



NEWSLETTER



Izaak Walton League of America

Wildlife Achievement Chapter

P.O. Box 118, Damascus, MD 20872

(301) 253-2384

March-April 97 Issue

Editor: Wayne Berkebile

(301) 253-4288

Coming Attractions

Date	Event	Time
3/15	Christmas Treelot Maint.	9:00 am
3/15	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
3/21	Airgun Shoot	7:30 pm
3/22	Adopt-A-Road Cleanup	9:00 am
3/22	Airgun Field Target Match	9:00 am
3/22	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
3/23	Range Orientation	10:00 am
3/23	R&P Range Maintenance	10:00 am
3/23	Archery Range Maint.	10:00 am
3/23	Moline Driver Training	11:30 am
3/26	Membership Meeting	7:30 pm
3/28	Airgun Shoot	7:30 pm
3/29	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
4/2	Board of Directors Mtg.	7:30 pm
4/4	Airgun Shoot	7:30 pm
4/5	Seneca Valley Match	8:00 am
4/5	Adopt-A-River Cleanup	8:30 am
4/5	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
4/6	Shotgun Range Maint.	10:00 am
4/10	Conservation Comm. Mtg.	7:30 pm
4/11	Airgun Shoot	7:30 pm
4/12	Air Rifle NRA Jr. Sect.	9:00 am
4/12	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
4/13	Air Rifle NRA Jr. Sect.	9:00 am
4/18	Airgun Shoot	7:30 pm
4/19	Chapter Mil. Rifle Shoot	9:00 am
4/19	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
4/20	DNR Instructor Trng.	8:30 am
4/23	Membership Meeting	7:30 pm
4/25	Airgun Shoot	7:30 pm
4/26	NRA Basic Pistol Class	9:00 am
4/26	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
4/27	NRA Basic Pistol Class	9:00 am
4/27	Range Orientation	10:00 am
4/27	R&P Range Maintenance	10:00 am
4/27	Archery Range Maint.	10:00 am

Adopt-A-Road Cleanup

Don't forget our cleanup of Mullinix Mill Road is on **Sunday, March 22**. Please meet at the equipment shed at 9:00 am.

**** This is a good project for new members to earn their required work hours. ****

General Membership Meetings

The March Membership Meeting is on **Wednesday, March 26**, at 7:30 pm with cocktail hour at 6:30 pm. This is a dinner meeting and the cost of a meal will be \$6.00. In honor of St. Patrick's Day, we will have a New England boiled dinner with beef, cabbage, and potatoes. Our guest speaker is **Dr. James Purtilo**, a professor at the University of Maryland and publisher of *Tripwire*, a newsletter which analyzes gun control measures in Maryland.

The April Membership Meeting will be on **Wednesday, April 23**. The guest speaker will be **Mr. Bill Offutt**, of the Montgomery County Historical Society, who will discuss Montgomery County history, from the first settlers to about World War II. Again this will be a dinner meeting with social hour at 6:30 pm and dinner at 7:30 pm. Cost is the same as above. Dinner will feature barbecue beef or barbecue pork sandwiches and fixins.

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, March 26**.

John Boland, Baltimore, MD.

Sponsor: Nick Carone

Steve Cowan, Jr., Rockville, MD.

Sponsor: Larry Harmon

Johnny Haney, Silver Spring, MD.

Sponsor: Nick Carone

Edward Hogan, Damascus, MD.

Sponsor: Nick Carone

Bob Martin, Wheaton, MD.

Sponsor: Geoff Hornseth

April Shotgun Range Officer Schedule

Day	Date	Names
Sat.	4/5	Nancy Humphries Weldon Humphries
Sun.	4/6	Paul Bluteau Cindy Whitehurst
Sat.	4/12	Lewis Allnutt Bill Rahn
Sun.	4/13	Donna Needham Merrill Needham Frank Welsh
Sat.	4/19	David Fichter Ike Eisenhower Rick Buckingham
Sun.	4/20	Peter Currall Dave Gold Greg Baldwin
Sat.	4/26	Berle Cherney Tom Lohm
Sun.	4/27	Mike Merollini Lee Slavin Kevin Manning

Rifle and Pistol Range Report

You may have noticed that the range road is a mess. We plan to build up the base in the soft spots and add gravel overall. The gears of progress grind slowly; so please bear with us!

