



NEWSLETTER



Izaak Walton League Of America Wildlife Achievement Club Chapter DECEMBER 2001 - JANUARY 2002

President

Ed Burrows
(301) 774-9090

First Vice President

Jim Piatetski
(301) 601-2954

Second Vice President

Bob Cumberland
(301) 253-1348

Third Vice President

Robert Taylor
(301) 963-1700

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL

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, December 19, 2001.**

Jeffery C. Wible, Gaithersburg, Md.
Sponsor: Bob Mabie

David A. Reesman, Monrovia, Md.
Sponsor: Vince Iacono

Rolando Gonzales, Mt. Airy, Md.
Sponsor: Barry Fuller

Seth Turner, Montgomery Village, Md.
Sponsor: Al Turner

Scott Gavel, Damascus, Md.
Sponsor: Bob Mabie

Dave Kossuth, Crofton, Md.
Sponsor: Ray Logan

Michael Kalmar, Frederick, Md.
Sponsor: Bob Inness

Gary Noubarian, Mont. Village, Md.
Sponsor: Jack Chomko

Joel Shapiro, Elkridge, Md.
Sponsor: Chuck Crooks

Raymond Edwards, Silver Spring, Md.
Sponsor: G. Kyle

Tony Swindler, Gaithersburg, Md.
Sponsor: Bill Jenkins

Jerry Castellucci, Mt. Airy, Md.
Sponsor: Denny Brown

Joe Rosenwald, Derwood, Md.
Sponsor: Bob Mabie

John Ward, Silver Spring, Md.
Sponsor: Brian Baldwin

Louis Ferguson, Silver Spring, Md.
Sponsor: Barry Ephraim

Dave Clark, Gaithersburg, Md.
Sponsor: Phillip Keller

Coming Attractions

December

Sat 15 Christmas Tree Sales 10:00A-4:00P
Sat 15 Junior Precision Rifle 9:30A-12:00P
Sun 16 Christmas Tree Sales 10:00A-4:00P
Mon 17 Adult Airgun 6:30P-9:00 P
Tue 18 Junior Airgun 6:00P-9:00P
Wed 19 **MEMBERSHIP MEETING
AND HOLIDAY PARTY**
Thu 20 Junior Aigun 6:00P-9:00P
Sat 22 **"Christmas Bowler" 9:00A-
2:00P**
Bowling Pin Fun Shoot
Tues 25 **ALL RANGES CLOSED**
Sun 30 Club and Range Orientation 10:00A
Sun 30 Chapter Maintenance Day 10:00A
Sign-in at Maintenance Shed with
Coordinator Tom Riley.

January 2002

Tue 1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
Wed 2 Board of Directors Meeting 7:30P

IMPORTANT! Annual Dues

Please remember that your current membership expires on December 31, 2001. As of early December, less than 50% have renewed their membership in our chapter for 2002. It is very expensive and time consuming (plus a waste of YOUR money) to have to send out a second billing. If your payment is not received by February 1, 2002 all of your membership privileges (use of range, including skeet and trap, purchase of supplies, etc. will be suspended until payment is received. Also, your Gate keycard will be taken out of the system. There will be an additional fee of \$5.00 in addition to your dues to have it reactivated. Don't let this happen. Send you check in before your membership expires. If you have any questions or concerns contact Joe Gick at 301-774-9399 or gick@erols.com.

Presidents Corner

As of the first weekend in December, Christmas tree sales were off to a good start, in spite of the shirt sleeve weather! During a lull in the sales action I mentioned to John Leaman, our Chaplin/Christmas tree Chairperson/Santa, that, "your trees look better than ever this year." He was quick to correct me. "They're not my trees. These are OUR trees." He went on to point out that a lot of folks had worked very hard all year to get OUR trees looking their best. As usual John was right on the mark.

Each and every one of us has a stake in this chapter. You can talk about "my Christmas trees," "my rifle range," "my skeet and trap field," "my conservation farm," and be 100% accurate! So, if you haven't been thinking in those terms I would like to pass this thought on from John: "Membership means ownership."

