



# NEWSLETTER



Izaak Walton League of America

Wildlife Achievement Chapter

November-December Issue

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## Coming Attractions

Date	Event	Time
11/15	Hunter Safety Class I	7:00 pm
11/16	Tree Trimming	9:00 am
11/16	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
11/17	Deer Hunter Qualification	
	R&P Ranges Closed	
11/20	Membership Meeting	8:00 pm
11/23	Ranges closed until	1:00 pm
11/23	Hunter Safety Class III	9:00 am
11/23	Tree Trimming	9:00 am
11/23	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
11/24	R&P Range Maintenance	10:00 am
11/24	Range Orientation	10:00 am
11/26	Hunter Safety Class II	7:00 pm
11/30	Tree Trimming	9:00 am
11/30	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
11/30	Shotgun Range Closed	
11/31	Shotgun Range Closed	
12/1	Shotgun Range Maint.	10:00 am
12/4	Board of Directors Mtg.	7:30 pm
12/7	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
12/14	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
12/15	Membership Meeting & Holiday Party	1:00 pm
12/21	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
12/22	Range Orientation	10:00 am
12/22	R&P Range Maintenance	10:00 am
12/28	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm

## Holiday Party

The December General Membership Meeting will be **Sunday, December 15**, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm in the Chapter House. This meeting will be a Christmas Party for the entire family. There will be food, drinks, games, and gifts for the kids. We would really like to have all our members and families join in celebrating the holiday season. The price of admission is a wrapped toy, which will be donated to a child who may need one this Christmas season. Additional details are included in the flyer enclosed with this newsletter. See you there!!

## General Membership Meeting

The next general membership meeting will be on **Wednesday, November 20**. Cocktail hour starts at 6:30 pm and dinner starts at 7:30 pm. This is a dinner meeting. The menu will feature barbecue sandwiches and appropriate accompaniments. Cost is \$6.00 per meal. C'mon out and share in the camaraderie!!

## New Members

The following applications for membership have been approved by the Board of Directors. Current Chapter members have the opportunity to vote to accept these individuals as new members at the next membership meeting, on **Wednesday, November 20**.

Michael Bolean, Silver Spring, MD.  
**Sponsor:** Leon Slavin

Danny Delman, Gaithersburg, MD.  
**Sponsor:** Joe Gick

Charles D. Eaton, Woodbine, MD.  
**Sponsor:** Rick Buckingham

Robert Hess, Mt. Airy, MD.  
**Sponsor:** Chris Evrad

Peter Hudson, Gaithersburg, MD.  
**Sponsor:** Bob Mabie

Paul Johnson, Silver Spring, MD.  
**Sponsor:** Wayne Berkebile

Jeff Moses, Gaithersburg, MD.  
**Sponsor:** Nick Carone

Dan Parks, Silver Spring, MD.

**Sponsor:** Mike Heffernan

John Shillings, Silver Spring, MD.

**Sponsor:** Mike Heffernan

## Membership Renewals

Membership renewal notices have recently been sent to current members. If possible, we would like to have everyone renew their membership before January 1, 1997. In case you forget, reminders will be sent out early in 1997. All members must renew by April 1, 1997 for their membership to remain active.

## Skeet and Trap Notes

Thanks to the following members who helped with the October shotgun range maintenance session: **Bill Wright, Ed Bennett, Chuck Crooks, Merrill and Donna Needham, Rick Buckingham, Paul Bluteau, and Archie and Mike McAlister**. Wouldn't hurt to say "thanks" the next time you see them at the range!

Note that **Shotgun Range Maintenance and Cleanup** is held on the first Sunday of every month at 10:00 am. The next session is **Sunday, December 1, at 10:00 am**. This is a good opportunity for new members to fulfill their service obligation and for established members to return something to the Chapter. The sessions usually last less than two hours.

When using the Skeet, Trap, and Five Stand fields, please pick up your spent hulls and place empty bird boxes outside the individual skeet houses. This helps the Range Officer clean up.

Any member interested in becoming a monthly or occasional volunteer as a Skeet/Trap Range Officer please contact **Archie Cheng** on (301) 831-9738 after 5:00 pm.

In response to the popularity of the last **Beginners Skeet Class**, plans are being made for another class to be held in the Spring, 1997. Watch the newsletter for details. In the meantime, you are welcome to visit the shotgun ranges any weekend and ask the Range Officer or other members for some pointers. We have several free "loaner" shotguns available for skeet or trap shooting. Shells are also available for sale.

