



NEWSLETTER



Izaak Walton League of America

Wildlife Achievement Club Chapter

P.O. Box 118, Damascus, MD 20872

(301)253-2384

Editor: William Haycraft

(301) 340-6927

President:
Georgia Townsend

1st Vice President:
Chuck Crooks

2nd Vice President:
Ed Burrows

3rd Vice President:
Bill Kelly

Coming Attractions

Date	Event	Time
4/03	Turkey Shoot	6:30 PM
4/04	Skeet & Trap Maint.	10:00 am
4/12	Adult Airgun	6:00 PM
4/13	Junior Airgun	7:00 PM
4/17	Seneca Valley Rifle M. 8:30 BRV Airgun M. 10am Skeet Shoot M. 6:30 PM Turkey Shoot	8:00 am
4/18	Christmas Tree Planting	10:00 am
4/19	Adult Airgun	6:30 PM
4/20	Junior Airgun	7:00 PM
4/23	Cowboy Shoot Setup Ranges Close at 1:pm	1:00 PM
4/24	Cowboy Shoot 6:30pm Turkey Shoot	8:30am
4/25	Range Orientation	10:00am
4/25	Rifle, & Pistol Range Maint.	10:00 am
4/25	Range Orientation	10:00 am
4/25	Archery Range Maint.	10:00 am
4/26	Adult Airgun	6:30 PM
4/27	Junior Airgun	7:00 PM
4/28	General Membership meeting	7:30 PM
5/01	Skeet Shoot	10:00am
5/01	Turkey Shoot	6:30pm
5/03	Adult Airgun Conservation Committee Meeting	6:30 PM 7:30pm
5/04	Junior Airgun	7:00 PM
5/05	Board of Directors mtg.	7:30 PM
5/08	Airgun Field Match Seneca Valley Rifle match, 8:am Turkey Shoot 6:30pm	7:30am
5/09	Skeet & Trap Maint.	10:00am
5/10	Adult Airgun	6:30pm

5/11	Bowhunter Ed. Day 1	6:00pm
5/11	Junior Airgun	7:00pm
5/13	Bowhunter Ed day 2	6:00pm
5/15	Adopt-A-Road	9:00am
5/15	Bowhunter Ed Day 3	9:00am
5/15	Turkey Shoot	6:30pm
5/17	Adult Airgun	6:30 PM
5/18	Junior Airgun	7:00 PM
	Cowboy Shoot setup	1:00 PM
5/21	Ranges close at 1:00pm	
5/22	Cowboy Shoot	8:30am
5/23	R & P Rnge Mnt	10:00am
5/23	Arch. Rnge Mnt	10:00am
5/23	Range Orient	10:00am

5/24	Adult Airgun	6:30pm
5/25	Junior Airgun	7:00pm
5/26	General Membership Meeting	7:30 PM
5/29	Turkey Shoot	6:30pm
5/31	Adult Airgun	6:30pm

Membership Meetings

The April membership meeting will be on **Wednesday, April 28.** Come out and enjoy the dinner and camaraderie! Cost will be \$7.00. Social hour is at 6:30 PM and dinner starts at 7:00 PM.

The May membership meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 26.**

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, March 24th 7:30pm**
Note: Due to the large number of

applicants and lack of space, the full name of the sponsor is not included in this newsletter.

Name	Location & Sponsor
Neil L. Benson	Mt. Airy Bob S.
Joe Brule,	Olney Bob Mabie
Owen Holmes	Brookville Bill R
Wayne Kirchhof	Germantown B.M
Charles Leatherman	Catonsville B.M
James Miles Jr.	Germantown Bill S
Chad Pearce	MD
Brinklow	Don P
Scott Pearce	Columbia MD Don P.
Ernest Petrides	Woodbine B.O.D
Timothy Thornton	Germantown B.S
Jeffrey Turner	Rockville, Bob J.
Grant Wright	Silver Spring Mike H

March Shotgun Range Officer Schedule

Day	Date	Names
Sat.	3/6	Nancy Humphries Weldon Humphries
Sun	3/7	Chris Smarte Susan Smarte Greg Baldwin
Sat.	3/13	Joel Gross

