



NEWSLETTER



June-July 97 Issue

Izaak Walton League of America

Wildlife Achievement Club Chapter

P.O. Box 118, Damascus, MD 20872

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Coming Attractions

Date	Event	Time
6/20	Airgun Shoot	7:30 pm
6/21	Adopt-A-Road Cleanup	9:00 am
6/21	Christmas Tree Work	9:00 am
6/21	60th Anniversary Party and Dance/Ranges Closed (See Article)	5:00 pm
6/25	Membership Meeting	7:30 pm
6/27	Airgun Shoot	7:30 pm
6/28	NRA Personal Prot. Class	8:00 am
6/28	Chapter .22 Fun Shoot	9:00 am
6/29	NRA Personal Prot. Class	8:00 am
6/29	Range Orientation	10:00 am
6/29	R & P Range Maint.	10:00 am
6/29	Archery Range Maint.	10:00 am
7/2	Board of Directors Mtg.	7:30 pm
7/4	Airgun Shoot	7:30 pm
7/5	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
7/6	Shotgun Range Maint.	10:00 am
7/10	Conservation Comm. Mtg.	7:30 pm
7/11	Airgun Shoot	7:30 pm
7/12	Seneca Valley Match	8:00 am
7/18	Airgun Shoot	7:30 pm
7/23	Membership Meeting	7:30 pm
7/25	Airgun Shoot	7:30 pm
7/26	Air Rifle Field Match	9:00 am
7/27	Range Orientation	10:00 am
7/27	R & P Range Maint.	10:00 am
7/27	Archery Range Maint.	10:00 am

Adopt-A-Road Cleanup

The next Adopt-A-Road cleanup of Mullinix Mill Road will begin at 9:00 am on **Saturday, June 21**. Meet **Bob Mabie** at the Equipment Shed.

Christmas Tree Work Party

There will also be a work party on **Saturday, June 21**, to trim around the trees. Please bring weed whackers, pruning shears, rakes, work gloves, old clothes, and long sleeved shirts. Meet **Bob Mabie** at the Equipment Shed at 9:00 am.

General Membership Meetings

The June Membership Meeting will be on **Wednesday, June 25**. Our guest speaker will be **Dan Hartzler**, of New Windsor, MD. Dan is an expert in MD history and firearms. He has written several books on these and related topics. He will discuss MD units in the Revolution and MD firearms built in that era. Dan should be a fascinating speaker! This is a dinner meeting with social hour at 6:30 pm and dinner at 7:30 pm. Cost is \$6.00. The menu will feature roast pork, black beans, and rice. This is the last dinner meeting for the next few months.

The July Membership Meeting will be presented by two of our members, **Wes Richardson and Rick Thornley**. They will discuss M1 Rifles and Carbines and display several different examples of these firearms. The July meeting is at 7:30 pm on **Wednesday, July 23**. Social hour starts at 6:30 pm.

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, June 25**.

Thomas Carter, Silver Spring, MD
Sponsor: Randolph Reynolds

Herbert Israel, Chevy Chase, MD
Sponsor: Bill Schneider

Peter McEvoy, Brookeville, MD.

Sponsor: Ted Hadfield

W. Scott Gabber, Gaithersburg, MD.

Sponsor: Kevin Manning

Robert Kidwell, Jr., Germantown, MD

Sponsor: Rick Murphy

Robert McCloskey, Brookeville, MD

Sponsor: Bob Mabie

July Shotgun Range Officer Schedule

Day	Date	Names
Sat.	7/5	Rick Buckingham Nancy Humphries Weldon Humphries
Sun.	7/6	Paul Bluteau Cindy Whitehurst
Sat.	7/12	Lewis Allnutt Bill Rahn
Sun.	7/13	Donna Needham Merrill Needham Kevin Manning
Sat.	7/19	David Fichter Ike Eisenhour
Sun.	7/22	Peter Currall Dave Gold Greg Baldwin
Sat.	7/26	Berle Cherney Paul Hancock
Sun.	7/27	Mike Merollini Lee Slavin Mike Boring

Skeet and Trap Notes

We appreciate the work done by the following individuals during the June Shotgun Range maintenance session: **Kevin Manning, Lee Slavin, Bill Wright, Merrill and Donna Needham, and Richard Phelan**. Thank you all!

