



NEWSLETTER



Izaak Walton League of America

Wildlife Achievement Club Chapter

P.O. Box 118, Damascus, MD 20872

(301) 253-2384

March-April 98 Issue

Editor: Wayne Berkebile

(301) 253-4288

Coming Attractions

Date	Event	Time
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
4/1	Board of Directors Mtg.	7:30 pm
4/4	Seneca Valley Match	8:00 am
4/4	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
4/5	Shotgun Range Maint.	10:00 am
4/5	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
4/6	Adult Air Gun	7:00 pm
4/11	Canoe Trip	8:00 am
4/11	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
4/12	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
4/13	Adult Air Gun	7:00 pm
4/18	Christmas Tree Cltvatn.	9:00 am
4/18	NSSA Skeet Shoot	9:00 am
4/18	Military Rifle Shoot	10:00 am
4/18	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
4/19	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
4/20	Adult Air Gun	7:00 pm
4/22	Membership Meeting	7:30 pm
4/25	R&P Ranges Closed Except For:	
4/25	Cowboy Action Shoot	9:00 am
4/25	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
4/26	Range Orientation	10:00 am
4/26	R & P Range Maint.	10:00 am
4/26	Archery Range Maint.	10:00 am
4/26	Christmas Tree Work	10:00 am
4/26	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
4/27	Adult Air Gun	7:00 pm

General Membership Meetings

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. Social hour begins at 6:30 pm and dinner starts at 7:00 pm.

The April membership meeting will be on **Wednesday, April 22**. We are trying to get someone to speak on the current status of the Patuxent River but nothing has been formalized as yet. We do know, however, that the menu will feature roast chicken, potatoes, and corn. 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 may vote to accept these individuals as new members at the next membership meeting, on **Wednesday, March 25**.

Eric Broderick, Woodbine, MD
Sponsor: Joe Gick

Bruce Deist, Germantown, MD.
Sponsor: Bill Schneider

David Deist, Germantown, MD.
Sponsor: Bill Schneider

Kenneth Forti, Kensington, MD.
Sponsor: Bill Kelly

Robert Hallin, Damascus, MD
Sponsor: Tom Peck

Michael Harbin, Rockville, MD
Sponsor: Bill Schneider

Kirk James, Rockville, MD.
Sponsor: Ed Bennett

Jun Jonas, Rockville, MD.
Sponsor: Fred Bobila

W. George King, Rockville, MD
Sponsor: Richard Buckingham

Geff Lampshire, Mont. Village, MD
Sponsor: Chuck Crooks

Joe Langham, Woodbine, MD
Sponsor: John Leaman

Jim Loftus, Damascus, MD
Sponsor: Ed Bennett

James Luensman, Germantown, MD
Sponsor: Paul Bluteau

Franklin Omoncada, Chillum, MD
Sponsor: Greg Gallo

David Orrence, New Market, MD
Sponsor: Bill Schneider

Zygmunt Radke, Gaithersburg, MD
Sponsor: Fred Bobila

Michael Scotchel, Damascus, MD
Sponsor: Bill Schneider

Craig Spottswood, Chevy Chase, MD
Sponsor: Ed Burrows

Byron Sussino, Gaithersburg, MD

Sponsor: John Walter

Rob Williams, Damascus, MD

Sponsor: Ray Moran

April Shotgun Range Officer Schedule

Day	Date	Names
Sat.	4/4	Nancy Humphries Weldon Humphries
Sun.	4/5	Paul Bluteau Cindy Whitehurst
Sat.	4/11	Lewis Allnutt Bill Rahn
Sun.	4/12	Mike Merollini Kevin Manning
Sat.	4/18	Rich Buckingham Burt Mullineaux
Sun.	4/19	Peter Currall Dave Gold
Sat.	4/25	Berle Cherney Wayne Sterling
Sun.	4/26	Mike Boring Greg Baldwin

Skeet and Trap Notes

We are hosting the Piedmont Open skeet shoot on Saturday, April 18. This event is open to members of the National Skeet Shooting Association (NSSA). You may shoot either 12 or 20 gauge guns. If you are not already a member of NSSA, you may join at the shoot. Registration begins at 9:00 AM and shooting starts at 10:00 AM. We need volunteers to help during the shoot. If you can assist, please call **Rich Buckingham** at (301) 762-23096. Depending on participation, the all the Shotgun Field, except the Five Stand, may be closed on April 18.

