



NEWSLETTER

Izaak Walton League Of America
Wildlife Achievement Club Chapter
January-February 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
1/15	Airgun Fld. Trgt. Mch.	8:00 am
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	6:30 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
2/1	Junior Air Rifle	6:00 pm
2/2	Board of Directors Mtg.	7:30 pm
2/7	Adult Air Gun	6:30 pm
2/8	Junior Air Rifle	6:00 pm
2/8	Conservation Cmte. Mtg.	7:30 pm
2/14	Adult Air Gun	6:30 pm
2/15	Junior Air Rifle	6:00 pm
2/16	Membership Meeting	6:30 pm
2/21	Adult Air Gun	6:30 pm
2/22	Junior Air Rifle	6:00 pm
2/27	A, S, R, & P Range Maint	10:00 am
2/27	Christmas Tree Maint.	10:00 am
2/27	Range Orientation	10:00 am
2/28	Adult Air Gun	6:30 pm
2/29	Junior Air Rifle	6:00 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 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!

The February membership meeting is on **Wednesday, February 23**. The menu has not yet been decided but, with Jorge Silva and his assistants in the kitchen, it's gonna' be great!

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 28**.

Greg Baharoff, Damascus, MD
Sponsor: Bob Inness

Mark Bitz, Silver Spring, MD
Sponsor: Steve Schneider

Greg Christensen, Derwood, MD
Sponsor: Joe Gick

Stephen Christy, Monrovia, MD
Sponsor: Alan Spencer

Jerry Crown, Rockville, MD
Sponsor: Mike Heffernan

Dexter Grimmatt, Rockville, MD
Sponsor: Red Gambrell

Dana Halbert, Bethesda, MD
Sponsor: Mike Heffernan

Rick Harhai, Damascus, MD
Sponsor: Joe Gick

Richard Hess, Potomac, MD
Sponsor: Greg Gallo

W. Carlton Key, Jr., Rockville, MD
Sponsor: Bill Jenkins

James Knowles, Derwood, MD
Sponsor: Steve Silverman

Stephen Peck, Rockville, MD
Sponsor: Eugene Youngquist

Lawrence Porter, Chevy Chase, MD
Sponsor: Steve Schneider

Harris Reavin, Wheaton, MD
Sponsor: Mike Heffernan

Eugene Sapiro, Gaithersburg, MD
Sponsor: Larry Lippman

Eric Turnquist, Germantown, MD
Sponsor: Rich Buckingham

February Shotgun Range Officer Schedule

Day	Date	Names
Sat.	2/5	Nancy Humphries Weldon Humphries Richard Zabell
Sun.	2/6	Paul Bluteau Cindy Whitehurst
Sat.	2/12	Lewis Allnutt Bill Rahn Joel Gross
Sun.	2/13	Franklin Moncada Kevin Manning
Sat.	2/19	Peter Currall Dave Gold

Sun.	2/20	Burt Mullineaux Jim Luensman
Sat.	2/26	The Fichter "Gang"
Sun.	2/27	Chris Smarte Susan Smarte

Skeet and Trap Notes

The December "Fun Shoot" brought out 27 competitors. **Jim Malone** posted the best H.O.A. score and won 20 boxes of shotgun shells. **Bill Rahn** won both the skeet and trap events. There was a tie for "Chinese Trap" between **Tony Evans and Neil Forthman, Jr.** **Roy Geisler** won the five-stand event. The "Fun Shoot" will be repeated later in 2000. Thanks to everyone who entered and helped run the shoot!

Last year, WACC sponsored a fund raiser to benefit a local charity, Damascus HELP. We plan to have another fund raiser this year. It will be held this Spring, so keep an eye out for its announcement in next month's newsletter.

New shooters are encouraged to attend our Beginners Skeet Clinic which will be scheduled for March or early April, 2000. Again, the exact dates will appear in next month's newsletter.

Rifle and Pistol Range Report

INFORMATION: For more information about 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 posted on the box which contains the range sign-in register. For January 2000, starting time is 10:00 AM and ending time is 5:00 PM, daily, unless some activity has preempted the range. Because sunset changes slightly each day, the sign is periodically updated. Please help us to avoid offending our neighbors by firing no shots before the posted starting time and none after the posted ending time.

YEAR 2000 CARDS: Shooters must display a 2000 range-approved membership card to use the rifle and pistol ranges after January 31. If you haven't renewed your membership, or have renewed but haven't received your year 2000 range-approved

membership card, contact the membership chairman, **Joe Gick**, at (301) 774-9399, immediately. Don't put your range privileges at risk!