Sat.	3/13	Lewis Allnutt Bill Rahn
Sun.	3/14	Franklin Moncada Dave Orrence
		Richard Zabell
Sat.	3/20	Peter Currall Dave Gold
Sun.	3/21	Cindy Whitehurst Paul Bluteau Jim Luensman
Sat.	3/27	Fichter "GANG" George, Dale, Dave
Sun.	3/28	Burt Mullineaux Justin Stephen Mike Boring

April Shotgun Range Officer Schedule

Sat.	4/3	Nancy & Weldon Humphries Rich Buckingham
Sun.	4/4	Greg Baldwin Chris & Susan Smarte
Sat.	4/10	Lewis Allnutt, Bill Rahn Joel Gross
Sun.	4/11	Franklin Moncada, Dave Orrence, Richard Zabell
Sat.	4/17	Peter Currall, Dave Gold
Sun.	4/18	Cindy Whitehurst, Paul Bluteau, Jim Luensman
Sat.	4/24	Fichter "GANG"
Sun.	4/25	Burt Mullineaux, Justin Stephen, Mike Boring

Rifle and Pistol Range Report

The .22 sporter Shoots: Please note that the .22 sporter shoot which was scheduled in March has been canceled. There are simply too many things going on that month. Three .22 sporter shoots were put on the 1999 calendar because of the enthusiasm of the participants in 1998. However, two out of the three ended up being scheduled on the same day as airgun matches, which is not good because

the airgunners were the primary participants in the .22 shoots. The .22 shoots for June fit in that category, and will also be canceled unless somebody who really wants it contacts **Ray Shaver** who will be on vacation in June, and volunteers to run it, either on the original date or on an alternate date acceptable to the board of directors. Ray still plans to run the third .22 sporter shoot on Saturday, August 14th. He can be contacted by telephone at 301 926-0465, or by E-Mail at MRSHAVER@AOL.COM.

MILITARY RIFLE SHOOT:

If you were looking forward to the .22 sporter Shoot, please consider attending the annual chapter military rifle shoot on April 10. It is a similar Event, only louder.

NO ALCOHOL:

Several times recently, we have found empty wine bottles and beer cans in the trash cans in the picnic area adjacent to the rifle/pistol range parking lot. The WACC range rules and regulations specifically prohibit drugs and alcohol, not only on the ranges, but in the range parking areas. Items 21 and 22 in the SAFETY section of the range rules are reproduced below for your information. Please abide by these rules: Picnicking on the WACC grounds is encouraged, but if alcoholic beverages are part of your picnic, please use the picnic area near the chapter house.

21. The use of drugs or alcohol is prohibited prior to arriving at and during the use of the ranges.

22. Drugs and alcohol are prohibited on the ranges and in range parking areas. The presence of such substances in vehicles within the range areas and in range parking areas is considered possession and shall result in the immediate termination of range privileges.

PROTECTION REQUIRED:

Please note also that the range rules require the use of eye and ear

protection for all personnel in the immediate shooting areas.

REGISTERING GUESTS:

When a guest accompanies you to the rifle or pistol range, please enter that guest's name on a separate line on the range sign-in sheet, and identify them as a guest by checking the "guest" column. Some of our members are still trying to squeeze the guest's name into the guest column next to their name.

RANGE MAINTENANCE:

Thanks to the following **IKES** and family members who participated in the range cleanup on January 31: **Ray Shaver, Bill Kelly, Bob Hines, Tom & Mike Ebbs, Steve Cowan, Alan & Sandra Miller, and Greg Baldwin.**

Our next scheduled maintenance day for the rifle/pistol ranges and Christmas trees is **Sunday, February 28th**. Please gather at the equipment shed at **10:00 am.**

UNAUTHORIZED SHOOTERS AT THE RIFLE/PISTOL RANGES

Recently shooters were spotted at the ranges not displaying their authorized range badge. Its up to every member to challenge any one who does not display one. The following is the proper conduct from our **range rules and regulations** manual: (1) Unauthorized persons using the rifle/pistol ranges will be deemed trespassing. Unauthorized rifle/pistol range users include anyone who does not possess a current range-approved membership card, has not signed the range register, has or is a guest who has not signed the range register, or is violation any directives restriction access for use of the ranges. (2) #5. Range-approved members shall challenge all shooters not displaying a valid card. (3) #19. All range-approved members are range officers.

