



Wildlife Achievement Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
DECEMBER 2019

President Cheri Aker 301 330-9468	First Vice President Rodger Moran 301 831-5282	Second Vice President John Porter 301 253-6390	Third Vice President Susan Bortniak 301 972-9258
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Wildlife Achievement Chapter 26430 Mullinix Mill Road Mt. Airy, Maryland 21771

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CHAPTER NEWS AND EVENTS

President's Corner

December is finally here – it's the last month of the year and the end of my tenure as WAC's Chapter President. I wanted to reach out and thank everyone for allowing me the opportunity to preside over the BEST Izaak Walton League EVER!

December 18th will be our final General Membership Meeting and our Holiday Party for 2019. The new 2020 Board of Directors will also be sworn in and begin their duties as officers of WAC. I hope you can join us for the joyful occasion.

December 14th the annual Christmas Cookie Bake and Exchange is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Children are welcomed to attend to decorate cookies in the Hall. Hope you can join us!

December 15th the Club and Range Orientation will be held in the upstairs hall starting at 9:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required. New members are encouraged and current members are invited. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jean Aker at (301) 330-9468.

Also schedule for December 15th – Chapter Maintenance and Rifle/Pistol Range Clean-Up. If you are interested in "lending a helping hand", please report to the Green Shed for duty assignment. Skeet/Trap maintenance starts at 10:00 a.m. Just a reminder – school age children can earn community services hours for their volunteering time.

Last but certainly not least – the Wild Game Dinner tickets are now available. Tickets can be purchased at the Shot Gun House or at the bar during the Membership Meeting. Tickets are \$25. The Wild Game Dinner is Saturday January 25th. Early viewing of auction items starts at 3:00 p.m. The auction begins at 5:00 p.m. and Dinner is served at 7:30 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering your time on Friday evening, Saturday, or Sunday - Please contact me at (301) 330-9468 or Susan Bortniak (301) 972-9258. If you would like to donate Wild Game – please leave in downstairs refrigerator with a note of "date of kill" and the type of game.

There have been challenges and memorable moments while I was president – it's been a learning experience and I thank everyone for the opportunity to serve. I wish much success to our new WAC President, Rodger Moran and his Board of Directors as they begin their tenure.

Cherie Aker

WINTER WEATHER CLOSURES

It is time to let everyone know the procedures during winter weather events.

During snow, sleet and ice events, there is a potential that ranges or chapter events could be closed, cancelled or rescheduled.

Snow removal is done in the following order, Chapter main road and upper parking lot is first.

The road to the back of the building and the skeet parking is second. The road to the airgun range is third. The road to the ranges and lower parking lot is last. Any road closures will be listed on the main header of the chapter website.

The range road is difficult to clear completely. For two wheel drive vehicles it can remain unusable while 4 wheel drive vehicles would be permitted. Much of the road does not get direct sunlight to clear the remaining snow after being plowed. We do not clear all the way to the gravel. In either case, you use the road at your own risk. When we totally close the road, no one is to use it even if you have a 4 wheeled vehicle. When the road is totally closed, the gate will be made inoperable. When the road is closed to all vehicles, the range is also closed.

Event closures will be listed on the web calendar and it will be updated as conditions warrant. Event contacts must let Chuck Crooks (WildlifeRangers@aol.com) know if you have cancelled your event, so he can post it on the calendar and send a club Email to all members. During severe weather, it is possible that we may cancel all activities due to unsafe conditions. That notice will be on the main header of the web page and an email will be sent to all members that we have a valid Email address on file. Keep in mind that those that clear the road must be able to get there and that it could take more than a day to complete the plowing. If you have a vehicle with a plow, and are willing to volunteer it and you, contact Chuck Crooks during the snow event (WildlifeRangers@aol.com).

If you are in doubt about an event being cancelled, use the contact information on the calendar to verify the status of the event.

Conservation

There are currently no conservation projects or events on the horizon. Please check the 2020 calendar on our website for the upcoming events in the new year.

Membership Renewal Reminder

Members that have not paid their 2020 renewal dues are urged to send payment right away as the November 1st preferred payment date has passed. Invoices were sent via email on September 1st at 9pm, on October 8th at 10pm and on November 23rd at noon. They also were sent via text messages to members on Nov. 23rd and 24th for those who identified cell phone numbers. Check your inbox for a message received at those times from IWLA WAC Membership (membership@iwlawac.org) and your spam filter if you do not see any messages there. If you still do not have an invoice, notify Tim Garrity right away at the above email address.

