



NEWSLETTER

Izaak Walton League of America

Wildlife Achievement Club Chapter

P.O. Box 118, Damascus, MD 20872

(301) 253-2384

February-March 99 Issue



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Coming Attractions

Date	Event	Time
2/1	Adult Airgun	6:30 pm
2/1	Conservation Comm	7:30 pm
2/2	Junior Airgun	7:00 pm
2/3	Board of Directors Mtg.	7:30 pm
2/6	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
2/7	Skeet & Trap Maint.	10:00 am
2/8	Adult Airgun	6:00 pm
2/9	Junior Airgun	7:00 pm
2/13	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
2/15	Adult Airgun	6:00 pm
2/16	Junior Airgun	7:00 pm
2/20	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
2/20	YIKES!	12:00pm
2/22	Adult Airgun	6:00 pm
2/23	Junior Airgun	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
3/1	Adult Airgun	6:30 pm
3/1	Conservation Comm.	7:30 pm
3/2	Junior Airgun	7:00 pm
3/3	Board of Directors Mtg.	7:30 pm
3/6	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
3/7	Skeet & Trap Maint.	10:00 am
3/8	Adult Airgun	6:30 pm
3/9	Junior Airgun	7:00 pm
3/13	Airgun Field Trgt Match	7:30 am
3/13	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
3/15	Adult Airgun	6:30 pm
3/16	Junior Airgun	7:00 pm
3/20	Adopt-A-Road	9:00 am
3/20	.22 Sporter Shoot	10:00 am
3/20	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
3/20	Dinner and Dance	Evening
3/22	Adult Airgun	6:30 pm
3/23	Junior Airgun	7:00 pm
3/24	Membership Meeting	7:30 pm
3/26	Ranges Closed at	1:00 pm
3/26	Cowboy Shoot Setup	1:00 pm
3/27	Ranges Closed Except for	
3/27	Cowboy Shoot	8:30 am
3/27	River Cleanup	8:30 am
3/27	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
3/28	Range Orient.	10:00 am
3/28	R & P Range Maint.	10:00 am

3/28	Arch. Rnge Mnt.	10:00 am
3/29	Adult Airgun	6:30 pm
3/30	Junior Airgun	7:00 pm

General Membership Meetings

The February membership meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 24**. Cost for the dinner, a fish fry, 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. Social hour is at 6:30 PM and dinner starts at 7:00 PM.

The March membership meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 24**. The dinner menu will feature corned beef and cabbage. A guest speaker has not yet been arranged. Cost for dinner 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 **Friday, January 22**.

Michael Cerulli, Damascus, MD
Sponsor: Chuck Crooks

Bill Coldiron, Monrovia, MD
Sponsor: Chuck Crooks

Jeffrey Deschamps, Laurel, MD
Sponsor: Bill Kelly

Russel McGuire, Damascus, MD
Sponsor: Mike Heffernan

February Shotgun Range Officer Schedule

Day	Date	Names
Sat.	2/6	Nancy Humphries Weldon Humphries Rich Buckingham
Sun.	2/7	Chris Smarte Susan Smarte Greg Baldwin
Sat.	2/13	Lewis Allnutt Bill Rahn Joel Gross
Sun.	2/14	Frank Moncada Dave Orrence
Sat.	2/20	Peter Currall Dave Gold Berle Cherney
Sun.	2/21	Cindy Whitehurst Paul Bluteau Jim Luensman
Sat.	2/27	"Fichter" Gang
Sun.	2/28	Burt Mullineaux Justin Stephen Richard Zabell

Skeet and Trap Notes

A new rule has been established for the Skeet and Trap Ranges. **All shooters must sign in.** The sign-in book will be on the counter in the Range House.

Rifle and Pistol Range Report

The rifle and pistol ranges are open year round, and we hope that you take advantage of them to scratch your shooting itch throughout the winter. January and February tend to be quiet times for the ranges after the heavy schedule of fall events. Nevertheless, a

word to the wise is in order: you can't be absolutely certain of finding the rifle and pistol ranges open every day, even during the winter.

The only scheduled range closings for January and February are the range maintenance periods from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. on **January 31 and February 28**. However, we hope to get a bulldozer to build up the berm between the pistol ranges and increase the height of the impact area on the left side of the rifle range before the end of February. That work cannot be scheduled far enough in advance to be included in the newsletter, but we will try to put it in the WACC web page. And if finding the range closed, after making a trip there, is likely to upset you horribly, you can try checking with the Rifle/Pistol Range Committee Chairman (**Ray Shaver**) before you make the trip. Ray can be reached by phone at **301-926-0465** and by e-mail at **MRShaver@aol.com**.

