



# NEWSLETTER



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

July-August 98 Issue

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## Coming Attractions

Date	Event	Time
7/19	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
7/20	Adult Air Gun	7:00 pm
7/22	Membership Meeting	7:30 pm
7/24	<b>R&amp;P Ranges Close At:</b>	<b>2:00 pm</b>
7/25	<b>R&amp;P Ranges Closed Except For:</b>	
7/25	Cowboy Action Shoot	9:00 am
7/25	Airgun Field Trgt. Mtch.	9:00 am
7/26	R & P Range Maint.	10:00 am
7/26	Archery Range Maint.	10:00 am
7/26	Christmas Tree Work	10:00 am
7/26	Range Orientation	10:00 am
7/26	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
7/27	Adult Air Gun	6:00 pm
8/2	Shotgun Range Maint.	10:00 am
8/2	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
8/3	Adult Air Gun	6:00 pm
8/5	Board of Directors Mtg.	7:30 pm
8/7	Airgun Show Setup	12:00 pm
8/8	Airgun Show	9:00 am
8/9	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
8/10	Adult Air Gun	7:00 pm
8/15	NRA Persnl. Prot. Class	8:00 am
8/16	NRA Persnl. Prot. Class	8:00 am
8/16	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
8/17	Adult Air Gun	6:00 pm
8/22	NSSA Skeet Shoot	9:00 am
8/23	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
8/24	Adult Air Gun	6:00 pm
8/28	<b>R&amp;P Ranges Close At:</b>	<b>2:00 pm</b>
8/28	Membership Meeting	7:30 pm
8/29	<b>R&amp;P Ranges Closed Except For:</b>	
8/29	Cowboy Action Shoot	9:00 am
8/30	Range Orientation	10:00 am
8/30	R & P Range Maint.	10:00 am
8/30	Archery Range Maint.	10:00 am
8/30	Christmas Tree Work	10:00 am
8/30	Junior Air Rifle	2:00 pm
8/31	Adult Air Gun	6:00 pm

## General Membership Meetings

The July membership meeting will be on **Wednesday, July 22**. Despite our best efforts, we could not get a guest speaker for this meeting. Come out anyway and enjoy the dinner and camaraderie! Floor nominations for next year's Chapter officers will be accepted at this meeting. Our menu will feature barbecue and all the fixin's. Cost will be \$7.00. Social hour is at 6:30 PM and dinner starts at 7:00 PM.

The August membership meeting will be on **Friday, August 28**. This is the meeting where we elect our chapter officers and directors for the upcoming year. Also, we are considering inviting all **Montgomery County candidates in the upcoming state election to visit with us. This will give our members the opportunity to meet the candidates, discuss matters of interest, and determine which candidates to support.** Watch for more details in next month's newsletter! Dinner will be a cookout with hot dogs, hamburgers, etc. Cost will be \$7.00. 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, July 22**. Note: Due to the large number of applicants and lack of space, the name of the

sponsor is not included in this newsletter.

Ray Alonso, Middletown, MD

Dennis Arthur, Silver Spring, MD.

Donald Beaudoin, Damascus, MD

John Bowen, Clarksburg, MD

George Brock, Gaithersburg, MD

Roger Burgess, Laurel, MD

Clark Devore, III, Frederick, MD

David Hyman, Rockville, MD

Michael Leavitt, Columbia, MD

Carl Minkel, Mt. Airy, MD

Philip Roos, Ashton, MD

Steve Schulz, Bethesda, MD

Clifton Spier, Gaithersburg, MD

Charles Snelling, Ellicott City, MD

Justin Stephen, Gaithersburg, MD

Geoffrey Wood, Gaithersburg, MD

Chris Woods, Rockville, MD

## August Shotgun Range Officer Schedule

Day	Date	Names
Sat.	8/1	Nancy Humphries Weldon Humphries
Sun	8/2	Chris Smarte Susan Smarte Greg Baldwin

Sat.	8/8	Lewis Allnutt Bill Rahn
Sun.	8/9	Franklin Moncada Dave Orrence
Sat.	8/15	Peter Currall Dave Gold
Sun.	8/16	Mac McCollum
Sat.	8/22	Chuck Crooks
Sun.	8/23	Rich Buckingham Burt Mullineaux
Sat.	8/29	Berle Cherney Wayne Sterling
Sun.	8/30	Kevin Manning Michael Bowen

## Skeet and Trap Notes

The last of the skeet machines is on order. These will replace the old Winchester machines on the Five Stand Field stations 2 and 6 or the "High and Low Houses." A special machine is in the works for next year's budget to replace station 3 or the old trap shot.