Here is what you are asked to do to facilitate the renewals process:

- Add the email addresses membership@iwlawac.org and IzaakWaltonWAC@iwlwac.org to your list of safe (or approved) senders so related messages do not get filtered out as spam mail.

- When you receive your invoice, send a check or money order (payable to IWLA) for the full amount to the address listed on the invoice. Partial payments will not be accepted and returned.

Members who pay close to the December 31st calendar year deadline face a strong probability that they will NOT get their 2020 Range Access Card before January 1st, resulting in a temporary loss of range privileges. It can take several weeks to process payments and restore lost access. Earlier payments also minimize the amount of volunteer work required during the holiday season and are greatly appreciated.

Thanks to the many members who already paid their dues and to those that expressed their appreciation for our wonderful chapter and all the hard work performed by our leadership to make it an enjoyable place for us to share. It is hoped you will renew your membership and invite family and friends to join us.

If you have any questions or concerns about your membership contact Tim Garrity at membership@iwlawac.org. If you do not plan to renew your membership, please let him know as soon as possible.

2020 Range Credentials in the Mail

All members whose 2020 renewal payments were received by December 3rd should soon expect to receive their range credentials in the mail. Contact Membership Secretary Tim Garrity at membership@iwlawac.org if you do not receive your range access card within the next 7-10 days.

The 2020 Range Access Cards feature a recent image of One World Trade Center (WTC) in New York City. The image foreground includes a partial view of one of the bronze panels that surround the 9/11 memorial pools, inscribed with the names of those killed on 9/11 and the WTC bombing attack in 1993.

Membership Cards: Members who want their 2020 membership card have two options to get it. They can pick it up at the chapter house after February 1st or use the following link to navigate to the IWLA National Members' Sign In Web Page (<https://members.iwla.org/apps/#SignIn>) and follow the on-screen instructions. Members should wait until January 1st before using the web-based option. Your membership card will be mailed directly to you. Note that your membership card is NOT required for any chapter-related activity. It is mainly a piece of wallet filler for most members. Please let Membership Secretary Tim Garrity know if you wish to arrange to get your membership card. Disregard this message if you already arranged to get it.



Visitor Badges: WAC members who bring family and guests to any of the ranges will need them to wear a WAC Visitor badge that must be visibly displayed at all times. Each member that has a range access card (with blue frame) should have TWO visitor badges. Unlike range access cards, the design of visitor badges is permanent and will not change. Visitors are only allowed on the ranges when accompanied by members. Therefore, anybody

on the ranges without a 2020 range access card or a visitor's badge will be deemed trespassing and asked to leave the property.

Visitor badges are printed with the member's name and ID number. Members should retain their visitor badges for as long as they remain members. Lost visitor badges will be replaced for a cost of \$10.

IWLA WAC Shotgun Range Badge Designation

Range access badges that have your member number in parenthesis indicate the successful completion of shotgun range certification. The sticker is customarily only intended for use during the year the test was passed. However, if you take the shotgun course in the September-December timeframe, your new range badge will have already been printed for the next year, so it will NOT have that designation on it.

If that is the case, you are asked to keep your current year range badge with the shotgun sticker on it along with the succeeding year range access badge when you get it. If you are ever asked to show that you are approved to use the shotgun ranges, you can simply provide your current year badge with the sticker on it.

Changing of the Guard

This year we change membership secretaries at the end of December. I am honored to have served our members and board of directors for the past seven years and turn over the role to Chuck Crooks. Chuck continues to make a multitude of contributions to our chapter and members for more than 30 years. Please join me in welcoming Chuckaroo into his new role. We will collaborate to ensure the transition occurs as seamlessly as possible. – Tim Garrity

Range Schedule (Steve Olsen)

January, 2020

Sat 1/4	Tim Mulreany, Erik Hill
Sun 1/5	Steve Meyers, Rodger Moran
Sat 1/11	Phil Butler, Neil Burkinshaw
Sun 1/12	Paul Turska, Jake Turska
Sat 1/18	Bob Shelley, Jim Shay
Sun 1/19	Joel Gross, Gerhard Bartsch
Sat 1/25	Murray Welsh, Doug Chapman
Sun 1/26	Dave Stevenson, Bob Poth

Rifle/Pistol Committee (Hans Varmer)

Knowledge, Skill, and Attitude. These are the three things that our NRA Basic Rifle and Pistol Classes endeavor to impart. In our last two articles we emphasized Knowledge and Skill. This month we look at the most important one – Attitude. You can have all the knowledge about firearms, and you may have years of skill under your belt. But if you bring a bad attitude to the table, then bad things are sure to follow.