Thanks to the following Ikes who participated in the rifle/pistol range cleanup on February 23: **Phil Aldridge, Wayne & Kurt Berkebile, Maurice Butt, John Cerne, Steve Cowan, Harold Gracey, Larry & Peter Harmon, Ahmad Kassae, Bill Kelly, John Kwon, Ray G. Logan, H. O. Lubbes, Paul Moe, Alan Pressman, Ray Shaver, and John Skillings.** The continuing improvement of our ranges is due to the efforts of these and many other Ikes who volunteer a few hours of labor several times each year.

Thanks also to **Les Lorenz** who repaired the second of two steel targets which had been vandalized last Fall.

Unfortunately, our experience with vandalized targets is a continuing story. In December, we put three swinging metal targets on the pistol range for general use. A sign indicated the targets were to be placed at least 25 yards from the firing line and shot only with .22 LR ammunition. By the end of February, one of the targets had disappeared and the other two have been hit by larger caliber bullets. Based on the trenches dug by bullets fired at the targets, it also appears they have been placed closer than 25 yards from the firing line. This disregard of safety rules could result in a tragedy. Please remember that any person witnessing a violation of the Range Rules and Regulations or safety standards is responsible for immediately reporting the violator's identity or vehicle license number to the Chapter caretaker or an officer of the Board of Directors.

We are also concerned about abuse of our guest policies. We want our members to introduce their friends and relatives to the shooting sports by bringing them to our ranges. However, there are limits which must be observed. First, a member may bring a maximum of two guests at a time and the member must remain with those guests at all times. Second, a non-member may use the ranges as a guest a maximum of two times, regardless of which member is the host. Continued use of the ranges requires membership. Buying one membership to cover continued entry by a group of friends is not permitted and, if discovered, could result in the loss of membership.

The next range cleanup is scheduled from **10 am until noon on March 23.** Alan Pressman, (301) 949-2029, will coordinate the work. Meet him at the equipment shed.

**** This is a good project for new members to earn their required work hours. ****

Tractor Training

Several members have volunteered to learn how to operate our Moline tractor. The training will take place at **11:30 am on March 23.** Meet at the equipment shed.

Shoot/Match Reminders

Please remember these two upcoming matches. Our airgun field target match will be on **Saturday, March 22. This is a change of date from the master calendar.** Registration is in the basement of the Chapter House at **8:30 am.**

The Chapter is also sponsoring its own military rifle shoot. This is in addition to the Seneca Valley matches. Our Chapter shoot is on **Saturday, April 19 at 9:00 am.** This is an informal activity for you to bring your military rifles (of any vintage) and fire them along side those of other Chapter members. It's always fun to see the many different types of rifles brought to this shoot and see how they compare to each other.

We can use some help for each of these matches. If you can spare some time, call **Phil Dean**, at (301) 831-9325.

**** This is a good project for new members to earn their required work hours. ****

Thank You

Those of us who attended the February membership meeting got the chance to hear Chapter members

Tom and Edith Gaylord talk about airguns. Their presentation was wonderful, interesting, and enlightening! Thank you both for giving your time to us.

Ike Eisenhower donated the venison consumed during our January membership meeting. Without his generous donation, our "wild game dinner" would have tasted remarkably like a "domesticated animal dinner." From all us Ikes to you **Ike**,... thanks!

The Phelans again donated a cake for the Board of Directors meeting. If we don't watch it, everyone will want to be on the Board just to get some of their baked goods. Thank you!

Help Wanted

Georgia Townsend is looking for a few people to help her out. First, she usually sells coffee and donuts at the Seneca Valley shoots. This is primarily to preserve our reputation as good hosts but it also helps us raise a few dollars. Georgia will not be able to attend all the matches, so she needs someone to help her with the food concession. Seneca Valley matches are scheduled for April 5, May 3, June 7, July 12, and September 6.

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Second, Georgia is also representing our Chapter at a conservation exhibit to be displayed at Patapsco State Park on **April 26 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.** She could use some help in setting up and manning this exhibit.

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Finally, she is looking for someone to help in the kitchen on membership meeting nights. She needs someone to prepare vegetables and other menu items.