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.

CHARITY SKEET SHOOT

There will be a charity Skeet Shoot **April 10 And 11th** to be held at our skeet range from 12 noon to 5:pm. All proceeds will go to "Damascus HELP" of the Wildlife Achievement club Chapter of Damascus, MD. The members and guests will shoot 3 rounds (75 targets) free. Each participant will ask sponsors to pledge an amount for each broken target. Visit the range house for more Information and pledge sheets. (Sorry shells not included) To qualify for three free rounds, you must have lined up at least four (4) sponsors. The sponsors will pay for each broken target. Bring your pledge sheet to the range house on the day you plan to shoot. Sat. 4/10 or Sun. 4/11. Call 240 432-0444 for details.

CONSERVATION NOTES

In case you haven't heard, the FDA has approved a vaccine that can prevent **Lyme disease** in most people. Three doses of the vaccine are required over the period of a year and are most effective if given between Jan. And April. While not 100% effective this vaccine, which is intended for people ages 15-70, is good news for those of us who spend a lot of time outdoors.

Not all bugs, of course, are a problem. The latest buzz from our Conservation Committee is from bees. We are going to be establishing a bee colony on the property this

spring. Anyone who would like to help out, or just watch the introduction of the bees to the hive should contact Jim Piatetski at (301) 253-4486. We will have more information on the bees in the newsletter at a later date. Just to be sure the bees have plenty of flowers to work with, and by way of providing food and shelter for a lot of other birds and critters, we will be planting the impact field of the skeet and trap range with wildflowers and sunflowers. It's going to be an interesting spring season! It will be a sight to warm any conservationist's heart! Sometimes, however, you just hate to be associated with conservationists. From the out on the fringe department: sixty groups led by the Bluewater Network have petitioned the NPS to prohibit recreational use of snowmobiles in all NPS units! While some of their arguments have merit, this petition is a distorted view of reality. They concentrated on what I, at least, would consider abuses of the use of these vehicles. Not being a snowmobiler, I worry that my four by four is their next target. After all, Hatteras Island is a National Park. Our second amendment rights should not be our only concern. Speaking of the second amendment, how's this for a switch?

Representative Roscoe Bartlett (R-Md.) has introduced a bill (HR 347) "to protect the right to obtain firearms for security, and to use firearms in defense of self, family, or home and to provide for the enforcement of such right." Sounds a lot like the second amendment to me. It's a shame it's come to this! Go get 'um Roscoe! Along with protecting hearth and home, we should be concerned with those who can not protect themselves. For example: some think the horseshoe crab population has declined as much as 40% since 1990. As a consequence, Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey have passed measures to ensure protection. There is, however, a loophole in the law which allows these creatures to be

taken more than three miles out from the shore. Working around the law, fishermen were taking them in huge numbers and selling them in Pennsylvania and Virginia. Pennsylvania, when they learned of this, took steps to stop it. Virginia has not...as usual. "Well, who cares anyway?" I thought. I asked a fellow member, who knows about prehistoric creatures, what on earth they might be used for. It seems that there are two basic uses. It would appear likely that most of them are being ground up to use as fertilizer. In another application, the blood of these guys is used for testing chemicals and even human blood for toxicity. The blood of the horseshoe crab contains elements used in this testing that are very difficult and expensive to duplicate. If the majority of the consumption is for fertilizer, which could be made from the shells of common blue crabs, then we are unnecessarily using up a valuable medical resource, and in danger of driving it to extinction! Sustainability is a word which we will be hearing more and more as we move into the new millennium. It is all about not spending more of our environmental resources than we make. Driving a species to extinction, even on as lowly and underappreciated as the horseshoe crab, can have consequences which can be downright dangerous!

YIKES!

For the kids, there will be an organizational meeting on **Feb. 20th at 12pm** in the rathskiller. The group is called "YIKES" Call Ed Burrows (301) 774-9090.

Luger search

Back in 1982, Chuck Crooks traded to (he forgot name) a member, a German Luger. which later turned out to be a family keep-sake. Chuck would like to buy it back. If you are or know the member, please contact Chuck 301 831-9666.