Lou Holtz is quoted as saying:

“**Ability** is what you’re capable of doing.
Motivation determines what you do.
Attitude determines how well you do it.”

And in the shooting sports, **Attitude** determines how safely you do it.

“The longer I live the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude to me is more than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill.” Charles R. Swindoll

So in this season of giving – give the gift of a good attitude.

RANGE SAFETY (Chuck Crooks)

The club has had security cameras in place for about 6 years. The cameras became necessary after some property thefts and general safety concerns.

Range rules are established for a reason. They are designed to protect the safety of all members, their guests, our neighbors and our property. For these reasons, we take range violations very seriously. No matter how trivial you might think a rule is, there is a basis for safety that must be adhered to.

All range safety rules are accessible from our web site's main menu under the Rifle and Pistol Safety Rules link or you can take this direct link
<http://www.damascusiwa.org/RiflePistolRules.html>

Recently there has been a series of range rule violations including; shooting from a holster at a non-sanctioned event, failure to display range cards for members and their guests, shooting from the hip, shooting beyond the posted hours, failure to wear safety glasses, failure to write a guests name on the sign in log, using rifle caliber firearms on the pistol ranges and having more than one firearm on the firing line at the same time.

Initial violations (handled by the rifle and pistol committee) can be a warning and/or suspension from the ranges until you retake the range safety course. Serious violations may be reviewed by the board of directors for disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the club.

As you know, firearm ranges are always on the radar, especially in our area. Therefore we take our rules and the safety of our members and guests a priority.

As range officers, you are asked to report known violations to the rifle and pistol chairman.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

If you joined the chapter on or before **December 2017** and you have not seen your name listed in any issue of the newsletter as being graduated to full member status, you are **still on probation.** If you are not sure as to your status, email Nick at nicolasgiu@yahoo.com, and you will receive an email of your work history on record.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW FULL MEMBERS

The following probationary members have Successfully completed their probation and are now graduated to Full Member status.

Albert P. Srebnick
Jams E. Markham Jr

Cowboy Set-up

11/22/2019

Members, Family, and Nonmembers:

Chuck Limparis, Chuck Crooks, George Hughes, and Robert Vendemmia

Probationary Members: (Regular Credit)

James E. Markham, Chris Buscher, Frank Corn,
Patana C. Wong, Robin Axtell and David A. Ager

Shotgun Maintenance

11/24/2019

Members, Family, and Nonmembers:

Kim Buynak, Adam Buynak, and Arden Young

Probationary Member: (Regular Credit)

Richard McDougal

Chapter Maintenance Day

11/24/2019

Members, Family, and Nonmembers:

Al Goldschmidts, Hans Varmer, Candy Varmer,
Dean Elliott, Guy Wright and Chuck Chooks

Probationary Member: (Conservation Credit)

Zack Parzow and Greg Rupper

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS (Jim Piateski jimpiateski@verizon.net)

Thanks to Nicolas Giuliano for mailing the printed version of the newsletter every month and tracking volunteer hours. Thanks to Cherie Aker, Hans Varmer, Chuck Crooks, Tim Garrity and Steve Olsen for their contributions to this newsletter. Chuck Crooks for posting the newsletter on the web in such a timely fashion.

If anyone has an article, picture or topic, which they wish to have included in future newsletters, send to Jim Piateski at jimpiateski@verizon.net and include some contact info in case there are questions. If you have photographs of chapter events that you would like to share with the membership in the on-line newsletter, please send them to Jim Piateski at the above email address. Please include the names of those pictured as well as the date and name of the event.

If you would like to receive a printed newsletter, write to:

Tim Garrity

PO 1630

Olney, MD 20830

membership@iwlawac.org