



# Winchester IWLA Newsletter

*Woods, water, wildlife - our heritage, our responsibility.*

www.winchester-iwla.org

September 2018

## Shotgun Range Gets New Focus, Big Plans

**Dave Prater**, chair of the Range Committee, reports that the Shotgun Range tower will be dismantled first, and plans for a future 5-Station structure/operation will be developed. These activities require work party volunteers as well as persons with building skills from within the Chapter to assist. If we have to use outside contractors, it will be costly and delay the project's completion. Contact Rick Hill, [rhill1105@aol.com](mailto:rhill1105@aol.com) or Dave Prater, [range@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:range@winchester-iwla.org) if you can lend a hand.

**Rick Hill**, who has great experience in such operations, is spearheading the specifics for the range improvements. Here's what Rick says about the project:

We are in the process of applying for grant monies from NRA for the shotgun range. Our goal is to build a five-station shooting platform with a wobble trap under the platform in about the same area as the old tower. To do this we will be using as much of the recovered wood as we can from the old tower. We are asking for enough money from NRA to purchase the wobble trap and the electronics needed to operate the trap. We are looking at purchasing a trap that will operate on one 12-volt marine type battery and incorporate a solar panel to keep the battery charged. The five station shooting platform will be laid out so in the future we can add additional traps giving our shooters the opportunity to shoot another game called five-stand from the platform as well.

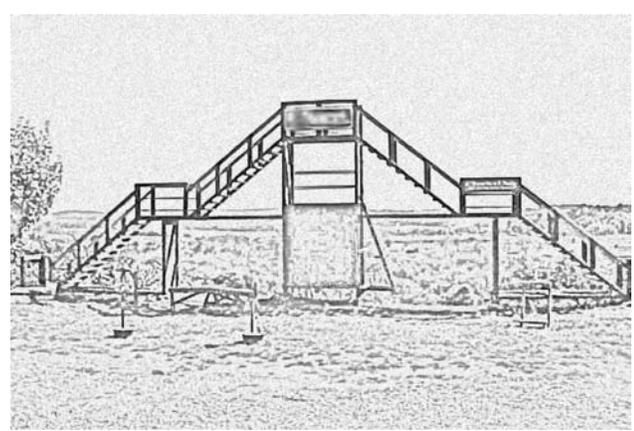
Shotgun shooting is one of the fastest growing sports for youth, women and men and with the development of a shooting complex we can offer this as another option to our membership, potential members, youth shooting clubs, et al. We look forward to meeting you on the range.

▫

*Rick Hill to address Sept. 20 membership meeting on shotgun range plans*

**“My interest now is to help WIWL become a great place to enjoy clay shooting and of course help others become better shots and enjoy the sport as much as I do.”**

**Rick's background:** I have been shooting shotguns most of my life. In the early 90's when sporting clays first came to the United States I started shooting competitively and joined NSCA as a lifetime member. I received my Level II shooting instructor certificate in 2003 and leased and managed Flying Rabbit Sporting Clays from 2008 to 2013. While at the “Rabbit” we built a 16-station sporting clays range, a 5-station wobble trap structure and an 8 trap five-stand. Besides being an avid clays shooter my real passion is bird hunting behind a great pointer or retriever. My motto is “if it flies it dies.” I have had the good fortune to hunt pheasant in South Dakota, duck and geese on the eastern shore of Maryland, grouse on the beautiful mountains of Virginia and of course quail and the fast flying doves of September. My interest now is to help WIWL become a great place to enjoy clay shooting and of course help others become better shots and enjoy the sport as much as I do.



Notional rendering of what a 5-station shooting platform **might** look like.

## E & T Committee Report

# NRA-certified RSO Course In Oct., Others Coming

E & T will be offering a 1-Day NRA Certified RSO Course either on Oct 20<sup>th</sup>/Oct 27<sup>th</sup> at the Chapter House. Exact date will be updated on the web as soon as possible. Doors open starting at 7:45 am. Class will begin at 8:30 am and end around 5:30 pm. There are 8 seats available, first come first served.