Thanks

Go out to Paul and Maggie Davis who have been picking up the roads, faithfully for the last 5 years now.

Inspirational thought From the Conservation Committee

"In the arena of human life the honors and rewards fall to those who show their good qualities in action"

Lost and Found

A **cartridge Belt** was found on the rifle range after a cowboy shoot late in 1998. If it's yours call Bill English at (301) 869-2434. or (301)214-3411.

Editors Note

There was a lot of info. that needed to be installed in this (my first) newsletter. I apologize if I left any

one or anything out. Any one who wants to add anything in the future newsletters please contact me at (301) 340-6927 or my E-Mail : HAWKEYE2000@HOTMAIL.COM

I am planning to include in the future newsletters some articles taken from my Grandfathers journal that I think every one will be interested in. These deal with survival in the North Minnesota wilderness in the early 1900's

ST. PATRICK'S DINNER/DANCE. 3/20/99.

The Damascus chapter is having their St. Patties dinner/dance Saturday evening at 6pm and should last until 10.,. Advance ticket price is \$25 per couple- \$13 stag, or \$30 per couple and \$15 stag at the door. tickets may be purchased from Damascus Izzak

Walton League member's or call for reservations 301 428-0216 or 301 428-0196

CHAPTER AIR PISTOL MATCH

The Airgun Committee is sponsoring an air pistol match open to all chapter members. The course of fire will be 60 shots for males and 40 shots for females on the indoors 10-meter range. Current NRA air pistol rules will apply. Recognition will be given to the top shooters in each category. An entry fee of \$3.00 will be charged. The match may be fired on either Monday, March 15th, or Monday, March 22nd between 4PM and 9PM. All targets must be fired on the same day. Registration is not required but is encouraged by contacting Phil Dean at 301 831-9325



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P.O. Box 118, Damascus, MD 20872

(301)253-2384

MONTH YEAR Issue

April-May (repeat) II

President:

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2nd Vice President:

Ed Burrows

301 774-9090

Editor: William Haycraft

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3rd Vice President:

Bill Kelly

301 253-5009

Coming Attractions

Date	Event	Time
4/03	Turkey Shoot	6:30-pm
4/04	Skeet & Trap Maint	10:00-am
4/05	Adult Airgun	6:30-pm
	Conserv.comm. meeting	7:30-pm
4/06	Junior Airgun	7:00-pm
4/07	Bd. of Directors meeting	7:30-pm
4/10	Military Rifle shoot	10:00-am
	Turkey Shoot	6:30-pm
4/12	Adult Airgun	6:30-pm
4/13	Junior Airgun	7:00-pm
4/17	Seneca Valley Rifle Ma	8:00-am
	BRV Airgun Match	8:30-am
	Skeet Shoot	10:00am
	Turkey Shoot	6:30-pm
4/18	Christmas Tree Plantng	10:00-am
4/19	Adult Airgun	6:30-pm
4/20	Junior Airgun	7:00-pm
4/23	Cowboy Shoot Setup	1:00-pm
	RangeClose at 1:00-pm	
4/24	Cowboy Shoot	8:30-am
4/24	Turkey Shoot	6:30-pm
4/25	Skeet & Trap Maint	10:00am-
	Rifle & Pistol Maint.	10:00am-
	Range Orientation	10:00am
	Archery Range Maint.	10:00-am
4/26	Adult Airgun	6:30-pm
4/27	Junior Airgun	7:00-pm
4/28	General Membership	7:30-pm
	meeting	
5/01	Skeet Shoot	10.00am-
	Turkey Shoot	6:30pm-
5/02	Skeet Shoot	10:00-am
5/03	Adult Airgun	6:30-pm
	Conservation Comm.Mt	7:30-pm
5/04	Junior Air gun	7:00-pm
5/05	Board of Directors mtn	7:30-pm