We want our ranges to look good during the Piedmont Open, so we will be getting everything spruced up during the Shotgun Range Cleanup on **Sunday, April 5**. We really need folks to come to that cleanup session!

For everyone's information, new skeet machines have been ordered for Field 2.

Our thanks go to the following members who worked on the March 1 Cleanup: **Cindy Whitehurst, Chris Smartz, Paul Bluteau,**

Greg Baldwin, Kevin Manning, Rich Buckingham, Mark Kosian, Jim Arnold, Larry Lippman, Wheeler Johnson, and Ed Baldwin.

Rifle and Pistol Range Report

The next maintenance session for the rifle and pistol ranges is scheduled at 10:00 AM, **Sunday, March 29**. **Ray Shaver** will coordinate. Meet at the range parking area.

We are running low on plywood backers for rifle and pistol targets, so we are looking for donations of used plywood. If you have any scrap 5/8" plywood or larger which can be cut into 2'x2' or 2'x4' pieces, please drop it off at the Equipment Shed. Just lean it against the front wall to the right of the sliding door. Thanks to the anonymous donors who left plywood during January and February.

Don't forget the military rifle shoot at 10:00 AM, on **Saturday, April 18**. This shoot provides an opportunity for Chapter members with an interest in military rifles to get acquainted, show off their favorite rifles, and have a little fun. If you're interested, don't hesitate to come out, even if you don't own a military rifle. We expect this to be a very low key, informal event.

If you haven't been to the rifle and pistol ranges for a couple of months, you'll be surprised to see what can be done in a day with a bulldozer. Many thanks to the following individuals for assisting with the renovations on February 13 and 14: **Kevin Manning, Peter Currall, and Ed Bennett**. A special "thank you" goes to **Doug Eaton** of Eaton Excavation for the donation of two days labor, bulldozer use, and fuel for clearing the ranges. The newly cleared areas provide opportunities for expanding our shooting activities. One of the first things we need is a concrete pad

to define the firing line and keep shooters out of the mud on the new shooting area to the left of the pistol range. If you are in the building or concrete business and can contribute a pad, or help us get one at a good cost, call **Ray Shaver** on (301) 926-0465.

Cowboy Action Shoots

We really appreciate the welding assistance provided by **Kirk Luce and Maurice Speelmans**. They crafted some shotgun targets for our cowboy shoots. We still need some flat 1/4" or 3/8" steel for additional targets. Please contact **Chuck Crooks** at (301) 831-9666 if you can donate some flat stock.

Our first Cowboy Action Shoot will be on **Saturday, March 28**. 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**. If you are interested in helping during the shoot, contact Chuck at the above number or come by the ranges at 1:00 PM on March 27.

If you want to learn more about our Cowboy program, visit Chuck's web site at: "<http://members.aol.com/runriverc/index.html>"

Refuse to Be a Victim Seminar

We still have space available for this seminar, *which is for women only*. Please register by March 19, so the instructor knows how many materials to bring. Register by calling **Wayne Berkebile** at (301) 253-4288.

Chapter Canoe Trip

Our first Chapter canoe trip will be on **Saturday, April 11**. The trip will go on the Monocacy River from the Rt 355 crossing to the Park Mills Road crossing. All members who have canoes or are just interested in riding along are invited to join the trip. Please bring life vests and a bag lunch with you. If you don't have a canoe,

we should 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. 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!

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.

Free Dogs To Good Owner

Peter Chaconas is trying to find a good home for his three Beagles. There is a mother and two one year old pups, one male and one female. If you are interested in adopting these fine dogs, please call Peter at (410) 526-5635 between 8:00 and 9:00 PM.

Editor's Column

Elsewhere on this page, we talk about our upcoming canoe trip. The trip will start at the base of the Route 355 bridge which spans the Monocacy River. Had we been at that exact spot on July 9, 1864, we would have been in the very center of the Battle of Monocacy.