If you can help on any of these efforts, please call **Georgia Townsend** at (301) 588-8335.

Conservation Notes

Adopt-A-River Cleanup-

We are resuming our Adopt-A-River cleanup of the Patuxent River. Our cleanup day is **Saturday, April 5**. We would like to have a good turn out, because we haven't done this for several years. Let's help save this wonderful trout stream! Meet **Bill Kelly**, (301) 253-5009, at the equipment shed at **8:30 am**. Bring gloves and hip waders or rubber boots. We could also use a "come-along" and some pickup trucks.

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The St. Anne's Episcopal Church youth group installed 11 bluebird boxes on our Chapter grounds on February 23. The boxes were placed by the tree line along Mullinix Mill Road. Many thanks to those who volunteered for this project. Thanks to **John Leaman** and **Wayne Berkebile** from our Chapter and Beth Cokajko from St. Anne's Church for completing this project.

Christmas Treelot Maintenance

There will be a work detail on **March 15, at 9:00 am**, to remove unwanted wood, trees, and brush from the treelot where our Christmas trees are planted. This clean out will help ensure the Christmas trees are healthy and provide more space to trim them safely. **Bob Mabie** is supervising this effort. Please call him at (301) 774-4122 to volunteer or get additional information.

** This is a good project for new members to earn their required work hours. **

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.

Chapter House Repairs

Cecil Hensley, our caretaker, has done a great job of installing new ceiling tiles in the Chapter House! Next time you stop by, take a look at how remarkably nice our ceilings look.

History Project

I have been working on our Chapter history for our upcoming 60th anniversary. I have received photos from **Bill Watson**, interviewed several long time members, and reviewed many records. We have reasonably good records from 1964 to present. Unfortunately, records prior to 1964 are gone, except for a few legal documents. If anyone has any Chapter newsletters, records, or correspondence prior to 1964, please call me at (301) 253-4288.

It would be a good idea to have an official Chapter Historian. If anyone would be interested in performing historian duties, please call **Ari Sapir** at (301) 384-1340.

Editor's Column

My friend from Vermont called me two weeks ago to plan our annual fishing trip to northern Quebec. We go the week after Memorial Day. At that time, the ice is just melting off the lakes and Spring is just beginning.

This newsletter also mentions the good work being done by **Bill Kelly** and his colleagues in cleaning up our local trout stream, the Patuxent River.

I'm also working on our Chapter history. I thought I'd do some research into Izaak Walton. Izaak, of course, was a renowned angler; even in his own time. Since everything seemed to be about fishing this month, I thought I'd include a passage about angling.

We have a book entitled *Izaak Walton and His Friends* in our Chapter library. The book is not easy to read but it does have valuable information about Izaak and other early writers on angling. I always figured that Izaak's book, *The Compleat Angler*, must have been the first one printed in English. In fact, the first English language publication on fishing appears to have been *The Treatise of Fysshynge wyth an Angle*, published as part of a larger book, entitled *Book of St Albans*, in 1496. What I find fascinating about *Fysshynge wyth an Angle* is that it was apparently written by a woman, Dame Juliana Barnes or Berners. So much for us macho guys going off to the wilds of Canada for a week of fishing!

Izaak Walton and His Friends contains this wonderful passage, which was actually written by the chemist Sir Humphry Davy (1778-1829): Sir Humphry discusses why he likes fishing by saying:

"It (fishing) carries us into the most vivid and beautiful scenery of nature, among the mountain lakes, and the clear and lovely streams that gush from the highest ranges of elevated hills, or that make their way through the cavities of calcareous strata. How delightful, in the early spring, after the dull and tedious time of winter, to wander forth by some clear stream, to see the leaf bursting from the purple bud, to wander upon the fresh turf below the shade of trees, whose bright blossoms are filled with the music of the bee, and on the surface of the waters to view the gaudy flies sparkling like gems in the sunbeam, to hear the twittering of the waterbirds, with other like sights and sounds, and to finish all by catching a salmon and bringing him home."

Bill, do a good job preserving our fishing heritage!!

Above passage taken from *Izaak Walton and his Friends*, by Stapleton Martin, published in London by Chapman & Hall, Limited, 1903, p. 39.