word do not necessarily reflect the views of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, New England Chapter. NEPVA neither endorses nor guarantees any of the products or services advertised herein. Postmaster: send changes of address to NEPVA, 1600 Providence Hwy., Suite 143, Walpole, MA 02081
The Abilities Expo Boston took place from 9.16 through 9.18. It has grown so much since its first year. Many thanks to all who volunteered to help out. Also, a great thank you to Tim Kelly for covering the table at the Big E on the 16th. One of these years, I will get to do that instead!!!!!!

The Chapter banquet has come and gone as well. I do sincerely hope you all had a great time. As far as moving goes, well, I will have to keep you posted.

There is always something going on, which is very good. The more we have to do, the better. That being said, I didn’t think our lives were so busy that our membership could not take 5 minutes out of a day to fill out a ballot. I’m sure that we could all afford a stamp as well. I couldn’t believe it, out of the 920 ballots we mailed out, we received 125 back, REALLY? 125! REALLY? Yes, it mattered that you voted and yes there were folks competing for various positions. I wonder how many of our 920 members would complain if we only provided services to our 125 voting members.

That being said, I also hope that you have been reading the newsletter. Excuses of not knowing what is going on at the Chapter will no longer be accepted. Because we are losing a major fundraiser, the Chapter Board has had to make some truly tough decisions concerning the budget and how funds will be dispensed in the future. There will be a policy change concerning how the chapter dispenses a number of funding programs: Individual Allotment, Nursing Scholarships, Vet Games, Golden Age Games, pretty much any program that the chapter provides funds for.

To start with, the upcoming policy concerning Individual Allotment, there will be a requirement to volunteer so many hours a month in order to get funding. Another potential change (still being worked out) is asking folks to not take their reimbursement for volunteering in order to do two things: save the chapter money as well as possibly increasing Individual Allotment if you are looking for funding for a particular event.

No matter what these changes will be, it will now be First Come – First Served. Meaning What? Meaning that there is only so much money in each program. Those who apply first will probably be lucky to get funds. However, those who wait, and that is another matter, may be left out. The policy to receive funding has not changed: Funding requests should be to the Chapter office at least 45 days prior to the event in order to make it into the packet so it can be reviewed by the Chapter Board at the Chapter BOD meeting. So if your event is November 12th, you should have submitted your request by September 26th or even sooner so the request could be in the Board packets. Have I confused you all? GOOD! That means you are paying attention.

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and Andrew Whitridge, a Combat MARINE Veteran. Loyal volunteers, Stephanie Kealey, RN & Sony Fernandez RN, both from MA, were present all weekend to ensure all medical needs were met. Our nurses’ children, junior volunteers of several years, were also on board; Caitlin, 10 & Angelo 12. They promptly delivered our fish back home, post weigh in. There truly is a job for all. They may be the future Pro Anglers.

Saturday morning began with a full breakfast buffet provided by kitchen staff, Dana & Ginny as well as the active duty Navy of Portsmouth, NH, coordinated by Doug (Doc) Fletcher. To say the least, we are like kings & queens all weekend; they are amazing, up with the birds and non-stop until Sunday. I must say we are spoiled at Camp Robindel. Following breakfast, special guest Jacob Heal sang the National Anthem; it moved all of us and many to tears. He drove almost two hours from Portland, Maine to honor us; he was amazing and what a way to start the day.

Teams were paired, bag lunches packed and off to the docks. The humorous & fine-tuned techniques of the Merrimack Valley Chapter of Nam Knights, various other Nam Knights members (AKA human cranes) & Navy recruits enabled any angler access to their boat. The coordination was led by bass trail co-founder Ray (Hunter) Brunelle whose dedication is never ending.

While the anglers were fishing, families were treated to a boat ride, raffles were sold, weigh in set up. Guests from the NH State Veterans Home arrived, as well as members of the Ladies Auxiliary and SAL of American Legion Post 33 of Meredith. Thereafter, live radio broadcast of the HAWK 104.9 began with interviews, giveaways and donations. Prior to the tournament, they provided us with multiple live interviews and almost as much coverage as the elections, what a great addition they are to our event. More coverage of our event was provided by The Laconia Evening Citizen & The Meredith News newspaper.

