



NEWSLETTER

Izaak Walton League of America Wildlife Achievement Chapter January 2004

President

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Wildlife Achievement Chapter - 26430 Mullenix Mill Road - Mt. Airy, Maryland 21771

Main House Phone: 301-253-2384 Web Site: <http://members.aol.com/RumRiverC> Range House Phone: 301-253-4779

JANUARY WILD GAME DINNER & AUCTION

Only about 35 tickets remain available for the Wild Game Dinner and Auction. Sales will be at the door for the remaining tickets.

Donations of items for the Game Dinner & Auction should be brought to the Chapter House.

JANUARY 2004 CALENDAR

Wed 14, Junior Airgun Practice 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Thu 15, Junior Airgun Practice 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Fri 16, Jr Airgun Match set up - Contact Bob Inness 301-340-9185
Sat 17, Traveling Airgun Trophy Match 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Sat 17, Practical Defense Match 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM (Uncovered pistol range closed during event)
Sat 17, Skeet & Trap 12:00 Noon to 5:00 PM
Sun 18, Skeet & Trap 12:00 Noon to 5:00 PM
Mon 19, Adult Airgun 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM
Tue 20, Junior Airgun Practice 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Wed 21, Junior Airgun Practice 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Thu 22, Junior Airgun Practice 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Fri 23, Membership Meeting 6:30 PM Social, Dinner 7:30 PM "Wild Game Dinner & Auction" Limited Dinner Tickets to be sold at Membership Meetings September thru December. Leftover tickets will be sold at the door. Dinner tickets are not required to attend auction.
Sat 24, Junior Airgun Practice 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM
Sat 24, Skeet & Trap 12:00 Noon to 5:00 PM

Sun 25, Skeet & Trap 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Sun 25, Rifle Pistol Range Clean Up 10:00 AM **Ranges closed until 1:00 PM**
Sun 25, Skeet /Trap Maintenance 10:00 AM **Ranges closed until 1:00 PM**
Sun 25, Christmas Tree Maintenance 10:00 AM
Sun 25, Site preparation for American Elm tree farm 9:00 AM
Sun 25, Club and Range Orientation 10:00 AM
Mon 26, Adult Airgun 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM
Tue 27, Junior Airgun Practice 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Wed 28, Junior Airgun Practice 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Thu 29, Junior Airgun Practice 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Sat 31, Junior Rifle Practice 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM
Sat 31, Skeet & Trap 12:00 Noon to 5:00 PM

FEBRUARY 2004

Sun 1, Skeet & Trap 12:00 Noon to 5:00 PM
Mon 2, Adult Airgun 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM
Tue 3, Junior Airgun Practice 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Tue 3, Conservation /SOS Committee Meeting 7:30 PM
Wed 4, Board Of Directors Meeting 7:30 PM, **ATTENTION Perspective Members Please, Meet at 7:00 PM**
Wed 4, Junior Airgun Practice 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Thu 5, Junior Airgun Practice 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Fri 6, Astronomy Club Meeting, 7:00 P.M. at the Shotgun Range House
Sat 7, Skeet & Trap 12:00 Noon to 5:00 PM
Sun 8, Skeet & Trap 12:00 Noon to 5:00 PM
Mon 9, Adult Airgun 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Tue 10, Junior Airgun Practice 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Wed 11, Junior Airgun Practice 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Thu 12, Junior Airgun Practice 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Sat 14, Skeet & Trap 12:00 Noon to 5:00 PM
Sun 15, Skeet & Trap 12:00 Noon to 5:00 PM

CALENDAR EVENT POC's:

Skeet & Trap POC: Bob Cumberland 301-253-1348
Junior Airgun POC: Bob Inness 301-340-9185 email: binness@starpower.net or John Watson 301-929-3583
Air Rifle Field Target POC: Steve Schulz 301-365-0291
Adult Airgun POC: Phil Dean 301-865-8202
Christmas Tree POC: John Leaman 301-972-1572
Cowboy Shoot POC: Chuck Crooks 301-831-9666
Rifle Pistol Range POC: Ray Shaver 301-926-0465
Astronomy Club & Range Orientation POC: Steve Lefebvre 301-428-9400, lefebvre01@earthlink.net
Bowling Pin Shoot & Practical Defense Match POC: Jesse Lim 301-540-0860
Seneca Valley Rifle Match POC: Mike Gugulis 301-417-0987
Conservation Committee POC: Jim Piateski 301-253-4486 or Jeffrey Deschamps 301-604-3736
River Clean-up and Adopt A-Road POC: Michelle Chesnut 301-831-0237 smc_geek@msn.com
Boy Scouts, Order of The Arrow Terry Springer 301-428-0216
Hunter Safety POC: Mac McCollum 301-854-3707

ASTRONOMY CLUB

Meets **FIRST** Friday each month!!

you are hardy enough to come out and shoot on an extremely cold day, you are also hardy enough to walk to the range if the gate won't open. Have fun and shoot safely!