Ownership, of course, implies some responsibility. If we all treat the chapter as our own we'll keep the ranges clean, make sure our misfires are in the proper containers, avoid shooting up yard markers, come out to help on chapter maintenance days, and most of all be proud of and enjoy this wonderful facility that we share. You may also want to attend our meetings, participate more in our activities and meet more of your fellow members. You never know what might happen at the WAC. Heck, two of our members who met at the chapter were married this past August!

If you have friends and family coming to town for the holidays be sure to bring them out to the chapter and show YOUR place off.

Have a great holiday season and a wonderful New Year, and may 2002 be your best year yet!

- Ed Burrows

WAC MAILING LIST

Our chapter has a mass e-mail list that we use to keep members informed about upcoming events, range closures, help requests and changes in the schedule. The list is strictly on a volunteer basis. All recipients are sent on a "blind copy" so only your address is shown on the mail. If you have signed up previously and have not been getting e-mails, it is due to one of several reasons. Your original address was incorrect or unreadable, you have changed addresses, we keep getting error messages from your server or your mailbox was full on two or more occasions. Once an address fails, it is removed from the list. If you would like to be added or removed from the list, e-mail IZAAKWaltonWAC@aol.com and request to be added or removed from the list. Many members have elected to view their Newsletter from the web site instead of getting the paper copy in the mail. This saves the chapter money and resources. The on line version is usually available a week or so before the paper copy arrives at your home. If you would like to stop your paper copy and see the same copy on the Internet please let us know at IZAAKWaltonWAC@aol.com. Indicate that you wish to stop the paper copy. If you are on the mass e-mail list, you will be notified by that the latest version is available on our web site.

COWBOY SHOOT

The Cowboy Action Shoots have finished for 2001. Our fourth year has been our best ever. To date, no other single club function has generated the level of net income that the cowboy shoots have. Funds have helped with the general welfare of the Chapter as well as our scholarship fund. We have received national recognition and good local press for the Chapter because of the Cowboy Program. Seventy Chapter like's have participated and hopefully they have had the Cowboy Fantasy fulfilled. The schedule for next year will be the same as the last four years. Cowboy matches on the fourth Saturday of the month from March thru November. The SASS State Match will be hosted by our Chapter in August.

All Wildlife Achievement Chapter members that have participated in the shoots will receive an application for Thunder Valley Days 2002 in the mail in December. This year the limit is 150 shooters. It is expected to fill quickly so take advantage of the early privileged mailing.

TED HIERS HONORED

At the Board of Directors meeting on December 5, long time member of our WAC, Ted Hiers, was awarded a life membership for his loyalty, dedication and many contributions to our Chapter, and especially for the monthly range safety and orientation course he has conducted for many years.

**GOD BLESS
AMERICA**

SKEET AND TRAP Report

Thanks!

Thanks to Jeff Schneider and David Price for joining our cadre of Skeet and Trap Range Officers. Their participation is most welcome.

Range Office Schedule

December

Saturday 12/1 Vivian & Robert McLeod
Richard Zabell

Sunday 12/2 Paul Bluteau, Jeff Schneider

Saturday 12/8 Lew Allnutt, Charles Weaver
Bill Rahn

Sunday 12/9 Tony Evans, Kevin Manning,
Rick Noah

Saturday 12/15 Robert Taylor, Craig Leopard

Sunday 12/16 Peter Currall, Dave Gold,
Ira Wein

Saturday 12/22 The Fichter Gang

Sunday 12/23 Burt Mullineaux, Shep
Burton, Frank Saenz

Saturday 12/29 Need Volunteers!

Sunday 12/30 Chris & Suzan Smarte,
Frank Saenz

January

Saturday 1/5 Vivian & Robert McLeod
Richard Zabell

Sunday 1/6 Paul Bluteau, Jeff Schneider

Saturday 1/12 Charles Weaver, Lew Allnutt
Bill Rahn

Sunday 1/13 Tony Evans, Rick Noah,
Kevin Manning

Saturday 1/19 Robert Taylor, Craig Leopard

Sunday 1/20 Peter Currall, Dave Gold
Ira Wein

Saturday 1/26 The Fichter Gang!

