



NEWSLETTER

Izaak Walton League Of America
Wildlife Achievement Club Chapter
March - April 2001 Issue



President
Chuck Crooks
(301) 831-9666

First Vice President
Ed Burrows
(301) 774-9090

Second Vice President
Jim Piatieski
(301) 253-4486

Third Vice President
Paul Bluteau
(301)-916-8923

Coming Attractions

Date	Event	Time
3/18	Military Rifle Shoot	10:00 am
3/19	Adult Airgun	6:30 pm
3/23	R&P Ranges Close At:	1:00 pm
3/24	R&P Ranges Closed Except For:	
3/24	Cowboy Action Shoot	9:00 am
3/25	All Ranges Maint.	10:00 am
3/25	Christmas Tree Maint.	10:00 am
3/25	Range Orientation	10:00 am
3/26	Adult Airgun	6:30 pm
3/28	Membership Mtg	6:30 pm
4/2	Adult Airgun	6:30 pm
4/3	Consrvtn/SOS Cmte. Mtg.	7:30 pm
4/4	Board of Directors Mtg.	7:30 pm
4/7	Pax River Cleanup	8:30 am
4/9	Adult Airgun	6:30 pm
4/14	Adopt-A-Road Cleanup	9:00 am
4/15	RANGES CLOSED - EASTER	
4/16	Adult Airgun	6:30 pm
4/21	Airgun Field Trgt. Mch.	7:30 am
4/21	Seneca Valley Match	9:30 am
4/23	Adult Airgun	6:30 pm
4/25	Membership Mtg	6:30 pm
4/27	R&P Ranges Close At:	1:00 pm
4/28	R&P Ranges Closed Except For:	
4/28	Cowboy Action Shoot	9:00 am
4/29	All Ranges Maint.	10:00 am
4/29	Christmas Tree Maint.	10:00 am
4/29	Range Orientation	10:00 am
4/30	Adult Airgun	6:30 pm

Adopt-A-Road

Our quarterly cleanup of Mullinix Mill Road is scheduled for **Saturday, April 14, 2001**. We need volunteers to help us cleanup the road between Route 108 and the Patuxent River Bridge. If you can spare a few hours, we'd love to see you there. We meet at the Equipment Shed at 9:00 AM.

Last Newsletter

If you did not renew your membership, this will be your last newsletter. If you look for one next month, and it doesn't arrive, you'll know something is amiss!

General Membership Meetings

The March membership meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 28, 2001**. We are having corned beef and cabbage this month! As usual, social hour begins at 6:30 PM and dinner starts around 7:30 PM. The cost for dinner is \$8.00.

The April membership meeting will be on **Wednesday, April 25, 2001**. Our dinner will feature fish and chips! Cost is \$8.00. Social hour begins at 6:30 PM and dinner starts around 7:30 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 28, 2001**.

Derrick Aquino, Frederick, MD
Sponsor: Larry Lippman

Dale Bennett, Woodbine, MD
Sponsor: Jim Gum

Richard Blatchford, Rockville, MD
Sponsor: Mike Heffernan

Denny A. Brown, Laytonsville, MD
Sponsor: Geoff Hornseth

Denny F. Brown, Laytonsville, MD
Sponsor: Geoff Hornseth

Michelle Chestnut, Rockville, MD
Sponsor: Jim Piatieski

David Goldberg, Laytonsville, MD
Sponsor: Kirk James

Peter Grahm, Germantown, MD
Sponsor: Tom Gaylord

Eric Holtje, Clarksburg, MD
Sponsor: Bill Schneider

Joshua Winchell, Washington, DC
Sponsor: John Leaman

April Shotgun Range Officer Schedule

Day	Date	Names
Sat.	4/7	Nancy Humphries Weldon Humphries Richard Zabell
Sun.	4/8	Paul Bluteau Cindy Whitehurst
Sat.	4/14	Lewis Allnutt Bill Rahn Charlie Weaver
Sun.	4/15	Kevin Manning Richard Noah
Sat.	4/21	Peter Currall Dave Gold
Sun.	4/22	Burt Mullineaux Rob Taylor Craig Leopard Chris Leopard
Sat.	4/28	The Fichter "Gang"
Sun.	4/29	Chris Smarte Susan Smarte