JANUARY SITE MAINTENANCE:

The next monthly maintenance of WAC ranges, Christmas trees, house and grounds will be done from **9:30 AM until 1 PM on Sunday, January 25.** Please report to the maintenance coordinator, **Chuck Limparis**, at the green equipment shed for an assignment.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Probationary members are required to help in two chapter events during their first year of WAC membership. **If you joined after August 31, 2003, at least one of those events must be a conservation activity.** If you are a probationary member, and don't see your name in the newsletter after helping out in an event, it would be prudent to contact the person who ran the event and find out why. Following are the names from the sign-up sheets for several recent events. Thanks to all.

PRACTICAL DEFENSE/BOWLING PIN MATCHES (Nov. 29 & Dec. 13):
Joe Hydro and Angelo Mangano, Jr.

MAINTENANCE DAY (Dec. 28): **Guy & Bryan Atkins, Mitch Black, Alvin Bryant, John Carlo, Michelle Chesnut, Bob Cumberland, Mark & Peyton Ellis, Bill Gazdik, Ray Ladbury, Debbie Maxey, Walter Oleniewski, Jim Piatieski, Alan Pressman, Judy Riley, Tom Riley, Steve Schulz and Ray Shaver.**

RANGE ORIENTATION CLASS (Dec. 28): **Bud Bell and Ray Logan.**

SPECIAL THANKS: Do you ever notice how few different names appear in these lists. In a club with well over 1,000 members, one would hope to see more. Because the dedicated few are all praiseworthy, it is always difficult to call attention to one or two because in doing so I may appear to be slighting another. Nevertheless, most of these folks aren't participating for glory, so I want to call your attention to one. Please notice how many times **Bill Gazdik's** name appears above, then take a look at previous newsletters and note how many different activities he is associated with. **Bill** is a quiet unassuming guy, who definitely

falls into the "salt of the earth" category, and he is a real treasure to the WAC, giving through his participation much more than he ever receives in benefits. **Thanks Bill and Happy New Year to all!**

CHRISTMAS TREE & WREATH SALES

John Leaman wishes to thank all the members and nonmembers that worked selling trees and making wreaths.

(Dec. 6): **Victor Dottellis, Bill Gazdik, John Leaman, Ray G. Logan and Jim Piatieski.**

(Dec. 7): **Maria Abarca, Sally Charpied, Meo Curtis, Jeff Deschamps, Victor Dottellis and John Leaman.**

(Dec. 13): **Ron Benden, Bill Gazdik, John Leaman and Charley Phipps.**

(Dec. 14): **Meo Curtis, Jeff Deschamps and Jim Piatieski.**

(Dec. 20): **John Leaman, Ray G. Logan and John Zombolas.**

(Dec. 21): **Bill Gazdik, Robert Holden and Paul Honke.**

Congratulations to **Tom Dunlap.** Tom was the winner of the Christmas Tree Membership Drawing.

Thanks to all who supported the Chapter by buying their tree at The Wildlife Achievement Chapter.

2004 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership in this organization for 2003 officially expired on 12/31/2003. If you have not renewed for 2004, your renewal is now PAST DUE. Although a large portion of the membership renewed on time, it was necessary to send a second bill to over 300 members. These bills were not processed until after the new year, so they were truly for late and expired renewals. This should have been unnecessary, and it was very costly to the Chapter.

We will honor a 31 day extension of your shooting privileges until 1/31/04. If you have not paid by that date, you will be assessed an additional \$40.00 fee to renew your membership for the current year.

After February 1st, if you do not have a valid 2004 membership card, you will not be able to use the rifle, pistol, skeet,

trap or airgun ranges until you have renewed your membership.

SHOTGUN REPORT

We are in need of a few Shotgun Range Safety officers to join the rotation. There is currently a short list for Saturdays. If you would like to get to know fellow clay shooters, have a place to tell tall tales, hear bad jokes, and help your club, please contact Bill Rahn at 301-774-6234.

