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CHAPTER NEWS, EVENTS AND ARTICLES

WOMEN'S SKEET CLINICS

Ms. Debbi Perry is conducting several Women's Skeet Shooting Clinics. Come learn how to shoot at and break clay birds. These clinics are fun and informative and are open to all women members (or family of members). You may attend as often as you like. The dates are
Saturday, January 19, 2008
Saturday, February 2, 2008
Saturday, March 8, 2008
Contact Debbi Perry at debbi.perry@verizon.net for time and more information.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

In addition to the upcoming Wild Game Dinner on January 26 (auction at 5:00 pm), we also have a membership dinner meeting on January 23. Social hour starts at 6:30 pm with dinner at 7:30 pm. Meatball subs are on the menu. 23. Social hour starts at 6:30 pm with dinner at 7:30 pm. Meatball subs are on the menu. Yum!



Figure 1 - The master Chef, Dolores Gick, for the December meal.



Figure 2 - Taster, Joe Gick, does his part.



Figure 3 - Santa's Helpers



Figure 4 - Enjoying Christmas dinner at WAC.

All photographs by Bob Cumberland.

NEW COWBOY SHOOTER CLINIC (Chuck Crooks)

The first 2008 New Cowboy Shooter Clinic, at our IWLA-WAC Chapter, will be Saturday, March 8, 2008.

[Applications are now available on the IWLA-WAC and Our Damascus Wildlife Rangers web sites.](#) Class sizes are limited, and seats are on a first come, first serve basis.

The purpose of the clinics is to introduce the sport to potential enthusiasts who'd like to give it a try without "the whole world watching." Though playing the game under the watchful eye of the Range Officer and their timer is part of the fun, it can be a little intimidating if you're new. SAFETY and fun are the real focus of the sport, and we'd like to be sure everyone gets off to the right start. Students will learn how the game is played, hear the SASS rules, see the equipment and accessories that are required, and get a chance to try out the range of firearms that are appropriate to the sport. A history of the sport is included in the classroom portion. You can look at the [Clinic Outline](#) (also on the web sites) to see what's covered.

Atlantic Guns and our own Damascus Wildlife Rangers provide all equipment and ammo, if students do not have their own yet. Each person will get the chance to shoot a real cowboy scenario or two using the ol' hoglegs, scatter gun and lever action rifle! You will feel the fear of that dang buzzer and learn what real brain fade is like!

The clinics are not meant to be initial firearms training. Students must already be familiar with the safe use and the loading of revolvers, rifles and shotguns. For additional information, contact [Chuckaroo](#) 301-831-9666.

DUES INCREASE FOR 2008 (Joe Gick)

For any members joining after January 1, 2008, there will be an increase of \$20 in the yearly dues (to \$130 per year) and an increase in the one time initiation fee of \$20 when joining. These costs will not affect current members until you renew for 2009. We have kept the costs the same for many years, and kept dipping into our reserve fund to do so. Increasing insurance, energy, and supply costs make this impossible. Our dues only cover about one third of what it costs to run the chapter. We REALLY need your participation at our BBQ's and similar events to bring in additional revenue and to offset future increases.

To help put things in perspective, if you go to Starbucks just one time each week for a year and buy a Grande Latte, it will cost you over \$221.00. That is 70% more than what it costs to be a member of our club - a real deal!

WILD GAME DINNER AUCTION (Chuck Limparis)

There is still time to get your tickets for the Wild Game Dinner and Auction. You have one more dinner meeting on Wednesday, January 23 and tickets are available at the trap and skeet range house during operating hours.

Once again, the auction will include the several weeks at Port Largo Villas Resort in Key Largo, Florida. You can view additional information about the facility online at their website, www.PortLargoVillas.Org. The weeks run Friday-to-Friday with Check-In at 4:00pm and Checkout at 10:00am.

These weeks have been very popular in the past and many of the auction winners have been repeats from prior years. The dates for the weeks available at the auction this year are as follows.