While waiting for our anglers to return, we were presented with generous donations from the Blue Star Mothers of NH, Post 33 Ladies Auxiliary & SAL, as well as several private community donations to include one from a reporter covering our event, stating she was married to a veteran and touched by what she viewed at our event.

Finally, our anglers returned from their secret spots, with much whispering and heavy fish bags. The show began with smiles and fish too many to count.

1st Place John Foster & Rod Kingsbury, 5 fish at 16.00 lbs.
2nd Place Jim Ellis & John Worrall, 5 fish at 12.76 lbs.
3rd Place Paul Gelinas & Jerry Williams, 5 fish at 9.54 lbs.
Lunker Rod Kingsbury, 6.13 lbs. largemouth

Pontoon Boat Division
Todd Whitridge & Jim Wallack

Hard to believe after all this there is more, but after a few hours we were at it again, you guessed it, another buffet dinner with music from Joe & Dori, raffles, silent auction and awards banquet. Special guests included, Moultonborough Selectman, Jean Beadle who arrived with a proclamation continued on page 6.
Service Officer’s Report

The Spinal Cord Injury Driver Rehab Program

There is a program that exists that provides great help to Veterans with SCI/D and driving called the SCI Driver Rehab Program. This program offers evaluations, screenings, adaptive driving recommendations, and vehicle ingress/egress equipment recommendations. It also provides in-wheelchair driver training, refresher courses, guidance for obtaining a DMV permit, DMV testing assistance, referrals to high-tech centers (for patients who require training with specialized equipment such as joysticks, mini wheels or foot steering among other) such as the Brockton VA Medical Center.

How to Enroll in the Program:

**Drivers:**

1. Veterans must be eligible for the Auto Grant to qualify for the SCI Driver Rehab Program.
2. Veterans must have valid driver’s license or DMV permits to be evaluated and trained (If neither, please consult SCI driver rehab specialist for details.)
3. Request a consult from a medical provider (Provider must select driver option.)
4. Schedule appointment to see SCI driver rehabilitation specialist for subsequent evaluation.
5. Based on veteran’s needs, the driver evaluations will address physical, and cognitive areas along with other sectors as it pertains to driving. Based on the assessments, Driver Rehabilitation Specialist will generate a Prosthetics Consult in accordance to identified needs.

**Passengers:**

1. This option is for veterans who use vehicles as passengers only.
2. Request a consult from a medical provider (Provider must select passenger option.)
3. Schedule appointment with the Driver Rehabilitation Specialist for subsequent evaluation.
4. The Driver Rehabilitation Specialist evaluation will primarily concentrate on ingress/egress needs.
5. Upon completion of the evaluation, the Driver Rehabilitation Specialist will generate a Prosthetics consult in accordance with identified needs.
6. Equipment for ingress and egress is not dependent on the Auto Grant.

The assessment and training by the SCI Driver Rehabilitation Specialist is an imperative step to make adequate driver and equipment recommendations. Recommendations made by the Driver Rehabilitation Specialist are strictly clinical and must be approved by the veteran's SCI medical provider. The final determination for equipment coverage and equipment issuance is determined and authorized by the Prosthetics Department. Detailed information on adaptive driving equipment and vehicle grants can be found at the following link: [http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-special-auto-allowance.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-special-auto-allowance.asp)

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**PVA Service Offices Serving New York**

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<td>Veterans Health &amp; Benefits Specialist II</td>
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<td>716-857-3353; 800-795-3619</td>
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By Raul Acosta
Senior Benefits Advocate Officer
naming Sept 10th, 2016 New England Paralyzed Veterans of America Day in the town of Moultonborough, what an honor! Tough act to follow, however next up was past junior volunteer of many years, Hudson Ingoldsby, now an intern for Senator Kelly Ayotte, to extend words of gratitude.

More special presentations were on board as Bill Church, long time & loyal boat captain, built and donated a custom fishing rod, as he does each year, to a lucky boat captain with a worth of over $600.00. These rods have our NEPVA logo on them and are, as they say “eye candy.” An additional presentation was made from Bill Church & John Foster (President of NH Bass Federation) who collectively provided tackle to fill tackle boxes donated to all disabled anglers from Bass Pro Shops. What a tribute to an organization when your participants begin personal endeavors to benefit attendees.