**Sunday, September 13**, is "Grandparents Day." Our special promotion on that day will allow any member, in good standing, who shoots with their paying grand child, to shoot their round for free (In other words: the grand parent shoots for free if their grand child pays for his/her own round!) Grab your grand kids and have some fun on their nickel!

The next Shotgun Range Maintenance Day is **Sunday, August 2**, at 10:00 AM.

## Rifle and Pistol Range Report

It's great fun to shoot big-bore rifles and pistols, so many of us migrate to that type of shooting and forget how much carefree, inexpensive fun can be had with a .22 rimfire rifle or pistol. The annual .22 sporter shoot held recently provided a chance for a number of Chapter members to share that kind of fun. **Phil Dean's** report on that event follows:

Approximately 20 members and their guests had a bang-up time at the Chapter .22 rifle fun shoot on June 20. After getting the many different types of .22 rimfire rifles sighted in on paper targets, there were a number of informal team matches firing at a combination of breakable and knockdown silhouette targets at 50 and 100 yards. The "Straight Shooters

Team" (**Wayne Aubertin, Phil Dean, Wes Richardson, Steve Shulz, and Hiem Trang**) were the match winners, having bested the other teams in 3 out of 4 events. Everyone had a great time and hope to have another shoot this fall. A special "Thank You" to Chairman **Ray Shaver** and **Ed Burrows** for their help in getting the equipment set and to Ray for his role as range master.

Even if you are interested in just seeing a variety of small bore rifles, please try to attend the next .22 fun shoot. This one included a number of interesting guns, from Tom Gaylord's extremely accurate .22 caliber Career 707 airgun to a 1930's vintage German military training rifle (also very accurate) brought by Phil Dean. Watch for an announcement of the sequel. Also, stop by to observe or participate in the Chapter black powder shoot which is scheduled for **Saturday, October 10**.

**NOTICE:** Starting immediately, an assessment of each new member's practical mastery of firearms will be reintroduced as part of the range orientation class. The range orientation instructors may delay granting a "Range Approved" status for any student whom they identify as lacking sufficient basic skills, until that student has completed additional training such as an NRA Basic Rifle or Basic Pistol course. All Chapter members can help in this process by advising potential members about this requirement before signing their membership application as a sponsor. Also, it would be very helpful if we had a group of experienced shooters willing to tutor novices in basic shooting skills in a one-on-one basis or in small groups. If you are willing to serve in such a capacity, please contact **Ray Shaver** (telephone 301-926-0465 or e-mail "MRShaver@aol.com").

## Range and Christmas Tree Maintenance

The Wildlife Achievement Club provides a number of outlets to help unwind from the daily frustrations and aggravations of life. One, which we wish more members would take advantage, is chopping away your cares on the unwanted growth around our Christmas trees. You are welcome to do it any time! The following Ikes participated in stress-relieving therapy via Christmas tree and range maintenance activities on June 28: **Ray Shaver, John Walter, Joe Tarr, Roger Tarr, Tom Fitzpatrick, Richard Phelan, Geoff Hornseth, Thomas J. Carter, Ken Winpisinger, Tom Roberts, Dave McNeal, Alan Pressman, Wilfred Shisler, and Bill Kelly**. Thanks to all, and very special thanks to **Candice Phelan** for the delicious fudge cake she provided for the workers.

## Cowboy Action Shoots

The response to our Cowboy Action Shoots has been great. After only four shoots, we have broken even financially. If you haven't seen the sport or would like to know more about it, please contact **Chuck "Chuckaroo" Crooks** at his e-mail address (see return address label on this newsletter) or at (301) 831-9666.

The next shoot is on **Saturday, July 25**. **The Rifle and Pistol Ranges will be closed from Friday, July 24, at 2:00 PM to Saturday, July 25 at 4:00 PM for the Cowboy Action Shoot.** Help is always needed to put up and take down targets and props. Contact "Chuckaroo" if you can help. Work on these events helps fulfill the work obligations of new members.

