



NEWSLETTER

Izaak Walton League Of America
Wildlife Achievement Club Chapter
January - February 2001 Issue



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Coming Attractions

Date	Event	Time
1/22	Adult Airgun	6:30 pm
1/26	Membership Mtg. Wild Game Dinner, & Auction	6:30 pm
1/28	All Ranges Maint.	10:00 am
1/28	Christmas Tree Maint.	10:00 am
1/28	Range Orientation	10:00 am
1/28	Super Bowl Party	1:00 pm
1/29	Adult Airgun	6:30 pm
2/3	Woodcutter Day	10:00 am
2/5	Adult Airgun	6:30 pm
2/6	Consrvtn/SOS Cmte. Mtg.	7:30 pm
2/7	Board of Directors Mtg.	7:30 pm
2/12	Adult Airgun	6:30 pm
2/19	Adult Airgun	6:30 pm
2/25	All Ranges Maint	10:00 am
2/25	Christmas Tree Maint.	10:00 am
2/25	Range Orientation	10:00 am
2/26	Adult Airgun	6:30 pm
2/28	Membership Meeting	6:30 pm

Wild Game Dinner and Auction

Our annual **Wild Game Dinner and Auction** is on **January 26, 2001**. We could use any wild game you are willing to share with us. If you would like to donate some meat, please contact **Jorge Silva** at (301) 258-0377. We also auction off donated items that night. This is a major fund raiser for our club. So far, we have received several interesting items to be auctioned off. They include an original WAC shotgun, women's watches, a pool table, exercise equipment, and other goodies. But we would appreciate any other items you are willing to donate. Please call **Billy Kelly**, at (301) 253-5009, to donate items.

Warning! Warning! Due to the popularity of the Wild Game Dinner, we must limit the number of diners to 140. **Anyone not among the first 140 to pay for the meal are welcome to attend the membership meeting and auction, but they will not be able to partake of the wild game feast.**

General Membership Meetings

The January membership meeting will be on **Friday, January 26, 2001**. This meeting is also our Wild Game Dinner and Auction. Dinner will be \$15.00 but only 140 people can be served. Plan to arrive early for dinner and to stay late bidding on our donated items!! An arrival time of 6:30 PM should ensure you will have an opportunity to buy a dinner ticket and inspect the items available during the auction.

The February membership meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 28**. Our menu will feature chili. 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 **Friday, January 26, 2001**.

Michael Aaby, Olney, MD
Sponsor: Wanda Dawson

Dan Boyd, Gaithersburg, MD
Sponsor: Jeff Taylor

F. Scott Cicora, Frederick, MD
Sponsor: Joe Gick

Michael Fleisher, Potomac, MD
Sponsor: Steve Schneider

Michael Glaze, Damascus, MD
Sponsor: Board of Directors

Gerard Kyle, Garrett Park, MD
Sponsor: Ray Logan

Michael Norris, Rockville, MD
Sponsor: Bob Schneider

William Phillips, Jr., Washington, DC
Sponsor: Board of Directors

Scott Pickar, Silver Spring, MD
Sponsor: Mike Heffernan

Tri Rust, Laurel, MD
Sponsor: Chuck Crooks

Andrei Sevostianov, Bethesda, MD
Sponsor: Kevin Manning

Brian Sweeney, Rockville, MD
Sponsor: Kevin Manning

February Shotgun Range Officer Schedule

Day	Date	Names
Sat.	2/3	Nancy Humphries Weldon Humphries Richard Zabell
Sun.	2/4	Paul Bluteau Cindy Whitehurst
Sat.	2/10	Lewis Allnutt Bill Rahn Charlie Weaver
Sun.	2/11	Kevin Manning Richard Noah
Sat.	2/17	Peter Currall Dave Gold
Sun.	2/18	Burt Mullineaux Rob Taylor Craig Leopard
Sat.	2/24	The Fichter "Gang"
Sun.	2/25	Chris Smarte Susan Smarte

Skeet and Trap Report

Several new policies took effect on January 1, 2001 which will affect use of the shotgun ranges. The new rules are:

- Use of the shotgun ranges is limited to WAC members and their guests. Members must have the guest sign the log book in the space opposite the member's name. The member must remain with the guest while shooting. Members of other IWLA chapters are welcome to use our range, but they may not bring a guest.
- The last Sunday of each month continues to be a range maintenance day. On this day, all ranges, including shotgun ranges, will remain closed until 1:00 PM.
- All ranges, including shotgun ranges, will be closed on Easter Sunday and Christmas Day.