Lastly, the “after party” began with campfires, live music and dancing. All were treated to another buffet breakfast, exchange of numbers, emails and hugs. Our next stop, the great North Woods of Maine: Oct 21-23rd North Pond, Rome Maine, great fishing. Please register soon at 1-508-660-1181 or at NEPVA.org. Watch Facebook for updates and info as well as tourney pictures at NEPVABASSTRAIL. Don’t wait any longer, check us out, get out and GO FISH.

We cannot thank enough all attendees, friends, families, Sharon, widow of a former boat captain, and all volunteers

continued from page 4

(Above left, l. to r.): Angler Joel Robbins and Boater Colin Rogers; (Top right) a group shot of American Legion Post 33 members and NH State Veterans Home residents; (Below left): NEPVA member Frank Vogeli; (Below right): Paul Reed and Ken Wood.

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At the weigh-in at Lake Winnipesaukee were: (Top row l. to r.) Nurse Stephanie Kealey and Tournament Director Tiny LaFontaine; Boater Ed Roback and Jill Hoffman; Angler Oscar Toce; (Center row l. to r.): Kuan You Lee and Boater Jack Mazur; Nurse Stephanie Kealey and Lamaar Edwards; Boater Mike Goodspeed and NEPVA Vice President Mike Guilbault; (Bottom row l. to r.) Boater Todd Sutton and Angler Donald Knowlton; Mike Guilbault and Kuan You Lee catch up with friends and family.
Flu Vaccination

Why should people get vaccinated against the flu?
Influenza is a serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and sometimes even death. Every flu season is different, and influenza infection can affect people differently. Even healthy people can get very sick from the flu and spread it to others. During recent flu seasons, between 80% and 90% of flu-related deaths have occurred in people 65 years and older. “Flu season” in the United States can begin as early as October and last as late as May. During this time, flu viruses are circulating at higher levels in the U.S. population. An annual seasonal flu vaccine is the best way to reduce the chances that you will get seasonal flu and spread it to others. When more people get vaccinated against the flu, less flu can spread through that community.

How do flu vaccines work?
Flu vaccines cause antibodies to develop in the body about two weeks after vaccination. These antibodies provide protection against infection with the viruses that are in the vaccine.

Who should get vaccinated this season?
Everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine every season. Vaccination to prevent influenza is particularly important for people who are at high risk of serious complications from influenza.

When should I get vaccinated?
Flu vaccination should begin soon after vaccine becomes available, if possible by October. However, as long as flu viruses are circulating, vaccination should continue to be taken throughout the flu season, even in January or later. While seasonal influenza outbreaks can happen as early as October, during most seasons influenza activity peaks in January or later. Since it takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body that protect against influenza virus infection, it is best that people get vaccinated so they are protected before influenza begins spreading in their community.

Where can I get a flu vaccine?
Flu vaccines are offered in many locations, including the SCI Clinic at the VA Boston HCS, Primary Care Flu Clinics and in the Community Based Outpatient Clinics. The vaccine can also be obtained in the community at many Pharmacies in your neighborhood.

Why do I need a flu vaccine every year?
A flu vaccine is needed every season for two reasons. First, the body’s immune response from vaccination declines over time, so an annual vaccine is needed for optimal protection. Second, because flu viruses are constantly changing, the formulation of the flu vaccine is reviewed each year and sometimes updated to keep up with changing flu viruses. For the best protection, everyone 6 months and older should get vaccinated annually.

Does flu vaccine work right away?
No. It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body and provide protection against influenza virus infection. That’s why it’s better to get vaccinated early in the fall, before the flu season really gets under way.

The Flu Vaccine will be available at the SCI Clinic at the VA Boston HCS at the West Roxbury Campus, Building 2, Room 2B-123.

Please call the clinic with questions or concerns. We also ask that you call the clinic if you receive the vaccine in the community so that this information can be updated in your VA record. 857-203-6455
s Congress returned after Labor Day from its annual summer recess, a few veterans-related bills passed through the House. H.R. 5620, the “VA Accountability First and Appeals Modernization Act,” has two major components. The first is a set of accountability measures which would institute reforms at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and provide the Secretary increased flexibility to remove a VA employee for performance or misconduct. It also strengthens whistleblower protections, including restricting bonus awards for supervisors who retaliate against whistleblowers.

The second major component of H.R. 5620, is the proposed overhaul of the veterans’ disability claims and appeals process that PVA has been involved with since the plan’s inception. The legislation is the work product of a collection of VSO’s who collaborated and negotiated for several months with VA. While PVA supports the proposed system, we still insist there is further work to be done to deal with how that system is implemented.