## December Shotgun Range Officer Schedule

Day	Date	Names
Sat.	12/7	Nancy Humphries Weld. Humphries Rich Buckingham
Sun.	12/8	Donna Needham Merrill Needham Frank Welsh
Sat.	12/14	Lewis Allnutt Bill Rahn Jim Malon
Sun.	12/15	Peter Currall Dave Gold Bob Sadler
Sat.	12/21	<b>None Assigned</b>
Sun.	12/22	<b>None Assigned</b>
Sat.	12/28	<b>None Assigned</b>
Sun.	12/29	<b>None Assigned</b>

## Rifle and Pistol Range Report

**Malicious Destruction.** After the Sportsman's Team Challenge on September 29, we were unable to move the Chapter-owned metal targets back to the storage shed. We left them in a trailer just outside the rifle range where we expected no harm would come to the targets. Unfortunately, when we moved the targets on October 27, we discovered that someone had shot holes in two expensive action targets. Those targets must be repaired before they can be used again. We believe we know who did the damage. We would appreciate it if the culprit(s) would pay for the needed repairs. If you have any

information about this incident, please contact Ray Shaver at (301) 926-0465, or any of the Board of Directors.

Are there any welders out there who can repair these and any other targets which may be suffering from wear and tear?

**New Range Rules.** New range rules are distributed with this newsletter. The principal author of the new rules is **Ted Hiers**, the instructor of our range orientation classes. These new rules were approved by the Board of Directors on September 4, 1996, and supersede all previous editions. Please read and abide by the new rules. If you have any questions or comments, see Ted at the end of a range orientation session.

**Signing In Guests.** One common error which appears on the range register is that some members fail to log in their guests by name. Instead, the member signs his/her name and indicates the presence of guests only by placing a check mark in the "Guests" column. We need to know the identity of all range users, including guests. Please enter each guest's name on a separate line, and put a check mark in the "Guests" column to indicate that he/she is a guest.

**October Cleanup.** John Kwon supervised range maintenance activities on October 27. Joining him were **Danette Nyack, Ken Perrone, Mike Bowen, George Caperones, Fred Eichmiller, Chris Evrard, Geoff Hornseth, Dave and Will McNeal, and Ray Shaver.** They had no truck to haul the trash cans, so **Bill Kelly** graciously interrupted his task of cleaning the recycling shed to loan his van. Thanks to this ambitious crew, the ranges were not only cleaned, but our plywood supply was finally cut into target backers. Good work lkes!

**November Cleanup** - Rifle and Pistol range maintenance is sched-

uled from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on **Sunday, November 24.** **Alan Pressman**, at (301) 949-2029, will oversee the process. Meet him at the equipment shed.

## Airgun Activities

A new airgun range has been set up in the "old pistol range" area in the woods beyond the left end of the trap/skeet field. There are target holders for paper targets at 10, 20, 25, 30, and 35 yards. Eventually, we plan to have "spinner" and "knockdown" targets available. An air rifle field target course has been laid out in the woods adjacent to this new range for use in organized field target matches. **ONLY AIRGUNS ARE TO BE USED ON THIS RANGE AND IN THIS AREA!** As with the rifle and pistol ranges, users must sign in and out on the range register at the Chapter House and abide by applicable range rules.

This outdoor airgun program is an expansion of the shooting program for Chapter members. If you are interested in assisting with this new program and getting the range fully operational, contact **Phil Dean**, at (301) 831-9325.

We hope to initiate a field target shooting program next Spring. There will be several "workshops" and other presentations about airgun shooting - field target, air pistol, and precision air rifle- at Chapter meetings and other sessions to inform and educate members about this shooting sport.

## Sighting In Days

Thirty nine people attended Sighting In Days, on November 2 and 3. Chapter members who helped out were **John Leaman, Tom Dick, Ray Shaver, Charles Watson, Ike Eisenhower, Jim Schinner, Phil Dean, John Walter, and Geoff Hornseth.** Because of the limited number of persons who sighted in this year, we plan to hold next year's "Sighting In" activity on only one day.

## Conservation Notes

A group of local young people is interested in working with our Chapter to build bluebird nesting boxes for placement on our grounds. We need several members to pre-cut the parts for the boxes, help the kids nail them together, and prepare mounting poles for setting out the boxes next February.