Skeet and Trap Report

URGENT: We *really* need Skeet and Trap Range Officers especially on Sundays. If you can help us, please contact **Kevin Manning** at (301) 831-9126, or kcmbblue@aol, or stop by the 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 posted on the box which contains the range sign-in register. For March 2001, starting time is 10:00 AM daily to 6:00 PM, unless some activity has preempted the range. Because sunset changes slightly each day, the sign is periodically updated. Please help us be a good neighbor by firing no shots before the posted starting time and none after the posted ending time.

MARCH RANGE MAINTENANCE: Range and site maintenance will be done from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM on **Sunday, March 25**. Please report to the green equipment shed for an assignment. Ray Shaver will be coordinating maintenance of the rifle and pistol ranges.

SECURITY GATE: The range road barrier gate went into operation on March 1, but two days later it was taken out of service to make needed adjustments. Nevertheless, you will need a keycard to enter the range road in the future. Please start carrying your keycard whenever you visit WAC.

Based on our experience to date, the most common problem is members failing to notice that they are attempting to enter the Rathskeller or range road outside of permitted hours, or when these facilities are purposely closed. If your card doesn't produce the expected results, don't assume that the system is not working. Attempts to circumvent or otherwise interfere with the operation of the access control system or its components will be noticed. Intentionally damaging the access control system is a serious violation of trust.

MILITARY RIFLE SHOOT: Bring your military rifles, of any type or vintage, to show and shoot on **Sunday, March 18**. Our annual military rifle shoot will start around 10:00 AM. We are usually done by 1:00 PM. This event is intended to give our members with a chance to shoot their military rifles and socialize with other members who have a similar interest. There is no cost for participating, nor do you have to own a

military rifle to come out and look. This is a very unstructured event with no competition of any sort involved.

HIGH POWER MATCH: For those interested in a bit of competition, the first of five annual high powered rifle matches sponsored by Seneca Valley Sports Association will be held during April. The first match will be held at 9:30 AM on **Saturday, April 21, 2001**. You can qualify to purchase an M1 rifle through the Civilian Marksmanship Program by participating in these matches. The cost is \$15.00 for WAC members and \$20.00 for non-members.

YEAR 2001 CARDS: As of March 1, shooters must display a year 2001 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 2001 range-approved membership card, contact our Membership Secretary, Joe Gick, at (301) 774-9399 immediately. Please stay off the ranges until you get your new card.

THANKS: To **Bill Jenkins** for overseeing (actually doing) the February rifle/pistol range maintenance, and to **Bill Rahn** for building a number of new wooden bench rests for the rifle range. We all agree the rests are nice; please help ensure that they don't disappear.

Cowboy Shoots

Our Cowboy match season starts on March 23/24, 2001. **The ranges will be closed at 1:00 PM on Friday, March 23** to allow for setting up targets. The actual match will start at 10:00 AM on **Saturday, March 24**. Please remember that all the rifle and pistol ranges will be closed, except to those participating in the Cowboy Shoot. The ranges will be reopened to all members when shooting is completed late Saturday afternoon.

Library Now Open

A new "Give & Take" lending library is now open in the Rathskeller

lounge area. The rules are:

1. "Give a book - Take a book," or
2. "Take a book - Leave a buck."

Please use discretion in leaving books. Fiction and non-fiction books with outdoor, hunting, fishing, historical, shooting, and similar themes are most appropriate. Enjoy it!

Slow Speeds Mean Better Roads

To keep our roads in the good condition they are, please continue to observe the 15 mph speed on the main roads and the 10 mph speed on the range roads. The slow speeds are helping immensely!

Retired? Looking for Work?

Ongoing help is needed by the House and Grounds and Christmas Tree Committees. These two groups need your support. With Spring and Summer upon us, work outdoors will increase. Help is needed with gardening and grounds maintenance and the trees need constant mowing, pruning, and care. We are looking for folks to help on a regular basis. No, not from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, but a few hours a day or two a week when needed. If you've got time and the inclination, this is a great way to make a contribution to our chapter. Contact **Red Gambrell** at (301) 774-7697 for house and grounds, or **John Leaman** for Christmas trees at (301) 972-1572.