With appeals now taking a minimum of three years on average to adjudicate, there is a strong consensus on the Hill that reform is needed now. PVA participated in a press conference held at the Capitol Visitor Center promoting the issue. Several members of Congress were present, including Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), who introduced S. 3328, a bill that mirrors only the appeals provisions in H.R. 5620. Because the accountability portion of H.R. 5620, is highly politicized, its fate in the Senate remains unclear. However, PVA does support both components of H.R. 5620.

The House also passed H.R. 3471, the “Veterans Mobility Safety Act,” by voice vote with strong bipartisan support. The bill will require VA to develop safety certification standards for vendors installing Adaptive Automobile Equipment (AAE). Current law does not require individuals or businesses installing adaptive equipment to demonstrate any sort of qualifications or expertise to do so, sometimes leading to faulty and dangerous installations. The process of developing those standards would include industry representatives, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and most importantly, veterans’ service organizations. Given the very high percentage of PVA members who rely upon AAE, we are well-positioned to represent the interests of veterans and ensure that the standards do not diminish the availability and delivery of these products. We are now awaiting Senate consideration of a similar bill. Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS) is preparing to introduce an amended version of H.R. 3471, which PVA supports, that should see this important legislation signed into law.

The House also passed H.R. 5936, the “Veterans Care Agreement and West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016.” While PVA supported the overall intent of the bill and particularly the provisions related to provider agreements, we expressed serious concerns about aspects of the legislation. VA has long struggled to attract smaller provider organizations necessary to fill gaps in health care services found in rural areas due to the laborious FAR process that governs contracting. This bill will streamline the process for providers, allowing greater access to care as smaller organizations find it feasible to join the VA’s health care network. PVA objected, however, to the bill’s weakening of employment opportunities and protections available for veterans, veterans with disabilities, and individuals with disabilities. The bill ultimately permits Veterans Care Agreement providers to not comply with important non-discrimination and affirmative hiring provisions. PVA and our partners in the disability and veterans communities have long opposed efforts to minimize this compliance.
Our goal is making independent living a reality for many people and help them achieve the highest quality of life for both user and caregiver. Lift and Care Systems caters to residential homes, semi-group homes, day programs, hospitals, schools, and other institutions.

Products Offered:
* SUREHANDS Patient Lifts, Ceiling, Mobile, and Pool Lifts
* BEST BATH Roll-in showers, walk-in tubs, and ADL spas
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* Bath Safe Products: Grab bars, Super Poles, and more...

(Some products are covered by VA Programs. Call for more details.)

Changing the Lives of the Physically Challenged Every Day.
including: the boat captains coming as far as MA and CT providing their gear and expertise; our NEPVA Bass Trail BOD; Director Tiny LaFontaine, Bob (Soupy) Campbell, Ray (Hunter) Brunelle, Laurie Campbell Morin, Mark Fournier, Karl Ingoldsby, Tom Blanchard and myself; NEPVA Bass Trail liaison Jim Wallack and NEPVA BOD Mike Guilbault; Tournament committee, Lamaar Edwards and Michael Goodspeed.

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At the awards presentation were: (Top left) Pontoon Division winners Jim Wallack and Todd Whitting; (Right top to bottom): First Place winners Rod Kingsbury and John Foster; Second place winners Jim Ellis and Jon Worrall; Third place winners Paul Gelinas and Jerry Williams shown with Tiny LaFontaine; Jim Ellis on the dock at Lake Winnipesaukee.
The Independent Budget Begins Development of Policy Agenda for the 115th Congress

During the August recess, PVA met with our partners in The Independent Budget (IB)—Disabled American Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars—to begin the planning process for the IB Policy Agenda for the 115th Congress. Following the meeting, the organizations approved six critical issues that will lead the next IB.

Those issues are:

1. Restructure the Delivery of Veterans Health Care—The Independent Budget will focus on the framework for veterans’ health care delivery reform proposed last year. Inherent in this framework is the preservation and strengthening of a robust Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system, particularly specialized services such as spinal cord injury and disease care, blind and vision impaired care, polytrauma care, traumatic brain injury care, and mental health care services.

2. Remove Budget Constraints that Negatively Impact Veterans Programs—This issue will focus on the structural impediments that lead to insufficient resources being provided to ensure VA has adequate capacity to meet the needs of veterans.