SIGN-IN REGISTER: The range sign-in register is used for a number of purposes. One important use, especially in emergencies, is as a quick source of information about whether anyone is physically on the rifle or pistol ranges. We also use it to help identify the owners of items found on the ranges and as a source of information about how the ranges are being used. Unfortunately, the usefulness of the register is frequently reduced because the information it contains is incorrect or illegible. Please **PRINT** all information entered in the range register; a written signature is unnecessary and many are unreadable. You are permitted to take two guests to the range. Their names should be **PRINTED** on separate lines under your name and identified as guests by checking the guest column on the register. Finally, please don't sign in and out at the same time; enter the time in when you depart for the range and the time out when you return to the chapter house.

GUEST REMINDER: Please remember that a non-member may use the ranges as a guest a **maximum of two times**, except when the non-member comes from a distance greater than 75 miles. After two visits, a guest who wishes to continue using our ranges needs to become a member. Members who ignore this rule face the possible loss of their own range privileges.

JANUARY CLEANUP: Maintenance of the rifle and pistol ranges is scheduled from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM on **Sunday, January 30**. Please report to the green equipment shed, below the chapter house, to sign in and get a work assignment. Ray Shaver will be coordinating the cleanup activities.

Cowboy Shoots

The last Cowboy Shoot of the 1900's was held New Years Eve and 75 shooters were there to blast the 19's into history. Thanks to "Spotted Horse" AKA **Neil Benson** for the hard work in putting this shoot on. The chili and stages were great! We also raised \$250 for Bright Vision, a children's handicapped

horseback riding program. Atta' boy Neil!

There will be a planning meeting for the April Thunder Valley Days Shoot on **Saturday, February 12th** at 9:30 AM. We need many non-cowboy shooters to volunteer their assistance to make this match a success. Volunteers are needed for running side matches, Cowboy Five Stand, food concessions, parking and set up. This event is a major club fund raiser and members can help keep membership expenses down by offering their services.

Airgun Field Target Match

The first airgun field target match of the 2000 season will be held on the outdoor airgun range on **Saturday, January 15, 2000**. If you have been hesitant to try this new shooting activity because you don't have a high velocity air rifle with a telescopic sight, now is your chance! This field target match will be fired using standard air rifles without optical sights. The targets will have large "hit zones" and will be placed close to the firing lines. Bring out the Crossman CO₂ rifle or that Benjamin pump and join in the fun. The airgun range will be open at 8:00 AM for practice, a shooter orientation meeting will be held at 9:30 AM, and the match will commence at 10:00 AM. You will be squaded with an experienced shooter who can give you advice and support. Complementary lunch (hot dogs and baked beans) will be served and there is no charge for this match. You are encouraged to come out and try this fun shooting sport. Contact **Phil Dean**, at (301) 831-9325, for additional information.

Go to "<http://www.airguns.net>" and follow the link to Field Target Competition for an excellent orientation to the sport of airgun field target shooting.

Newsletter by Internet

The Newsletter is running well on the Internet. If you would like to save the club the cost of printing and mailing you a paper copy of the newsletter, you can elect to view the complete newsletter through the Internet. There is a link from our web site to our Newsletter. In order to stop your paper subscription send an E-mail to RUMRIVERC@AOL.COM and request to discontinue receipt of the paper copy of our Newsletter. If having a paper copy is important to you, there is a printable version also on the web site.

Club E-mail List

We have a mass e-mail list with over 250 member addresses on it. The list is used to remind members of upcoming events, short notice changes, and general club information. The list is used for WACC-IWLA members only. All addresses are sent "blind" and each recipient only sees their address on the e-mail. As we have collected the names over the past year, some people have changed e-mail addresses and others wrote their address wrong so they never worked properly. We sent an E-mail in early January, 2000 to remind members of the Wild Game Dinner. If you did not get that e-mail, your address is not on the list. If you wish to be added to the e-mail list, send your full name and e-mail address to RUMRIVERC@AOL.COM and indicate that you want to be added to the IWLA e-mail list.

Our Talented Juniors

During December 1999, three of our junior shooters competed in the Maryland USA Junior Olympic Championship match. The match has three different age categories for juniors ranging in age from 14 to 20. Competing were **Brian Watson, Jason Schnell, and Lyra Hornseth**. They all fired excellent scores, but Lyra was exceptionally proficient. Among all the female competitors, **Lyra** won a Bronze Medal for shooting an air rifle and a Silver Medal for firing a precision .22 LR rifle. Congratulations to Lyra, Brian, and Jason!!

