



NEWSLETTER



January-February 99 Issue

Izaak Walton League of America
Wildlife Achievement Club Chapter
P.O. Box 118, Damascus, MD 20872

Coming Attractions

Date	Event	Time
1/1	Happy New Year!	
1/2	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
1/4	Adult Air Gun	6:30 pm
1/4	Conservation Cmte. Mtg.	7:30 pm
1/5	Junior Air Rifle	7:00 pm
1/6	Board of Directors Mtg.	7:30 pm
1/9	Shotgun Range Ofcr. Mtg.	10:00 am
1/9	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
1/11	Adult Air Gun	6:00 pm
1/12	Junior Air Rifle	7:00 pm
1/16	Airgun Field Trgt. Mtch.	7:30 am
1/16	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
1/17	Shotgun Range Ofcr. Mtg.	10:00 am
1/18	Adult Air Gun	6:00 pm
1/19	Junior Air Rifle	7:00 pm
1/22	Membership Meeting	7:30 pm
1/23	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
1/25	Adult Air Gun	6:00 pm
1/26	Junior Air Rifle	7:00 pm
1/30	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
1/31	Range Orientation	10:00 am
1/31	R & P Range Maint.	10:00 am
1/31	Archery Range Maint.	10:00 am
2/2	Junior Air Rifle	7:00 pm
2/3	Board of Directors Mtg.	7:30 pm
2/6	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
2/8	Adult Air Gun	6:00 pm
2/9	Junior Air Rifle	7:00 pm
2/13	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
2/15	Adult Air Gun	6:00 pm
2/16	Junior Air Rifle	7:00 pm
2/20	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
2/22	Adult Air Gun	6:00 pm
2/23	Junior Air Rifle	7:00 pm
2/24	Membership Meeting	7:30 pm
2/27	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
2/28	Range Orientation	10:00 am
2/28	R & P Range Maint.	10:00 am
2/28	Archery Range Maint.	10:00 am

Wild Game Dinner

Our January membership meeting is the annual Wild Game Dinner. If you can donate game for our dinner, please call **George Silva** at (301) 258-0377.

General Membership Meetings

The January meeting will be on **Friday, January 22**. This is our annual **Wild Game Dinner**. This dinner is always excellent and attendees have a lot of fun. No guest speaker has been scheduled for this meeting so members can enjoy the cuisine. Social hour starts at 6:30 PM and dinner is at 7:30 PM. Cost is \$7.00.

The February membership meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 24**. The dinner menu has not been decided upon, but you know it'll be great! Cost will be \$7.00. Our guest speaker will be **Kelly Double**, an artist in taxidermy from Mt. Airy. He will discuss and show his art. As always, social hour is at 6:30 PM and dinner starts at 7:30 PM.

Super Bowl Party

There will be an informal party in the Rathskeller at our Chapter House on **Super Bowl Sunday**. Call **Bill Kelly**, at (301) 253-5009, for the time of arrival and what to bring.

Shotgun Range Officer Meeting

There will be meetings of all Shotgun Range Officers on **January 9 and 17, 1999** at 10:00 AM in the Chapter House. Safety issues will be discussed. All Shotgun Range Officers are highly encouraged to attend one of the sessions. Call **Kevin Manning**, at (301) 831-9126, for more information.

January Shotgun Range Officer Schedule

Day	Date	Names
Sat.	1/2	Nancy Humphries Weldon Humphries Rich Buckingham
Sun.	1/3	Chris Smarte Susan Smarte Greg Baldwin
Sat.	1/9	Lewis Allnutt Bill Rahn
Sun.	1/10	Frank Moncada Dave Orrence
Sat.	1/16	Peter Currall Dave Gold
Sun.	1/17	Bill Wright Justin Stephen
Sat.	1/23	"The Fichter Gang"
Sun.	1/24	Cindy Whitehurst Paul Bluteau
Sat.	1/30	Jim Luensman Berle Cherney Richard Zabell
Sun.	1/31	Burt Mullineaux Michael Bowen Michael Boring

Rifle and Pistol Range Report

This report contains news from several events over the past few months due to delays in publishing our newsletter.

Blackpowder Shoot (Oct. 10): Only three Ikes showed up, and two of them were running the event. **Ray Shaver, John Leaman, and Wayne Berkebile** had a good time. It would have been even more fun if a few more people had joined us. Despite the poor turnout, we will try again in 1999. Watch for the date in the newsletter. We realize that shooters are often solitary, peaceful souls who would just as soon be left alone, but this is not a

competition or even highly organized. Try it, we think you'll like it!

