



NEWSLETTER



Izaak Walton League of America

Wildlife Achievement Club Chapter

P.O. Box 118, Damascus, MD 20872

(301) 253-2384

April-May 98 Issue

Editor: Wayne Berkebile

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Coming Attractions

Date	Event	Time
4/18	Christmas Tree Cltvatn.	9:00 am
4/18	NSSF Skeet Shoot	9:00 am
4/18	Military Rifle Shoot	10:00 am
4/18	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
4/19	Christmas Tree Cltvatn.	9:00 am
4/19	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
4/20	Adult Air Gun	6:00 pm
4/22	Membership Meeting	7:30 pm
4/24	R&P Ranges Close At: 2:00 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	6:00 pm
5/2	Seneca Valley Match	8:00 am
5/2	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
5/3	Shotgun Range Maint.	10:00 am
5/3	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
5/4	Adult Air Gun	6:00 pm
5/6	Board of Directors Mtg.	7:30 pm
5/9	Airgun Fld. Trgt. Mch.	7:30 am
5/9	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
5/10	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
5/11	Adult Air Gun	6:00 pm
5/16	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
5/17	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
5/18	Adult Air Gun	7:00 pm
5/23	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
5/24	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
5/25	Adult Air Gun	6:00 pm
5/27	Membership Meeting	7:30 pm
5/29	R&P Ranges Close At: 2:00 pm	
5/30	R&P Ranges Closed Except For:	
5/30	Cowboy Action Shoot	9:00 am
5/30	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
5/31	R & P Range Maint.	10:00 am
5/31	Archery Range Maint.	10:00 am
5/31	Christmas Tree Work	10:00 am
5/31	Range Orientation	10:00 am
5/31	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm

General Membership Meetings

The April membership meeting is on **Wednesday, April 22**. Our guest speaker will be the **Honorable Mathew Mossburg**, our delegate to the Maryland State Assembly. Mr. Mossburg will discuss recent conservation legislation. This is your chance to hear our representative, ask questions about state policies, and express your opinions. The menu features 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.

The May membership meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 27**. Our guest speaker will be **Mr. Phil Norman**, from the Howard County Dept. of Recreation and Parks. He will talk about establishing wildlife habitat in our backyards. The menu has not yet been set. Cost will be \$7.00. Again, social hour is at 6:30 PM and dinner starts at 7:00 PM.

New Members

The following membership applications have been approved by the Board of Directors. Chapter members may vote to accept these individuals as new members at the next membership meeting.

Wednesday, April 22.

Serguei Boutovski, Gaithersburg, MD

Sponsor: Bill Schneider

Bill Fabritius, Sykesville, MD.

Sponsor: Wayne Sterling

Matt Gagnon, Woodbine, MD.
Sponsor: Lewis Allnutt

Bill Gray, Gaithersburg, MD.
Sponsor: Vince Iacono

Gregory Jenkins, Gaithersburg, MD.
Sponsor: Bob Schneider

Michael Rodich, Baltimore, MD
Sponsor: Phil Dean

Wayne Soderquist, Silver Spring, MD.
Sponsor: Robert Inness

William Vernooy, Frederick, MD.
Sponsor: William Marnane

David Young, Mt. Airy, MD
Sponsor: Paul Patel

May Shotgun Range Officer Schedule

Day	Date	Names
Sat.	5/2	Nancy Humphries Weldon Humphries
Sun.	5/3	Paul Bluteau Cindy Whitehurst Greg Baldwin
Sat.	5/9	Lewis Allnutt Bill Rahn
Sun.	5/10	Mike Merollini Kevin Manning
Sat.	5/16	Rich Buckingham Burt Mullineaux
Sun.	5/17	Peter Currall Dave Gold
Sat.	5/23	Ed Bennett
Sun.	5/24	Mike Boring Chris Smarte
Sat.	5/30	Berle Cherney Wayne Sterling
Sun.	5/31	Doug Eaton Sterling Eaton Kevin Manning

Skeet and Trap Notes

So far, no one has volunteered to assist Kevin Manning in painting the shotgun range house. Please call **Kevin** at (301) 831-9126 or contact him by e-mail at our web page (see return address label on this newsletter) if you can assist.