5/08A	Airgun Field Match	7:30-am
5/08	Seneca Valley Rifle	8:00-am
	Match.	
	Turkey Shoot	6:30-pm
5/10	Adult Airgun	6:30-pm
5/11	Bowhunter Ed. Day 1	6:00-pm
5/11	Junior Airgun	7:00-pm
5/13	Bowhunter Ed. Day-2	6:00-pm
5/15	Adopt-A-Road	9:00-am
5/15	Bowhunter Ed. Day-3	9:00-am
5/15	Turkey Shoot	6:30-pm
5/17	Adult Airgun	6:30 pm
5/18	Junior Airgun	7:00 pm
5/21	Cowboy Shoot Setup	1:00-pm
	Ranges close at 1:pm	
5/22	Cowboy Shoot	8:30 am
5/23	Archery Range Maint.	10:00-am
5/23	Range Orient	10:00 am
5/23	R & P Rnge Maint	10:00-am
5/24	Adult Airgun	6:30-pm
5/25	Junior Airgun	7:00-pm
5/26	General Membership mt	7:30-pm
5/29	Turkey Shoot	6:30-pm
5/31	Adult Airgun	6:30-pm

General Membership Meetings

The march membership meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 24-99**. Enjoy the dinner and camaraderie! Our menu will feature "New England boiled diner" 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 April membership meeting will be on **Wednesday, April-28**. Watch for more details in next month's newsletter! 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, March 24**.

Scott M. Dallas Gaithersburg
Sponsor George Brock
Tim Darst Silver Spring
Sponsor Mike Heffernan
Dwight Devine III Rockville
Sponsor Cliff Spier
Art Finneyfrock Monrovia
Sponsor Bob Schneider
Carrie Hamilton Damascus
Sponsor Geoff Hornseth
Richard Kulikowski Rockville
Sponsor Mike Heffernan
James L. Miles, Sr. Gaithersburg
Sponsor Bob Schneider
A Basit Sheikh Gaithersburg
Sponsor Bill Schneider
Charles Smith Germantown
Sponsor Mike Heffernan
Majai Taher Silver Spring
Sponsor Steve Schneider
Nizar Majed Taher Silver Spring
Sponsor Ted Hiers

April Shotgun Range Officer Schedule

See last months newsletter. Every thing is the same except:

4/24. Skeet Range Maintenance at 10am.

5/9. -The Skeet & Trap Maintenance is cancelled.

Rifle and Pistol Range Report

.22 Sporter Shoots: A volunteer has stepped forward to run the .22 sporter shoot scheduled for June 19, so it remains on the calendar. We really want to encourage the participation of families in this event; it's for fun, not competition. Please mark Saturday, June 19, on your calendar, and watch for additional information in next month's newsletter.

Military Rifle Shoot: Bring out your military rifles of any type or vintage to show and shoot at our fun shoot on Saturday, April 10. We'll shoot from 10 AM until everyone is tired of it or out of ammunition, usually by 1 PM.

There is no cost for the event, except for any wagers you might make on personal contests. If have any questions, please call **Ray Shaver** at 301-926-0465 or send e-mail to MRShaver@aol.com.

High-power Match: After warming up your rifle informally at the Military Rifle Shoot, join the Seneca Valley Sports Association in their first high-power rifle match of the year at 8 AM on Saturday, April 17. Participation in this event qualifies you to order M-1 Garand rifles through the Civilian Marksmanship Program, and it's fun as well.

Range Maintenance: Thanks

to the following Ikes and guests who came out to perform range maintenance in the rain on February 28: **Ray Shaver, Bill Gazdik, Ken Winpisinger, Chris Evrard, Tammy Seybold, Tom Ebbs, Rick Mills, Paul Seyfrit, Bill Kelly, Owen Holmes, and John Leaman**. Our next scheduled maintenance day for the rifle, pistol, shotgun, and archery ranges and Christmas trees is Sunday, March 28. Please gather at the equipment shed at 10 AM.

Handgun Shooters: A basic shooting safety rule is to "know your target and what is beyond." Too frequently, we find pistol target frames arranged so that one is directly behind another. Our frames and target backers get plenty of normal wear and tear. Don't add to their early destruction with secondary hits. Please make sure there is only one target in your line of fire.

CONSERVATION NOTES

Ed Burrows

OK, so it looks like one of those huge government regulatory make overs that won't really have much noticeable impact on us. But, we'll see more of this one before it's over. The Clean Water Act is about to be rewritten. Currently, it concentrates on discharges from what is known as "point source pollution."

