

Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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

www.winchester-iwla.org

December 2018

Note To Former Members: We Want You Back

The Winchester Chapter of the Izaak Walton League is doing great things again, and we want you back as a member. That's why you're receiving this edition of the Chapter newsletter and a special, money-saving membership renewal offer.

And if you rejoin by Jan. 31, we're dropping the \$50 reinstatement fee. Just pay the regular 2019 dues and you're back, no extra fee. It's kind of a celebration for the revitalization of the Chapter. We are well on the way to making the Chapter the premier facility we all have dreamed it should be.

Here are some of the things waiting for you:

- We're building a new 5-station shooting platform for the shotgun range
- We have a full schedule of training planned for 2019
- We're revitalizing our Rifle-Pistol Range and adding competitions for youth and adults
- Our dedicated Lake and Conservation Committee is revitalizing Lake Neff
- We're supporting the community as never before, and you can be part of it

If you want to get back to the great opportunities offered by the Chapter – and avoid the \$50 reinstatement fee – respond by Jan. 31, 2019. Just complete the Returning Member Information Request form on our website [Membership](#) page, or contact Membership Director Jim Sherry at jim_sherry@winchester-iwla.org so we can welcome you back.

Shining A New Light On Range Safety

Range improvement and safety enhancement continue to be high Chapter priorities. The Range Committee has recommended and the Board has approved adding Red lights to the Rifle Pistol Range to supplement and eventually replace the flag system. Currently, and until further notice, range operation is controlled by a two-flag system. A red flag means the range is hot, that is, uncased guns may be handled and fired. A green flag indicates the range is cold, meaning uncased guns may not be handled or fired.

The new system will include a 100W solar panel on the range roof, an on/off switch close to where the current flags are posted, and a string of red LED lights positioned on each vertical post between shooting positions. Installation will be progressive starting with the left side of the range since the work is being done by volunteer labor as available. When the light system goes into effect, the red light will signal the range is hot. When the light is out, the range is cold. The flag system will continue to be used to show when the range is hot until installation of the lights on both sides of the firing line is completed, the *(Please see Range Safety Page 2)*



Christmas Social & Member Meeting Dec. 20

Menu: baked ham, potato salad, rolls,
Christmas cookies & more



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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.

Range Committee

County OK On Tower, Need Tarps

The Shotgun Range Tower is down and the County has signed off. The Golden Age Crew did a great job of tearing it down. Most of the wood was unsalvageable and has been hauled off. The small amount salvageable is stacked at the Shotgun Range for use in the 5-Stand build out next spring or for other Chapter Projects. The wood needs to be covered throughout the winter. A couple of large tarps (12' x 18" or similar) are needed. If you have a couple extra laying about or wish to donate \$\$ to purchase before year end, we will gladly accept and get you a tax write off as well.

Two NRA Grant requests have been submitted for the 2019 Year. The General Range Grant covers additional shotguns, rifles, shotgun ammo and some electronic timers for the SASP State Match and other Chapter shooting events and matches being planned in 2019. The Range Improvement Grant, made possible by our support of youth shooting activities including BSA, SASP and Trail Life, is for new Traps needed for the proposed-5 Stand pavilion and course planned for the WIWL Shotgun Range and a pallet of clay targets along with Medical Trauma paks needed at both the WIWL R-P and Shotgun ranges.

The Range Committee is working on 3 major projects now through the year-end:

1. Simplifying the Range Rules to make them easier to understand and follow. Replacing the Red Flag (hot)-Green Flag (cold) Process with a visible Red LED light (hot), No Light (cold) system. It will be solar powered and visible at all shooting stations (See story elsewhere in this issue) when implemented. The BOD has approved the initial installation and testing.
2. The new Range Safety Briefs associated with the RQ process will incorporate the information as well as the new, simplified Range Rules.
3. Developing in conjunction with the E & T Committee a meaningful, more proactive and shorter Range Qualification process that will be applicable to all members using the ranges as well as allowing members to bring guests to the Range. The planned RQ process will cover members for a 2 year period. It is expected to be approx. 45 minutes to 60 minutes in length and will include a gun handling exercise.

--David Prater

Water Protections Threatened

(From the national Izaak Walton Leage web site)

“The Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are preparing to unveil a proposed regulation limiting the waters protected by the Clean Water Act – perhaps as early as this month. This proposal represents a fundamental weakening of clean water protections that have safeguarded our streams, rivers, and wetlands since the 1970s.”