At that time, there were two bridges over the Monocacy: a wooden covered bridge where the Route 355 bridge now stands, and upstream, about 50 yards, was a railroad bridge. A railroad bridge still exists at the site and can clearly be seen from the base of the Route 355 bridge. In 1864, the railroad bridge was made of iron and consisted of ties spanning iron girders. There were no sides or railings on top of the railroad bridge, but there was a narrow footway of boards between the rails. To cross the railroad bridge, a pedestrian had to step from tie to tie, or walk single file on the narrow footway.

At about 6:00 AM on July 9, 1864, we would have seen 300 men from the 1st Maryland Infantry, 10th Vermont Infantry, and 9th New York Heavy Artillery cross over the wooden bridge. They went from the east (Urbana) side to the west (Frederick) side and were ordered to hold the two bridges at all costs. The rest of the Union army was posted behind them, on the east bank of the Monocacy River.

At 8:30 AM these 300 Union soldiers were attacked by the full weight of Confederate General Stephen Ramseur's division. After an hour of heavy fighting, the Confederates fell back. At 11:00 AM, a stronger Confederate attack occurred. General Wallace, the Union Commander, believed the 300 men would be routed and the Confederates would take the wooden bridge. To prevent that, General Wallace ordered the bridge to be burned, with his 300 Union soldiers still on the opposite bank.

At 3:30 PM, two full Confederate divisions attacked down Route 355. For the next 90 minutes the 300 Yankees fought alone against the two attacking Confederate divisions.

General Wallace describes what happened next:

"A cheering and an outburst of musketry arose beyond the railroad bridge; and looking thither, a sight broke upon me in the stress of which all interest, else, was for the moment smothered.

I looked, as did my officers, and we were all astonished--I never more so.

In the allusion to the skirmishers in the direction of Frederick... I described as them as shifting from their original position by crawling back toward the river, with what hopeful purpose I could not imagine. Hours had come and gone, hours of painful retirement, during which the good men, undiscouraged, undaunted by the abandonment so discernible after burning of the wooden bridge, literally wormed themselves off the field, stopping at intervals to fight the enemy off, and keeping the railroad bridge always in mind. Now they had reached the bridge. By what signal I do not know, not unlikely by spontaneous impulse, they sprang up, and unmindful of exposure, made a dash for liberty. And when I saw them, they were on the bridge coming.

To judge of this feat, and what courage there was involved in it, ...keep in thought that the great steel structure was of goodly length, sixty or sixty-five yards at least, and unfloored, leaving passage over it afoot along cross ties and girders. Nor should one's fancy stop there. Quite forty-five feet below the adventurers ran the water swiftly enough to make the head swim, and only too ready to catch a sufferer falling, and hide him in its remorseless, dark-brown current. Danger upon danger--and yet another. Every step was taken under fire of antagonists pressing forward furious at the sight of

possible escape. Such the spectacle presented to us spellbound on the hill!

We saw two or three hundred reach the bridge--we saw them on the ties stepping short and carefully, as they needs must--we saw them from habit form in column order, not crowding or pushing, or struggling to pass one another, or yelling. Now and then we could see one stop short, let go his musket, throw up his hands, and with a splash disappear in the stream beneath...How many were thus overtaken may never be known. *Missing* was the simple record written on the last muster roll over against their names.

Fortunately, though holding the moving files in plain view, the (Confederate) artillerymen mercifully refrained from firing. We watched the coming breathlessly...

Upon our shore, the fugitives halted, and while some of them turned for a last shot at the enemy, the others swung their caps and cheered, then reformed and in perfect order marched away, as I supposed, to their commands. I have not words to express my admiration. Enough that I cannot recall an incident or occurrence under my eyes, more desperate in the undertaking, yet more successful in the outcome. From every point of view it was heroism."

From *Fighting for Time: The Battle of Monocacy* by Glenn H. Worthington, Burd Street Press, Shippensburg, PA, 1985, pp. 113-116.

Captain George E. Davis, Company D, 10th Vermont Infantry was subsequently awarded a Congressional medal for his conduct on the banks of the Monocacy River,... the place where our canoe trip will start.