Information Sheets and Registration forms are available on the website or by request to [Range@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:Range@winchester-iwla.org). They also will be available at the September Membership Meeting. The cost of the Course is \$90 and includes Continental Breakfast, Lunch, Coffee, Tea, Water and Soft Drinks as well throughout the day. It does not include the cost of officially registering a certification with the NRA. Further info can be obtained by e-mail: Contact-- [Training@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:Training@winchester-iwla.org) or [Range@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:Range@winchester-iwla.org)

E & T is also updating their class offerings for the remainder of the 2018 year. They are planning to hold an Instructor Led NRA Basic Pistol Class in early November and a Refuse To Be A Victim class in Early December. Final Details and Costs will be available in the October Newsletter or on the WIWL website in the near future.

We will be establishing an annual E & T Schedule of Course offerings for 2019. Hope to have all that worked out by mid-November 2018. The schedule will include costs as well as number of seats available.

A number of Advanced Pistol Classes will be offered in 2019. BOD approval is required for these courses as they require non-standard use of the range. This also will entail some range adjustments. For new shooters or those inactive shooters seeking a short 4-hour refresher course, we will add the First Step programs in both shotgun and rifle.

Instructor Classes are just around the corner. We are working with a NRA Trainer-Counselor to set up those classes beginning in 2019 and will offer them only to those with NRA Basic Courses completed in their firearm discipline—Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun or Muzzleloading.

This requirement is a result of a change in NRA Policy. As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, Instructors must have completed the Basic Course in their preferred firearm discipline within the past 2 years to become an instructor or renew an instructor rating. We will offer all basic courses in the next 6 months renewing their Instructor Rating or looking to obtain an Instructor Rating.

Speaking of Instructors, we need more qualified Instructors available to offer more courses in 2019. If interested and you have a current rating, please advise us of your interest by contacting Al Stitt, [Training@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:Training@winchester-iwla.org) or Dave Prater, [Range@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:Range@winchester-iwla.org).

Finally, Range Safety and safe gun handling is always a real focus and, at times, an issue at WIWL. The pending 2019 RQ Process will require that all Range Users attend a revamped Range Safety Orientation Seminar to be RQ in 2020. The Seminar is being developed jointly by the Range Committee and the E & T Committee and will be offered monthly throughout 2019 after BOD approval. Look for further info in the coming months. – Al Stitt

Questions/Comments regarding Training: Contact Al Stitt, [Training@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:Training@winchester-iwla.org) or Dave Prater, [Range@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:Range@winchester-iwla.org).

### Contacts

#### OFFICERS

Dan Arico, President  
703-229-3130

[dan\\_arico@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:dan_arico@winchester-iwla.org)

Chris Barltrop, Vice President  
202-368-1086

[chris\\_barltrop@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:chris_barltrop@winchester-iwla.org)

Jack Weeks, Treasurer  
703-403-0197

[jack\\_weeks@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:jack_weeks@winchester-iwla.org)

Butch Kramer, Secretary  
703-795-8591

[butch\\_kramer@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:butch_kramer@winchester-iwla.org)

Jim Sherry, Membership Director  
540-336-8441

[jim\\_sherry@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:jim_sherry@winchester-iwla.org)

#### DIRECTORS

Al Stitt, Education & Training  
540-336-2468

[training@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:training@winchester-iwla.org)

Harold Whitacre, Special Events  
540-533-8996

[harold\\_whitacre@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:harold_whitacre@winchester-iwla.org)

Howard Beny  
336-413-8719

[howard\\_beny@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:howard_beny@winchester-iwla.org)

Mike Harper

[mike\\_harper@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:mike_harper@winchester-iwla.org) Patricia

Nunn

[patty\\_nunn@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:patty_nunn@winchester-iwla.org)

Robert Lunceford

[rob\\_lunceford@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:rob_lunceford@winchester-iwla.org)

John Suter

**Board Meetings** are normally held the first Tuesday of each month at the Chapterhouse. See the Chapter website for dates and times.

