



NEWSLETTER

Izaak Walton League Of America
Wildlife Achievement Club Chapter
February-March 2000 Issue



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Coming Attractions

Date	Event	Time
2/21	Adult Air Gun	6:30 pm
2/22	Junior Air Rifle	6:00 pm
2/23	Membership Meeting	6:30 pm
2/24	Junior Air Rifle	6:00 pm
2/26	Junior Air Rifle	6:00 pm
2/27	All Ranges 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
3/1	Board of Directors Mtg.	7:30 pm
3/2	Junior Air Rifle	6:00 pm
3/4	Junior Rimfire	6:00 pm
3/6	Adult Air Gun	6:30 pm
3/7	Junior Air Rifle	6:00 pm
3/7	Consrv./SOS Cmte. Mtg.	7:30 pm
3/9	Junior Air Rifle	6:00 pm
3/11	Airgun Fld. Tgt. Mtch.	7:30 am
3/11	Skeet Clinic	9:30 am
3/13	Adult Air Gun	6:30 pm
3/14	Junior Air Rifle	6:00 pm
3/16	Junior Air Rifle	6:00 pm
3/18	Skeet Clinic	9:30 am
3/18	Junior Rimfire	10:00 am
3/18	Military Rifle Shoot	10:00 am
3/18	St. Patrick's Day Dance	7:30 pm
3/22	Membership Meeting	6:30 pm
3/23	Junior Air Rifle	6:00 pm
3/24	R&P Ranges Close At:	1:00 pm
3/25	R&P Ranges Closed Except For:	
3/25	Cowboy Action Shoot	9:00 am
3/25	Adopt-A-Road Cleanup	9:00 am
3/25	Junior Rimfire	10:00 am
3/26	All Ranges Maint	10:00 am
3/26	Christmas Tree Maint.	10:00 am
3/26	Range Orientation	10:00 am
3/27	Adult Air Gun	6:30 pm
3/28	Junior Air Rifle	6:00 pm
3/30	Junior Air Rifle	6:00 pm

Adopt-A-Road

Our next Adopt-A-Road cleanup of Mullinix Mill Road will be on **Saturday, March 25, 2000**. Please meet at the equipment shed at 9:00 AM.

General Membership Meetings

The February membership meeting is on **Wednesday, February 23**. The menu will feature roast chicken, potatoes, salad, and all the fixins'. Please note that the price of a dinner has gone to \$8.00. Social hour is at 6:30 PM and dinner starts at 7:00 PM.

The March membership meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 22**. Dinner in March will feature corned beef and cabbage. Cost will be \$8.00. As always, social hour begins 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, February 23, 2000**.

Michael Boyd, Gaithersburg, MD
Sponsor: Lee Becknell

Brock Fowler, Rockville, MD
Sponsor: Bill Jenkins

Louis Knapp, Rockville, MD
Sponsor: Bill Schneider

J. Gordon Leishman, Gaithersburg, MD
Sponsor: Ron Benden

Benton Neerin, Wheaton, MD
Sponsor: Mike Heffernan

March Shotgun Range Officer Schedule

Day	Date	Names
Sat.	3/4	Nancy Humphries Weldon Humphries Richard Zabell
Sun	3/5	Paul Bluteau Cindy Whitehurst Jim Luensman
Sat.	3/11	Lewis Allnutt Bill Rahn Joel Gross
Sun.	3/12	Greg Baldwin Kevin Manning
Sat.	3/18	Peter Currall Dave Gold
Sun.	3/19	Burt Mullineaux
Sat.	3/25	The Fichter "Gang"
Sun.	3/26	Chris Smarte Susan Smarte

Skeet and Trap Notes

The Shotgun Ranges have remained open despite the January snows. Many thanks to **George King** who plowed out the parking areas around the Range House.

We hosted the Beltway Skeet League on January 30. Twenty two shooters braved the weather, which became increasingly worse by early afternoon. WACC was in second place (out of four clubs) with two weeks remaining in the schedule.

Skeet clinics for beginners will be held several times this year. The first session will be held on two consecutive **Saturdays: March 11 and 18, 2000**. A sign-up sheet will be located in the Shotgun Range House. Because small groups learn best, classes will be limited to eight people. The only cost will be the normal expense of the clay targets. Classes will begin at 9:30 AM.

Volunteers are needed to conduct a similar clinic for prospective trap shooters. If you can help, please call **Rich Buckingham** at (301) 762-2306.

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 posted on the box which contains the range sign-in register. For **February 2000, starting time is 10:00 AM daily and ending time is 5:30 PM**, unless some activity has preempted the range. Because sunset changes slightly each day, the sign is periodically updated. Please help us avoid offending our neighbors by firing no shots before the posted starting time and none after the posted ending time.

YEAR 2000 CARDS: Year 1999 range-approved membership cards expired on February 1, 2000. Shooters must now display a year 2000 range-approved membership card to use the rifle and pistol ranges. Shooters without such a card are trespassing, and should be asked to leave if encountered on the ranges. Please report any such incidents to the rifle/pistol committee chairman, **Ray Shaver**, or the chapter caretaker. 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**, (301) 774-9399) immediately, and stay off of the ranges until you get your new card.

