



NEWSLETTER



Izaak Walton League of America

Wildlife Achievement Club Chapter

P.O. Box 118, Damascus, MD 20872

(301) 253-2384

May-June 98 Issue

Editor: Wayne Berkebile

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Coming Attractions

Date	Event	Time
5/16	NRA Basic Pistol Course	9:00 am
5/16	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
5/17	NRA Basic Pistol Course	9:00 am
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
6/1	Adult Air Gun	6:00 pm
6/3	Board of Directors Mtg.	7:30 pm
6/6	Seneca Valley Match	8:00 am
6/6	Christmas Tree Cltvatn.	9:00 am
6/6	Adopt-A-Road	9:00 am
6/7	Shotgun Range Maint.	10:00 am
6/7	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
6/8	Adult Air Gun	6:00 pm
6/13	Chapter Fishing Trip	8:00 am
6/14	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
6/15	Adult Air Gun	6:00 pm
6/20	NSSA Skeet Shoot	9:00 am
6/20	.22 Rifle Shoot	10:00 am
6/21	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
6/22	Adult Air Gun	6:00 pm
6/24	Membership Meeting	7:30 pm
6/26	R&P Ranges Close At:	2:00 pm
6/27	R&P Ranges Closed Except For:	
6/27	Cowboy Action Shoot	9:00 am
6/27	Airgun Field Trgt. Mch.	9:00 am
6/28	Range Orientation	10:00 am
6/28	R & P Range Maint.	10:00 am
6/28	Archery Range Maint.	10:00 am
6/28	Christmas Tree Work	10:00 am
6/28	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
6/29	Adult Air Gun	6:00 pm

General Membership Meetings

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.

The June membership meeting will be on **Wednesday, June 24**. Our guest speaker will be **Mr. Keith Van Ness**, from the Montgomery County Dept. of Environmental Protection. He will talk about the current status of the upper Patuxent River (fish population, pollution, runoff, etc.). 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, May 27**.

Kennith Becraft, Mt. Airy, MD.
Sponsor: Al Pressman

Jacob Bell, Hyattsville, MD.
Sponsor: Matt Brennan

Carolyn Burdette, Bethesda, MD.
Sponsor: Bob Schneider

Josh Burgoon, New Market, MD.

Sponsor: Matt Brennan

Jeffrey Foerster, Silver Spring, MD.

Sponsor: Randolph Reynolds

Morgan Gates, St. Leonard, MD.

Sponsor: Joe Gick

Thomas Meyerer, Bethesda, MD.

Sponsor: Mike Heffernan

Meagan Rosewag, Boyds, MD.

Sponsor: Rick Sommer

Wilfred Shisler, Rockville, MD.

Sponsor: Ray Logan

Kathleen Vagt, Arlington, VA.

Sponsor: George King

Shelly Wright, Mt. Airy, MD

Sponsor: Chuck Crooks

June Shotgun Range Officer Schedule

Day	Date	Names
Sat.	6/6	Nancy Humphries Weldon Humphries
Sun.	6/7	Chris Smarte Greg Baldwin
Sat.	6/13	Lewis Allnutt Bill Rahn
Sun.	6/14	Doug Eaton Sterling Eaton
Sat.	6/20	Peter Currall Dave Gold
Sun.	6/21	Rich Buckingham Burt Mullineaux
Sat.	6/27	Berle Cherney Wayne Sterling
Sun.	6/28	Mike Merollini Kevin Manning

Skeet and Trap Notes

The next clean-up of the Shotgun Ranges is on **Sunday, June 7, at 10:00 AM.**

Our next shotgun promotion is on **Sunday, June 14.** In celebration of "Flag Day," any member in good standing, who shoots skeet, trap, or Five Stand while wearing a Maryland or US flag on their clothing gets their rounds at half price (or two rounds for one card punch).

