



# NEWSLETTER



Izaak Walton League of America

Wildlife Achievement Club Chapter

November-December 97 Issue P.O. Box 118, Damascus, MD 20872

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## Coming Attractions

Date	Event	Time
11/14	Hunter Safety (1st session)	7:00 pm
11/15	Air Rifle Field Tgt. Match	9:00 am
11/15	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
11/17	Airgun Shoot	7:00 pm
11/19	Membership Meeting	7:30 pm
11/21	Hunter Safety (2nd session)	7:00 pm
11/22	Hunter Safety (3rd session)	9:00 am
11/20	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
11/24	Airgun Shoot	7:00 pm
11/30	Range Orientation	10:00 am
11/30	R & P Range Maint.	10:00 am
11/30	Archery Range Maint.	10:00 am
12/1	Airgun Shoot	7:00 pm
12/3	Board of Directors Mtg.	7:30 pm
12/6	Christmas Tree Sales	9:00 am
12/6	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
12/7	Christmas Tree Sales	9:00 am
12/7	Shotgun Range Maint.	10:00 am
12/8	Airgun Shoot	7:00 pm
12/11	Conservation Comm. Mtg.	7:30 pm
12/13	Christmas Tree Sales	9:00 am
12/13	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
12/14	Christmas Tree Sales	9:00 am
12/14	Christmas Party	1:00 pm
12/14	Membership Meeting	1:00 pm
12/15	Airgun Shoot	7:00 pm
12/20	Christmas Tree Sales	9:00 am
12/20	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
12/21	Christmas Tree Sales	9:00 am
12/21	Range Orientation	10:00 am
12/21	R & P Range Maint.	10:00 am
12/21	Archery Range Maint.	10:00 am
12/22	Airgun Shoot	7:00 pm
12/29	Airgun Shoot	7:00 pm

## General Membership Meetings

The November membership meeting will be on **Wednesday, November 19**. We have invited **Richard Clark**, who is an expert on flags and their origins, as our guest speaker. Mr. Clark will concentrate on the history and meaning of various Maryland and area flags and display parts of his collection. Dinner will feature traditional Thanksgiving fare. Social hour is at 6:30 pm and the meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Cost will be \$7.00.

Our December meeting will be a Christmas/Holiday party on **Sunday, December 14, at 1:00 pm**. No guest speaker is scheduled so members can enjoy the fellowship of the season. The menu has not yet been finalized. Because of the Christmas holiday, our December meeting has been moved up a week. It will be impossible to get the December newsletter printed and distributed before the meeting. Keep this newsletter handy for particulars on the December meeting.

## New Members

The following applications for membership have been approved by the Board of Directors. Chapter members can vote to accept these individuals as new members at the next membership meeting, **Wednesday, November 19**.

Bud Bell, Woodbine, MD

Sponsor: Joe Gick

George Calomiris, Potomac, MD.

Sponsor: Bill Jenkins

Michael Dusky, Silver Spring, MD.

Sponsor: Bob Mabie

Mark Himes, Silver Spring, MD.

Sponsor: Bruce Barr

Robert Inness, Rockville, MD.

Sponsor: Phil Dean

Jim Keenan, North Potomac, MD

Sponsor: Joe Gick

Jesus Lim, Germantown, MD

Sponsor: Bill Schneider

James Normile, III, Olney, MD

Sponsor: Paul Bluteau

Gregory Semuskie, Gaithersburg, MD.

Sponsor: Bob Cumberland

Joel Trumper, Columbia, MD.

Sponsor: Kevin Manning

Howard Weisman, Silver Spring, MD.

Sponsor: Joe Gick

Thomas Willats, Hyattsville, MD.

Sponsor: Bruce Barr

## December Shotgun Range Officer Schedule

Day	Date	Names
Sat.	12/6	Nancy Humphries Weldon Humphries Rich Buckingham
Sun.	12/7	Paul Bluteau Cindy Whitehurst Scott Garber
Sat.	12/13	Lewis Allnutt Bill Rahn

## Christmas Tree Sales

Please buy your Christmas tree from us this year! All trees (Scotch Pines and a few Firs) are \$15.00. Wreaths will also be available at less cost. Trees will be on sale **December 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21, 1997**. Sales hours are from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. This is an excellent project for those new members who need to fulfill their eight hour work requirement.

Sun.	12/14	Donna Needham Merrill Needham Kevin Manning
Sat.	12/20	David Fichter Burt Mullineaux
Sun.	12/21	Peter Currall Dave Gold Greg Baldwin
Sat.	12/27	Berle Cherney Wayne Sterling
Sun.	12/28	Lee Slavin Mike Boring Mike Merollini

## Skeet and Trap Notes

The shotgun range crew will have a series of special promotions during 1998. They are designed to be fun, make folks laugh, collect food and toys during the holiday season, and introduce our spouses and children to clay bird shooting. On selected dates, discounts will be provided to encourage a good turn out. A complete list of dates will be furnished in future newsletters and posted in the annual calendar. Rules for each promotion will be in the newsletter prior to the event.

