



NEWSLETTER



June-July 98 Issue

Izaak Walton League of America

Wildlife Achievement Club Chapter

P.O. Box 118, Damascus, MD 20872

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Coming Attractions

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
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. Mtch.	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
7/1	Board of Directors Mtg.	7:30 pm
7/5	Shotgun Range Maint.	10:00 am
7/5	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
7/6	Adult Air Gun	6:00 pm
7/11	Seneca Valley Match	8:00 am
7/12	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
7/13	Adult Air Gun	7:00 pm
7/19	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
7/20	Adult Air Gun	7:00 pm
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General Membership Meetings

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.). Dinner will be an Italian Extravaganza!! It will feature lasagna, sausage and peppers, salad, garlic bread, etc. Cost will be \$7.00. Social hour is at 6:30 PM and dinner starts at 7:00 PM.

The July membership meeting will be on **Wednesday, July 22**. Our guest speaker has not yet been identified. Our menu will feature some type of barbecue. 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, on **Wednesday, June 24**.

Donald Connolly, Burtonsville, MD.
Sponsor: Henry Marraffa

Alan Heller, Woodbine, MD.
Sponsor: Ray Logan

Donald Pearce, Brinklow, MD.
Sponsor: Bob Mabie

July Shotgun Range Officer Schedule

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Names</u>
Sat.	7/4	Nancy Humphries Weldon Humphries
Sun.	7/5	Chris Smarte Susan Smarte Greg Baldwin
Sat.	7/11	Lewis Allnutt Bill Rahn
Sun.	7/12	Paul Bluteau Mike Boring Franklin Moncada Dave Orrence
Sat.	7/18	Peter Currall Dave Gold
Sun.	7/19	Archie Cheng Burt Mullineaux
Sat.	7/25	Berle Cherney Wayne Sterling
Sun.	7/26	Mike Merollini Kevin Manning

Skeet and Trap Notes

We have had several "no shows" for range duty recently. We have been fortunate in having one member fill in for all the "no shows" so the shotgun ranges can remain open. As our supply of range officers dwindles, however, we run the risk of closing the shotgun ranges several weekends each month or having to hire someone to do the job. If we have to hire someone, the cost of a round of shooting will go up. Please, if you are a range officer and cannot meet the schedule, arrange for a replacement. If you use the shotgun ranges, we would appreciate your volunteering to become a range officer. You may volunteer by calling Kevin Manning at (301) 831-9126 or e-mailing him at: kcmbblue@aol.com.

The next shotgun promotion is on **Saturday, July 4**. Any member, in good standing, who shoots skeet, trap, or Five Stand while wearing a US flag (in good taste, please) on their clothing gets two rounds for the price of one.

Rifle and Pistol Range Report

As you know, we depend heavily on volunteers to do most of our Chapter's work. Two volunteers who deserve our thanks are **Rick Thornley**, who recently repaired several of our knock down targets, and **John Zombolas**, who donated a large batch of wood for target backers. Thanks for your generosity guys!

Speaking of volunteers, **Ray Shaver**, who is currently heading both the rifle and pistol range committees, would like to hear from anyone interested in becoming co-chairman of the two committees or chairman of one of them. Ray believes that each committee could benefit by having one person serve as the sole chairman. For example, we have no special events for pistol shooters, but we have several rifle special events (.22 sporter shoot, muzzle loader day, military rifle shoot, etc.). If you can assist Ray or chair one of the committees, call Ray on (301) 926-0465 or send e-mail to MRShaver@aol.com.

