



Wildlife Gazette
Wildlife Achievement Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
February 2022

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CHAPTER NEWS AND EVENTS

COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING CLINIC (Chuck Crooks)

The next new cowboy shooter clinic, at Damascus, will be on Sunday April 3, 2022. Class size is limited (14 shooting students), and seats are on a first come, first serve basis. Pre-registration is required, no walk ins. Registration deadline is March 28th.

You can fill out the application while viewing it on your PC and then print it. You can make yourself a copy and I will be able to read the one you send me!

APPLICATION <http://www.damascusiwla.org/DWR/CLINIC2022.pdf>

The purpose of the clinics is to introduce the sport to potential enthusiasts who'd like to give it a try without "the whole world watching." Though playing the game under the watchful eye of the Range Officer and their timer is part of the fun, that can be a little intimidating if you're new at it. SAFETY and fun are the real focus of the sport, and we'd like to be sure everyone gets off to the right start. Students will learn how the game is played, hear the SASS rules, see the equipment and accessories that are required, and get a chance to try out the range of firearms that are appropriate to the sport. A history of the sport is included in the classroom portion. You can look at the Clinic Outline to see what's covered. Atlantic Guns and the Damascus Wildlife Rangers provide all equipment and ammo, if students do not have their own yet. Each person will get the chance to shoot real cowboy hoglegs, a scatter gun and lever action rifle! You will feel the fear of that dang buzzer and learn what real brain fade is like!

The clinics are not meant to be initial firearms training. Students must already be familiar with the safe use and unassisted loading of revolvers, rifles and shotguns. If you do not have experience, you can take the classroom portion but, you can only observe the live fire portion. For additional information contact Chuckaroo IzaakWaltonWAC@aol.com . You will be required to complete a waiver that includes your experience competency in order to participate in the shooting portion. Having fired a gun sometime in your life, is not sufficient

experience with firearms in order to participate in the live fire portion of the class.

Many thanks to Atlantic Guns for again providing all of the clinic ammo!

Shotgun Range Schedule (Steve Olsen)

March, 2022

Sat	3/5	George King, Bob Shelley
Sun	3/6	Steve Meyers, Al Cross
Sat	3/12	Ryan Turner, Lee Becknell
Sun	3/13	Joel Gross, Gerhard Bartsch
Wed	3/16	Dan Walker
Sat	3/19	Murray Welsh, Dave Anderson
Sun	3/20	Paul Turska, Jim Shay
Wed	3/23	Jeremy Dvorak
Sat	3/26	Doug Chapman, Ron Hoggard
Sun	3/27	Dave Stevenson, Brooke Jeu,
Wed	3/30	Larry Buck, Craig Leopard

Rifle/ Pistol Committee (Hans Varmer)

ALWAYS keep the Gun pointed in a Safe Direction.

This is the first of three NRA Rules for safe gun handling. What is a safe direction? On our ranges the answer is easy. The safe direction is pointing the gun at the target directly in front of the firing line in your lane. While this rule is almost universally followed, there is a motion that is unsafe and should be pointed out. It has been noticed that some shooters start from a high-ready position. In other words, the gun is initially pointing or slanting up and is brought down to sight the target. Should there be a negligent discharge while in this high position, the bullet would travel over the back berm and could result in harm beyond the range. If this has been your practice, please bring your gun to target from a low-ready position.

In other situations, outside a gun range, a safe direction must be determined from a number of factors. A safe direction means a direction in which a bullet cannot possibly strike anyone, taking into account possible ricochets and the fact that bullets can penetrate walls and ceilings. The safe direction may be “up” on some occasions, or “down” on others, but never at anyone or anything not intended as a target. Even when “dry firing” with an unloaded gun, you should never point the gun at an unsafe target or direction.

Finally, you should know what direction your gun is pointed when it is in a gun case. When you open your gun case on the range you need to know that it is pointing down-range and not back at you.

NRA Range Safety Officer (RSO) Class scheduled for Saturday, February 19

The RSO course content consists of RSO's roles and responsibilities, range standard operating procedures, range inspection and range rules, firearm stoppages and malfunctions, as well as Range Safety Briefings which include procedures to follow in the case of an emergency.

This class will take your attitude of safety to the next level. And if you have an interest in become an RSO with the club, this is a great starting point.