Another thing to keep in mind about using the ranges during the winter. Occasionally it is necessary to close the range road because of heavy snow or icing conditions. If you find the range road closed, and there is no "range-closed" sign on the box where the range sign-in log is kept, the ranges are open, but you will have to walk to them. Even if you have a macho, off-the-road vehicle that can make it through snow-covered fields, **DO NOT DRIVE TO THE RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGES WHEN THE RANGE ROAD IS CLOSED!**

The occasional litter of brass and aluminum on our ranges leads to this reminder. Even if it were not one of our range rules, picking up your expended cartridges at the end of a shooting session is common courtesy. WACC does not employ a staff to clean up after our shooters. If you don't pick up your debris, another member will have to do it. The brass and aluminum cases which you don't take with you should be placed in an appropriate recycling containers (provided on the ranges); steel cases can be discarded in the trash. Please leave the shooting areas at least as litter free as they were when you arrived at the range (preferably better).

At the moment, it looks like our biggest range project for 1999 will be an attempt to make the cleared area to the left of the pistol range available for general shooting. Now it can only be used for special events in which both it and the pistol range are under the control of a

formal range officer. Once the berm is stabilized at eight feet or higher, we need to construct a concrete shooting pad with a clearly defined firing line and movable benches. If you have some ideas on how best to do that, or would like to be in charge of the project, Ray Shaver will be happy to hear from you.

If you read this column regularly, you've seen several thank-you notes to **Jim Tucker**. Jim has been especially generous with his welding services in repairing and rebuilding our steel targets. Again this month, we owe a word of thanks to Jim for not only donating several thick steel plates for use in cowboy action shooting, but also cutting them to make them more useful. Thanks again, Jim!

Conservation Notes

As members of a national conservation organization, it behooves us to stay abreast of what the government is doing to further the goals we pledge ourselves to at each chapter meeting. One such issue of particular interest to many of us in the Chesapeake Bay area is water quality, and what's being done to insure that we are doing all that we can to "strive for the purity of water."

When the current Federal budget was passed last year, it included the administration's "Clean Water Action Plan." This generated nearly \$568 million to be disbursed among five separate agencies; EPA, Interior, NOAA, Agriculture, and the Army Corps of Engineers. These funds are to be used to aid states in cleaning up their own waterways with Federal assistance. There are eight targeted goals which are; protecting public health, controlling polluted runoff, incentives for private land stewardship, new rescues for watersheds, restoring and protecting wetlands, protecting coastal waters, expanding citizen right-to-know, and enhanced Federal stewardship.

For more information on this and other conservation issues see the chapter web site (see the front cover of this newsletter for the web address).

New Youth Conservation Program: Kids, there is going to be a new group forming within our chapter. It will be called **YIKES!** That stands for **Young Ikes for Konsevation, Education, and Service** (with a K, just for fun). This group is open to youngsters and teens through high school age. We will be doing conservation projects around the chapter grounds while learning a little bit more about the natural world around us. We will also be planting a garden to grow some food for people who need it, if the deer don't eat it all first. It will be lots of fun and you'll learn something and help people out as well. We will be having an organizational meeting in the chapter house on Saturday, February 20th at 12 noon. If you have any questions, call Ed Burrows at (301)774-9090. It would be nice if you brought a parent or two along with you so that we can tell them what we're going to be doing. Snow date: February 27th at 12 noon.

Inspirational Thought:

"I would rather be ashes than dust. I would rather that my spark should burn out in a brilliant blaze than it should be stifled by dry rot. I would rather be a superb meteor – every atom of me in magnificent glow -- than a sleepy and permanent planet. The proper function of man is to live, not just to exist. I shall not spend my days trying to prolong them. I shall use my time."

Jack London

Wild Game Dinner and Auction

The biggest and most fun-filled dinner meeting of the year, the wild game dinner and auction, is being held on Friday, Jan. 22.

The evening centers on culinary delights created with the game donated to the chapter by our generous members. Our talented cook and

Board member, Jorge Silva, assisted by John Walter and a number of cheerful volunteers will prepare a wonderful variety of dishes for our enjoyment.