Kudos

The following members made significant contributions to our club during the past month. Please accept our sincere thanks!

Richard Mills, again, **John Davis**, and **William Phillips** for regrading the range road and spreading over 120 tons of gravel on our roads.

Bill Rahn for making rifle rests for our youth air rifle club.

Dave Morrison of Asplundh for donating several loads of wood for our use.

Griff Gilbert, of Griff's Place in Olney, for donating a custom pool table light.

Ed Burrows for handcrafting two more cocktail tables for the members lounge in the Rathskeller.

Joe Gick for donating a vacuum cleaner and electric broom sweeper.

Last, but not least, **all members** for slowing down on our roads.

Wood Splitter Day II

We had another great day splitting wood on on March 3. We now can say we have enough wood to last us the rest of the winter. Our thanks go out to **Richard Thornley** for loaning us a wood splitter and the following members for participating in this event:

Bruce and Peter Tarpizian, Glen Cardelino, Troy Agnew, Mark and Color Kuhns; Dana Hooper, Mike Caltabiano, Henry Anderson and Ed Dennis, John and Ian Gorham, Brian Baldwin, Rollin Sparrone, Fred Ambrose, Richard Phelan, Ed Burrows, Jim Piateski, Al Kleuver, Jason Erb, Jay Clark, Bill Matziger; and others who helped but did not sign in. Thank you all for your participation!

Spring Watershed Cleanup

Make plans now to attend our annual Spring Watershed Cleanup. Mark the date of **Saturday, April 7, 2001**, on your calendar.

This is one of our biggest projects each year and we need everyone's help to make it a success. Our Chapter takes the lead in setting up the event and providing much of

the manpower, but we receive a lot of help from other groups. It is important that we show our support to conservation in general, our community more particularly, and the Patuxent River Watershed most specifically, by participating in this project.

We will meet at the green equipment shed at 8:30 AM on April 7. We will have doughnuts available for breakfast and then we will have a short briefing on what to do, make work assignments, and fan out to the work sites. The work sites have managed to stay pretty nice since our last cleanup. If we need things to do, we may plant trees in some areas. After the cleanup, we will return to the Chapter House for lunch.

This event is fun and beneficial to the local environment. It also generates goodwill in the Damascus community. Please try to attend and bring your kids, neighbors, dogs, etc. We'll supply gloves and trash bags. We shouldn't be walking in any streams and there is no need to lift any engine blocks. This is truly a way for the whole family to get out in the springtime, enjoy the river, and do something worthwhile. We hope to see you there!!

Bluebird Trail Update

On March 9, 2001, **Martha and Phil Dean** made their annual "Bluebird Trail Run" (they actually drove in their truck) to clean and check the bluebird nesting boxes on our chapter grounds. Of the 12 nesting boxes in service during the 2000 nesting season, all had evidence of having at least one nest in them. There were 6 bluebird nests, one black-capped chickadee, and the remainder were house sparrows. In several boxes, house sparrow nests had

been built on top of a bluebird nest, probably late in the season. Most of the bluebird nests were in the boxes near the chapter house. Three of the nesting boxes need repair, which will be done in the near future. Three additional nesting boxes were installed - one at the edge of the wildflower meadow beyond the sporting clays range and two on the lawn at the southeast side of the chapter house.

Binoculars Found

An honest member turned in a pair of binoculars that were left on the ranges in January. If you left a pair of binoculars behind please contact **Chuck Crooks** at (301) 831-9666 to identify them and have them returned.

From the President

As the weather finally turns toward spring, please check our calendar for a project that strikes your interest. We are certain to have something that you and your family can assist you chapter with. The club's calendar, on the web site, is constantly being updated and includes contact information for all work projects and activities. Membership meetings are a great way to mingle with other chapter members and find out first hand what is happening with our chapter. If you can get there a little early, **Jorge Silva** can always use a few extra hands in the kitchen. Social hour starts at 6:30 PM and the dinner starts at 7:30 PM.