PLEASE NOTE: *If the box containing the range sign-in sheets is locked, the ranges are closed. If you use the range without signing-in, you are violating our range rules. This could lead to revocation of range privileges. If you think the box may be locked by mistake, contact Cecil Hensley, our caretaker, or a chapter officer to learn why the box is locked. There may be construction scheduled that day, scouts may be using the area, environmental testing may be going on, etc. Please don't ignore the matter and use the ranges without signing in.*

Range and Christmas Tree Maintenance

As the number of workers increase, the individual workload is reduced when we maintain the ranges or Christmas trees. We had a good turnout on our most recent maintenance day (May 31) so the work was

done well and relatively quickly. The following Ikes assisted: **Ray G. Logan, Robert McCloskey, John and Chris Haczewski, Fred Ambrose, Mike Marino, Alan Pressman, Steve Cowan, John Walter, Bill Kelly, Greg Jenkins, Charles Tomasevich, Byron Susinno, Bill Gray, Ray Shaver, Merle Keesler, and Dave McNeal**. Thanks to all of you for the generous contribution of your time on such a beautiful day!

Cowboy Action Shoots

We are in the process of obtaining Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) affiliation. **Chuck "Chuckaroo" Crooks** has become a SASS Life Member so he can qualify for the position of Territorial Governor representative for our "Damascus Wildlife Rangers." Any WACC member who shoots in our monthly Cowboy Matches is automatically a member of the "Damascus Wildlife Rangers" and has a say in how these shoots are conducted. Those interested in becoming more involved in the development of our Cowboy Shooting program should contact Chuck at his e-mail address (see return address label on this newsletter) or at (301) 831-9666.

Our May match had 85 shooters. You can find the scores from the latest shoot at Chuck's web page (see return address label on this newsletter). Shooters were certainly well fed by **Mac McCollum, Joe Gick, and Kevin Manning!**

Thanks go out to all those members and non-members who helped set up and take down the targets. We especially appreciate **Ray Shaver** for helping set up and take down at every Cowboy Shoot held so far.

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. During the setup, we set time aside to teach new cowboy shooters how the game is played. An actual Cowboy Action Shoot is not the place to learn how to shoot. Participants need to be already familiar with the safe handling of single action pistols, rifles, and shotguns.

Assistance is always needed for set up and take down of targets before each Cowboy shoot. 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.

Tail-Gate Swap Meet

An informal swap meet will be held on **Saturday, June 27**, starting at 10:00 AM. The swap meet will be located near our Shotgun Ranges. Anyone wishing to sell or trade sporting goods, reloading tools or components, long guns (no handguns), or similar items may do so. No registration or fees are needed. Just show up and see what's available.

Airgun News

We will host the second annual Mid-Atlantic Airgun Show on **Saturday, August 8**. This show will have approximately 50 display tables of antique and vintage air rifles and pistols, collectable Daisy and other airguns, modern airguns, and related items such as pellets, targets, and rifle scopes for sale and trade. Several airgun smiths, including our own **Gary Barnes**, will display custom airguns they have designed and built.

Firing ranges will operate outdoors so you can try some of the airguns at different action targets. A big bore (over .25 caliber) airgun shoot will be held during the day.

The show is open to the general public from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at an admission price of \$5.00. WACC members will be admitted for \$4.00, providing you show your WACC

membership card. Those wishing to rent a table to sell airguns or related items may do so, at the rate of \$25.00 per table, by contacting **Tom Gaylord** at (410) 730-5496. Show proceeds benefit our airgun program.

Gun Rights Seminar

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms will hold a Gun Rights Leadership Seminar at our Chapter House at 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM on **Saturday, June 20**. The fee to attend the seminar is \$5.00, which includes lunch.

The purpose of this seminar is to discuss ways to ensure gun rights are maintained in the State of Maryland. With the state election coming up in a few months, it will be critically important to elect candidates who support the shooting and outdoor sports. Please attend this seminar to learn what we can do to protect our rights and interests.

Archery News

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

Assistance Needed

Our President, **Georgia Townsend**, is seeking volunteers for two upcoming events. First, we try to provide concession services during the Seneca Valley shoots. We need someone to provide that service during the July shoot, on **Saturday, July 11**. Duties consist of selling coffee and pastries, making sandwiches, etc.

Second, on **Sunday, August 16**, our facility is being rented for a bicycle race. The race will start and finish near our Chapter House and race participants will be parking their cars on Chapter grounds. A few WACC volunteers are needed to supervise the parking area and direct traffic in and out of our grounds.

If you can help out during either event, please call Georgia at (301) 588-8335.