The new skeet machines are installed on Field 2 thanks to the efforts of **Bill Wright, Chuck Crooks, Kevin Manning, and Ed Bennett.**

Wednesday evening skeet shooting starts on **May 6.** As an experiment, Chuck Crooks will open the fields at 2:00 PM and operate them until dusk. If the new starting time is popular, they will continue for the season.

Our next Shotgun Field promotion is the weekend of **May 16/17.** Any member, in good standing, who shoots skeet, trap, or Five Stand with their son or daughter under the age of 18 gets their kid's round for free. This equals one free round for each paid round shot by the parent.

Rifle and Pistol Range Report

Many thanks to **Herbert Israel** for his donation of plywood backers which were already cut to size for the pistol range. Despite Herb's gift and those of other anonymous donors, we can still use your scrap plywood (5/8" or larger) which can be cut into 2'x2' or 2'x4' pieces. Please drop it off at the equipment shed.

Thanks also to **Jim Tucker** for repairing another steel action target which did not survive the Sportsman's Team Challenge. If there are other welders who are willing to donate their services, we have more targets to repair. Call **Ray Shaver** at (301) 926-0465.

Please note the rifle and pistol ranges will be closed until 1:00 PM on maintenance days, starting **April 26.** Since the maintenance session ends around noon, that will give our crew members an hour of reserved range time. Except for holiday weekends, range maintenance is normally done on the last Sunday of each month, and is always advertised ahead of time in the newsletter. If you want to shoot before 1 PM on range cleanup day, please join the cleanup crew.

Reading our range rules is probably not a popular pastime for most members, so we sometimes use this space to remind you of those rules which are often ignored. Violations of our guest rules are a continuing problem. Please note the following from our RANGE RULES:

"7. A member may bring a **maximum of two guests** to the rifle and pistol ranges at a time, and must remain with his/her guests at all times.

8. A non-member may use the ranges as a guest a **maximum of two times**, except when the individual comes from a distance greater than 75 miles."

After two visits with a member, a guest who wishes to use our ranges needs to become a member. Also, please enter your guest's name on a separate line on the range sign-in sheet, and identify them as a guest by checking the "guest" column.

Range and Christmas Tree Maintenance

Sixteen Ikes and family members performed range and Christmas tree maintenance on Sunday, March 29. Thanks to **Mark Himes, Richard Phelan, Geoff Hornseth, Simon and Jason Oakley, Wayne Berkebile, David Tyler, Bill Kelly, Robert Duvall, Jon Duvall, Pat Duvall, Larry Pfeiffer, and Tom Roberts.** Coordinating maintenance activities were **Ray Shaver, Dave McNeal, and John Walter.** Special thanks to **Candice Phelan** for providing fresh-baked sweet rolls to the crew. Our next maintenance day will be **Sunday, April 26.** Meet at the equipment shed at 10:00 AM.

Cowboy Action Shoots

The first Cowboy Action Shoot of our "Damascus Wildlife Rangers"

was an overwhelming success! We had 99 shooters in full cowboy dress. The ten lady shooters did very well, indeed. We also had 150 spectators watch the fun. Special thanks go to **Kevin Manning** and crew for preparing the excellent food, **Barbara Crooks and Donna Currall** for data entry services, **Kevin Manning and Ray Shaver** for moving mucho mulcho, and again to **Doug Eaton** for making the shooting area large enough to safely handle all the shooters.

The next Cowboy Shoot is **Saturday, April 25** at 9:00 AM. Set up will begin at 2:00 PM on **Friday, April 24** (rain or shine). **Note that the Rifle and Pistol Ranges will close at 2:00 PM on Friday and will not reopen until Saturday at around 4:30 PM.** Assistance is needed for setup and takedown. If interested, call **Chuck "Chuckaroo" Crooks** on (301) 831-9666 or contact him on his web page (see return address label on this newsletter).