**Membership Meetings** are held at the Chapterhouse on the third Thursday of each month.

**Monthly E & T Quiz** (RSO's should nail this one): What is the most important firearm safety rule when accepting a firearm from another person? Answer to [Training@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:Training@winchester-iwla.org)

*Answer in next Month Newsletter. All correct answers submitted will be entered into a drawing for a \$15 towards any future E & T NRA Class of their choosing.*

## Range Committee Report

# Chapter Receives New NRA Club Affiliation, Members Get A Break On NRA Dues

1. The Chapter has received its new affiliation as an active NRA Club and should have its CMP affiliation approved this month. Members who are renewing their NRA Memberships should do so through the Chapter for savings ranging from \$10 on an annual membership to \$500 on a Life Membership. Contact Dave Prater, [range@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:range@winchester-iwla.org) or call 703-463-1376 (c)

2. At a joint meeting of representatives from the Range Committee, the E & T Committee and the Membership Committee, it was decided to maintain the same Range Qualification renewal procedure we used this last year for the 2019 Membership year. You will need to complete a self-test and signoff on a certification on the front of your 2019 membership renewal form that you have read and fully understand the WIWL Range SOP/Rules to obtain Range Qualification. Attendance at the New Member Orientation for the remainder of 2018 is strongly encouraged for all members even if currently Range Qualified—We are seeing too many inadvertent range safety violations. Refresher seminars are quite helpful in developing more awareness, even with veteran, knowledgeable shooters.

Pending Board approval, the multi-Committee group has recommended that beginning in 2019, Members will be required to attend a short Range Safety seminar and complete a gun handling exercise before obtaining a renewal of their Range Qualification for 2020. The seminars will be offered monthly beginning in January 2019. Again, refresher courses pay off, keep you update on latest Range SOP and make the range safer for all.

3. The Range Committee is discussing the addition of two new 25-yard Training/match/practice ranges. A couple of locations have been identified. These ranges would be used to offer NRA courses including defensive pistol ones as well as be used for SASP/BSA/Trail Life activities, NRA Bullseye Matches/Practice and the soon to be introduced Chapter Winchester-NRA Qualification Program.

4. The Range Committee will be developing new professional signage for Range Use focusing on safety and a simplified display of current Range Rules. We ask that all range users become more aware of the need for range safety. We also plan to have a FAQ on the website for the most common questions about Range SOP, Rules and usage, Look for Safety Tips each month in the Newsletter as well.

**NOTE:** The Range Committee meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month from 7:00PM to 8:30PM. The 8:00PM-8:30PM segment is set aside to address members' comments and questions. Please join us. – Dave Prater

You also may contact us by e-mail at [range@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:range@winchester-iwla.org)

### **Monthly Range Safety Reminder**

The first three NRA Safety Rules are absolute standards for keeping ranges safe and for gun handling in general: **1. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction; 2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot; and 3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.** And at the range make absolutely sure the downrange area is clear before declaring the range "HOT."



# August Bullseye Competition Results

Eight members occupied the modified positions of the left side of the R-P range for the August Bullseye match.

Precision shooting is tough, but it pays off. Consider the five principles of good shooting: sight picture, sight alignment, breathing, trigger control, and follow-through. Most of us pay close attention to the first four, and most of us forget about that last one, follow-through. But it makes a big difference, especially in timed and rapid fire. In Bullseye timed fire is four strings of 5 shots, 20 seconds per string; rapid fire is four strings of five shots, 10 seconds per string. Those stages of the match make follow-through even more important than usual, because concentrating on follow-through helps the marksman stay on target for fast, accurate follow-up shots.

The trick is to practice follow-through during the slow fire part of the match as well; not a natural thing to do when you've been concentrating on holding center for each shot, but essential nonetheless. This was a lesson I was reminded of (too late) during this match. I'll put the theory to the test in the September match. – Jim Sherry