Refrigerator/Freezer Needed

If anyone has a used, but operable refrigerator/freezer available for donation, we could use it in the Rathskeller. If you can donate this item, please contact **Georgia Townsend** at (301) 588-8335.

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. The primary requirement is to be able to attend the Board of Directors and membership meetings. Basic computer skills are also helpful. If you are interested please call me (Wayne Berkebile) at (301) 253-4288 in the evenings.

Editor's Column

The Fourth of July is coming up soon. When I was younger and dumber I'd load up my black powder flintlock pistol (no ball) and fire it off as a noisemaker. I remember doing it once in PA late at night when everyone else was setting off their measly little firecrackers (which is illegal in PA). My pistol went off with a tremendous boom so I chuckled when an unknown voice called out from the dark "What the h--l was that?"

Last week I was back home in PA for a wedding. My mom had purchased a book on my family's history -- one of those books published locally by a family member who had collected a lot of genealogy stuff and wanted to share it with other interested family members. I get a kick out of reading those books for the family stories that appear in them. I thought I'd share this story from my family's history. It's ludicrous and has a tragic ending, but it teaches a great lesson on gun safety in the home, especially in regards to using firearms as noisemakers.

First a little background. The incident is described in an article published in a newspaper from Indiana County, PA. Neither the exact newspaper nor the writer is identified. It is clear the journalist was not well versed in how guns work (much like now!) and the article itself is confusing. The incident started on Saturday, July 4, 1931 and ended on Saturday, July 11, 1931. I have added clarification notes to the article, marked by (), to better describe what occurred. Here is the article:

Headline: "MRS. FYOCK IS VICTIM OF ODD ACCIDENT"

Subheadline: "Old Gunstock Placed In Stove To Loosen Firing Pin Exploded While Woman Was Cooking Cherries: Coroner Acts"

"A tragic echo of a Fourth of July celebration was heard in the home of Bert Fyock of Banks Township near Montgomery Church, at 8:30 o'clock Saturday evening (July 11, 1931),

when his wife, Mrs. Bessie Fyock, 41 was accidentally shot and instantly killed by a charge from the barrel of a old shotgun which had been placed in the stove.

(On July 4, 1931) In an attempt to celebrate Independence Day by the usual loud noise of discharging firearms, Mr. Fyock and his son made an improvised cannon out of a piece of metal pipe. When the first shot was fired to usher in the day, the pipe was torn apart. Mr. Fyock was then reminded that the barrel of an old shotgun, which had been in the barn for years, might answer the purpose. The barrel of the gun was found, but an examination revealed the primer had rusted and closed. When efforts to open it failed, it was decided to charge the barrel of the gun and discharge it with a long fuse. After that was done several times, the barrel of the gun was returned to the barn.

Saturday evening (a week later, on July 11, 1931), it was decided to again attempt to open the primer by drilling it out. When the drill broke, the section containing the primer was placed in the kitchen stove for the purpose of trying to burn it out. A stove lid was placed on top of the lower section to hold the end of the barrel, which extended over the top of the stove.

About 8:30 o'clock, Mrs. Fyock returned from milking the cows. When she leaned over to put fuel in the stove, the open end of the barrel (muzzle) rested against her body. Just as she was turning away from the stove the gun discharged and the charge tore through her abdomen. She reeled, fell into the arms of her son, Ray, who had returned from picking cherries, cried out "that thing shot me" then expired in her son's arms.

The gun had been discarded many years ago and all that remained of it was the barrel. It is believed a charge was left in the gun at the time it was discarded and the heat in the stove dried the damp powder and caused it to discharge as Mrs. Fyock was leaning over the opening of the barrel. After investigating the case, acting Coroner Dr. M. M. Davis found Mrs. Fyock's death was accidental.

The deceased leaves her husband, Bert Fyock and four children: Ray, 15; Harold, 12; Louise, 11; and Alma, 9."

From *The Fyock Family in America*, by Howard R. Fyock, A. G. Halladin Publishing Company, Indiana, PA, 1993, pp. 95-96.