It's not an abstract threat. Many streams and waterways in Frederick and surrounding counties are in the crosshairs.

For more information and suggestions on what you can do, go to the “Clean Water Corner” at the web site of the national organization at

<https://www.iwla.org/> .

Range Safety

(Continued from Page 1)

new light system has been successfully tested, and the change has been communicated.

So, no change in the current operation of the range flag system for the time being. Members will be informed when the installation of the light system is completed and appropriate notices will be posted on the range to ensure that their use is well explained. The Range Committee is working on updating the Range Rules accordingly.

Work Day Crew Makes Big Progress Despite Weather

On 27 October 2018, we had 18 volunteers show up on a semi-rainy Saturday for our Fall Work Day. While most of the work completed was done inside, we still managed to spread mulch around the Chapter House, and to spread crushed rock around the Bar-B-Que pit in back of that facility. We also had a crew of folks working on tearing out the ceiling from the green shed. That ceiling has been replaced as we had a couple of willing volunteers and one certified carpenter ready to tackle the job.

A hearty pat on the back to Ron Richards who has been working on our roads during the last week in October and the first weeks of November. Ron brought his own tractor with bucket and blade to do the necessary moving and grading of dirt and rock to accomplish this task. After the monsoon season we have had this summer, our roads took a bad hit on ruts and washouts, which Ron has now pretty much fixed from beginning to end. In addition, Ron has built a driveway from the road into the deck area on the side of the Chapter House where the Handicapped Parking area is. So now, people can back onto that driveway to deliver food or other items without

making a mud hole, and anyone needing to use it for handicapped parking can do so. Ron and Butch Kramer have both worked on the road to the campsite area in order to clear out some of the brush on the roadside that has hampered lawn mowing in that area.

Butch and his trusty chainsaw have cleared a bit of brush and tree limbs from the corner at the end of the lake where you approach the field where the brush pile is located. Some folks have had close calls while approaching that curve as it was quite difficult to see an oncoming vehicle until the last minute. It's not nearly as dangerous now, but it still needs some more work before it will be completely satisfactory.

There is a lot more work to do outside involving tree trimming and cutting down brush along the main road. Then, there is a major tree down in the campsite area close to the creek and leading to an area used by the Scouts. Right now, this tree is blocking us from being able to mow that area for the Scouts and others who use the campsite. If we can gather a group of volunteers together this Spring before the area becomes damp and muddy, we will be able to cut that tree up and get the area ready to mow again for the upcoming season.

Again, our appreciation to the 18 volunteers who showed up on 27 October; your hours of volunteer service will be duly noted relative to your membership fees for 2020.

--Butch Kramer



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Education and Training Committee Report

Seven members and two potential members completed the NRA eight-hour, instructor-led Basics Of Pistol Shooting Course Nov. 10; eight qualified at Level 2 and one at Level 3 in the Course-related Live Fire qualifications. This Course allows the participants to meet State training requirements for a Concealed Carry Permit as well as meet the prerequisite for attending advanced NRA pistol classes including NRA Defensive Pistol, the NRA Personal Protection Inside the Home and Outside the Home Courses as well as the NRA RSO Certification Course

The NRA RSO Course will be given on Dec 8th at the Chapterhouse. It is an 8-hour course beginning at 8:15 AM and ending at 5:30 PM. Cost includes a Continental Breakfast, Lunch, Snacks and all Course Materials. No Live Fire Shooting is required for this Course. You must have completed the NRA Basic Pistol Shooting Course within the last 2 years to be eligible for the RSO Course.

Other Courses being planned for the First Quarter of 2019 include:

- NRA Basic Metallic Reloading Course—January 12th, 2019—8:15 AM-5:30 PM. Cost: \$95 (8 seats)
- NRA Basic Shotgun Reloading Course**—January 26th, 2019--8:15 AM-5:30 PM. Cost: \$95 (8 Seats)
- {**\$15 discount when taken with January 12th Metallic Reloading Courses}
- NRA Basic Pistol Shooting (IL) Course—February 16, 2019—8:15 AM-5:30 PM. Cost: \$70 (10 Seats)
- NRA RSO Certification Course**—March 2, 2019—8:15 AM-5:30 PM. Cost: \$90 (12 Seats)
- {**\$15 discount if taken with February NRA BOPS(IL) or member has taken previous BOPS at WIWL}
- NRA First Steps Rifle Course—March 23, 2019—10:00AM-2:30 PM. Cost: \$50. (10 seats)