GLOCK QUESTIONS? -- WACC member and Glock enthusiast **Red Gambrell** attended the Glock armorers course last fall, and is willing to share his knowledge with other WACC Glock shooters. If you have questions about such things as the operation, maintenance, assembly/disassembly, or problems with your Glock pistol, you can reach Red by telephone on (301) 774-7697 or via e-mail at RedG1931@aol.com.

BRASS OR ALUMINUM? -- Separate recycling buckets are provided for brass and aluminum shell cases on the pistol ranges. Although both are recyclable, we primarily recycle the aluminum, and the more desirable

brass is collected by our members who reload. However, neither is recyclable when mixed, and separating them is a labor intensive operation. We note that some shooters regularly deposit nickel plated cases in the aluminum bucket, possibly because they are white. Please don't do so. If the case is white, shiny, and not made by CCI, it belongs in the brass bucket. Thanks!

RANGE OFFICER

RESPONSIBILITIES: Some local ranges permit shooting only when an "official range officer" is present. Range-approved WACC members do not suffer such restrictions, because we are all required to attend our range orientation course, and become range officers for the WACC rifle/pistol ranges upon its successful completion. However, nothing comes free. Along with the privileges of using the ranges unsupervised, each range-approved member is also expected to assume range officer responsibilities. That means we are not only expected to obey the WACC Range Rules and Regulations, but to be alert to violations of those regulations by other shooters and to do something about such violations. We realize that not everyone is comfortable in confronting another shooter about a violation of the rules, but at least you can try to report the violator's identify or vehicle license number to the chapter caretaker or an officer of the Board of Directors. The alternative, which none of us really wants to see, could be tighter restrictions.

MILITARY RIFLE SHOOT: Bring out your military rifles of any type or vintage to show and shoot at our fun shoot on **Saturday, March 18**. We'll shoot from 10:00 AM until everyone is tired of it or out of ammunition, usually by 1:00 PM. There is no cost for the event, nor do you have to own a military rifle to come out and look. Like many of us, participants in this activity have often "collected" more toys than they can regularly use. Maybe you'll find something you would like to buy.

FEBRUARY CLEANUP: Maintenance of the rifle and pistol ranges is scheduled from **10:00 AM until 1:00 PM on Sunday, February 27**. 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 first Damascus Wildlife Rangers Match in the 2000s will be on **Saturday, March 25, 2000**. Set up will be on **Friday, March 24**, starting at 1:00 PM. If you can help with the set up, please meet on the Rifle Range. **Rifle and pistol ranges will be closed from 1:00 PM Friday through around 4:00 PM on Saturday.**

We will have our next New Cowboy Clinic in May, 2000, but the exact date has not yet been set. Check our web site for updates on the Clinic.

Conservation Activities

Our next **Save Our Streams** cleanup of the Patuxent River will be held on **April 1, 2000**. We will remove trash and other debris from several areas where roads cross the Patuxent. Meet at the Chapter House at 8:00 AM for work location assignments. Please bring sturdy shoes, gloves, and clothing suitable for the weather and environment. Lunch will be served around noon and there will be a stream monitoring demonstration given after the cleanup. **Carrie Hamilton and Bill Kelly** are coordinating the cleanup. If you have questions, call Carrie at (301) 482-1986, or Bill at (301) 253-5009.

We will also support a tree planting excursion along the C&O Canal on **April 8, 2000**. Again, please mark your calendar. For this effort, sturdy shoes, appropriate clothing, gloves, and shovels are in fashion! Workers should meet at the IWLA Bethesda-Chevy Chase (BCC) Chapter. Watch next month's newsletter for information on how to get to the BCC Chapter. **Ed Burrows**, at (301) 774-9090, can give you lots of info on this event.

Web Site Club Calendar

Our annual calendar is now posted on the web site under the link to the club calendar. Most events show the name, phone number, and e-mail link for the person supervising that event. Please contact that individual to get more information about the event. This

year, items are color coded. For example, work projects are shown in green and range closures are shown in red. The calendar will be updated as new events are added or changes become necessary.

Club Auction

Our annual auction was held in conjunction with our Wild Game Dinner on January 28, 2000. Thanks to the many donations by Ikes and their spouses and the generosity of our membership, we cleared over \$3,2000! We thank the following individuals for their donations: **Commander Curtis, Paul Bluteau, Atlantic Guns, Bill Kelly, Phil Dean, Dave and Jan McNeal, Jorge Silva, Jim Piatieski, Rick Fried, Bill Carbone, Greg Talamini, Hiem Trang, John Leaman, Bill Douwes, Trunnell Electric, Jim Benton, Rick Sommers, and Ingrid Berkebile.** We apologize if you donated something but are not listed here, but please know that we sincerely appreciated your donation! There are just too many of you to thank for your wonderful bids, but, again, we really appreciated your generosity!!