Anyone wishing to volunteer to be a regular shotgun range officer should contact **Kevin Manning** at kcmbblue@aol.com or at (301) 831-9126. Our supply of range officers is dwindling. If we cannot get sufficient volunteers, our only recourse will be to open less often or pay someone to run the ranges. If we have to pay someone, the cost for shooting on the shotgun ranges will surely increase.

Rifle and Pistol Range Report

About a dozen shooters attended the annual Chapter military rifle shoot on Saturday, April 18. Even though it was a laid-back affair with no formal program, they came up with things to do, and had a good time. Everyone attending contributed in one way or another, but **John Cerne** deserves special commendation for helping to organize and coordinate the event. Our next informal "fun shoot" is a .22 sporter shoot from 10:00 AM. until 2:00 PM on **Saturday, June 20.** We'll provide steel knock-down targets and silhouettes, along with novelty targets like balloons and clay pigeons. Please bring the kids and join us. Several rimfire rifles will be available to borrow, if you don't have one. If you are interested in helping out with the .22 sporter shoot, please call **Ray Shaver** on (301) 926-0465 or send e-mail to MRShaver@aol.com.

The last remaining Chapter-owned steel target has been removed from the Pistol Range. Although the target was stamped for use with .22LR ammunition only and a similar sign was posted on the range, somebody shot it with something much more powerful which bent it, making it likely to produce ricochets. It would be nice to provide a variety of targets for the use of our members, but as long as a few people act irresponsibly, it can't be done. Don't forget that your range approval is more

than an admission to the Chapter ranges; it also commits you to ensuring the ranges used safely while you are there. If you observe an unsafe practice, please say something to the violator or at least report it to the Chapter caretaker or a club officer.

We will eventually expand the Pistol Range to include the area which was recently cleared. To do so, the height of the berm separating the old and new areas must be increased. We also need to create a firing line (preferably a concrete pad) and build some movable benches so the new area can be used for multiple purposes like small-bore rifle position shooting. If you can contribute time, equipment, or materials to help achieve those goals, please contact **Ray Shaver**.

Range and Christmas Tree Maintenance

Four of the twelve Ikes who attended the range and Christmas tree maintenance session on Sunday, April 26, were the **Oakley family (Simon, Joanna, Jason, and Zoe)**, who have become regular participants. Other family acts include the **Phelans** with **Richard** showing up to work, bearing **Candice's** fresh-baked coffee cakes, and the father and son team of **John and Chris Haczewski**. Thanks also to regulars **Larry Pfeiffer** and **Ken Winpisinger**, and to **Mike Harbin**, a new member who brought along his ATV for hauling trees and trash. Coordinating and overseeing the maintenance activities were **Dave McNeal** and **Ray Shaver**. The next maintenance day will be **Sunday, May 31.** Meet at the equipment shed at 10:00 AM. Family participation is encouraged!

Cowboy Action Shoots

The Rifle and Pistol Ranges will be closed from **Friday, June 26, at 2:00 PM to Saturday, June 27 at 4:00 PM for the June Cowboy Action Shoot.**

Assistance is needed for set up and take down of targets. If you can assist, please contact **Chuck Crooks** at his e-mail address (see return address label on this newsletter) or at (301) 831-9666.

You can also find the scores from the latest shoot at Chuck's web page (see return address label on this newsletter).

Airgun News

The Airgun Field Target Match scheduled for May 9, 1998 was canceled because of rain. The match has been rescheduled for **Saturday, June 27.**

Archery News

There will be an Archery Committee meeting on **Saturday, June 20** at 11:00 AM. If you are interested in helping on this committee, or just have some ideas, please attend. For more information, call **John Walter** at (301) 371-7036 in the evenings after 7:00 PM.

NRA Memberships

The Adult Airgun Committee has been designated as an official NRA Recruiter. As such, the committee receives award points for each new NRA membership and renewal it processes. If you want to join the NRA or need to renew your membership, please do it through the Airgun Committee. To obtain the proper application, contact **Ed Burrows**, at (301) 774-9090, or **Phil Dean**, at (301) 831-9325, and it will be sent to you along with a prepaid envelope. NRA applications will also be available at our monthly membership meetings.