Sunday 1/27 Burt Mullineaux,
Shep Burton, Frank Saenz

HELP WANTED

PARTICIPATE

in YOUR WAC Activities.

LAST CHANCE !

John Leaman and his merry volunteer tree sellers will be selling our prime Christmas trees on weekends through December 23. A fine selection of Spruce, Douglas Fir, and Scotch Pines are available. Cost is \$20.00 regardless of size or type tree. Cut your own, dig up your own, or have it cut down for you.

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 December 2001, starting time is 10 AM daily and ending time is 4:30 PM, unless some activity has preempted the range. However, because sunset comes a little earlier each day this time of year, ending time may change before the month ends. Please help us to be a good neighbor by firing no shots before the posted starting time and none after the posted ending time.

NRA INSTRUCTOR TRAINING: Courses to train and certify NRA pistol and personal protection course instructors are being held at the Wildlife Achievement Chapter on December 8, 9, 15, 16 and 22. Although these are primarily classroom-based activities, it is possible that the participants (all of whom are WAC members) may use the pistol ranges for some exercises. The ranges have not been reserved for their use. We trust that pistol range users will do their best to accommodate the class members if they should show up on the range.

BOWLING PIN FUN SHOOT: The November 10 shoot drew a nice crowd of 27 shooters, six of whom were members of a junior team hosted by Larry Collins. The junior shooters (Charles R. Cassell, Jessica Latos, Megan Diane Collins, Michael Wade, Brett Daugherty and Chad Collins) acquitted themselves well in the competition, achieving an overall average score of 5.5 out of 12 compared to 4.7 for the twenty one adult shooters.

If you haven't yet attended one of the monthly bowling pin shoots, please come out to watch or give it a try. Upcoming shoots are planned for January 19, February 23, and March 30, 2002; all from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Please do not go

directly to the range. Bowling pin shooters will meet at the chapter house for registration. For more information, contact Jesse Lim via e-mail (jlim@phillips.com) or telephone (301-540-0860), 7 PM to 11 PM daily. There will be a \$4.00 registration fee to help defray the costs. Special thanks to Rick Moorehead for his continued enthusiastic support and donations to this activity.

INTOLERANCE ENCOURAGED: The new forty and fifty yard markers on the covered pistol range didn't last a month. By November 24, they were completely destroyed, possibly by accident, but the level of destruction implies it was purposeful. Perhaps the vandal was alone on the range, but there is a good chance that another member was present and either didn't notice, or chose not to get involved. We know that nobody likes a confrontation, but failure to act when you observe behavior that may result in personal injury or property damage is equivalent to supporting such activity. The property being damaged belongs to us all. Please don't tolerate careless shooting or vandalism on our ranges.

SAFETY REMINDER: A safety infraction observed frequently on the rifle range is that of using a target frame which is not directly in front of the shooting position. This usually involves the 25-yard target frames, and unfortunately, is most dangerous with those frames. The reason is that a diagonal shot can result in bullets leaving the range. Please ensure that the target being fired upon is directly in front of your shooting position, and has an earth bank backstop directly behind it. If the target frame which you want to use is in front of a bench being used by another shooter, please ask whether you can switch benches. During the November range maintenance, we installed a fourth rifle range target frame at 25 yards to help meet the needs of our shooters. Please use it safely.

WARNING: Fully automatic firearms and any firearms modified to make them fire multiple shots from one trigger pull are prohibited from the WAC ranges. If you want to continue using our ranges, don't even bring such firearms to the range.

RANGE ROAD UPDATE: Contrary to last month's report, we will not be rushing to put in a

concrete pad in the area of the range road being damaged by the spinning tires on exiting vehicles. Instead, we are experimenting with an approach in which the damaged areas are repaired by burying concrete blocks with their holes up and filling in around them with the original earth and crushed stone surface. It will take at least a month to judge the effectiveness of this approach. Regardless of road changes, you can help reduce the damage by backing down the hill a little after the gate opens and accelerating slowly to avoid spinning your wheels. You don't need to be in a hurry after triggering the gate; it will stay open until you pass through.