**Rich Buckingham** is researching the possibility of WACC hosting a Registered Skeet Shoot during 1998. Thanks Rich for taking the ball on this effort!

As a reminder, discount range cards are for members only. They cannot be used to pay for the rounds of non-members. Likewise, discount cards and reloading supplies are only for sale to members in good standing.

## Rifle and Pistol Range Report

Despite a heavy rain, twelve Ikes showed up for rifle and pistol range maintenance on October 26. They felled several large trees, rebuilt the shotgun patterning board, built and installed a shelf in the new storage container, and moved a **very large** freezer out of the chapter house basement. Thanks to the following for their enthusiastic efforts:

**Kenneth Winpisinger, Alan Pressman, Jeffrey Powell, Kenneth Denekas, Bill Guzzey, Gene Shaw, Jim Arnold, Bob Martin, Bill Kelly, Charles Tomasevich, David Tyler, and Ray Shaver.**

The next rifle/pistol range maintenance session is at 10 a.m. on **Sunday, November 30. Ray Shaver** will be the coordinator. Please meet at the equipment shed.

We need expert assistance and heavy equipment for two rifle range projects. One project, widening the firing line, will require something like a backhoe to excavate between 20 and 30 cubic yards of earth on the right side of the range. The other project involves replacing all or part of a rotting beam and rafter on the right side of the rifle range roof. We also need to add another post to support the sagging beam. If you are a carpenter or an excavating equipment operator/owner, please take a look at the right side of the rifle range roof structure or firing line, and call **Ray Shaver** on 301-926-0465 to volunteer your assistance.

**Is anybody listening? Does anybody care?** On the morning of Nov. 5, the last of the Chapter's three metal spinning targets was found ~~sitting at 15 yards on the pistol range~~ with its top disk shot away. Despite signs and newsletter articles stating those targets were to be placed 25 yards or more from the firing line and shot only with .22LR ammunition, they were regularly shot and eventually destroyed with center fire ammunition. Compounding the destruction is the fact that the shooter and innocent bystanders were endangered when the targets were used improperly. Similarly at the rifle range, the shotgun patterning board was sitting eight to ten yards from the firing line, sporting a bulls eye-type target and full of slug holes. The patterning board is clearly marked "shotgun patterning," and again, newsletter articles have stated it should be used exclusively with shot shells at 40 yards. The objective of our range orientation course is to qualify all of our "range approved" members as range officers. As such, they are obligated to ensure that range rules and safety standards are

observed when they are present on the Chapter's ranges. Nevertheless, property damage and safety violations continue. Please be observant, let's identify the few who are violating the rules and revoke their range privileges before somebody gets hurt.

We have noted that shooters are taking down shot-up plywood target backers and placing them in the plastic trash cans on the ranges. While we appreciate the effort to keep the ranges tidy, placing chunks of sharp plywood in the containers may punch holes in their sides. Please stack used target backers neatly alongside the range and they will be removed during the monthly clean up. Thanks!

## Archery Notes

Thanks to Rudy Mattern for rebuilding and tuning the Hunter Safety Program's compound bow. Rudy is a member of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase IWL A Chapter.

Thanks also to Ted Bickish of Ted's Outdoor Tackle for his kind donation of items used to help teach the archery segment of the Hunter Safety Course. Ted is a member of the Frederick IWL A Chapter.

## Membership Renewal

By now, you should have received your 1998 renewal bill. If not, please call our Membership Secretary, **Joe Gick**, at (301) 774-9399. Remember that current memberships expire December 31, 1997. Please submit your check on time because a second billing in 1998 is very expensive; therefore, your timely response can help save our Chapter's funds.

You should have also received a notice in your bill to the effect that this is your last chance to get a Lifetime Membership for \$250.00. **Note that this is only for National Dues.** This does not include your Chapter or State dues. Our current **annual dues** of \$95.00 is broken out as follows:

\$67.00 to our Chapter, \$24.00 to National IWL.A, and \$4.00 to MD State IWL.A. **Life memberships** for each of these is: \$670.00 for our Chapter, \$250.00 to National IWL.A, and \$80.00 to MD State IWL.A. **A Lifetime Membership for all three costs \$1,000.00.** If you pay the \$250.00 for National IWL.A membership, you will still have annual dues of \$71.00 for our chapter and MD State IWL.A.

## January Membership Meeting

You should be aware of several matters pertaining to the January Membership Meeting. First, this is our annual Wild Game Dinner. If any of our successful hunters has any wild game to donate, please call **George Silva** at (301)258-0377.

