



NEWSLETTER



Izaak Walton League of America
Wildlife Achievement Club Chapter
P.O. Box 118, Damascus, MD 20872
(301) 253-2384

February-March 98 Issue

Editor: Wayne Berkebile
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Coming Attractions

Date	Event	Time
2/21	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
2/22	Range Orientation	10:00 am
2/22	R & P Range Maint.	10:00 am
2/22	Archery Range Maint.	10:00 am
2/22	Christmas Tree Work	10:00 am
2/22	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
2/23	Adult Air Gun	7:00 pm
2/25	Membership Meeting	7:30 pm
2/28	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
3/1	Shotgun Range Maint.	10:00 am
3/1	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
3/2	Adult Air Gun	7:00 pm
3/4	Board of Directors Mtg.	7:30 pm
3/7	IWLA State Div. Mtg.	8:00 am
3/7	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
3/8	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
3/9	Adult Air Gun	7:00 pm
3/11	Airgun Field Trgt. Sem.	7:30 pm
3/14	Airgun Field Trgt. Mtch.	7:30 pm
3/14	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
3/15	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
3/16	Adult Air Gun	7:00 pm
3/21	Refuse To Be A Victim	1:30 pm
3/21	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
3/22	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
3/23	Adult Air Gun	7:00 pm
3/25	Membership Meeting	7:30 pm
3/27	R&P Ranges Close At:	1:00 pm
3/28	Adopt-A-River	8:30 am
3/28	Adopt-A-Road	9:00 am
3/28	R&P Ranges Closed Except For:	
3/28	Cowboy Action Shoot	9:00 am
3/28	NRA Jr. Sectional Airgun	9:00 am
3/28	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
3/29	NRA Jr. Sectional Airgun	9:00 am
3/29	R & P Range Maint.	10:00 am
3/29	Archery Range Maint.	10:00 am
3/29	Christmas Tree Work	10:00 am
3/29	Range Orientation	10:00 am
3/29	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
3/30	Adult Air Gun	7:00 pm

General Membership Meetings

The February membership meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 25**. Our guest speaker will be **Rob Gibbs**, head of Montgomery County's Deer Management Program. Fittingly, he will be discussing the deer problem in our area. The menu will feature corned beef, cabbage, and potatoes. Cost will be \$7.00. As always, social hour begins at 6:30 pm and dinner starts at 7:00 pm.

The March membership meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 25**. Our guest speaker will be **Russ Showers**, who oversees the Department of Energy ammunition research and development program. He will talk about new bullet technologies and show new 100 gr. .223 rounds, new composites, etc. The menu will feature a variety of chilies: regular, venison, elk, etc. Cost will be \$7.00. As always, social hour begins at 6:30 pm and dinner starts at 7:00 pm.

New Members

The following applications for membership have been approved by the Board of Directors. Chapter members have the opportunity to vote to accept these individuals as new members at the next membership meeting, on **Wednesday, February 25**.

Bonnie Bird, Mt. Airy, MD
Sponsor: Bob Mabie

Ash Chowdhury, Gaithersburg, MD.
Sponsor: Bob Mabie

Jiming Ha, Potomac, MD.
Sponsor: Kevin Manning

Roger Meeden, Laurel, MD
Sponsor: David Hammet, Jr.

Alan Miller, Gaithersburg, MD
Sponsor: Neal Cox

Ralph Prather, Frederick, MD.
Sponsor: Bob Schneider

Allen Read, Gaithersburg, MD.
Sponsor: Paul Bluteau

Maurice Spoelmans, Bethesda, MD
Sponsor: Chuck Crooks

March Shotgun Range Officer Schedule

Day	Date	Names
Sun.	3/1	Paul Bluteau Cindy Whitehurst Chris Smarte
Sat.	3/7	Nancy Humphries Weldon Humphries
Sun.	3/8	Greg Baldwin Mac McCollum
Sat.	3/14	Lewis Allnutt Bill Rahn
Sun.	3/15	Mike Merollini Kevin Manning
Sat.	3/21	Rich Buckingham Burt Mullineaux
Sun.	3/22	Peter Currall Dave Gold
Sat.	3/28	Berle Cherney Wayne Sterling
Sun.	3/29	Mike Boring Archie Cheng

Skeet and Trap Notes

We are looking for people to serve as range officers on weekends at the shotgun ranges. Please contact **Kevin Manning**, at (301) 831-9126, to volunteer or get additional information.

Plans to paint the range house this spring are under way. Details will be included in a future newsletter.

Our thanks go to the following members who worked on the January Cleanup: **Cindy Whitehurst, Greg Baldwin, Kevin Manning, Joel Trumper, and Bill Wright.**

Rifle and Pistol Range Report

Despite a little snow and mud, we made good progress in clearing space for the cowboy action shoots during the range maintenance session on January 25. Many thanks to **Chuck Crooks, Alan Pressman, Ray Shaver, Dave Hammett, Steve Cowan, David Burrell, Abidin Konur, Rob Panico, Tim Trout, Kraig Walsleben, Dave McNeal, Terry McCoy, and Bill Kelly** for a job well done.