Friday, 4 April 2008 - Friday, 11 April 2008

Friday, 11 April 2008 - Friday, 18 April 2008

Friday 18 April 2008 - Friday, 25 April 2008

Friday, 1 August 2008 - Friday, 8 Aug 2008

Friday, 15 August 2008 - Friday, 22 Aug 2008

Friday, 22 August 2008 - Friday, 29 Aug 2008

The spring is an awesome time to be in the Florida Keys and for those who are scuba divers, lobster season starts August 6, so the last two weeks are prime hunting season! Hope to See You There and Happy Bidding.

REVISIT RESOLUTIONS (Greg Talamini)

In thinking about the resolutions we make this time of year, it occurred to me most of us fail to keep them. For example, I attended a meeting recently and brought along leftover confections to get them out of my home so I could better keep my resolutions. Almost everyone initially thanked me but refused them in keeping with the resolutions they made. As I was leaving that night, I noticed my goodies were gone!

I think that those of us, who resolve to do more at our chapter, commit more time getting involved should make a commitment to keep those resolutions. Contact the committee chair in charge of the project to which we want to contribute time. Plan the time now, put it on your calendar, commit to a real time frame and show up. It is as easy to do, as it is to ignore. I believe this commitment of time is the first step to living up to the pledge we made to our chapter and the IWLA when we joined and again at every membership meeting. I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CONSERVATION (Meo Curtis)

Help write Rain Barrel Info

All of you who are now using rain barrels, whether homemade or store-bought, are encouraged to share your experiences and advice with other users from across the country. Many urban and suburban residents are installing rain barrels to capture roof top runoff to reduce stormwater impacts to our local streams as well as for later watering use. Susan Harris of the District of Columbia Urban Gardeners has combined online discussions about rain barrels with some general research and compiled a draft on the blog at

http://www.gardenrant.com/dc_urban_gardeners/2007/12/help-write-our.html. She wants to hear more from people who actually HAVE or have tried rain barrels, especially but not limited to information about operation and maintenance of them.

Rain Barrel Workshop

If you'd like to have your own rain barrel, participate in the Chapter's upcoming 'Make and Take' Rain Barrel Workshop. This FREE workshop is open to the public and is scheduled for Tuesday, February 19, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Jeff Deschamps at jeff.deschamps@verizon.net is the contact for more information.

Montgomery County Environmental News

For Montgomery County residents, the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will be sponsoring a series of 'Make and Take' rain barrel workshops this spring at Brookside Gardens in Wheaton. The DEP will also soon begin a program for County residents and businesses that will provide a rebate to those who purchase and install qualifying runoff control practices (like rain barrels, rain gardens, and converting lawn areas to conservation landscaping, and planting native trees). There will be a maximum rebate amount per practice type and lot, and all applicants must sign a letter agreement to allow inspection for a set period after installation. Conditions and applications will be posted at Rainscapes.org by mid-January 2008. The pot of money is limited, so those who apply earliest are most likely to get a rebate. Send an e-mail to Meo Curtis at meosotis58@verizon.net and she will let you know by e-mail as soon as the applications are available.

JUNIOR AIR RIFLE (Tom Malarkey tmalarkey@comcast.net)

The New Year kicks off our competition season. The first match is the American Legion Postal Match. All of our juniors will participate and we will hold the match at our clubhouse the week of January 14. We send the scores to the American Legion where they will be compared with

shooters from across the nation and the world. The second phase of the match will be in March, with all qualifying shooters competing again with a chance to go to the national match in Fort Benning.

We will also be participating in two more postal matches in February and March. Our big match upcoming is the USA Shooting State Match. We will hold this match in March and will invite shooters from across the state to compete for a chance to attend the National Math in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Our shooters are doing well in practice and should be ready for these matches.

We have received some great news from our dear friend, Bob Inness. As expected, he couldn't stand to be away from the kids and the sport. He is currently helping with two local ROTC programs in North Carolina, and is in the long process of beginning a new junior club in North Carolina. I am sure that he will waste no time in getting his club to the National level, and we hope to see him there in the near future.

I thank everyone in our club for their support of the Junior Program over the last year and for their continued support this year. I would mention a few names, but they prefer to be anonymous, we all know who they are and thank them for their donations to the club.