St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance

Okay... it's here! Our St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance will be on **Saturday, March 18, 2000.** It starts at 6:00 PM and runs until 10:00 PM. It will include dinner and dancing. Dinner will feature corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, carrots, dessert, and coffee, tea, or sodas. Music will be supplied by Disc Jockey Unlimited, which has all sorts of music. The price for tickets purchased in advance are: \$25.00 per couple or \$13.00 stag. You can buy tickets at the door for \$30.00 per couple or \$15.00 stag. You can get tickets the Shotgun Range House or by calling (301) 428-0216 or (301) 428-0196. Last years party was a great success, so come on out and enjoy the evening!

Membership Renewal

This will be the last newsletter for those folks who have not renewed their membership for 2000. If you don't get a newsletter next month, you'll know you're no longer on our rolls!

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!!

Editor's Column

A few months ago, one of my lady co-workers asked me to take her to the Pistol Range and show her how to use her .22 S&W revolver. She bought it in the mid-1970s, fired it once, and never had the opportunity to shoot it again. So, we went to the range, she shot up two boxes of .22s, and she had a great time. Like most newbies, she saved her target and posted it in her office.

I had fun because I got to show off how smart I am about shooting. Of course, I waxed eloquent about the Weaver Stance, the Isosceles Stance, trigger pull, breathe control, etc. I even said some really profound things like my military instructors used to say. I repeated their statement that "What you do in training is what you'll do in real life." I remember them making that particular statement quite often.

Then they'd give an example that I found hard to believe. They'd say, "Don't pick up your brass until the end of the session. There have been police shootouts where a cop was killed when he tried to pick up his brass in the middle of the shootout. He had been trained to pick up his brass after a string of fire and that habit got him killed." Another of their favorite stories was "Don't holster your weapon until your adversary goes down. Too many cops shoot two rounds and automatically re-holster their weapon, because that's what they did in training. Some of them have been shot when their adversary didn't go down after two shots."

I always suspected those stories weren't true. Who would stop to pick up brass in the middle of a gunfight? I've always known that the habits we develop on the firing range become automatic but I figured when the chips were down, the shooter could distinguish between which habits were appropriate on the firing line and which ones should be set aside in a critical moment.

Then I read the following story by an infantryman who fought in the 1st Infantry Division in World War II. His squad was assigned the mission of taking the village of Soven, Germany, on March 21, 1945. They went into the village and were mistakenly attacked by US warplanes. After displaying a yellow panel indicating they were Americans, the aircraft flew off. His story continues at that point:

"When the planes were gone, we picked up where we'd left off, working our way through the village, clearing and rushing, clearing and rushing. As we neared the road that was our primary objective, I heard the rumble of nearby tanks. Knowing d--n well that there were no armored units with us, I reflected that this was turning into one b----h of a day. We concealed ourselves and waited. The rumble grew louder, and a moment later the evil snout of a German tank appeared on the road. In the open turret the tank commander stood erect, a bold and careless figure. That was a good sign: obviously the Jerries didn't know that a handful of ... *Amerikanische* were within spittin' distance. The situation was one of rare perfection -- the tank only fifty yards away, traveling broadside to us, and moving slowly. Even in basic training you never got such a perfect bazooka shot.

A few yards to my rear the bazooka man crouched behind a shed. In a loud whisper I told him to hold his fire until the tank was directly in front of us, and then I turned my eyes again to the road, watching tensely as the tank approached the designated spot. Almost there ... now! Fire now! But nothing happened; the tank rolled along and nothing happened; it drew ever nearer the safety of the next group of houses and nothing happened. Forgetting caution, I called back to the bazooka man and ordered him to fire, and again nothing happened, the tank passing beyond the shoulder of the next house and then gone. It had hardly disappeared when the nose of another tank appeared, following the first. Again I commanded and begged and pleaded; my voice broke and I think I was crying, and still he didn't fire. And the second tank passed unhurt.

When it was gone, I ran back to find out what had gone wrong with the bazooka, what had happened to the man carrying it. The poor b-----d told me that he hadn't been *able* to fire because his assistant wasn't there to pull the safety pin from the rocket! That's what he'd learned in basic training – that the assistant pulls the safety pin – and so (his tone said) if his assistant didn't happen to be around, how could he be expected to fire the

weapon? I told him to pull the G-----n pin himself.....”

Taken from *Roll Me Over: An Infantryman's World War II* by Raymond Gantter, Ivy Books, New York, 1997, pp. 235-236.

I now take my range practice time more seriously. I don't shoot for military purposes anymore but I do shoot the

Seneca Valley matches. I try to make sure my practice is done just like the match is done. For example, I try to ensure my safety is engaged when it should be, my muzzle doesn't rise above the hillside, my magazine is out when it should be, the flag is in the action when it is empty, etc. I now realize that what I do on the range is what I will do in real life. Just like those old Sergeants said!