Alan Pressman will oversee the next rifle/pistol range maintenance session at 10 a.m. on **Sunday, February 22**. In addition to regular cleanup activities, work will continue on preparing the ranges for the cowboy action shoots which start in March. Please bring chain saws and other brush cutting tools along to range cleanup sessions for the next several months.

Starting this year, maintenance of the rifle and pistol ranges, archery range, and Christmas trees will be regularly scheduled at the same time and day each month. That way we can make more efficient use of our volunteers. Please don't feel insulted or unwanted if you come to work on a specific project, but are asked to work on something else instead. The efforts of our volunteers are what keep our Chapter going; we sincerely appreciate the time you donate to club projects.

Now that we permit approved steel targets on the ranges, all shooters need to be aware that the possibility of bullet splatter exists, even when those targets are used according to the

rules. Be safe rather than sorry, **please wear eye protection on the rifle and pistol ranges.**

Judging from the slug holes in the shotgun patterning board, some of our rifle range users are apparently unsure of what constitutes shotgun patterning. Please use only shot shells when shooting at the patterning board. Buckshot is okay, but slugs should be shot only at the regular rifle targets. Also, please note that the shelves provided for firearms and equipment at the back side of the pistol range shooting area are not sturdy enough for sitting. As tempting as it may be, please *don't sit on the shelves*. They'll collapse and hurt someone!

Phil Dean is no longer coordinating the military rifle, .22 sporter, and black powder shoots. The mantle of responsibility for those events has been passed to **Tony Evans**, and Tony could use some help. Please contact **Tony** on (301) 649-1895 or **Ray Shaver** on (301) 926-0465 (e-mail to MRShaver@aol.com) to volunteer your assistance. The first event in 1998 will be a military rifle shoot on **Saturday, April 18**. Please don't be shy! These are fun events, not heavy duty competition.

Cowboy Action Shoots

Our first Cowboy Action Shoot will be on **Saturday, March 28**. Registration begins at 9:00 AM, a safety briefing is given, and shooting starts at 10:00 AM. Set up begins the day before so problems can be identified and solved before the shoot. Set up is on Friday, March 27 at 1:00 PM. **Please note: the Rifle and Pistol Ranges will be closed from Friday, March 27, at 1:00 PM to Saturday, March 28 at 5:00 PM.** As we get better, the Friday range closings will be moved to a later time of day. If you are interested in helping, call **Chuck Crooks** at (301) 831-9666. **Eye**

and ear protection is required for all shooters and spectators.

We are looking for several props for the shoots. An old lantern (OK if it doesn't work); old poker or card table; old but sturdy wood chair; quantities of red, white, and yellow spray paint; old cast iron frying pan; old portable (easy to carry) bar; and any other item with a wild west flavor would be appreciated. Again, call **Chuck Crooks**.

Airgun Program

One of the newer shooting sports is airgun field target shooting. This increasingly popular activity combines the accuracy of precision air rifle shooting with small game hunting skills. Targets are metal animal silhouettes with holes, ranging from 3/8" to 2" in diameter, in the center. Behind the hole is a metal paddle. When the paddle is hit, it causes the silhouette to fall. A score is made only when the paddle is hit and the target knocked down. Various animal silhouettes are placed at ranges from 10 to 50 yards from the firing line. Most participants fire from a sitting position, but a few targets may be obscured by logs or trees so other positions might be appropriate.

We have a field target course set up in the woods beyond the shotgun ranges. There are 15 firing lanes, each having two targets at varying distances. Shooting is done in squads of three - one person shoots, another keeps score, and the third resets targets. Shooters rotate through all three activities before moving to the next lane. Two shots are taken at each target for a total of 60 shots for the match.

Air rifles used need to generate sufficient velocity to activate the paddle when hit. The rifle should have a scope to see the small holes or impact point of the pellet.

Air rifle field target matches are scheduled for the following Saturdays: March 14, May 9, July 25, September 12, October 17, and November 14. All

matches start at 8:00 AM. For additional information, call **Ed Burrows** at (301) 774-9090, or **Phil Dean** at (301) 831-9325.

See also the article on our Air Rifle Field Target Seminar, below.

Air Rifle Field Target Match Seminar

A workshop to introduce shooters to airgun field target shooting will be held on **Wednesday, March 11**, at 7:30 PM in the Rathskeller of the Chapter House. Examples of different types of air rifles, scopes, and accessories will be displayed. You may fire some of the air rifles and get information on their cost and availability. If you have an air rifle you think could be used for these matches, bring it along and some of our "experts" will check it out for you.