If anyone has a young shooter that would like to improve their marksmanship, and have a little fun, please contact Tom Malarkey, we still have a little room left on Thursday night and it is not too late to start.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS: (Conley Phipps)

Probationary members are now required to help with four chapter events during their first two years of WAC membership. At least one project MUST be in support of Chapter Conservation efforts. If you are a probationary member, and don't see your name in the newsletter after helping out with an event, it would be prudent to contact the person who ran the event and find out why your name has not reached me. Additionally be sure to have that activity person notify me of this fact. Following are the names from the sign-up sheets for several recent events. Thanks to all.

Due to the weather forecast of a "LIGHT DUSTING OF SNOW", 5 plus inches, the regularly scheduled December BOD Meeting was postponed until the Christmas Dinner Meeting on the 19th.

GRADUATES to FULL MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Graduated to full membership status are the following: Nicolas Dagher, Peter Gracyalny, Duane Gray, Thomas Koury, James Miles Jr., Sean St. Martin, Randall T.

Sandifer Jr., Patrice Brice, Glenn Clark, James S. Wimbish, Jean Pierre Lacombe and Sara Lacombe. Thanks to each of you for completing your requirements. We hope that you enjoyed participating on the projects and interacting with fellow members. We also hope you will continue to be involved in your chapter.

DECEMBER 19th, 2007 CHRISTMAS General Membership Meeting Hospitality, Kitchen Staff and KP's: President Lefebvre recognized the Chef De Jour Delores Gick, Kitchen helpers Joe Gick, John and Pat Maisel, Jim Sykes, Jon Metrey, George Evans, Ed and Barbara McNally and one or two that failed to sign the sheet. Hospitality Crew, Rob Hallin and Ken Lefebvre

Chapter maintenance: DECEMBER 30, 2007
Thank you to all members donating their time and labor to help keep the Chapter looking neat and clean. Numerous activities took place on Sunday and several members didn't specify in which activity they participated. If I have identified you as working on a particular activity and didn't get it right my apology up front but you have received credit, maybe just not the correct project. Please indicate which type of project as it may make a difference when you think you've graduated to Full Membership Status.

RIFLE & PISTOL RANGE CLEAN UP: Guy Wright, Josh Jonas and Tony Hess.

SKEET & TRAP RANGE CLEAN UP: Paul Turska, Jake Turska, Peter Sittner, Mark Gay, Debbie Perry, Jim and Judy Crowell, Carl McMahan and the usual who wish to remain un-named.

CHRISTMAS TREES: John Leaman, Al Goldschmidts, Charles McIntosh, Karl Kirchner and Rob Eby (*Note: we recognize there are several people who helped with the Christmas Trees that we have not listed. We will publish those names when we receive the list.*)

CHAPTER RANGE ORIENTATION: DECEMBER 30th, 2007:

Instructors of the day Ray G. Logan and Tim Urban.
Thanks for the great job guys.

If I have failed to credit anyone or a group for voluntarily working on an event or a required work project or misspelled a name please contact Conley Phipps @ 301-460-8528 or phippscd@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP (Joe Gick)

New Members

Please welcome the following people to our chapter.
Aleksey Vinokurov sponsored by Alex Lednow
Christopher Curro sponsored by Bob Schneider
John W Maisel , John L German , Etienne Deligenza,
Derrick Aquino and Darrick M Gutting sponsored by Joe Gick
Mladen J Udbinac , Mark Hamilton , Kellie Young ,
James P Murphy , James E Sykes Jr, Goran Udbinac and
Douglas LeBlanc sponsored by Bill Schneider
George J Evans Jr sponsored by Patrick DiBella
Ross Colquhoun sponsored by Ed McNally
Steve Zobel sponsored by Bob Loesch

DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE

Your IWLA membership expired on 12/31/2007. If you have not renewed, a second notice was sent out on January 6, 2008. If payment is not received by January 31, 2008, there will be a \$40 late fee to renew your membership. If you do not pay this, you must wait to rejoin in 2009 or later, and the initiation fee will be \$60 by then. Your 2007 Range Access Card will be honored until 01/31/2007. As of February 1, you will not be able to use any range without a 2008 card. We will be checking cards and be very vigilant about this. As I have said in the past, it can take several weeks after I get your payment to get a card back to you. That is the way the system works, and I have no control over it.

