



NEWSLETTER

Izaak Walton League Of America
Wildlife Achievement Club Chapter
December 1999-January 2000 Issue



President
Chuck Crooks
(301) 831-9666

First Vice President
Ed Burrows
(301) 774-9090

Second Vice President
Bill Kelly
(301) 253-5009

Third Vice President
Paul Bluteau
(301) 916-8923

Coming Attractions

Date	Event	Time
12/17	Membership Meeting	7:30 pm
12/18	Christmas Tree Sales	10:00 am
12/19	Christmas Tree Sales	10:00 am
12/19	Range Orientation	10:00 am
12/19	A&S Range Maint.	10:00 am
12/20	Adult Air Gun	6:30 pm
12/21	Junior Air Rifle	6:00 pm
12/27	Adult Air Gun	6:30 pm
12/28	Junior Air Rifle	6:00 pm
12/31	R&P Ranges Closed, Except for:	
	Cowboy Shoot	10:30 am
1/3	Adult Air Gun	6:30 pm
1/4	Junior Air Rifle	6:00 pm
1/5	Board of Directors Mtg.	7:30 pm
1/6	Conservation Cmte. Mtg.	7:30 pm
1/10	Adult Air Gun	6:30 pm
1/11	Junior Air Rifle	6:00 pm
1/17	Adult Air Gun	6:30 pm
1/18	Junior Air Rifle	6:00 pm
1/24	Adult Air Gun	6:30 pm
1/25	Junior Air Rifle	6:00 pm
1/28	Membership Meeting	7:30 pm
1/30	A, S, R, & P Range Maint	10:00 am
1/30	Range Orientation	10:00 am
1/31	Adult Air Gun	6:30 pm

Wild Game Dinner and Auction

Our annual Wild Game Dinner and Auction will be held on **Friday, January 28, 2000**. We have donations of venison, but donations of other wild game, especially game birds, would be appreciated. To donate food, please contact **Jorge Silva** on (301) 258-0377.

We have some great items to be auctioned off, including a canoe, outdoors books, a Nordic Trak, reloading components, and jewelry. We could use additional donations, especially items of interest to ladies and kids. If you can help us with auction items, call **Bill Kelly** on (301) 253-5009.

General Membership Meetings

The December membership meeting is on **Friday, December 17**. This is our annual Christmas Party. It is a full dinner but there is a **POT LUCK DESSERT**. So bring your favorite dessert (for 5 or more) and enjoy the holiday fun!

The January 2000 membership meeting will be on **Friday, January 28, 2000**. The meeting will be our annual wild game dinner and auction. If you have any wild game to donate, please contact **Jorge Silva** at (301) 258-0377. If you have any items you wish to donate for the auction, please contact **Bill Kelly** at (301) 253-5009. This promises to be one of the best years ever for auction items, so make plans to attend!

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, December 17**.

Cesar Arceo, Derwood, MD
Sponsor: Joe Gick

Norman Balog, Silver Spring, MD
Sponsor: Rich Buckingham

Ledlie Cunningham, Frederick, MD
Sponsor: Bob Schneider

John L. Ford, Gaithersburg, MD
Sponsor: Bill Schneider

John P. Ford, Gaithersburg, MD
Sponsor: Bill Schneider

John Gilley, Germantown, MD
Sponsor: Chuck Crooks

George Hall, Silver Spring, MD
Sponsor: Bob Schneider

Rick Harhai, Damascus, MD
Sponsor: Joe Gick

Rex Hawbecker, Laytonsville, MD
Sponsor: Joe Gick

David Inada, Laytonsville, MD
Sponsor: Rod Grindall

W. George King, Rockville, MD
Sponsor: Rich Buckingham

Mark Pickens, Frederick, MD
Sponsor: Mac McCollum

John St. Clair, Damascus, MD
Sponsor: Joe Gick

Rob Taylor, Gaithersburg, MD
Sponsor: Richard Fried

Ron Trenti, Bethesda, MD
Sponsor: Bill Schneider

January Shotgun Range Officer Schedule

Day	Date	Names
Sat.	1/1	Closed
Sun.	1/2	Open to Volunteers
Sat.	1/8	Lewis Allnutt Joel Gross
Sun.	1/9	Paul Bluteau Cindy Whitehurst
Sat.	1/15	Peter Currall Dave Gold
Sun.	1/16	Burt Mullineaux Jim Luensman
Sat.	1/22	Bill Rahn Charlie Weaver
Sun.	1/23	Franklin Moncada Kevin Manning
Sat.	1/29	The Fichter "Gang"