Thanks to the many that have lent a hand on Site maintenance days, especially to Jim Arnold for leading the charge, and Debbie Maxey for being a "regular" and keeping our machines clean and ready to go.

A fun shoot will be planned for February or March. The course has not been determined, but trap doubles will be in the mix. Practice early and often!

COWBOY CLINIC

We will be conducting our Spring New Cowboy Shooter Clinic on March 6th. There will be three class times, 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM and 1:00 PM. Preregistration is required.

We will cover the history of Cowboy Action Shooting, the clothing, firearms, ammunition, rules, safety, what to expect at a match, how a match is run and then you will shoot an actual cowboy scenario. We will provide all firearms and ammunition if you do not have your own. Please bring ear and eye protection. For additional information and an application, see our Cowboy web site (<http://members.aol.com/chuckaroo3>) or contact Chuckaroo on 301-831-9666. This course is not meant to be initial firearms training. It is designed for students that are familiar with single action pistols, lever action rifles and shotguns. The class will last approximately 4 hours. Cost is \$5.00 per person, inclusive. The class will begin at the main club house of the Wildlife Achievement Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, 26430 Mullinix mill Rd., Damascus, Md. Directions are on the web site. We will start the classes promptly at the scheduled times. Please indicate which session you will be attending. One of the pistol ranges will be closed during the classes.

SKEET & TRAP RANGE OFFICERS:

January 2004

Sat 1/3 Robert & Vivian MacLoed
Sun 1/4 Joel Gross, Kevin O'Neill, Robert Jeffery
Sat 1/10 Robert Taylor, Tony Evans
Sun 1/11 Shep Burton, Debbie Maxey, Ronnie Gravitt, Steve Hunt
Sat 1/17 Mike Bowen, Bill Rahn
Sun 1/18 Dave Gold, Ira Wein, Peter Currall
Sat 1/24 John & Rebecca Henrich, Robert Case
Sun 1/25 Frank Saenz, Rob Van Tassel, Peter Von Kuebler
Sat 1/31 Charlie Weaver, Paul Fisher, Richard Zabell

February 2004

Sun 2/1 Robert Jeffery, Kevin O'Neill, Joel Gross
Sat 2/7 Tony Evans, Robert Taylor
Sun 2/8 Shep Burton, Debbie Maxey
Sat 2/14 "The Fichter Gang"
Sun 2/15 Peter Currall, Dave Gold, Ira Wein
Sat 2/21 Charles Weaver, Mike Bowen
Sun 2/22 Ronnie Gravitt, Steve Hunt
Sat 2/28 Bill Rahn, Richard Zabell
Sun 2/29 Rob Van Tassel, Frank Saenz

Happy New Year to all our loyal Range Officers.

A hearty welcome back to the Fichter Family.

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 to **MRShaver@aol.com** or telephone **301-926-0465**. If you can't reach **Ray**, try **Tom Riley** by e-mail to

tejas1@bellatlantic.net or telephone **301-774-7426** (before 6 PM, please).

SHOOTING HOURS: Permitted rifle/pistol range shooting hours are posted on the box which contains the range sign-in register. **For January 2004, starting time is 10 AM daily and ending time is 5:00 PM**, unless some activity has preempted the range. Please help us to be a good neighbor by firing no shots before the posted starting time and none after the posted ending time.

PRACTICAL DEFENSE MATCH: A practical defense match will be held on **Saturday, January 17 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**. Please note that participants will meet at 9:00 AM in the **Rathskeller**; don't go directly to the range. For additional information, you can contact **Jesse Lim** via e-mail to **jlim@phillips.com** or telephone **301-540-0860** (evenings only please).

RANGE SAFETY OFFICERS: Welcome and thanks to **Judy Riley** and **Mauricio Veiga** our most recent volunteers to serve as WAC rifle/pistol range safety officers. All range-approved members have been trained to serve as range officers for the WAC rifle and pistol ranges, and are expected to act as such. However, since May 2000, more than forty members have volunteered to take greater initiative and responsibility in assisting other shooters and watching for safety problems whenever they are at the ranges. These volunteers can be identified by the "Rifle/Pistol Range Safety Officer" badge which they wear. Please cooperate with them in helping to ensure a safe and pleasant shooting environment at our ranges. If you too are willing to take on a greater responsibility for range safety, you can volunteer by contacting **Ray Shaver** or **Tom Riley**.