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 January 2001, starting time is 10:00 AM daily and ending time is 5:00 PM, unless some activity has preempted the range. Because sunset changes slightly each day, the sign is periodically updated. Please help us to be a good neighbor by firing no shots before the posted starting time and none after the posted ending time.

JANUARY RANGE MAINTENANCE: Range and site maintenance will be done from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM on **Sunday, January 28**. Please report to the green equipment shed for an assignment.

CART STILL MISSING: The cart we provide for moving equipment from the rifle range parking lot to the shooting area has still not shown up. Please contact Ray Shaver with any information concerning its whereabouts.

SECURITY GATE: The security gate is due to be installed during the week of January 8. If all goes as planned, we should be able to provide detailed instructions for its operation in the February/March newsletter.

However, it is possible to provide some basic information about our intentions for the gate at this time. Specifically:

- Rifle/pistol range users must continue to register the entry and exit of themselves and their guests on the range sign-in register, and to display a current range-approved membership card on their person while at the ranges.
- The access control system will be programmed to permit entry thirty minutes before the posted starting time.
- Only one proximity card will be issued to each WAC member for their personal use and for use by range-approved family members. Cards must not be loaned to other persons.
- Cards will be disabled to prevent entry in case of the non-payment of dues or the deliberate violation of range rules.
- Lost cards will be replaced for a fee of \$10.
- In case of a power loss and for some heavily attended events, the gate will be programmed to stay open.
- Telephone numbers for several WAC officials will be posted at the range sign-in register as points of contact for suspected card or gate system failures.

2001 MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Does your 2001 membership card contain the notation "RANGE 01" in large text at its top center? If not, our records do not include any indication that you successfully completed our range orientation course, and you are not permitted to use the rifle and pistol ranges on your own. If you think we made an error, consider yourself range-approved, but do not have the "RANGE 01" notation on your membership card, please contact Ray Shaver (see above) or **Joe Gick**, at (301) 774-9399, to resolve the problem.

PROXIMITY CARDS: Did you find your proximity card for the security gate in the envelope which contained your 2001 membership card? If not, there is a good chance that you forgot to include the extra \$10 for the proximity card in your 2001 membership renewal payment. Before assuming that we erroneously failed to include your card, take a look at your check register. The combined membership fee and proximity card payment for regular members should have been \$105. If you failed to include the extra \$10, send a note and a check for that amount to Wildlife Achievement Chapter, IWLA, c/o Joe

Gick, 16601 Cavalry Drive, Rockville, MD 20853. If the proximity card is missing and you paid the correct amount, contact Joe Gick or Ray Shaver to arrange a replacement for the missing card.

OBSERVED AT RANGE: While visiting the rifle and pistol ranges on December 27, 2000, shot-up aluminum cans were found at the 50 yard line on the pistol range. At the leftmost 100-yard position on the rifle range, somebody had shot a large can without top and bottom, which was used as a fire starter by our Boy Scout troop, and a 1/4" steel plate. Shooting such targets is a violation of the range rules and shooting steel plates with a high-power rifle is dangerous. Maybe the shooting was done on an empty range, and the shooter considered the act to be a simple victimless violation. But one simple violation tends to lead to others and eventually to an accident which could easily result in the loss of our ranges. We cannot allow our range to be put at risk by members who fail to abide by the rules they pledged to obey and enforce when they completed the WAC range orientation class. Please help us to identify these scofflaws and get them off our ranges.