Skeet and Trap Notes

As 1999 comes to a close, a few words of thanks are in order to the small but loyal group of active and stand-by range officers. Their commitment of time is greatly appreciated. By giving up six hours of time each month, they were able to offer our members and the public one of the finest shooting facilities in Maryland.

On this subject, we still urgently need several more volunteer range officers. For example, we need more range officers to cover those months in the year that have five weeks. To volunteer, please contact **Rich Buckingham** by e-mail through our club website (shown in the return address for this newsletter) or in person at the Shotgun Range.

For the fourth year, we are participating in the Beltway Skeet League. Participation does not require a high degree of skill because every shooter establishes an average score to which a handicap is applied. The League runs for nine weeks starting **December 5, 1999**. Cost is \$10.00 per week, which includes a buffet lunch on the final week. Flyers with more information on the League are available in the Shotgun Range House.

Rifle and Pistol Range Report

INFORMATION: For more information about any of the rifle/pistol range activities mentioned in this article, contact **Ray Shaver** by e-mail at MRShaver@aol.com or telephone at (301) 926-0465.

SHOOTING HOURS: Permitted rifle/pistol range shooting hours are now being posted on the box with the range sign-in register. Starting time is 10:00 AM daily and ending time is the approximate sunset time (e.g., 4:45 PM on Nov. 28), unless some activity has preempted the range. Because sunset changes slightly each day, the sign is periodically updated. Regardless of how you define sunset, all shooters are expected to comply with the posted shooting hours. Please help us avoid offending our neighbors by neither shooting before the posted starting time nor after the posted ending time.

DECEMBER RANGE

MAINTENANCE CANCELED: The rifle and pistol range maintenance session originally scheduled for **December 19** has been canceled. Those who might have come out to help on that day are encouraged to volunteer for our Christmas Tree sales event or to help with skeet/trap range maintenance. We will also need help cleaning up the rifle and pistol ranges after the special cowboy action shoot late in the afternoon of **Friday, December 31**.

SIGHT-IN DAY (Nov. 7): Public turnout was good for the annual Sight-In Day. In fact, we had to draft three workers on the spot (**Randy Loy, Dennis Price, and Ken Winpisinger**) to help the original crew of **Ray Shaver, Ray Halperin, and John Walter** handle the crowd. By day's end, we had assisted 20 shooters in sighting 27 slug guns and rifles. The patience of our members who shared the rifle range during this event is sincerely appreciated.

DEER HUNTER QUALIFICATION

(Nov. 14): This was our fourth annual qualification event for hunters selected to harvest deer in local parks. Over 180 shooters were processed, with the vast majority completing their qualification between 10:00 AM and noon. The team which ran the range under **Ray Halperin's** command included **Tom Mills, Paul Bluteau, Bill McGiffin, Ted Hadfield, Andrew Cooke, John Randall, Ken Winpisinger, Bill Gazdik, John Walter, Jim Luensman, James Fort, Bruce Roth, Dennis Price, and Randy Loy**. Parking and initial firearm safety checks were handled by **Bob Mabie, Bob Inness, and Sandy Bernstein**. **Bill Jenkins, Ray Shaver, and John Leaman** registered shooters, while **Mac McCollum** fed the troops. Thanks to all these workers and our entire membership for supporting us in this public service.

PLYWOOD DONATIONS: The continuing generous donations of plywood for target backers have helped keep down rifle and pistol range maintenance costs. It's nice to avoid buying something which will be subsequently shot to pieces. During November we received one large donation from an anonymous donor, and another large donation from the Lisbon Fire Department via **Ikes and firemen Hank Van Deursen and Gerald Bennett**. Not satisfied with simply being a source

for plywood, **Hank** also devoted many hours along with **Red Gambrell** cutting it into backers. Please keep your scrap plywood coming in. Although a thickness of one-half inch or more works best, we are happy to receive any plywood which can be cut into 2'x2' or 2'x4' sizes.