New Web Page

Chuck Crooks has created an Internet Web Page for our Chapter. Chuck is now creating links to National IWLA, Save Our Streams, club events, directions to our club, Atlantic Guns, other Cowboy Shooting clubs, etc. Once the Chapter's full fledged Web Page is up and running, Chuck's page will be devoted to Cowboy Action Shooting. To read Chuck's page, enter:
"http://members.aol.com/rumriverc/index.html"

We are also putting together a committee to establish a very complete Web Page for our Chapter. We are looking for several members with computer/Web page experience to help establish the page. If you can assist, please contact **Nick Carone** at (301) 657-0863.

Youth Fishing Derby

The Maryland Governor's Youth Fishing Derby will be held at Seneca Creek State Park on **Saturday, June 6**, starting at 8:00 AM. This Derby is for Montgomery County residents only and is for children ages 6-17. The Derby includes fishing lessons, fishing rods, hooks, bobbers, and bait. The kids get to

keep their fishing equipment, if they wish. Educational booths, prizes, food, and entertainment will also be available. The purpose of the derby is to familiarize kids with the joys of fishing. The cost is \$5.00 per child. There is a limit of 750 kids, so registration is required. Registration begins on March 23. Parents are encouraged to attend and volunteer assistance is needed. For more information call **Wayne Berkebile** at (301) 253-4288.

Refuse to Be a Victim Seminar

This seminar, *for women only*, will be on **Saturday, March 21 at 1:30 PM (note this is a time change from the time shown on the annual calendar)**. This is an NRA program to teach women how to stay safe on the streets. It includes street survival tactics; demonstrations and evaluations of non-lethal force weapons such as pepper gas, kubotans, and stun guns; easy to use home and car security devices; and a sharing of experiences. *Firearms are not covered during this seminar*. Students will receive safety materials to take home. Chapter members pay \$15.00 for the session. Remember all our Chapter memberships are family memberships so wives and daughters need not have separate memberships. Non-Chapter members may attend for \$20.00. The seminar lasts 3-4 hours, depending on questions and discussions. The seminar will be held in the Chapter House. Pay at the door, but it would speed processing if you pay cash or have a check made payable to "Shireen Plaseied."

We have had a great deal of interest in this program. Since this is our first try at this and to avoid a mess, we are limiting attendance to 50 women. Our membership comes

first, so please register by March 7 by calling **Wayne Berkebile** at (301) 253-4288. After that date and if we still have vacancies, seats will be opened to women from the local community.

We will hold this seminar again if there is sufficient interest.

Chapter Canoe Trip

We are planning our first Chapter canoe trip on **Saturday, April 11**. The trip will be on the Monocacy River from the Rt 355 crossing to the Park Mills Road crossing. All members who have canoes are asked to join the trip. Please bring life vests and a bag lunch with you. If you don't have a canoe, we may be able to make space for you. We will meet at the Equipment Shed at 8:00 AM and convoy to the Rt 355 bridge or the Park Mills Road crossing. Note that the Monocacy River is usually shallow in most places and, even if one falls out of the canoe, it would be difficult to drown or get injured. There is no charge for this event. This should be a fun event for all canoeing families.

We ask all prospective participants to call **Wayne Berkebile**, at (301) 253-4288, by April 4 so we have an idea of how many canoes we will have and how much room will be available for those who want to go along but have no canoe.

Adopt-A-River Cleanup

Our annual cleanup of the Patuxent River will take place on **Saturday, March 28**. This is one of our most important conservation efforts and we would like a good turnout. Meet at the Equipment Shed at 8:30 AM. Bring work gloves and boots or waders, since we may need to get into wet or swampy areas. For more information, call **Bill Kelly** at (301) 253-5009.

Adopt-A-Road Cleanup

Our quarterly cleanup of Mullinix Mill Road is also scheduled for **March 28**. This group will meet at 9:00 AM at the equipment shed.

This cleanup is not quite as messy as the Patuxent River cleanup, so if you want to volunteer but slogging along a river bed is too much, why this is just the event for you!

Christmas Tree Committee

On January 10, a work detail consisting of **Dave McNeal, John Walter, Jim Guthrie, Bob McConnell, John Bloodgood, and Merle Keesler** removed overgrown and diseased trees, pulled stumps,

and cleared areas for planting new trees. Since then, additional overgrown and diseased trees have been cut. They now need to be hauled to a dump or burned to avoid contaminating other trees. Christmas Tree work parties will now be held routinely on the last Sunday of each month at 10:00 AM, the same as several other work parties. Please come out to the next work party on **Sunday, February 22**.

Future Christmas Tree work parties will spray herbicides on remaining trees and plant 550 new seedlings.

Fisherman's Flea Markets

A whole bunch of Fisherman's Flea Markets are coming up in the next few months. Following are some of

the events and locations:

Feb 21-22, Pasadena, MD
Feb 28-Mar 1, Howard County, MD
Mar 8, Manchester, MD
Mar 14, Rosedale, MD
Mar 22, Essex, MD

Call **Wayne Berkebile**, at (301) 253-4288, for more information.

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.