DECEMBER SITE MAINTENANCE: Monthly maintenance of WAC ranges, Christmas trees, house and grounds will be done from 10 AM until 1 PM on Sunday, December 30. Please report to the maintenance coordinator, Tom Riley, at the green equipment shed for an assignment. There is a lot of work that needs to be done before Winter sets in.

THANKS to those who participated in site maintenance projects on Sunday November 25. Workers included Ikes Bill Wright, Larry Porter, Barry Ephraim, Steve Silverman, Wayne McNinch, Michelle Chesnut, Jim Piatieski, Dana Hooper, Mike Aaby, Tom Lalla, Eric Holtje, Tim Berlett, Rob Taylor, Rudy Werner, Colin Stanhope, Steven Stanhope, Ray Shaver, John Leaman, Tom Riley, and guest Jim Struble.

THANKS also to the very capable and enthusiastic volunteers who turn out annually to conduct qualification shoots for prospective deer hunters. Those working the November 11 event, where we served 159 shooters, were Rob Van Tassell, Dennis Price (guest), Bill McGiffin, Bruce Roth, Terry Springer, Tom Mills, Bill Gazdik, Paul Bluteau, Jim Fort, John Randall, Jose Tassara, John Walter, Steve Lefebvre, Mac McCollum, Ray Halperin, Ray Shaver, Bill Jenkins, Bob Mahie, Bob Inness, Sandy Bernstein, and Steve Peck. Hope to see you all next year!

YOUTH AIR RIFLE

The inaugural Maryland Division, Izaak Walton League of America, Inc. Three-Position Air Rifle Championship Match was held on Saturday, November 3, 2001 at our Chapter House with 17 competitors, representing three Chapters, competing in the sporter and precision categories. Our WAC Air Rifle Club won the team gold medals in sporter class with a team score of 1673. The Gold Medal

winning team consisted of Kate Duncan (488), Andy Carr (429), Aleem Sheikh (392) and Chad Collins (364). Kate Duncan won a second Gold Medal as overall sporter class winner.

The overall precision class winner was Kristina Fehlings representing Northern Virginia with a score of 572 while Brian Watson representing WAC was the Maryland precision Gold Medal winner with a score of 564.

The Fall 2001 Gaithersburg HS JNROTC vs. Damascus Air Rifle Club match was held on Saturday, November 10, 2001 at our facility. Eighteen competitors competed in a renewal of a long standing competition for temporary possession of a traveling trophy. Each club provided two teams of four shooters each.

In an extremely close competition, the Damascus "RED" team, consisting of Daniel Pearce, Megan Bobrow, Kate Duncan, and Kevin Gracey with a score of 916/1200 defeated the Gaithersburg "BLUE" team by a mere 4 points. Following the match, the Gaithersburg team presented the trophy to representatives of the winning WAC team, who will retain it (at least) until a Spring competition to be held at Gaithersburg high school.

Notes:

"Last night I attended the retirement dinner for Lieutenant Ralph Parker of the Department of Natural Resources Police. Officer Parker has been involved in the WAC Hunter Safety Program for a number of his 30 years DNR service. In his speech he was very complimentary of the WAC chapter of the IWLIA, and he singled out and thanked me for our participation in the Hunter Safety Program. The retired Lieutenant Colonel who ran the program for years also had kind words for our club in his speech."

- Mac McCollum

FREE TREES. If any WAC member has a church or non-profit organization that can use a large tree for their lobby, the WAC will donate it to the organization free of charge provided they arrange for delivery of the tree.

For additional information, contact John Leaman at 301-872-1572.

CORRECTION to WILD GAME DINNER in January. To amplify the information contained in last month's newsletter:

Although only 120 dinner tickets will be sold for the dinner itself, the silent auction will be open to everyone. Dinner tickets will be sold at the December holiday party on December 19. Purchase your tickets early for the wild game dinner. The silent auction will begin immediately after the wildgame dinner concludes ... about 8:00 p.m. Many especially fine items have been collected for the auction.