Second, smoking during Chapter events has been a controversial subject. The Board of Directors will propose a new rule to ban smoking inside the Chapter House during Chapter activities at the January meeting. The entire membership may then vote on whether to accept or reject the proposal. If you feel strongly about either side of this issue, please attend this meeting and vote your conscience.

Finally, the January meeting will feature a discussion of Cowboy Action Shooting. Five of our members, dressed in cowboy attire, will describe these events. We are considering hosting Cowboy Action Shoots; however, there are county-imposed restrictions on what kinds of shooting events we can pursue on our ranges. If we are permitted to have these events, the rifle and pistol ranges would have to be closed to other users. You may want to attend this meeting to find out more about these exciting events and share your thoughts on hosting them in the future.

## Survey Results

You may recall that back in April, you received a survey asking what kind of Chapter activities you would be interested in. A total of 25 activities were listed and several members suggested others. We had a lot of surveys returned and the results have been tabulated.

The top ten activities of interest, in order, were:

1. Help MD DNR stock fish,
2. Take a train to see fall foliage,
3. Charter a fishing boat,
4. Establish a Chapter Nature Trail,
5. Establish game feeding areas (tie),
5. Sponsor NRA Youthfest Shooting event,
6. Have an orienteering event (tie)
6. Build trout pools on nearby rivers,
7. Tour nearby Civil War sites,
8. Canoe nearby rivers,
9. Go white water rafting,
10. Have a muzzle loading rendezvous.

We will try to schedule these events, and others which got high scores, during 1998. Watch the newsletter and annual calendar for schedules.

## Editor's Column

Since Thanksgiving will soon be here, I thought I'd include a passage in this newsletter from one of my favorite books, *Forty-Four Years of the Life of a Hunter*, by Meshach Browning. You may recall that

Meshach was a famous MD hunter in the Deep Creek area in the late 1790s and early 1800s. In his book, Meshach relates how he and his friend, Sam VanSickle, decided to go turkey hunting one cold January day in about 1795. These are his words:

"So off we went in the morning, and hunted a long time without success; but by-and-by we heard an old fellow gobbling on the other side of Deep Creek, which had overflowed all the bottoms and glades -- from hill to hill being covered with a sheet of water.

Going to the narrowest place we could find... Sam and I seated ourselves, and I commenced talking the turkey language. A gobbler heard me, and answered by a continued gobble after gobble. I told Sam that he would fly over to us if he had no hen with him; and directly over he came, alighting within a rod or two of us. The moment he

touched the ground he saw us, and wheeled around to fly back; but I shot him as he turned, and broke his wing; yet, notwithstanding, he flounced into the water, and swam to the other side of the deep channel, and made off into an alder thicket.

"Well, Sam," said I, "is not that a pity? We will now lose him, and he will starve to death."

"Oh no," said Sam, "I will bring him back."

"How will you get him?" said I; for we could see him sitting in the bushes. Sam said he would swim the creek, and catch him; and as there was snow hanging on the alders in every direction, I tried to prevent him from doing so; but he stripped off his clothes, and, as naked as he was born, he plunged into the water and swam to the other side. In a minute the chase began. Off went the turkey, with Sam close behind him; and when Sam would stop and take hold of the turkey's tail, the latter would slip under the alders. Whenever Sam gained on him, the same dodge would be resorted to. I had a full view of the race; and sometimes, when Sam would head him and turn him toward me, I had a front view of Sam, and when the turkey would turn from me, I had a back view of him. I never laughed more at anything I ever met with, than I did at that chase. At last they both got out of sight in the thick bushes, when I heard the turkey cry out, "Quit! Quit!"

"No, no," said Sam, "I'll be ---- if it ain't too late to say 'quit' now, after you have run me so long in these ---- briars. My hide is torn to jiblets, and I am tired to death."

He now reappeared, holding the turkey by the neck, and leading him along, telling him at the same time what he might depend on, till he came to the deep channel, when in he plunged again, and swam over to me, holding the turkey with one hand and swimming with the other, through a

sheet of water thirty or forty feet wide, and twelve to twenty feet deep. He brought the turkey to me, and told me to hold his little horse while he dressed, when he could attend to himself. He soon put his clothes back on again; but his skin was so torn with briars and bushes that he was bloody all over, and he was as

red as a goose's foot during a cold day in winter. He then cut off the turkey's head, and we went home. He received no more injury from his swim and race than what he experienced from a sore and much scratched skin, and from his feet being torn with snags and sharp

stones. So ended the turkey race."

*From Forty-Four Years of the Life of a Hunter*, by Meshach Browning, published by Appalachian Background, Oakland, MD, 1994, pp. 143-145.