| Winchester IWLA Bullseye Match Tally Sheet |           |   |            |    |            |   |       |    |   |
|--|-----------|---|------------|----|------------|---|-------|----|---|
| Match Date: August 15, 2018                |           |   |            |    |            |   |       |    |   |
| Name                                       | Slow Fire |   | Timed Fire |    | Rapid Fire |   | Total |    | X |
|  | Score     | X | Score      | X  | Score      | X | Score | X  |   |
| Jim Sherry                                 | 135       | 1 | 180        | 3  | 184        | 3 | 499   | 7  |   |
| Stan Kugler                                | 102       | 0 | 151        | 3  | 148        | 1 | 401   | 4  |   |
| Mike Murphy                                | 161       | 0 | 186        | 3  | 169        | 2 | 516   | 5  |   |
| Jim McManaway                              | 155       | 0 | 149        | 3  | 174        | 3 | 478   | 6  |   |
| Bill Moran                                 | 136       | 0 | 160        | 1  | 145        | 1 | 441   | 2  |   |
| Mike Harper                                | 145       | 0 | 107        | 0  | 107        | 1 | 359   | 1  |   |
| Jason Allen                                | 103       | 0 | 164        | 1  | 148        | 3 | 415   | 4  |   |
| John Lewandoski                            | 175       | 1 | 189        | 10 | 196        | 8 | 560   | 19 |   |

## Water 'Foul'

A number of Chapter members have been warily watching the growing population of Canada geese on Lake Neff, as well as where they walk after the geese. A nesting pair raised five goslings this summer and this group has since been augmented by others. The brood knows no other home, and seems unlikely to, since a number of geese have decided that annual migrations are an over-rated way to play the survival game.



**Shown here – Earlier this summer a Lake Neff gosling manages to flutter both wings and a webbed foot at the same time before making its way through the weeds at lake's edge.**

## COPS AND BOBBERS

As part of its public service obligation as a 501(c)(3) organization, the Winchester Izaak Walton League opened its Park Saturday, Aug. 25, to the Winchester Sheriff's Department for a program called "Cops and Bobbers." Designed for kids 11 to 16, the program intends to teach kids to fish and along the way demonstrate through that law enforcement is in the community to protect and serve.

## A Timeless Reminder:

### The Izaak Walton Pledge

To strive for the purity of waters, the clarity of air, and the wise stewardship of the land and its resources; to know the beauty and understanding of nature and the value of wildlife, woodlands, and open spaces; to the preservation of this heritage and to man's sharing in it.

# Evening at Lake Neff



Photo by Dan Arico

## September 2018 Chapter Calendar

Please refer to the Chapter website for the latest scheduling information

| Sun  | Mon                       | Tue                                | Wed  | Thu                        | Fri                         | Sat   |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 26<br>• Shotgun Range Open<br>• New Member Orienta   | 27                        | 28                                 | 29   | 30                         | 31                          | 1<br>• Shotgun Range Open   |
| 2<br>• Shotgun Range Open                            | 3                         | 4<br>• Board of Directors Me       | 5  | 6                          | 7                           | 8<br>• Shotgun Range Open   |
| 9<br>• Church Picnic - Our S<br>• Shotgun Range Open | 10                        | 11<br>Hunter Education (Tentative) | 12<br>• Range Closed except<br>• SASP Practice                           | 13                         | 14                          | 15<br>Troop 159 - Campgrou<br>• Golightly Family Reun<br>• Shotgun Range Open |
| 16<br>Troop 159 - Campgrou<br>• Shotgun Range Open   | 17<br>• BOY SCOUT TROOP 1 | 18                                 | 19<br>• Range Closed except<br>• Bullseye Match<br>• SASP Organization M | 20<br>• Membership Meeting | 21                          | 22<br>• Shotgun Range Open<br>• High School Reunion-                          |
| 23<br>• Shotgun Range Open<br>• New Member Orienta   | 24                        | 25                                 | 26<br>• Range Closed except f<br>• SASP Practice                         | 27<br>• Rotary Club Fest   | 28                          | 29<br>• Shotgun Range Open  |
| 30<br>• McKee Reunion<br>• Shotgun Range Open        | 1                         | 2<br>• Board of Directors Me       | 3  | 4                          | 5<br>• Wedding--Michael For | 6<br>• Shotgun Range Open<br>• Wedding--Michael For                           |

### September 20 Membership Meeting:

# \$2 Dinner Dogs

- Hot dogs
- Chili dogs
- Coney dogs (sauerkraut)
- Combo dogs (everything)





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Contact Jim Sherry at [jim\\_sherry@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:jim_sherry@winchester-iwla.org) for additional information.