THANKS to the following Ikes who came out on a very cold December 31 to work on the maintenance of Chapter ranges and facilities:
Scooter Barnes, Rich Buckingham, Phil Dean, Red Gambrell, Geoff Hornseth, Bill Kelly, Karl Krchma, John Leaman, Paul Ligor, Alan Pressman, Bill Rush, Ray Shaver, and Dick Smith.

Rathskeller Lounge Open

The new member's lounge is now open. Sofas and chairs have been placed and the cable TV has been moved to the lounge area. As soon as the key lock is installed in both the club house door and at the rifle and pistol ranges access road, any card carrying member will have free access to the Rathskeller, the Members Lounge, the beverage

machines and the rest rooms. Stop by! Play a game of pool, ping pong, or cards or just relax in the lounge with other members.

Our thanks to the following folks for donations of furniture, accessories, and work efforts: **Jose Rodriguez, Jim Piatetski, Scott Behrman, and Gayle Barnes.**

Super Bowl BBQ and NFL Play-offs "Dry Run"

Don't miss out! Anyone purchasing a \$3.00 ticket will be admitted to both the NFL Conference Championships cookout on **Sunday, January 14** and the Super Bowl game on **Sunday, January 28, 2001**. Appropriate beverages will be available. **"Skooter" Barnes and John Walter** will be chefs for these events. All games can be seen on our large screen TV in the Rathskeller lounge.

The NFL Conference Championship games playoffs cookout will consist of BBQ sandwiches, Louisiana chile, and other goodies. Game 1 starts at 12:30 PM and Game 2 at 4:00 PM.

The Super Bowl Sunday menu will include BBQ, Louisiana Beer Chicken, Smoked Pheasant, and other dishes. Show time: 4:00 P.M. or earlier. Game time: 6:00 PM. Chow time: Start at 5:00 PM and will be served until all the food is all gone.

Those attending the Super Bowl party are requested to bring their favorite covered dish recipe suitable for serving 6-8 people. Those not having a favorite recipe are requested to bring chips, dips, or other goodie you want to contribute.

Cut-off date for the purchase of Super Bowl BBQ tickets is **January 14, 2001**. See any Board of Director, Committee Chairperson, or come to the Rathskeller on January 14, 2001 to buy tickets.

SOS Opportunity

The Maryland Department of Natural resources is seeking volunteers to assist their annual stream monitoring effort. This year, the stream monitored in Montgomery County is Seneca Creek. Training and certification will take place at the Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge near Greenbelt, MD, on February 24, 2001. If you're interested in supporting this effort, contact Carrie Hamilton, at (301) 482-1986, or Ed Burrows, at (301) 774-9090.

Wood Cutters Needed

We need wood! We have enough wood to last through January, but not enough to last the season. We will have a Woodcutting Day on **Saturday, February 3, 2001**. Please come out and help harvest a supply of wood from the dead trees on our land. It would be helpful if you have a chain saw, truck, or trailers to lend us during the event. Meet at the Equipment Shed at 10:00 AM on February 3, 2001.

Christmas Tree Sales

We made about \$7,100.00 from the sale of Christmas Trees this year! **John Leaman** did a superb job in pruning and caring for the trees and managing the sales events. He also made and donated about 175 wooden toy trucks and cars to the children who attended the sales. John's efforts were the feature story in a front page article (with color photo) in the *Damascus Gazette* and were recognized in the November 2000 issue of the Izaak Walton newsletter *Sustainability Communicator*. Thanks John for a job really well done!!

New Caretaker

We have a new caretaker: **"Skooter" Barnes**. Skooter will be living in the upper level apartment adjoining our Chapter house. He has been our tenant for several years and is also a member of our club. We welcome Skooter to his new job!

Club Calendar

Our 2001 calendar is being distributed with this newsletter. In addition, it can be viewed and printed from our website (see return address label for the web address). The calendar is updated throughout the year to show range closures, events and projects, and other schedule changes. Please check it often. Projects where we need help are listed in green on the website and show the names and telephone numbers of persons responsible for the project.