Another group of lkes is needed to plan and construct a "bluebird trail" with the nesting boxes in the early spring and to monitor them during the breeding season. Anyone interested should call **Bill Kelly**, at (301) 253-5009.

## Conservation In Cyberspace

Did you know that Maryland is a major flyway for birds traveling from northern latitudes to the South American summer? There are several ways to use the Internet to learn about bird conservation.

The Patuxent Wildlife Research Center Homepage, at "<http://www.pwrc.nbs.gov>" (don't include the quotation marks), includes materials on the North American Breeding Bird Survey, bird banding, and bird preservation activities in Maryland.

The National Audubon Society has much information on Audubon conservation activities, endangered birds, and addresses for local chapters. Visit their Homepage at "<http://www.audubon.org/audubon>".

Ducks Unlimited has two web sites. Ducks Unlimited of Canada can be contacted at "<http://vm.ducks.ca>" and Ducks Unlimited USA has their newsletter, Ducktails, at "<http://richnet.net/ducks/ducktails.html>". Each site brings the latest information on duck conservation to your screen.

If you have any questions on using the Internet to research conservation matters, call **Chuck Watson**, at (301) 414-7480.

## Recycling Note

**Bob Mabie**, Chairman of the Recycling Committee, reports that so far in 1996, we have sold 856 pounds of aluminum for a profit of \$354.20. Thanks to all who have contributed! Your contributions keep the

landfill from overflowing, preserves natural resources, and brings in extra money for our Chapter. We can always use your scrap aluminum and copper. Just drop it off by the equipment shed.

## Adopt-A-Road Cleanup

The cleanup of Mullinix Mill Road on October 26th went well. Participants included **Merrill and Donna Needham, Tom Abernathy, the Al Hrast family, and Abidan and Kemal Konur**. Thanks, all of you! Our next cleanup will be on March 22, 1997.

## Christmas Tree Sale

Our annual Christmas Tree Sale will begin on **Saturday, November 30**. Sales will be on every Saturday and Sunday from then until December 15. There will be no sales on December 21 or 22. Sale hours are from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Prices are \$15.00 for a Scotch Pine and \$25.00 for a Fir.

## Chaplain's Note

If any member knows of another member who is seriously ill, our Chaplain, John Leaman, would like to know. He will send the patient our prayers for a speedy recovery. Also, John wants to know when a member passes away so he can send our condolences to the surviving family. Call John at (301) 972-1572.

## Editor's Column

You may recall that in the newsletter two months ago, I included a column with a historic passage. Nobody has called to complain, and one person even said they liked the passage. So, in the absence of negative feedback, I'll continue this effort. Since November is the beginning of hunting season and lots of us will be in the woods, I thought it would be

appropriate to use something from an old time hunter.

This month's passage is by George Frederick Ruxton, an Englishman who traveled alone through the Southwest in 1840. He hunted, lived with the mountain men and Indians, and kept a comprehensive journal of his observations and activities.

In the Summer of 1840, Ruxton climbed out of the Colorado Springs/Manitou Springs area of Colorado into the Bayou Salado (now Wilkerson Pass and Middle Park), a popular hunting area for Indians and mountain men. He said:

"...I must confess that the very happiest moments of my life have been spent in the wilderness of the Far West; and I never recall but with pleasure...my solitary camp on the Bayou Salado, with no friend near me more faithful than my rifle, and no companions more sociable than my good horses and mules, or the attendant coyote who nightly serenaded us. With a plentiful supply of dry pine logs on the fire, and its cheerful blaze streaming far up into the sky, illuminating the valley far and near, ... I would sit cross-legged enjoying the genial warmth, and, pipe in mouth, watch the blue smoke as it curled upwards, building castles in its vapoury wreaths, and, in the fantastic shapes it assumed, peopling the solitude with figures of those far away. Scarcely, however, did I ever wish to exchange such freedoms for all the luxuries of civilised life..."

The above passage was quoted from Ruxton of the Rockies. Collected by Clyde and Mac Reed Porter, Edited by LeRoy Hafen, Editor, University of Oklahoma Press, 1982, p. 262.

To me, Ruxton's words capture the spirit of the Izaak Walton League. I have felt as Ruxton, even though I hiked and hunted the same ground 150 years later. With the continuing efforts of the IWL, maybe someone will be able to feel the same way in the year 2140!