To pre-register send an email to: wac.instructor@gmail.com

Upcoming Rifle and Pistol Events:

Sunday, February 6: UTAH CCW Permit Class
Sunday, February 13: Stop the Bleed Class (This is NEW)
Saturday, February 19: NRA Range Safety Officer Training
Sunday, February 27: Club & Range Orientation
Saturday, March 5: NRA Basic Pistol
Saturday, March 19: Bowling Pin
Sunday, March 20: UTAH CCW Permit Class
Saturday, March 26: 22 Fun Shoot
Sunday, March 27: Club & Range Orientation

Tom Riley 22 Fun Shoot

The next **Tom Riley 22 Fun Shoot** will be held on **March 26th from 10AM - 2 PM** on the rifle range. This is a great opportunity to bring your 22LR rifles out to the range and have fun plinking at steel and clay targets. This event is fun for the entire family.

This year we will be adding a few precision rifle series (PRS) style props like tank traps, ladders, and barrels that will be available to shoot from. This will be an excellent introduction to Precision Rifle Series (PRS) style competitions for rimfire or centerfire rifles. We will have experienced PRS competitors to give instruction and answer questions regarding these types of competitions. There are several PRS rimfire events to compete in including the Modern American Rimfire Series (MARS), National Rifle League (NRL22 and NRL22X), and Precision Rifle Rimfire Series to name a few that hold matches locally.

See you on March 26th



Hans Varmer
IWLA/WAC NRA Training Coordinator

Field Target (Mark Mayer)

A few weeks ago, in a BoD meeting someone asked exactly the question that serves as this articles title.

DIFTA stands for **D**amascus **I**zaak Walton League **F**ield **T**arget **A**ssociation and was formed in 1996 by IWLAWAC members Tom and Edith Gaylord and Phil Dean. The first “exploratory” match was hosted later that year and the first DIFTA Maryland State championship was hosted in 1997.

OK – what the heck is Field Target? The answer is that it’s a challenging outdoor precision shooting sport in which competitors use airguns to shoot reactive targets that fall down when the bullseye is hit. The targets have kill zones ranging from 3/8” to 2” and are set out at distances from 10 to 55 yards. The challenge arises from two factors: First, range finders are not allowed, so distances must be estimated by the shooter. Second, rifle power is limited to a maximum of 20 ft/lbs or in some cases 12 ft/lbs. As a result, for the longer distance targets pellets can drop inches from the aim point, and even modest winds can push pellets off target. So, the challenge is to accurately estimate distance, and judge how much to hold off for wind.



Examples of DIFTA's targets with 2" and ½" bullseyes which in FT are called kill zones.

To put this in perspective, under the International Field Target rules, which has a 12 ft/lb limit, a pellet will travel 50 yards in about ¼ of a second and drop about 2 mrad. In the same space and time, a 7.62X51 NATO round travels about 350 yards. Ask any center fire shooter if they feel confident to hit a cantaloupe on their first shot at 350 yards, no rangefinder, no wind-flags, and you get an idea of what makes field target challenging. But with practice and experience shooters learn to adapt to this challenge and, for a typical 72 shot match at DIFTA, the top shooters frequently score in the high 60s, while some novices can drop more than 20 targets on their first try. Field target is a sport in which both women, men and youths can compete on an even setting so it's a great family activity for shooters of all ages.

Back to DIFTA: There are Field Target clubs across the US and they all follow a set of rules established by the American Airgun Field Target Association (AAFTA). In the AAFTA register of clubs DIFTA is listed as the Damascus Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America. Some of the most dedicated shooters will travel long distances to shoot at other clubs, and at DIFTA it is not uncommon that we host shooters coming from VA, PA, and even NY or NC to compete in our matches!

Anyone who has visited the Rathskeller in the WAC's basement has seen the oil paintings that depict shooters in the woods near a numbered stake. These are FT shooters, and the oil paintings are dated '98. Reviewing the WAC's newsletters from November 1996 we see an announcement by Phil Dean that a new airgun range has been set up in the woods beyond the trap/skeet field. In 1998 Tom Gaylord appears as competitor and then as Match Director (MD) for the FT shoots

that took place every Saturday morning (weather permitting). More formal FT shoots started in April May 1998 when 27 shooters showed up for the March 14th match.