After the meal, a 50-50 raffle, general raffles, and auctions complete the evening. Please remember that the auctions are an opportunity for the members to help our chapter and all of its programs. We invite your attendance and encourage your participation in the activities. We still need donations of game and items for the auction. If you know a business that can contribute to the cause, please contact them. Donations are tax deductible and we will provide the proper documents. Call Jorge Silva at (301)258-0377 to donate game and to volunteer for the kitchen. Call Bill Kelly (301)253-5009 to contribute to the benefit event.

Dinner Dance

We will be having a Saint Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance on the evening of March 20. The exact starting time will be announced later. Tickets will be available from members and in the Skeet House. Price will be \$25.00 for couple and \$15.00 per single if bought prior to the dinner/dance. Tickets will also be available at the door but they will cost \$30.00 and \$20.00. Please plan to attend.

Donation Thanks

We appreciate the donation of two CharBroil smokers, to be raffled at WACC functions, by **Ray Alonso**. We also appreciate the fact that **Ed Clark**, of Potomac Trading Post, donated new signs on our Pistol Range.

Flash!

We're going to have a chapter photo contest. We will be looking for photos in two categories. One group will be of general interest to the chapter; that is conservation, shooting sports, archery, fishing, or general nature shots. The second category of shots taken on chapter property. The judging will be done by a panel of three professional photographers who are chapter members. Entries must be in by the November '99 membership meeting. All 4entries should be either 8X10 or 11X14, color or black or white. All entries should be matted with no names on the front. Please put your names on the back of the prints and mats. The winning

photos will be on display for the December membership meeting and names will be put on the front of winning and runners up entries at that time. Some other sort of recognition for winners will be forthcoming. As soon as we figure out what it might be. Call Ed Burrows at (301)774-9090 with any questions.

Guest Writer's Column

The editor has decided to allow members to put their personal thoughts in our newsletter. Anyone who so wishes, may provide inputs to the editor (see top of newsletter for the editor's name and phone number). This month's column was written by Wayne Berkebile.

The holidays are now over. I'm sure my family did what most families do: we met at my mom's house for both Thanksgiving and Christmas; we had nice dinners; and we gave thanks for being together, our good health, and the food we ate. In this day and age, though, I don't think we're as truly thankful as the people who started these holidays. For the most part, we take for granted the bounteous food, good health, and long life we now enjoy. I thought the following excerpt does a good job of explaining the type of life our ancestors lived and when they said they were "thankful," they were *thankful*. This passage was written by John Peat, who settled in Potter County, in North Central Pennsylvania, in 1811.

The nearest large settlement was Jersey Shore, a humorous name since it is in the mountains of Pennsylvania along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River.

"I made some small clearing, and planted some garden seeds, &c, the first spring. We brought a small stock of provisions with us. On the 3d day of July (1811) I started, with my two yoke of oxen, to go to Jersey Shore, to mill, to procure flour. I crossed Pine Creek eighty times going to, and eighty times coming from mill, was gone eighteen days,

broke two axletrees to my wagon, upset twice, and one wheel came off in crossing the creek.

Jersey Shore was the nearest place to procure provisions and the road was dreadful. The few seeds that I was able to plant the first year, yielded but little produce. We however raised some half-grown potatoes, some turnips, some soft corn, with which we made out to live, without suffering, till the next spring, at planting time, when I planted all the seeds that I had left; and when I finished planting, we had nothing to eat but leeks, cow-cabbage, and milk. We lived on the leeks and cow-cabbage as long as they kept green--about six weeks. My family consisted of my wife and two children; and I was obliged to work, though faint for want of food.

The first winter, the snow fell very deep. The first winter month, it snowed 25 days out of 30; and during the three winter months it snowed 70 days. I sold one yoke of my oxen in the fall, the other yoke I wintered on browse; but in the spring one ox died, and the other I sold to procure food for my family and was now destitute of a team, and had nothing but my own hands to depend upon to clear my lands and raise provisions. We wore out all our shoes the first year. We had no way to get more,--no money, nothing to sell, and but little to eat,-- and were in dreadful distress for the want of the necessities of life. I was obliged to work and travel in the woods barefooted. After a while, our clothes were worn out. Our family increased, and the children were nearly naked. I had a broken slate that I brought from Jersey Shore. I sold that to Harry Lyman, and bought two fawn-skins, of which my wife made a petticoat for Mary; and Mary wore the petticoat until she outgrew it; then Rhonda took it, till she outgrew it; then Susan had it, till she outgrew it; then it fell to Abigail, and she wore it out."

From Crossroads, Descriptions of Western Pennsylvania, 1720-1829, by John W. Harpster, Editor, University of Pittsburgh Press, 1938, pp. 231-233.