VANDALISM INCIDENT: Around midday on Sunday, December 21, two men with semiautomatic shotguns called attention to themselves during a lengthy period of rapid fire on the rifle range. In fact, the noise was so disturbing that a shooter on the pistol range, the only other person in the area at that time, had to leave the range because he was unable to concentrate on his more deliberate shooting. Although rapid fire is discouraged on the WAC ranges, it is not prohibited by the range rules. However, some of the "targets" selected by the two

shotgun shooters were clearly shot in violation of the range rules, which permit shotguns using shot shells on the rifle range only for patterning on specifically identified patterning boards. Among those targets were aluminum cans, one of the recycling barrels, and a sandbag. Shot is also imbedded in other target backers for which the use of shot shells is prohibited. One other "in your face" act of dangerous shooting and thoughtless vandalism occurred that morning: someone fired a shotgun from the parking area towards pistol range 1 (i.e., the uncovered range), leaving shot embedded in the top left portion of the new pistol range bulletin board. A careful, rather intensive investigation during the following week led the range rules violation subcommittee to tentatively identify one of the two shooters as a probationary member, who has been contacted via mail and invited to present his side of the story to the WAC board of directors. The subcommittee has also recommended that the culprit be expelled from membership.

RANGE ROAD CLOSURES

(modification): Last month we reported that our usual procedure is to lock the barrier gate open when the road is snow covered and messy, but passable with care. Having experienced some vandalism in the range area in December, albeit by a member, we have decided to change that policy. **In order to reduce the risk of permitting somebody who doesn't belong in the rifle/pistol range area to get there easily, the gate will remain closed unless the gate system is out of service or there is a supervised event involving non-members going on in the rifle/pistol range area.** That means you need to take a close look at the road before driving down to the ranges when the ground is snow covered, icy or especially soggy. Don't drive down if you think your vehicle will be unable to continue up the road after you stop at the exit card reader.

COLD GATE: Shortly after the above policy went into effect, we experienced a problem which hadn't come up before during our past three years of gate operation. The gate motor became balky and was unable to open the gate on a cold (i.e., 18 degrees F) morning. Unless this becomes a frequent problem, we do not intend to invest in a heater for the gate box. Instead, we are assuming that, if

ADOPT-A-ROAD

Twenty of us turned out for the Fall Clean-up and picked up more than 80 bags of trash on Mullinix Mill, Long Corner, Howard Chapel, and Gue roads. Thanks to the following for all the help. Adam Wiles, Eugene Reesman, Jim Piatieski, Ray Ladbury, Dan Egan, Amy Egan, Annie Cumberland, Tom Walley, James Medeiros, Lisa Medeiros, Joe Spence, Gary Pfadenhauer, Judy Riley, Jeff Deschamps, and Meo Curtis. We will be adding these roads to the spring river clean-up.

My heartfelt thanks to John Leaman for helping me to empty the recycle shed once again. There is plenty of room for scrap copper, aluminum, and brass. **Please do not put any other materials in the bags or in the shed.** I have to separate the boxes, bottles and paper trash from the cans when I turn them in and haul the trash away. Please do not put anything but aluminum cans in the barrels marked "Aluminum Cans Only". It is really a pain in the ____; just ask

John. Thanks for your donations. We are making about \$500.00/year.

NEW MEMBERS

Michael Opicla
Rockville, MD 20855

Bob Bronson
Germantown, MD 20876

Chris Holweck
Gaithersburg, MD 20882

Mike Zarchin
Gaithersburg, MD 20882

Dennis Queen
Germantown, MD 20876

John Hanson
Ijamsville, MD 21754

John Toto
Damascus, MD 20872

Milton Van Winkle
Olney, MD 20832

KILL the Bill to "LIMIT DEBATE" in Maryland. Write your Legislator NOW!!!!

Tobey Scheiner
Damascus, MD 20872

Guy Wright III
Gaithersburg, MD 20882

AIRGUN RANGE CLEANUP

All of the Chapter shooting ranges are closed from 10:00 AM till 1:00 PM on the last Sunday of each month for cleanup and maintenance. **This includes the airgun ranges - both the 50 yard sight-in range and the field target ranges.** You can help out on these Sunday work sessions by spending some time picking up and removing twigs and branches from the range areas and the walkways, emptying the trash can, removing old paper targets from the target holders, repairing the wooden target frames, and giving the area a 'good going over'. During the warmer months the grass and weeds need to be cut. Report to the person in charge at the maintenance shed when you come at 10:00 AM on the last Sunday of the month to help out with the cleanup and maintenance. Check the Chapter webpage for the calendar.