THANKS TO: An unidentified crew who worked in the rain with **Chuck Crooks** to set up the cowboy action shoot on November 26, and to **Ken Winpisinger, Larry Pfeiffer, and Andy Scott** who helped **Ray Shaver** take it back down on the 27th. On November 28, our site maintenance day, projects included Christmas tree farm mowing, butterfly garden improvements, rifle/pistol and skeet/trap range cleanups, and landscaping around the new sidewalk in front of the Chapter house. Working on those projects were **Ikes Scott Rhine, John Leaman, Ken Winpisinger, Carl Minkel, Chris Plassman, Claude Bauer, Patrick Thevenard, Dong Kim, Joe Fenneren, Ray Shaver, Rich Buckingham, Bob Mabie, and guest, Chris Arn**.

Cowboy Shoots

Our November Cowboy Shoot had 74 eager cowpokes ready to shoot in the Damascus Wildlife Rangers Match. Our season has been so successful that the cowboys have talked us into having THE ABSOLUTE LAST COWBOY SHOOT OF THE 1000s. The shoot will be on NEW YEARS EVE, **Friday, December 31, 1999**. Registration begins at 10:30 AM. This will be a five stage match with shooting starting at HIGH NOON. Stages will be prepared by **Neil Benson**, alias "Spotted Horse." All stages will be assembled at 8:00 AM, so please come out and help set up, if you can. Cost is \$5.00, which includes a chili meal after the match in our clubhouse. Shooters are requested to bring a wrapped, gender-neutral gift valued at under \$10.00 to be distributed after the match. The match could be canceled due to snow, so if things look bad, call (301) 717-9672 for a current

It was about sundown when Frank Albee and I finished our work and started to return to the creek and find and follow the trail of the other men to camp. If I live to be 100 years old, I shall never forget this ordeal and the night that followed. Darkness came on about the time we struck the trail, and as the snow had been soft for hours before when the men had traveled through, their footprints had sunk in the snow at different depths. We tried to follow in their tracks. The snow had frozen again, but not quite enough to carry our weight. The irregularity of the travel was

irksome in the extreme. We had about five miles to go, and after three or four more miles of this trying torture, one of my knees, which had been previously injured, gave out and refused to function. Mr. Albee was a very lightweight man, and the snow had hardened enough to carry his weight a deal of the time, but not so with me. I was forced to crawl and drag that leg; otherwise the pain was too severe for endurance. However, after a short distance of this painful crawling, we heard a shout from someone in camp, and soon two of my good old neighbors were there to help me into camp, one on each side. They pretty much had to carry me; such is the brotherhood of mankind.

A Cold Camp

The weather was growing colder fast. Opsahl and Prosper Albee were still out. Two fresh men who had rested considerably volunteered to go out

and meet them. They also had to be aided to make it back to camp. A good helping of hot oatmeal and plenty of strong coffee helped a lot, but it had grown so cold none of us could endure the freezing temperature lying in the tent wrapped in our blankets. This was by far the coldest night I have ever experienced. We cut small logs all night and rolled them onto a tremendous fire. We could get as close to the fire as we dared, and continually turn round and round, warming one side at a time, to keep from perishing from the cold. That night was a horrible experience, never to be forgotten; but all things have an end. When the sun came up, the cold wave had passed, and the snow softened. One could keep comfortable wrapped in blankets. Since I had accomplished all my work the day before, I stayed in camp, while those who had yet to gather their information were out all day. Maybe I didn't store up sleep and

recuperate for the hike back the next day!

We Return Through the Slush

It continued to stay less cold and thawed all night, and water stood on the ice on creeks and lakes, a nice sloppy mess. We got an early start and trudged through the slush on the creeks and wet snow overland, and two or three inches of clear water on the lakes. Try walking in water on ice some time and see how you slip and slide about! Only those who had caulked their driving shoes could keep their footing. Our trek ended about noon or a little after, when we reached the place designated as the meeting place for the team. After we had impatiently waited for an hour or so, the team came in sight. Say, but we were glad to pile in and ride to Ely. It took me two weeks to get back to normal.