All courses require at least 50% of seats in attendance. Reserve Seats are \$20 deposit with Registration Form submitted 10 days prior to class. Additional NRA including advanced pistol classes planned through October 2019—

Need a Resource List of qualified NRA Instructors for E & T? If you have an interest in facilitating a course and have a current NRA Instructor or Trainer Rating, please send your name, course certifications, and contact info to Training@winchester-iwla.org

For Further Information regarding classes: Al Stitt training@winchester-iwla.org or Dave Prater range@winchester-iwla.org

Izaak Walton League Member Pledge

To strive for the purity of water, 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 space; to the preservation of this heritage and to man's sharing in it.



Shotgun Merit Badge

Congratulations are in order to Jackson Wade who completed his shotgun shooting merit badge at our range under the tutelage of range master David Prater. Jackson also earned his rank of pro marksman in the NRA Winchester Marksmanship program. Jackson is the son of member Jamie Wade and a member of Boy Scour Troop 159.

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Renewals Ahead of Last Year, but Don't Delay Yours

We're glad to report that as of late November renewals are running well ahead of last year at this time. The good news about the Chapter is spreading. In short, we're back. If you haven't gotten yours in yet, remember that the deadline for 2019 renewals is December 31, 2018. After that date, if you haven't renewed, your National IWLA and Chapter membership will lapse, and that's not good.

Your lapsed membership will have to be reinstated and your gate card, which will have been deactivated, will have to be re-activated. Normally, you would pay a \$50.00 reinstatement fee, as well, but that will be waived for the month of January, 2019, but only for that month.

Procrastinate beyond the deadline of Dec. 31st and you may be subject to the inconvenience of being denied access until your card is reactivated. In the meantime, there may be others in the queue ahead of you, delaying your processing.

So please get your renewals in soon, but for sure before December 31, 2018. And by the way, if you haven't received your renewal notice, contact Membership Director Jim Sherry at jim_sherry@winchester-iwla.org.

--Jim Sherry

Stream Cleanup Can Be Very Tiring

Special thanks go out to Boy Scout troop 159 who assisted with the Opequon stream cleanup at the Chapter. We removed 12 tires from the stream and banks and 3 bags of garbage. Thanks also to members Joseph Thomas and Jamie Wade for their assistance. Helping were: Zachery Thomas, son of member Joseph Thomas, Jake Ryan, Jackson Wade, son of member Jamie Wade, Tyler Campbell, son of member Eric Campbell, Shawn Norris, Andrew Norris.



New Member Roll Call

Here are the new Winchester Izaak Walton League members who joined the Chapter in September and October:

Keith Larkin
J. Tevis Sensel
Tim Crisman Sr.
Tim Crisman Jr.
Byron Armel
Martin Mood
John Steiberger
Ryan Lindberg
Shawn Norris
Tino Peabody
Roy Thomas Sr.
Hugh Tolson
Dermot A. Harris
Robert Saveland
Larry Camper

Craig S. Shearer
Randall Harrison
Corey T. Harrison
Josh Grove
Roy Thomas, Jr.
Joey Thomas
Joseph Cramer
Richard McCall
Lawrence Meeks
Michael Lee Murphy
David Colf
Brenda Chapin
Darwin Braden
Richard Allwein

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December 2018 Chapter Calendar

Please refer to the Chapter website for the latest scheduling information

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 • Shotgun Range Open	26	27 • Range Committee Me	28	29 • New & Returning Mer	30	1 • Shotgun Range Open
2 • Shotgun Range Open	3	4 • Board of Directors Me	5	6	7	8 • NRA RSO Course • Shotgun Range Open
9 • Shotgun Range Open	10	11	12	13	14	15 • Shotgun Range Open
16 • Shotgun Range Open	17	18	19	20 • Membership Meeting	21	22 • Shotgun Range Open
23 • Shotgun Range Open • New Member Orienta	24	25 • Range Committee Me	26	27	28	29 • Shotgun Range Open
30 • Shotgun Range Open	31	1 • Board of Directors Me	2	3	4	5 • Shotgun Range Open