3. Reform the Claims and Appeals Process—Appeals modernization and reform has been a primary objective of VA leadership this year and has been widely discussed in the House and Senate.

4. Realign and Modernize Capital Infrastructure—The misalignment and deterioration of much of VA’s capital infrastructure is a commonly discussed problem that continues to negatively impact the delivery of care to veterans.

5. Expand and Improve the Comprehensive Family Caregiver Program—Expansion of the comprehensive family caregiver program administered by the VA to veterans of all eras remains a high priority for The Independent Budget.

6. Ensure that VA Provides High-Quality, Effective Programs and Services to Meet the Unique Needs of Women Veterans—Much work remains to ensure that women veterans are able to access the full range of health care services that are appropriate to their unique needs.

The document will also include a wide-array of issues addressing veterans’ benefits, health care, construction, education, employment and national cemeteries. The IB Policy Agenda will be released in January 2017 in conjunction with the start of the 115th Congress.
Connect With What Matters

Being there makes a difference

Recently the Ride-Away team joined forces with MobilityWorks so that we could provide our veterans with the largest selection of mobility solutions that best fit their physical capabilities and lifestyle. Veterans have unique needs so we treat each of them as individuals. First of all, we listen. Then, we work together find the best solution. Collectively, Ride-Away and MobilityWorks will continue to build on our mission to help veterans connect with who and what matters most.

MobilityWorks has more than 50 locations across the country with the largest selection of accessible vehicles and adaptive solutions:

- Minivans, full-size vans and trucks
- The latest in adaptive technology
- Complete maintenance and service
- Rental vans — veterans receive a 10% discount

MobilityWorks is committed to serving you. Contact us today so we can evaluate your needs and find a solution that best fits your lifestyle.

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<td>207-747-2064</td>
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<td>Essex Junction</td>
<td>5C David Drive Essex Junction, VT 05452</td>
<td>802-222-0265</td>
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<td>Londonderry</td>
<td>54 Wentworth Avenue Londonderry, NH 03053</td>
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<td>North Attleboro</td>
<td>57 George Leven Drive North Attleboro MA 02760</td>
<td>508-859-0940</td>
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<td>Norwood</td>
<td>333 Boston Providence Turnpike Norwood, MA 02062</td>
<td>781-222-3622</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Hartford</td>
<td>104 Pitkin Street East Hartford, CT 06108</td>
<td>860-215-4100</td>
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USA’s largest accessible van dealer!
One final matter that truly needs addressing. I remain extremely lucky that I can still stand and walk but that doesn’t mean that I don’t have to worry about skin issues, even I do. There are a fair number of veterans ending up with pressure ulcers because they are refusing to accept the fact they are getting older, they need to change the way they have been doing things, and/or they’re just out and out too lazy. I have seen first-hand how hard it is for these folks to get back in their chair as it were because they were basically bedridden for weeks and/or months. It took a great deal of courage to adapt to your new normal when you were first injured. Consider it an upgrade to your new normal by adapting to doing things differently. For instance, transfers are a primary problem to pressure ulcers. Limiting transfers can cut that problem way down. If adapting to change means getting a vehicle that will allow you to stay in your wheelchair, I would ask isn’t that better than spending weeks or months having someone else dress the wounds on your six? I’ve heard many of you tell me you have a standing frame. Well, for Heaven’s sake USE IT to stand, so your backside can get a break. We have a hard enough time fighting Congress to keep VA Healthcare and trust me when I tell you, if Congress wins it just may be first come-first served!
Enjoy both hands on the wheel!

DARIOs is VA accepted. KEMPF features nationwide free at-home pick-up and delivery and at-home service.

Visit: www.kempf-usa.com to find videos and comments from users and to request a quotation.

Call Toll-free: 1-888-4-KEMPF-US (453-6738) for a free DVD and free brochure.
2016 Sports & Events

Paralyzed Veterans of America
New England Chapter

2016 NEPVA Bass Trail

October 21-23, Pine Tree Camp, Rome, ME

Shooting Events
Contact: Joan.Lynch@va.gov

10/7 Bass River Rod and Gun Club
arrive at 11 am

MANY THANKS TO THE NAM KNIGHTS
WHO HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THERE FOR OUR ANGLERS & VETS