It is very expensive to do a second mailing, but the 300 members who haven't paid yet have made this necessary. Get your payment in now and avoid losing range privileges or paying a late fee. It is totally up to you.

Membership Updates

Please notify Joe Gick our Membership Secretary of all changes of address, phone number, or e-mail. If you move and don't tell us, your forwarding order will probably expire and you will not get a renewal bill. Please keep your record up to date. Send a message to Joe.Gick@Verizon.net or Joe Gick, 16601 Cavalry Dr, Rockville MD 20853.

Do we have your email?

Because we do not distribute our newsletter via U.S. Mail unless requested, we send out a general notice when the latest one is available. We also send occasional messages of general interest that may include emergency range closings, road closings, etc. If you have never received any of these messages, we may not have your email address. In fact, we don't have this information for over 400 members. If we don't have yours, please send it today to Joe.Gick@Verizon.net. We promise to protect it and never sell or distribute it. We will only use it to inform you of what is happening that is of general interest. If you know of any other members that are not getting these

notices, please let them know that they are missing important information about our chapter.

Editor's note: This is especially important during the winter months when extreme weather causes not only range closure, but chapter grounds closure as well. Stay informed—send your email address to Joe.

ADULT AIR GUN (Phil Dean)

After a two-week vacation from Adult Airgun, we are meeting again. We have a large group of regulars, but always welcome newcomers. Join us Monday nights, downstairs at the chapter house at 6:30 pm for setup with shooting starting at 7:00 pm.

BLACKSMITH COMMITTEE (Dick Smith)

Our members have been working on forging knives, tomahawks, bottle openers, Colonial kitchen utensils and screwdrivers. We also mounted a metal tire onto a wooden wheel, which required the forging of a special tire puller tool. I hope that we will finish a log cart in time to contribute it to the auction at the Wild Game Dinner. The steel I ordered the steel for its construction is scheduled to arrive January 8.

RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGE REPORT (Guy Wright)

INFORMATION: For more information about any rifle or pistol range activities mentioned in this article, contact Guy Wright, by e-mail, at guywright@verizon.net or telephone 301-253-4604(home) or 301-775-3741(cell).

SHOOTING HOURS: Permitted rifle and pistol range shooting hours are posted on the box, which contains the range sign-in register, as well as above the range entry card reader. For January 2008, starting time is 10:00 AM daily and ending time is 5:00 PM, unless some activity has preempted the range (see "Upcoming Events Affecting Range Availability" below).

My thanks to Josh Jonas, Alan Pressman, Al Goldschmidts, Aleks Goldschmidts, and Charles McIntosh for their help with range cleanup on our December Maintenance Day.

Also, again, thanks to Al Goldschmidts for another supply of pistol target backers and to an anonymous donor for several full sheets of plywood.

REMINDERS

Rapid-Fire: Sure, we know that it's fun to shoot a firearm as fast as you can pull the trigger. However, please remember that, even when you are alone on the range, we have neighbors and they are definitely sensitive to sound coming from our ranges, especially "rapid fire." We have

been working hard to develop a good working relationship with our neighbors, following a formal noise complaint to the county some years ago. Although sound measurements show we are within legal limits, the county government takes any complaints very seriously and keeping the ranges open can become both difficult and expensive. Since rapid fire shooting remains controversial and we don't have a rule forbidding it on the rifle and pistol ranges, we depend upon our members to be sensitive to this issue. If each shot you fire is truly aimed, you are probably firing at a reasonable speed. If you are still firing as fast as you can pull the trigger, maybe the target is too close. If someone asks you to slow down, please do so without an argument. Slower shooting is better than no shooting at all.

