



Wildlife Gazette  
**Wildlife Achievement Chapter**  
Izaak Walton League of America  
December 2022

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### **CHAPTER NEWS AND EVENTS**

Holiday party and installation of new Board of Directors Wednesday 12/21/2022.  
Remember that ALL ranges are closed on December 25<sup>th</sup> for Christmas

### **Conservation**

**Hunter Education Instructors Needed**

Do you enjoy hunting? Have you considered giving something back to your sport? Do you enjoy teaching others about hunting? If so, consider becoming a certified Hunter Education Instructor. The Hunter Ed teaching team here at WAC is in critical need of additional instructors to keep the program viable.

Being a Hunter Ed instructor is a fun and rewarding experience.

Hunter Ed instructors are certified by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To become an instructor, you should have a minimum of 3 years hunting experience, undergo a background check, and take a one-day instructor course conducted by DNR. To maintain your certification, you must teach a minimum of 2 courses per year, and attend one instructor update meeting at least once every 2 years. The time commitment for all this consists of about 6 to 8 hours per course and a couple hours for the update meeting. All courses are team taught and lead by the chief instructor. There is plenty of support from the team members.

Here at WAC we try to offer 3 classes per year, typically, one course during September, one during October and one during early November. The courses are usually a mix of two types: traditional in-class courses, and, an Internet based course field day. The traditional course meets on two successive Friday evenings and also a Saturday. Instructors may teach for an hour or two on one of the Friday classes and then again during the Saturday class which runs from 9AM to 2PM. Not everybody on the teaching team teaches both a Friday session and a Saturday session. Teaching assignments are made by the Chief Instructor, based on your schedule and preferences. The field day class is conducted on a Saturday only, from 9AM to 2PM and is similar in structure to the Saturday session of the traditional course. Activities for the Saturday classes consists of live fire shooting at the rifle range, tree stand safety demo/presentation, simulated hunts and field walks covering shoot/don't shoot situations, zones of fire, safe handling of firearms, crossing a fence, and other relevant activities related to safety afield.

To become an instructor contact Dan Neuland, Hunter Education Coordinator, at DNR at: [daniel.neuland@maryland.gov](mailto:daniel.neuland@maryland.gov)

We would love to have you on our teaching team.

Geoff Hornseth, Co-Chief Instructor, Hunter Ed program, WAC-IWLA

### **Rifle / Pistol**

#### **Shooting Range Management & Maintenance Rules | Safety Conduct rules** (Jesse-Thomas Lim, Chairman Rifle Pistol)

Lead Retrieval at shooting ranges and berms of the Wildlife Achievement Chapter will only be managed and maintained by the House and Grounds Chairman along with the Rifle and Pistol, Shotgun, Air Rifle and Archery Committees. Any attempts to destroy the shooting ranges earthen berms, digging, retrieving or otherwise removing lead, spent ammunition and other materials from the berms or other areas of the ranges by any individual is **STRICTLY FORBIDDEN** at all times, regardless of whether the ranges are open or not. Any person observed to be violating these rules on our security cameras will receive a range citation.

However, all members and their guests must continue to collect their spent ammo cartridges and dispose of them in the containers provided or take them home.

Wildlife Achievement Chapter (WAC) Range Conduct rule's #18. **No member may use our ranges for commercial training purposes. Using any, Chapter range for financial gain, personal or otherwise, jeopardizes our charitable organization status and is a major conduct violation of our range rules.**

Important to all Members, NO individual member shall perform firearms instructor for personal gain, and no independent guest or business will utilize our shooting ranges for their training or perform certification for any shooting qualification. WAC rifle and pistol education program, we have vetted WAC firearms instructors to support our membership. The demand for the Maryland Wear & Carry Permit has been overwhelming. For that reason, we are working on the 2023 calendar and plan to provide adequate access for all members who are interested. Any questions contact Jesse-Thomas Lim, Chairman 240-832-0354.

The WAC Rifle & Pistol Committee has updated our Range Rules. You can find the updated rules on our website:

<http://www.damascusiwla.org/RiflePistolRules.html>

Please join me CONGRATULATE ~ Mark Gay, Chairman of the Shotgun Skeet & Trap; Won the World Championship title for the 2022 NSSA World Skeet championship! Awesome !

### **WAC policy for Firearm Handling on chapter grounds.**

Until now, the chapter had no official policy for the handling of firearms on chapter grounds, but should have. I have heard and witnessed many different implied understandings from members and officers.

Inspired by the recent changes to the Wear and Carry permit availability, at the November Board of Director's meeting, the Board of Directors finalized an official Firearm Handling Policy for chapter buildings and grounds. The policy simply patterned the state rules for the handling of firearms in a public place.

Summarized, Open Carry is not allowed in general and Concealed Carry is allowed by Wear and Carry permit holders. At this time, Range rules and the handling of firearms on the ranges will stay the same and may exceed this general policy. I encourage every member to re-read the Range Safety Rules. As times change, so do our rules.

### **WAC policy for Firearm Handling on chapter grounds:**

\* The Wildlife Achievement Chapter policy for Firearm Handling on chapter grounds was created from current federal and state law for handling of a firearm, for anywhere on chapter grounds except as provided here in.

- \* There will be no open carry anywhere on chapter grounds other than active law enforcement or at a sanctioned chapter events where RSOs, instructors or specific individuals may be authorized to open carry.
- \* Only persons who possess a valid State or Federal issued wear and carry permit may possess a concealed firearm. Firearm “MUST” stay concealed at all times.
- \* Anyone that is prohibited from buying or possessing a firearm as determined by any federal, state or local agency may not possess or be in the vicinity of a firearm anywhere on chapter grounds.
- \* All persons using the chapter ranges must comply with all the Rifle/Pistol Range Safety Rules that may exceed these rules.
- \* No person shall be in possession of a firearm of any kind while under the influence of any drug or alcohol.
- \* Failure to strictly follow any of the above rules may result in suspension of privileges or expulsion from chapter membership.

As Approved by the Board of Directors on 11/02/2022

**Shotgun Range Schedule** (Steve Olsen)

January, 2023

Sun	1/1	Steve Meyers
Sat	1/7	George King, Bob Shelley
Sun	1/8	Joel Gross, Gerhard Bartsch
Sat	1/14	Ryan Turner, Lee Becknell
Sun	1/15	Paul Turska
Sat	1/21	Phil Butler
Sun	1/22	Mark Gay
Sat	1/28	Doug Chapman, Jim Shay
Sun	1/29	Dave Stevenson, Jay Devan

There was no submission for work parties this month. We will catch up with the next issue, I hope.

**NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS** (Jim Piateski [jimpiateski@verizon.net](mailto: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, Jesse Lim, Ken Lefebvre 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](mailto: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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