We are still looking for a volunteer to lead the process of painting the skeet/trap houses. Eventually, we will also paint the range house. Perhaps a group of new members could combine their talents to complete this project and earn the work credits necessary for renewing their membership next year. Contact **Ed Bennett** or **Chuck Crooks** for more information. Ed is at (301) 253-8962 and Chuck is at (301) 831-9666.

Rifle and Pistol Range Report

Although only a few people showed up for the rifle/pistol range cleanup on May 18, they were very industrious and accomplished a lot. Thanks to **Steve Cowan, Thomas Mills, Charles Tomasevich, and Ray Shaver.**

Weather permitting, the range maintenance session on **Sunday, June 29**, will concentrate on replacing the roof over the pistol range shooting line. **Ray Shaver** plans to start removing the old roofing at 8:30 am that morning. He would appreciate assistance from anyone who can arrive earlier than our usual 10:00 am start time. Installation of the new roll roofing will follow. Bring a flat roofing-removal shovel, if you have one, and a hammer. We also need people to perform the regular range maintenance tasks such as policing the ranges, replacing target backers, and cutting weeds. Gasoline-powered weed whackers would also be useful.

.22 LR Rifle Fun Shoot

A .22 LR Rifle Fun Shoot will be held on **Saturday, June 28**, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on the Rifle Range. This is an informal "shootfest" using .22LR rifles (both iron and scope sights). Metal targets, paper targets, clay birds, balloons, and special mystery targets will be used. Other informal competitions may be held among interested parties. Come out and compare your rifle and skills with other shooters! Bring a guest and enjoy the fun! A target fee of \$5.00 per adult shooter will be collected (no charge for 18 or younger shooters).

Since we have no storage shed on the Rifle Range, assistance is needed at 9:00 am. Volunteers will transport the metal targets between the Equipment Shed and range.

M1 Garand Clinic

The M1 Garand Rifle Clinic was attended by 14 Garand owners and other interested parties. It was very informative! Thanks to **Rick Thornley, Wes Richardson, Jim Schinner, Jim Schinner, Jr., Carl Werner, Chuck Watson, and Phil Dean** for putting on this clinic. I expect to fire a 500-50X at the next Seneca Valley Match, so they may regret having told me how to improve my scores!! I learned that the real reason I've been shooting less than 300 is because Phil Dean has been giving me the wrong targets! He's been giving me much smaller ones than everyone else!!

Air Gun Show

On **Saturday, August 9, 1997**, we will host the first Mid-Atlantic Airgun Show. While gun shows are commonplace, there are fewer than ten organized Airgun Shows held annually in the US. Attendees will not only see Daisy BB guns and Benjamin and Crossman pellet guns. There will also be fine collectable airguns from the 1700s and 1800s, modern adult airguns costing hundreds/thousands of dollars. There will be more airguns at this show than most people have seen in their lifetime!

There will also be shooting stations to allow visitors to experience the precision available in today's airguns. Some of the big bore airguns can take game ranging from turkeys to deer to even larger sizes.

Dealers from as far away as Florida, Maine, and Missouri will display their wares. Enthusiasts from a wide area, including Europe and Hawaii, are expected to attend. Attendance is expected to top previous records for a "first annual" event! Come out and see what the fuss is all about!!

The show runs from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Admission is \$5.00 per adult (WACC members get \$1.00 off upon

showing their membership card.) Food will be available. Proceeds go to our Airgun Program. For more info, call **Phil Dean** at (301) 831-9325.

60th Anniversary Events

We're getting worried!! With only a few days left before our 60th anniversary event on **Saturday, June 21, we've sold only 14 tickets!!** Please... buy a ticket and help us celebrate 60 years of conservation, community, and fellowship activities. The festivities begin at 5:00 pm. There will be a catered barbecue picnic, ceremonies, special speakers, and a dance in the Chapter House. The menu features barbecue beef, fried chicken, cole slaw, baked beans, potato salad, pickles, fruit salad, iced tea, and lemonade

Our guest speaker will be Mr. **Sid Kramer**, former Montgomery County Executive. On April 1, 1972, Mr. Kramer gave the keynote speech at the "grand opening" of our Chapter at the Damascus location. He has graciously consented to return to share the evening with us.

We invited all living past Chapter presidents, and their spouses, to attend as our guests. We've had **Jerry Tacinelli, Rick Sommer, Charlie Wiles, Phil Mostrom, and Chic Chaconas** accept our invitation so far. We will be selling our history for the period 1937-97. We will have games, a history display, and other fun things to do.