Range Road Closures: Winter arrived officially between December 21 and December 22, and with it comes the likelihood of snow and ice accumulation on the rifle/pistol range road. If the road becomes impassable or overly soft due to heavy precipitation, we may close it even though the ranges remain open for use. In such cases, we will post a sign explaining the closure at the range sign-in register, and we will lock the gate in the closed position. Please watch for and comply with such notices. If the sign indicates that the road is closed but the ranges are open, you may walk to the ranges. However, even if you have an off-the-road vehicle that might make it through snow-covered fields, **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DRIVE TO THE RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGES WHEN THE RANGE ROAD IS CLOSED!**

Rifle and Pistol Range Rules: The rules governing Rifle and Pistol Range safety, conduct, permissible firearms, and violation policy are posted at the covered pistol range, the covered rifle range, the notice board between the pistol ranges, the notice board at the path leading to the covered rifle range, on the chapter WEB site (damascusiwla.org) and in MS Word format from me via email, when requested. Sometimes questions come up. Though our bylaws indicate that you can call any Board of Directors member about these rules, you will be better served to start with the folks closest to them, i.e., range orientation instructors or the committee chairman.

Up-Coming Events Affecting Range Availability:
Practical Defense Match on Saturday January 12, 2008 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM on Pistol Range 1. Pistol Range 1 will be closed during this time. For additional information, you can contact Jesse Lim via e-mail at jlim@phillips.com or telephone 301-540-0860 (evenings only please).

Junior Rifle Practice on Saturday January 12, 2008 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM - Contact Tom Malarkey 240-246-6941 (Covered pistol range closed during event).

Bowling Pin Shoot on Saturday February 16, 2008 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM on Pistol Range 1. Pistol Range 1 will be closed during this time. For additional information, you can contact Jesse Lim via e-mail at jlum@phillips.com or telephone 301-540-0860 (evenings only please).

Junior Rifle Practice on Saturday February 9, 2008 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM - Contact Tom Malarkey 240-246-6941 (Covered pistol range closed during event)

Junior Rifle Practice on Saturday February 16, 2008 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM - Contact Tom Malarkey 240-246-6941 (Covered pistol range closed during event)

Junior Rifle Practice on Saturday February 23, 2008 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM - Contact Tom Malarkey 240-246-6941 (Covered pistol range closed during event)

If anyone has any topics or items about the rifle and pistol ranges that they wish to include in future newsletters, send them to Guy Wright at the listed email address. Please include your contact information in case of questions.

IWLA RANGE ROSTER (Bill Rahn)

January 2008

Sat 1/12 Paul Fisher, Ron Roberson, George Fichter, Dave Fichter

Sun 1/13 Randy & Evan Stewart, Seamus Webb, Mike Webb

Sat 1/19 Mike Bowen, Dave Gold, Ira Wein, Alan Palestine, Heather Barber

Sun 1/20 Chris Reposa, Jim & Judy Crowell, Peter Sittner

Sat 1/26 Gary Green, Tony Evans, Richard Zabell, Red Gambrell

Sun 1/27 Frank Saenz, Rob Van Tassell, Jason Ledney, Brandon Kinikin

Sat 2/2 Tim Mulreany, Ryan Cooley, Robert Jeffery, Charles Weaver

Sun 2/3 Mark Gay, Bob Case, Paul Turska, Jake Turska, Martin Cherry

Sat 2/9 Paul Fisher, George Fichter, Dave Fichter, Bill Rahn

Sun 2/10 Randy & Evan Stewart, Seamus Webb, Mike Webb

Sat 2/16 Mike Bowen, Dave Gold, Ira Wein, Alan Palestine, Heather Barber

Sun 2/17 Chris Reposa, Jim & Judy Crowell, Jason Ledney

Sat 2/23 Gary Green, Tony Evans, Richard Zabell, Red Gambrell

Sun 2/24 Frank Saenz, Rob Van Tassell, Peter Sittner, Brandon Kinikin

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS (Michelle Chesnut smc_geek@msn.com)

Thanks to Meo Curtis, Guy Wright, Joe Gick, Phil Dean, Chuck Limparis, Bill Rahn, Tom Malarkey, Dick Smith and Greg Talamini for their contributions to this newsletter.

Thanks to Bob Cumberland for the photographs.

A special thanks to Chuck Crooks for his patience with the editor and his work on publishing the newsletter on-line.

Thanks also to Conley Phipps for managing and collating the lists of participants in chapter activities.

If anyone has an article, picture or topic, which they wish to have included in future newsletters, send them to Michelle Chesnut at the above email address and include some contact info in case there are questions. If possible, please send articles as an attached Word document.

If you would like to receive a printed newsletter, write to Joe Gick
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