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 25, so if you want to join us, please call **Wayne Berkebile**, at (301) 253-4288, by that date.

Adopt-A-Road Cleanup

Our next cleanup of Mullinix Mill Road will be on **Saturday, June 6**. Please meet at the Equipment Shed at 9:00 AM.

IWLA/WACC Logo Shirts Available

Carlos Silva has developed new shirts for our members. Two styles are available. One is a long sleeved denim shirt. The other is a short sleeved polo shirt in a variety of colors. Sizes available are from XS to XXXL. Each shirt features an embroidered current IWLA logo (bust of Izaak Walton) in green and yellow thread on the left breast pocket. The words "Wildlife Achievement Club" are also embroidered beneath the logo. Prices are \$35.00 for the denim shirt and \$24.00 for the polo shirt. A portion of the price is refunded to our chapter. You may order a shirt by mailing a letter and check to our Chapter (see return address label on this newsletter. The letter should state the style, color, and size you want. For more information, contact Carlos at (301) 926-4550.

Newsletter Editor Wanted

My son will be a senior in high school this fall and we will be quite busy with college planning, visiting schools, senior programs, etc. Unfortunately, I will not be able to meet the deadlines necessary to publish our newsletter each month. I am seeking someone to edit this newsletter starting October 1998. If you are interested please call me (Wayne

Berkebile) at (301) 253-4288 in the evenings.

Editor's Column

Like everyone else, I just finished doing my taxes for the year. I had to submit seven different tax returns for my wife and I, my son, and my daughter. Now I also have to register several cars, get one or two through the exhaust system check, and prove to the state of Maryland I actually have insurance on my vehicles. I have to pay estimated income taxes four times per year for each of my two kids and heaven help me if I miss a payment because of the interest accrued (no government entity pays interest to me for tax overpayments I make). In summary, I am, again like everyone else, under constant bombardment from the government to do something "or else."

Having worked either directly or indirectly for the government for 28 years, I understand the need for a lot of the stuff we have to do. But I really resent the government's attitude in demanding it. Virtually every government document has some sort of threat attached to it. Something like: "Failure to comply with this requirement is punishable by a \$10,000 fine and up to five years imprisonment." Additionally, many of the documents I receive have incomprehensible instructions attached. I defy anyone to tell me how to file for a Federal tax credit for interest earned in a foreign country!

The government just cannot leave me alone. It is the constant flow of requirements, the jumbled instructions, and the threatening tone of government communications that I resent the most. As a citizen, I feel harassed, threatened, and unappreciated. I'm also harassed by

telephone solicitors, but at least I can hang up on them and they'll go away. I don't suspect the government is going away anytime soon.

I secretly delight in reading works by people who feel the same way I do, especially when that someone is a well known person. I read *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau a while back. It's somewhat hard to read but it contains a philosophy close to that of the IWLA. It also contains wonderfully nasty comments about the government. Apparently, old Henry felt the same way in 1846 that I do in 1998:

"One afternoon, near the end of the first summer, when I went to the village to get a shoe from the cobbler's. I was seized and put into jail, because, as I have elsewhere related, I did not pay tax to, or recognize the authority of the State which buys and sells men, women, and children, like cattle, at the door to its senate-house. I have gone down to the woods for other purposes. But, wherever a man goes, men will pursue and paw him with their dirty institutions, and, if they can, constrain him to belong to their desperate odd-fellow society... However, I was released the next day, obtained my mended shoe, and returned to the woods in season to get my dinner of huckleberries on Fair Haven Hill. I was never molested by any person but those who represented the State...

You who govern public affairs, what need have you to employ punishments? Love virtue, and the people will be virtuous. The virtues of a superior man are like the wind; the virtues of a common man are like the grass; the grass, when the wind passes over it, bends."

Walden, by Henry David Thoreau. Signet Classics, New York: The Penguin Group., undated, pp. 118-119.