In English, that's pollution from places such as factories or sewage treatment plants that have a specific source, a pipe for example, that drains directly into a waterway. However, the National Governors' Association's Natural Resources committee has suggested that "non-

point source pollution" is the biggest problem facing us today. That would be pollution from places like your yard, your septic system, or on a larger scale agricultural lands, animal feeding operations, and the like. Here, there is no pipe that one can see, no ugly wastewater flowing directly into a stream, just run off when it rains or septic discharge into ground water. Bipartisan support for legislation regarding this non-point source issue is expected to be part of the new Clean Water Act.

This new legislation may affect how we weed and feed our lawns, and it may help the Bay. Many think that run off from chicken farms bordering our bay is at least partially to blame for the pfiesteria problem we have recently heard so much about.

Enter Perdue Farms Inc. Ole Frank Perdue (of local TV commercial fame) apparently left the company in good hands when he retired a while back. It seems that Junior is going into the recycling business. Perdue Farms Inc., has contracted with AgriRecycle Inc. of Springfield, Mo. to turn as much as 120,000 TONS of poultry manure into fertilizer annually. What a deal; helps the pfiesteria problem, might just improve sport fishing, and turns a nice profit for Perdue. Tell, junior that he runs a chicken (expletive deleted) operation and I'd bet he'll smile, and nod all the way to the bank. Sound environmental practices and commerce are **not always at odds**.

Cowboy Action Shooting.

This years Cowboy Action Shooting schedule has been changed to the 4th Saturday of the month from March through November. All set ups for the shoot will take place on the Friday before the shoot starting at 1:pm. Ranges will be closed from 1pm. on Friday through the clean up of the shoot on Saturday. Depending on the amount of help, clean up is usually done by around 4:30pm.

Set ups usually allow time for new Cowboy Shooters to get some training and instructions on the rules of the game. So bring your Cowboy Shootin' arms along. For additional information check out the Cowboy page on our club web site or contact **Chuckaroo** at **301 831-9666** or

Rumriverc@aol.com. While you are there, check out our

"DAMASCUS WILDLIFE

RANGERS BADGE" available to Izaak Walton members that shoot in the Cowboy matches. Once our range improvements have been approved by the county, we will be holding several "Introduction To Cowboy Action Shooting " days with the help of **Atlantic Guns**.

The Airgun Committee Official NRA Recruiter

The Airgun Committee is an official National Rifle Association recruiting agent. As such, the committee receives \$10 for each NRA membership application it solicits and the same amount for each NRA membership renewal it processes. If you are planning on joining the NRA or if your current membership is up for renewal, process it through the chapter's Airgun Committee and help contribute to our local projects. Contact Ed. Burrows **301 778-9090** or Phil Dean **301 831-9325**.

POST HOLE DIGGER

Later this spring a shelter roof is going to be built over the firing line on the Airgun range. This project will require the setting of a number of support poles for the framework. If you have access to a Post Hole Digger, heavy duty or otherwise, please contact Jim Piatiski at PIASKI@EROL.COM or **301 253-4486**.

Our Thanks Go Out To:

" The Club would like to thank **Doug Eaton** for providing the equipment and expertise to create a new pistol range and improvements to the rifle range. This work took place over a one year period and improves the

R&P Range for all shooters. Thanks again Doug."

"On Sat., 1/9/99, after attending the range safety meeting, **Bill Rahn & Rich Buckingham** gave skeet instruction to a group of Boy Scouts who braved the cold and wet conditions that day. Thanks Guys."

River Clean-up Saturday March 27

Do not forget the river "Clean-up" scheduled for **3/27/99 at 8:30 am** and will last until **1:30 pm**. Meet at the parking lot below the club house at 8:30. Bring a friend. Lets have a good turnout because this is one of many things we do, in this case, this outing is helping to keep our environment clean.

Adopt the Road Pick-up 3/20/99 9:am Saturday.

We need new volunteers for this very important project. Contact Bill Kelly at **301 253-5009**. Lets have a good turn out for this.