Worthwhile noting are the contributions to the sport by Jim Piatieski, currently the IWLAWAC Corresponding Secretary and a former President of the chapter. Also of interest is that Tom Gaylord went on to publish the “Airgun Letter”, then host the Airgun Letter forum, before becoming the “Godfather of American Airgunning” who is well recognized by almost any airgunner worldwide through his blog entries, his “Airgun University” hosted by Pyramyd Air, and his common appearances in American Airgunner TV show.

So, for a while DIFTA was one of the main locomotives in the sport in the US. By 2010, under Match Director Joe McDaniel, the AAFTA Nationals were hosted by DIFTA. It was a superb event with two great courses, shooters from USA, Canada, and Wales; and very challenging winds. In the November 2010 issue of the Gazette Phil Dean reported that there were 85 participants representing 21 different states, Canada, and Wales who competed in this air rifle field target competition. In 2014, we managed to stage a dual venue Grand Prix between the Falls Township Rifle and Pistol Association (PA) that also attracted attendance of international visitors. Sadly, by this date, there was no note in the Gazette. We are not aware of any more reports about AirGun activities at IWLAWAC, and as noted at the start of this article many chapter members are not aware of DIFTA even though we hold 10 matches a year.

Our hope for the future is to increase awareness of and participation in Airgun shooting sports at the IWLAWAC. Many chapter members will be aware of The Junior Shooting Program run by Ed Mondonedo which teaches 3 position Air Rifle shooting. Ed’s team from IWLAWAC has won several championships. On the adult side, in addition to DIFTA and the Monday evening adult air rifle and pistol 10 meter indoor program, plans are afoot to make improvements to the covered Airgun range. In future articles we hope to discuss more the different types of Airgun competitions, one of which is an Olympic event; the different types of modern Airguns; and the history of DIFTA.

Jim Pachulski (Adult Air Rifle Program)

Hector Medina (Air Rifle Outdoors)

Paolo Amadeo and Mark Mayer (DIFTA)

January 2022 Club and Range Orientation report

The first class of 2022 was held on 30 January 2022.

Instruction was conducted by Billy Ramos, Hans Varmer and me, with support from Jesse Lim.

This month, 6 members signed up for the class and 7 showed up.

One current, range approved member attended in support of his spouse.

All passed.

Jean F. Aker

Chairman, Range Orientation Committee

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

If you joined the chapter on or before **February 2020** and have not seen your name listed in any newsletter issue as being graduated to full member status, you are **still on probation.**

If you are not sure about your member status, email Nick at nicolasgiu@yahoo.com, and you will receive an email of your work history on record.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW

FULL MEMBERS

It a slow time of the year which is normal.

So, we had No members make the cut to
Full Member Status

Chapter Maintenance Day (Snow Removal)

1/7/2022

Chuck Crooks (Chair)

Probationary Members: (Conservation Credit)

Frederick Depp

Wild Game Dinner Set Up

1/21/2022

Susan Bortniak (Chair)

Members, Family, and Nonmembers:

Chuck Crooks, Dave Lane, John Hartwell,
Lee Trunnell, Hans Varmer, Candy Varmer,
Paul Turska Sr. Kyle Boyd, Blix Winston,
Robert Bloom, Bev Haggerty

Probationary Members (Regular Credit)

Lamont Green, Kevin Limparis,
Matt Konieczny,

It has come to the attention of the editor, that the sign-in sheets are often illegible. If you cannot write legibly, please include your member number on the sheet. It will save loads of time researching through the membership list to insure you get proper credit.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS (Jim Piateski jimpiateski@verizon.net)

Thanks to Nicolas Giuliano for mailing the printed version of the newsletter every month and tracking volunteer hours. Thanks to Chuck Crooks , Hans Varmer and Steve Olsen for their contributions to this newsletter. Chuck Crooks for posting the newsletter on the web in such a timely fashion.

If anyone has an article, picture or topic, which they wish to have included in future newsletters, send to Jim Piateski at jimpiateski@verizon.net and include some contact info in case there are questions. If you have photographs of chapter events that you would like to share with the membership in the on-line newsletter, please send them to Jim Piateski at the above email address. Please include the names of those pictured as well as the date and name of the event.

If you would like to receive a printed newsletter, write:

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