Chuck Crooks, our 2nd Vice President, will be our DJ during the evening and play those golden oldies for us (nothing since 1980). The dance begins at 8:00 pm. BYOB, but beer will be available for those who wish to make a donation. Setups, ice, and snacks will be available for free during the dance.

To help encourage attendance, only ticket holders will be permitted to use

the ranges on Saturday, June 21. For those who attend and use the ranges, all shooting must stop by 4:00 pm.

Cost for dinner alone is \$10.00 per adult, \$8.00 for kids under 13. Cost for the dance alone is \$6.00 per person, regardless of age. A combined dinner/dance ticket is \$15.00 per adult and \$12.00 for kids under 13. Tickets are on sale until June 19. To buy tickets or assist before or during the celebration call **Wayne Berkebile** at (301) 253-4288, or **Bill Kelly** at (301) 253-5009.

Landscaping Materials Sought

Our House and Grounds Committee Chairman, **Bob Ryon**, is looking for flowers, plants, trees, and other ornamentals to improve the appearance of our Chapter House. If you have such items to donate, please call Bob at (301) 865-1279.

Rental Chairman Wanted

We need someone, or somebodies, to organize and supervise a Rental Committee. You are probably aware that we rent out our facility for weddings, special events, meetings, etc. We've made several improvements, such as installing air conditioning, to help attract renters. The committee would set rates, advertise, and show the facility to prospective clients. Call **Georgia Townsend**, at (301) 588-8335, if you are interested. By the way, please consider using our facility for graduation parties, anniversary celebrations, weddings, birthday parties, etc.

Thank You

The following Ikes helped build picnic tables and clean up the picnic grove for our 60th anniversary event: **Phil Dean, Bill Kelly, Jay Pickens, Tony Evans, Larry Rollins, Ray Shaver, and Bob Ryon**. Thanks guys!

Mike Blumenthal restored/repared the PA system in the Chapter House. This will make our guest speakers easier to hear and improve sound quality during dances and special

events. Way to go Mike!!

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

A few months ago, I mentioned that I go fishing in Canada each year. I just returned, and I had a great time! It's always wonderful to get away for a week or so to relax, fish, enjoy the wilderness, talk to old friends, and be mildly decadent. Our group included an FBI investigator, an Air Force Brigadier General, an Immigration and Naturalization Service Intelligence Officer, a Coast Guard electronics technician, a hardware store worker, an 80 year young retired Director of the Canadian Harness Racing Association, and an Ike.

We went fishing in several lakes and were more successful than in any previous year. In fact, we were probably too successful. The fish weren't as challenging this year. For example, another group that followed us by one day to one particular lake caught 120 Northern Pike, Pickerel, and Walleye in 8 hours! If I subsisted on fish, like some Canadian Indians do, I'd be happy with such success but there just wasn't much sport this year.

Dave McNeal loaned me a wonderful anthology of fishing tales and quips. This one fits my thoughts precisely:

"I suppose it is heresy, but I believe

that fish may sometimes spoil the fishing. I remember a crisp November day on a mountain lake in the Rockies. Ice needles had grown into a jagged platform around the shore. We launched a rowboat with difficulty and trolled all day with water freezing on the line.

Fishing was never better. Large trout and Silver Salmon struck the bait before all the line was out. We were too busy to feel the cold and too busy to enjoy the fishing. For after all is said for the fish, there must be some time left for the contemplation if the fishing is to be successful. We had no time to watch the muskrats playing on the icy shore. The flame of the quaking aspens, the flight of the wild ducks, the changing beauty of sky and water did not exist for us. Even the fish lay crushed and unnoticed beneath our feet. We saw and thought nothing but the gory business of capture. We caught the fish but lost the fishing.

Far different was the effect of another day spent on the same lake.... The day was warm and still, and so were the fish.... The sun was so warm and friendly, the air so good, the world so still. Perhaps I can be forgiven for winding up my tackle and pulling the boat into a reed bed. I stayed there for hours while little waves made soft music on the shore. I know no better way than this of finding the peace that all men seek. I watched a king-fisher snapping up minnows off the shoals, and admired the perfection of his technique. But I did not envy him, for hunger had driven the fun from his fishing. That evening I returned to the lodge fishless but satisfied with my catch."

Written by John Hogdon Bradley in *Thou Busy World*, Primavera Press, 1935. Excerpted from *An Angler's Anthology*, edited by Eugene Burns, The Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, PA, 1952, pp. 44-45.