Chuckaroo's Corner

Did you know we have a **"FOR SALE"** page on our web site., where members can place adds for items they wish to sell? It can be almost anything. Check it out Take the link from the clubs main page. We are also adding a full **Calendar** of all the clubs activities. Just punch up: members.aol.com/rumriverc/index.html.

Damascus welcome signs

Following is the completed schedule for the "Welcome to Damascus" signs. It shows the week, event, and contact person for that event.:
3/14 - 20 River clean up. Bill Kelly.
5/16 - 20, Cowboy Shoot, C. Crooks
8/1-7, Air Rifle Match, Ed. Burrows
9/5-11, Hunter safety, M. McCollum
9/19-25, Air Gun bench rest & Black powder, Ed Burrows.
10/17-23, Hunter safety,

MacMcCollum.

10/31-11/6, Rifle/shotgun "sight in day", Ray Shaver.

11/28-12/4, Christman Tree sales, Dave McNeal

12/5-18, Christmas Tree sales, Dave McNeal.

My Trip To NE Minnesota by I.G.

Haycraft -1907

Editors note.

Isaac G. Haycraft was my Grandfather who kept a journal during most of his life. He was a hardy pioneer who with his wife lived in several different areas of the State of Minnesota. I found some of his true-life adventures to be fascinating and decided to share them with the members of Izaak Walton. This will be presented in multi editions of the news letter because of the length of the story.

From my earliest recollection, there had been considerable talk among the rural settlers in Minnesota about the valuable timber in the northeastern area of the state. Any U.S. citizen could secure a quarter-section claim and acquire title by paying to the State a stipulated price per acre, instead of having to establish a residence on the claim. The price at this time, 1907, was \$1.25 per acre. The whole region where such claims could be made in this manner was solid rock. The particular territory yet available was in Township 66 Range 14, St Louis County, just south of Lake Lacroix and the Rainy River, about 100 miles N.E. of Duluth, Minnesota. In July there was a lot of discussion around Bernidji, Minnesota, and vicinity about this stone-&-timber land opportunity, with the final result that some 20 persons, including this writer, made the decision to undertake the trip into the wilds and see for themselves. Of course, it was necessary to be accompanied by a competent cruiser or guide. Included in the traveling party were 20 people including 5 were women.

A member of the Minnesota congress J.J. Opsahl and his assistant Andrew Johnson , who was afterward Sheriff of Beltrami County. After many days of more or less active preparation, we took a train from Bemidji to Ely, Mn. , through a timber region with some very interesting scenery.

LONG LAKE

At Ely we secured supplies and equipment, of which was seven Wesley canoes. Six were 12 feet long, one 14 or 16 feet long; and one birchbark canoe was about 13 feet long. This birchbark canoe could not stand the rough usage and broke to pieces during the trip,

These canoes looked awfully frail to carry us as safely as they did. We rode the canoes on the lakes and creeks, and we walked and carried them overland on portages. Our portages covered a distance ranging from a few hundred feet to about two miles.

We were equipped with boat saddles and got along nicely, although it was quite a load carrying sleeping accommodations. We took along a ten-day supply of food. There were four women that actually ended up going , so we took along one tent for them, and one large tent for the men in case of bad weather. Our first day out with the canoes was on Long Lake at Ely. Many of our party had never even seen a canoe, let alone try to ride in and manipulate one. We surely had a variety of experiences; we came near upsetting a dozen times or more, but did manage to stay right-side-up, and within a couple of hours, made a landing on the northwest shore of Long Lake.

BURNSIDE LAKE

Our first portage for a short distance was to Burnside Lake, where we took to canoes again.

It was nearing sundown, and there was no wind; the lake surface was as smooth as glass, and as the sun was sinking from view, it threw a reflection of the forest that bordered the west shoreline of the lake. The timber was quite tall and stately in general appearance, consisting of a variety of white and Norway pine, large spruce and balsam, a few Jack pine, and some hardwood. The background behind this fringe of timber was practically bald rock, rising from one to two hundred feet elevation. The sun seemed to have a special glow as it neared the horizon. This reflection in the water was so clear and vivid, it eclipsed anything I had ever seen; even the second reflection was quite plain. I have never seen anything that compared with that scene for beauty. It was actually thrilling.

To be continued.