Any member who would like to participate on the Cowboy Action Shoot Committee should also contact Chuck.

## Airgun News

An informal airgun shoot will be held at the outdoor Airgun Range prior to the membership meeting on **Wednesday, July 22**. The Airgun Range will be open from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM (don't want to miss the social hour before the meeting!). All members, prospective members, and guests are invited to come out and shoot the different types of air rifles and pistols that will be available.

Please remember that there is an Adult Airgun Shoot every Monday evening. These shoots are coordinated by the Airgun Committee and are open to all members. During the warmer months, shooting takes place on the outdoor range. In the winter months, shooters move indoors to the range in the Rathskeller. Early shooters arrive around 6:00 PM but others come between 6:30 and 7:00 PM. Contact **Phil Dean** at (301) 831-9325 for more information.

The Mid-Atlantic Airgun Show will be held at the Chapter House on **Saturday, August 8**. There will be two floors of dealer tables of airguns and related shooting equipment for sale. Several outdoor shooting events will be set up for spectator participation. We need some volunteers to help with admission, set up on **Friday afternoon, August 7**, and take down on **Saturday, August 8**, after the show. Again, call Phil Dean at (301) 831-9325 to volunteer.

## Beretta Pistol Sale

The Maryland State Rifle and Pistol Association (MSRPA) has teamed up with Beretta to sell Beretta Model 96 Centurions, in .40 S&W caliber, at the *very attractive price of \$425*. You get a superb pistol with special engraving on both sides of the slide and a one year membership in the MSRPA. In addition, MSRPA is raffling off a custom Model 96 with one-of-a-kind features, including special engraving, tritium sights, special grips, and an extra magazine. Raffle tickets are \$2 each or 6 for \$10. To find out more information about these promotions, call **Ray Logan** at (301) 946-2651.

## House and Grounds

We are looking one volunteer to be Chairperson or two people to be Co-Chairpersons of the House and Grounds Committee. It helps to be familiar with the needs of a large building and its associated apparatus. Interested persons should contact **Georgia Townsend** at (301) 588-8335 or **Chuck Crooks** at his e-mail address (see return address label on this newsletter) or at (301) 831-9666.

## 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.

## Editor's Column

My kids say I'm boring and, sadly, they're probably right. I don't like going to movies much, I hate professional sports, and I really hate parties. I like to watch fireflies ("lightning bugs") though. Guess I'm not so boring after all!

I never cease to be amazed at these insects. I could watch them for hours and, along with fresh corn and tomatoes, they're one of the wonderful things about Summer. I'm sure an entomologist like Dave McNeal knows what practical purpose is served by the firefly lighting up his/her tail, but I really don't want to know. I'm content believing they just do it for fun. As a gullible little kid in Western PA, I used to try to gather them in a jar because my dad assured me they

would make a nifty lantern if I caught enough of them. I know from practical experience that you can't catch enough to make a lantern but the process does keep the kids out of your hair for an hour or so.

Apparently I'm not alone in my fascination with fireflies. I read somewhere that Europeans seeing them in America for the first time were filled with dread because they thought they were the spirits of the dead coming to visit them. Following is an excerpt about fireflies from the book *America As Seen By Its First Explorers: The Eyes of Discovery* by John Bakeless, Dover Publications, New York, 1989:

"Fireflies astonished the first Swedish settlers in Pennsylvania as much as they astonished the French missionaries further north, but both somewhat exaggerated the brilliance of the illumination. It is not really true, as one Swede reported, that the firefly 'gives so strong a light, that it is sufficient, when a man is traveling to show him the way.' It may be true that 'one may also write and read the smallest print by the light which they give' -- but it takes a good many fireflies in a bottle to do it. Fireflies were responsible for a panic among the Swedish troops at Fort Christina, who 'thought they were enemies advancing towards them with lighted matches.' They were thinking, of course, of the 'slow matches' carried to fire the clumsy firearms of the period

A later English traveler was equally impressed and a little alarmed when he saw 'the singular phenomenon of fireflies' near Princeton -- 'a sudden spark of fire appears close to you in various directions, and as suddenly disappearing: it frequently alarmed me, when I saw these sparks among hay, straw, and wood.' (Page 251)