Airgun News

Our adult airgun group sponsored an NRA Junior Air Rifle tournament at the chapter house on March 29. Twenty young participants fired 20 shots each in the standing, kneeling, and prone positions. Winner of the match was Chris Wright of Damascus, with a score of 531/600. Chris has been active in our Chapter's junior airgun shooting program and has continued shooting airguns and smallbore rifles. Second place went to Stephen Mistler of Herndon, VA, who also fired a 531/600. In accordance with NRA rules, the winner was determined by considering the last 10 shots as a group. Third place went to Keith Weaver of Fairfax, VA. The following Ikes assisted during the tournament: **Ed Burrows, Phil Dean, Bob Inness, Tom Gaylord, and Mike Morino.** Thanks guys!

The Monday night airgun meets will start at 6:00 PM on the outdoor range starting **April 13.** Shooting will continue until 8:30 PM or it's too dark

to see. Air rifles and pistols can be fired at paper and metal field targets. We also plan to have "action pistol" events for those members who have rapid fire air pistols. Everyone is invited to attend these matches and you don't even need an airgun as there are usually spares on hand to try out. (Rumor has it that several airgunners have convinced their wives they need another airgun, just in case a newcomer needs to borrow one.)

The Field Target Match on March 14 drew 27 participants: the most so far. The next Field Target Match is on **Saturday, May 9.**

Chapter Fishing Trip

Our first Chapter fishing trip will be on **Saturday, June 13.** We have arranged with Bill Kramer of Potomac Guide Service, in Gaithersburg, to lead us on the Potomac River. The cost is \$250.00 for two people in a boat. A third person can be added to each boat for \$25.00. Although this may seem expensive, you get the boat, a guide in each boat, gas, and all the tackle you need. We need a head count by May 15, so if you want to join us, please call **Wayne Berkebile**, at (301) 253-4288, by that date.

Adopt-A-River Cleanup

Our cleanup of the Patuxent River on March 28 was a huge success! About 60 people helped remove 5 1/2 tons of trash from the Patuxent River crossings of Long Corner, Mullinix Mill, Annapolis Rock, and Hipsley Mill Roads. Several groups joined us including the Goshen Hounds and Howard County Iron Bridge Hounds fox hunting clubs, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, our own Boy Scout Troop 945, and the St. Paul's Church Cub Scout Pack 1084. Ikes who assisted were: **Bill and Rory Kelly, Ed Burrows, Paul Patel, Rick Thornley, Kirk James, Roger Meeden, David Deist, Zygmunt Radke, Bob Inness, J.E. Luensman, Dave Quill, Richard Phelan, Jim Piatetski, John Skillings, Tom Orange, William Haycraft, Wayne Berkebile, Mac McCollum, Ari and Naomi Sapir, Bob Mabie, Fred and Nancy Swader, Joe Carinci, Bill Gazdik, Bruce Deist, Ray Shaver, Ken Winpisinger, Mike Blumenthal, and Georgia Townsend.**

Adopt-A-Road Cleanup

Our cleanup of Mullinix Mill Road on March 29 went equally well. We appreciate the efforts of **Al, Cole, and Nicholas Hrast; Kirk James; Dave Deist; Paul and Maggie Davis; and Bob Mabie.**

Vote on New IWLA Logo

You're probably aware that the Ways and Means Committee of the National IWLA has proposed changing our name and/or official logo. The proposed new name is the "Izaak Walton Conservation League of America." The proposed official logo is the six-segmented drawing of a bird, mountain, deer, maple leaf, fisherman, and fish which occasionally appears on IWLA correspondence.

The reason for the proposed name change is to better describe what the IWLA is about. Many people do not know we are conservation organization since our present name does not include the word "conservation." The reason for proposing the new official logo is also to better convey that we are a conservation organization. The present bust of Izaak Walton is thought to be meaningless to most people.