Sight-in Day (Nov. 8): We hoped to draw prospective park deer hunters to this public service event. Unfortunately, information about the Sight-in Day was not included in the materials sent to the hunters by Parks authorities. On the other hand, **Bill Jenkins** was very successful in recruiting workers for the event. Consequently, we had more range officers than shooters -- at least it was safe! Thanks to the following volunteers for making the best of a slow day: **Ray Alonso, Ray Halperin, Richard Hyland, Bill Jenkins, Mike Leavitt, Jim & Chris Luensman, Rob Panico, John Randall, Ray Shaver, John Walter, and Wayne Yoshino.**

Deer Hunter Qualification (Nov. 15): As opposed to Sight-in Day, we had more shooters for this event than expected. Our range crew was a good mix of veterans from previous years and neophytes. They did a great job of running a safe range while moving approximately 230 prospective hunters through the qualification process quickly. Included in that team, along with chief range officer **Ray Halperin**, were **Paul Bluteau, David Brunson, Andrew Cooke, James Fort, Bill Gazdik, Ted Hadfield, Sean Hudgens, Bill McGiffin, Tom Mills, John Randall, Bruce Roth, Ray Shaver, and John Walter.** Not to be overlooked is the parking crew of **Nate Bentson and Dave Quill**, who made sure that the hunters were properly parked and conducted an initial firearms safety check. **Mac McCollum** provided lunch -- very important to workers! Overall, a good time was had by all, except those deer hunters who failed to qualify. Please consider joining us in 1999.

Small Efforts Count: WACC depends upon volunteers for nearly all aspects of its operation and programs. Contributions which frequently go unrecognized are often individual actions unrelated to our organized group efforts. Among such contributors recently were **Herb Ley** who donated three rimfire scopes for use in our youth programs, **Andrew Cooke** for repairing the power cord on our much used and abused circular saw, **Ray G. Logan** for a contribution of wood target backers, and **Richard Phelan** for nuts and bolts used to assemble STC targets. Thanks to all of you and to the numerous other

likes whose contributions went unnoticed or unrecorded for one reason or another.

Signing In: Please sign in before you go to the rifle and pistol ranges. Several times recently, WACC members have been encountered on those ranges **with firearms**, when the ranges were supposed to be closed. When questioned about their presence, they admitted they had come to see if the range was open but hadn't signed in. Unless you are participating in a supervised event like a high-power match or cowboy action shoot, you must sign the range log before proceeding the ranges with a firearm. Ignoring a "range closed" sign, while not signing in, simply compounds the violation.

An Easy Contribution: The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) recently sent us a flyer on their new "STEP OUTSIDE" program, a nationwide effort to bring newcomers into traditional outdoor sports. The concept is simple: "Just invite a beginner to STEP OUTSIDE and share the outdoor sports experience. New target shooting, hunting and archery enthusiasts mean a brighter future for these sports, stronger clubs, stronger state agencies and new friends with whom to share the fun." Many of our members are already well-practiced in this method. They bring their friends to our ranges, and the friends often decide to become members. Somebody you know would probably appreciate an invitation to join you for a few hours of fun on one of our ranges; give it a try and help our club grow.

Suggestion: One way not to endear yourself with other shooters is to show up at the rifle or pistol range without any way to see the results of your shooting, and then call for frequent cease fires to run out and check your target. A spotting scope or binoculars will simplify matters considerably, and can be had without spending a lot. You may miss out on

the exercise, but you are more likely to make friends among your fellow shooters!

Item Found: Please write clearly when you identify yourself and guests in the range log. A shooter who we could only identify as "Larry ???" showed up to sight-in his muzzle-loading rifle during the black-powder shoot on October 10. If you are that shooter, you left your clean shooting mat rolled up on the bench. We would have contacted you to return it, but couldn't read your full name. The rolled mat has been stored on top of the lockers in the Rathskeller.

.22 Fun Shoot: About 18 shooters enjoyed the beautiful weather on December 5 by participating in our .22LR Fun Shoot. Clay birds, exploders, and silhouettes were the primary targets. (I was happy to fire at the dirt berms and I hardly ever missed the 50 yard one!). Rifles used included a Mauser military training rifle, Ruger 10/22s, Marlin 39s, and various US and foreign target rifles. The shooters divided into three teams and fired at about 25 targets at various ranges. The team hitting all targets in the least time was declared the winner. Proving that superior firepower always wins, the winning team consisted of **Carol McDonald, Geoff Hornseth, Jim Platecki, Mark Mazzocco, and Ed Burrows** several of whom were firing some sort of high capacity lead squirter. **Phil Dean** said the only reason they won was because I was such a handicap to his team!

Note: The next rifle/pistol range cleanup will be at 10 a.m., Sunday, **January 31.** If you see anything that needs to be done before then, please don't hesitate to take the initiative and do it.