Website Club Calendar

Our web site has a Club Calendar that is kept current throughout the year. It includes

contact names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses for upcoming projects. It also list known range closures for special projects. We are happy to report that our site has been accessed over 4,100 times since March 1999! Check it often, because changes are constantly being made to keep it current.

Membership Renewal

Please remember that current memberships expire on December 31, 1999. If we have not received your **payment for next year's dues by January 31, 2000**, your range and membership privileges will be suspended as of that date and until the dues are paid. All current members were sent a renewal notice and bill on November 1, 1999. If you did not receive your bill, contact **Joe Gick** at (301) 774-9399.

Laminating Service

Bring your membership card to any Board of Directors, Membership, or Range Orientation Meeting and get it laminated. You can protect it from the weather while on the Range and keep food and drink from ruining it at our Dinner Meetings! Cost is only \$1.00!!

MSRPA Raffle

During the summer and fall of 1999, WACC member **Ray Logan** sold raffle tickets for a special Beretta pistol. Proceeds from the raffle were to assist the Maryland State Rifle and Pistol Association (MSRPA) in preserving our right to keep and bear arms. Ray sold over \$700.00 worth of raffle tickets to our membership. The MSRPA has advised Ray that they were very pleased with the response from WACC. Ray, you did a great job! Ray said that **Georgia Townsend, Bob Inness, and Richard and Candace Phelan** were instrumental in helping him sell so many tickets. Thanks to everybody!!

St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance

This is another reminder that we will have our St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance at

our clubhouse on **Saturday, March 18, 2000**. Mark your calendars, make no conflicting arrangements, and get ready to rummmmbbaaaaaa!

Chaplain's Note

If any member knows of another member who is seriously ill or has recently passed away, our Chaplain, **John Leaman**, would like to know. He will send our prayers for a speedy recovery to those who are ill or our condolences to surviving family members of those who passed away. Call John at (301) 972-1572.

Editor's Column

This month we celebrate the results of the hunt by having our annual wild game dinner. In my experience, hunters have a difficult time trying to explain to a non-hunter why he or she hunts. The non-hunter often sees hunting as nothing more than killing just for the sake of killing. The recently published book *A Hunter's Heart* does a pretty good job of describing the feelings and motivations of hunters. Anyone who has been in the field can identify with the sentiments expressed by the authors of articles in the book. My favorite passage is included in the essay entitled "Why Men Hunt," by John Madson. See if you can see yourself in this way:

"But as much as anything else, one of the greatest urges impelling such a hunter is his search for freedom, and for the genuine personal adventure inherent in such freedom. Just as game species may be the truest indicator of quality natural environments, so hunting can be an indicator of quality natural freedom.

Dr. Murdock Head told of a noted physician who was visiting an Adirondack deer camp for the first time. He was not a hunter; it was all new to him. As he stood by the cabin door one evening, watching hunters dress deer while their companions offered unsolicited advice, listening to the good laughter and easy talk, the doctor turned to his host with a

look of sudden comprehension and said, "Why, these men are free!"....

The genuine hunter is probably as free as it's possible to be in this technocracy of ours. Free not because he sheds civilized codes and restraints when he goes in the woods, but because he can project himself out of and beyond himself, out of and beyond the ordinary, to be wholly absorbed in a quieter, deeper, and older world.

You know how it is. When you go into the woods, your presence makes a splash and the ripples of your arrival spread like circles in water. Long after you have stopped moving,

your presence widens in rings through the woods. But after a while this fades, and the pool of silence is tranquil again, and you are either forgotten or accepted – you are never sure which. Your presence has been absorbed into the pattern of things, you have begun to be part of it, and this is when the hunting really begins....

There were those times when I was a kid, hunting and trapping and sometimes spending several days and nights alone in the woods, when I'd have a flash of insight that was often gone as swiftly as it came – a vague sense of what aboriginal hunters must

feel, what real hunting, pure-quill honest-to-God real hunting is all about. One strong flash of this to a boy – one swift heady taste of an utter wild freedom and perception – is enough to keep him hunting all his days. Not just for meat or horns but for that flash of insight again, trying to close the magic circle of man, wildness, and animal."

Taken from *A Hunter's Heart: Honest Essays on Blood Sport*, collected and edited by David Petersen, Henry Holt and Company, New York, 1997, pp. 132-133.