WACC members will be asked to vote on these proposed changes during the membership meeting on **April 22.** The official vote will be held at the IWLA National Convention in July, 1998. Our delegates need to know how our chapter members want them to vote. Please attend the April membership meeting and put in your two cents!

Editor's Column

"The species of eagle that frequents the water, and lives on fish, was also present, and one was hovering at a

considerable height above the hut, greedily watching for an opportunity to make a swoop: its hungry young elevating their heads from a nest that was in sight, in the naked summit of a dead pine...

"Now, Judith," cried Deerslayer, laughing, with glistening and delighted eyes "we'll see if Killdeer isn't Killeagle too!..."

A careful sight followed, and was repeated again and again, the bird continuing to rise higher and higher. Then followed the flash and the report. The swift messenger sped upwards, and, at the next instant, the bird turned on its side, and came swooping down, now struggling with one wing, and then with the other, sometimes whirling in a circuit, next fanning desperately as if conscious of its injury, until, having described several complete circles around the spot, it fell heavily into the end of the ark. On examining the body, it was found that the bullet had pierced it about half way between one of its wings and the breast-bone.

"We've done an onthoughtful thing, Sarpent--yes, Judith, we've done an onthoughtful thing in taking life with an object no better than vanity!" exclaimed Deerslayer, when the Delaware held up the enormous bird, by its wings, and exhibited the dying eyes riveted on its enemies with the gaze that the helpless ever fashion on their destroyers... "Here Judith; there's Killdeer; take him back ag'in, and keep him for some hand that's more deserving to own such a piece."

"I know of none as deserving as your own, Deerslayer," answered the girl in haste; "none but yours shall keep the rifle."

"If it depended on skill, you might be right enough, gal, but we should know *when* to use fire-arms as well as *how* to use 'em. I haven't l'arnt the first duty yet, it seems; so keep the piece till I have. The sight of a dyin' and distressed creatur', even though it be only a bird, brings wholesome thoughts

to a man who don't know how soon his own time may come... I'd give back all my vain feelin's and rej'icins in hand and eye, if that poor eagle was only on its nest ag'in with its young, praisin' the Lord...."

The Deerslayer, by James Fenimore Cooper, New York: John W. Lovell Co., undated, pp. 494-496.

I always liked that passage because it so vividly conveys that knowing when to pull the trigger is the *first* duty of marksmanship.

Of course, this is about the recent tragic event in Jonesboro, Arkansas. I am very disturbed by what happened there. The two young boys knew quite well how to operate their firearms but either didn't know, didn't understand, or didn't care about the consequences of their acts.

As a shooter, I confess to feeling ashamed about the incident. I believe strongly that learning marksmanship and safe gun handling skills at a young age is appropriate. It takes the mystery out of firearms, teaches responsibility, and can lead to a healthy, lifelong interest. I wonder, though, if we really do a good job of instilling the tremendous responsibilities that go with using a firearm.

I'm proud that the NRA, our IWL.A firearms instructors, and other shooting organizations teach the moral judgements that go with gun ownership. They have been very effective. The fact that the incident in Jonesboro is such incredible news proves how effective they've been.

Still, we shooters have a special obligation to convey the preciousness of all life; especially as we provide

the skills which can take life so easily. We have a lot to overcome. Everyone, adults as well as kids, is bombarded by TV shows, movies, video games, and cartoons which constantly show the killing others, usually for no justifiable reason. And those killings never show the real life consequences of the event. No wonder kids think it's OK to shoot someone over a remark, slight, or rejection!

The best words I heard on the subject came from an Air Force firearms instructor. I've never forgotten them. ***"Once you pull that trigger, you can never, ever get the bullet back. And you can't make it go somewhere else. It will hit exactly what it is aimed at."*** Let's all dedicate ourselves to teaching people who want to learn *how* to use a firearm to first learn *when* to use it.