Range and Christmas Tree Maintenance

Many Thanks: We religiously try to recognize everyone who comes out to help on maintenance day or with

special projects, and throughout the past year that help has been significant. With the delay in publishing the newsletter, our list has grown long. Following are the volunteers who helped with the maintenance of ranges, Christmas trees, and Chapter grounds during September, October, and November 1998:

September 27: **Greg Baldwin, Nate Bentson, Eric Broderick, Don Connolly, Andrew Cooke, Neal Cox, Philip Grill, Steve Kaufman, Bill Kelly, Mark Kirchman, Jim Luensman, Kevin Manning, Dave McNeal, John McQuade, Marc Meltzer, Dave Quill, Ray Shaver, David Tyler, John Walter, Chris Woods, and Linda Woods.**

October 25: **Jim Carberry, Neal Cox, Bill Kelly, Ray Shaver, Charles Tomasevich, John Walter, Ken Winpisinger** (with his guest **John Mulligan**), **Chris Woods and Linda Woods.**

November 29: **Morgan Gates, Dave McNeal, Franklin Moncada, Ray Shaver, Kathe Vagt, Geoff Wood, Chris & Linda Woods, and Wayne Yoshino.**

If you notice the same names repeated several times, you are correct. However, everyone is encouraged to join in the activities starting at 10:00 AM on any scheduled maintenance day.

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

Most of our members probably think of themselves as outdoors people. I was recently reading a book called *The Oxford Book of Military Anecdotes*. It contains wonderful military stories, covering the period before the birth of Christ to the Falklands War. The story below is an incredible true story of survival and adaptation to nature. It is about Lieutenant Hiroo Onada of the Imperial

Japanese Army. In 1945, he faded into the Philippine jungle as the US Army reconquered that nation. He hid out in the jungle for almost 30 years. He was discovered by a Japanese traveler, named Norio Suzuki, in 1974 who told him that the war was over. Lt. Onada refused to believe it and said he would surrender only if ordered to do so by his commanding officer in 1945, Major Yoshimi Taniguchi. Mr. Suzuki agreed to bring the Major back to the Philippines, if he was still alive. The date of March 9, 1974 was set for Lt. Onada and Maj. Taniguchi to meet. Following is Lt. Onada's story:

"I hid in the bushes, waiting for the time to pass. It was a little before noon on March 9, 1974, and I was on a slope about two hours away from Wakayama Point....

Just after two in the afternoon, I crept cautiously out of my hiding place and crossed the river above the point. Making my way through a grove of palms that ran along the river, I soon came to an area where the islanders cut trees for building.

At the edge of a clearing, I stopped and looked the place over. I could see nobody around. I supposed that the workers must be taking the day off, but to be on the safe side, I camouflaged myself with sticks and dried leaves before dashing across the shelterless area.

I crossed the Agcawayan River and reached a position about three hundred yards from the appointed spot. It was only about four o'clock, so I had plenty of time. I changed to a camouflage of fresh leaves... The time came. I gripped my rifle, thrust out my chest, and walked forward into the open.

Suzuki was standing with his back to me, between (a) tent and a fireplace he had rigged up by the riverbank. Slowly he turned around, and when he saw me, he came toward me with arms outstretched. 'It's Onada,' he shouted. 'Major Taniguchi, it's Onada!'...

Major Taniguchi emerged from

the tent fully clothed and with an army cap on his head. Taut down to my fingertips, I barked out, 'Lieutenant Onada, Sir, reporting for orders.'

'Good for you!' he said, walking up to me and patting me lightly on the shoulder.... 'I shall read your orders.' (Major Taniguchi then read the order he wrote on September 19, 1945 when he surrendered his command to the US Army.)

After reading this, Major Taniguchi paused slightly, the added, 'That is all.'

I stood quite still, waiting for what was to follow. I felt sure Major Taniguchi would come up to me and whisper, 'That was so much talk. I will tell you your real orders later.' After all, Suzuki was present, and the major could not talk to me confidentially in front of him.

I watched the major closely. He merely looked back rather stiffly. Seconds passed, but still he said no more. The pack on my back suddenly seemed very heavy.

Major Taniguchi slowly folded up the order, and for the first time I realized that no subterfuge was involved. This was no trick -- everything I had heard was real. There was no secret message.

The pack became still heavier.

We really lost the war! How could they have been so sloppy?

Suddenly everything went black. A storm raged inside of me. I felt like a fool for having been so tense and cautious on the way here. Worse than that, what had I been doing for all these years?

Gradually the storm subsided, and for the first time I really understood: my thirty years as a guerilla fighter for the Japanese army were abruptly finished. This was the end.

I pulled back the bolt on my rifle and unloaded the bullets."

Taken from the Oxford Book of Military Anecdotes, edited by Max Hastings. Oxford University Press, 1985. Paperback Edition, pp. 485-488.