Editor's Column

The following article was written by WAC member **Mike Miller**. It was published in the *Montgomery County Sentinel* on November 30, 2000. It contains an excellent defense of deer hunting with a

bow. We are including it because it does an excellent job of describing the thoughts of so many of our members. Mike's article said:

"Let me say, at the outset, that I am an avid deer hunter. The thoughts which I offer are unquestionably colored by my avocation and by my experiences in the field. If the thought of hunting is repulsive to you, please move on to another article.

There are simply too many deer in Montgomery County. Their numbers far exceed the normal carrying capacity of the woodlots in which they are found. Continued development further squeezes their living space. As a result, as "Blaze" Jarvis pointed out, there were nearly 2000 car-deer collisions reported in the county last year, as there were in each of the last several years.

Assuming a very conservative \$2000 damage per collision, that is at least \$4,000,000 in property damage in just the reported accidents each year. Even if you don't have the misfortune to hit a deer, you pay increased insurance premiums as a result. Worse, each accident has put someone's life and limb in jeopardy. In addition, the deer are eating the browse in the woodlots to an extent that deprives other wildlife, birds, rabbits and foxes, of food and shelter. They are also destroying landscaping plants throughout the suburbs and potentially spreading lyme disease.

To deal with this problem, I suggest that bow hunting be encouraged in the close-in wooded areas. Hunters could be required to attend safety classes and to demonstrate their proficiency with bow and arrow. In Maine, the Bowhunters and Landowners Information Program (BLIP) provides bowhunters who have taken the appropriate courses and shown their skill to control deer populations to in urban areas. Similar programs exist in Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Here in Montgomery County, shotgun hunts are conducted in several parks. I recently participated in the mandatory qualification shoot at the Izaak Walton League range in Damascus. There, each hunter had to show that he could hit a 9 inch plate (roughly the area of a lethal hit) at 40

yards with three shots out of five. The qualification shoot was skillfully and safely managed and weeded out those who could not be counted on to efficiently kill a deer with a shotgun. A similar test would be appropriate for any bowhunter who has not killed a deer or other large game animal with bow and I believe that the IWL, of which I am a member, or some similar group, would be willing to oversee such a qualification shoot.

Unlike the two-day deer control hunts at Great Seneca and Little Bennett Parks, bowhunting should be encouraged throughout the fall and winter. Hunters should be required to take only antlerless deer and urged to take as many as possible. On public lands, these hunts could be limited to certain days of the week and to the dawn and twilight hours when deer are most active and fewer nonhunters are in the woods. Bowhunting poses no risk to humans and can be safely practiced close to human habitation. Bowhunters do not shoot at targets

they cannot clearly identify. An arrow shot from an elevated stand (another requirement) toward the ground is not going to go astray and hit an unexpecting passerby. Not only will a sustained program of bowhunting reduce the herds to more manageable levels, but deer which are hunted become more wary of encountering humans. They are more likely to stay in the woods and less likely to cross roads to come into our yards.

There is no viable alternative. To fence the wooded areas with the necessary 12 foot fences would make the county look like a stalag. Contraception is not an option on deer in unenclosed areas. Deer whistles and reflectors are marginally useful at best. Capture and transplantation is grossly expensive and kills at least half of the deer captured. Moreover, since most of the east coast is under the same burden of burgeoning deer herds, no one wants our deer if we could capture them.

Some believe bowhunting to be particularly cruel. I think they are wrong. I have taken (read killed) a number of deer with bow and arrow. In my experience, a well-hit deer will not run more than 40 or 50 yards and will be dead in minutes. A well-placed arrow is as lethal as a bullet. What is cruel is for deer to suffer lingering deaths from starvation, disease or accidental encounter with an automobile.

A deer hit by a car is an expensive and dangerous waste. A deer taken by a hunter is meat on the table for his or her family or friends. It may even serve the needs of the poor. A program run by Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry takes donated deer and distributes the meat to those in need. Their website, listing butchers throughout the state to whom deer may be taken for donation, can be found at www.fhfh.org. I urge the county and the state to consider expanded bowhunting to deal with the problem of too many deer."