



Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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

www.winchester-iwla.org

April 2021

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

MIKE MERCER MEMORIAL KIDS' FISHING DERBY

The Kids Fishing Derby is April 24th! See the full-page ad [here](#), and read more about it [here](#).

BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS

The Membership Meeting is scheduled for April 15th. There are three proposed amendments to the by-laws. You can review them [here](#). Please plan to attend the Membership Meeting to vote on their adoption.

OPENING DAY

Many fishermen came to enjoy Opening Day at your Chapter. More than 170 breakfast sandwiches were served to about 75 fishermen. Read more about it [here](#).

BULLSEYE PISTOL AND PRECISION RIFLE

Bullseye Pistol and Precision Rifle competitions begin May 3rd and run through October. Read about it [here](#) and get ready for some fun and exciting competition!

WINCHESTER, VA





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FROM THE EDITOR



Shhhh. Don't look now but I think Spring has sprung. It's actually warm! There is no better time than right now to get out and enjoy all that your Chapter has to offer. Whether it is fishing, shooting, hiking, or camping – your Chapter has it all.

And while you are enjoying the outdoors, consider serving. It does not require a full-time commitment to make a big-time difference to your Chapter. Whether it is sitting on a committee, or periodically helping on the range or elsewhere, a little help goes a long way. Contact someone in the box below to see how you can help your Chapter thrive.

Finally, a note about range safety. There have been several instances of members bringing guests to the range to shoot. That is a fantastic thing to do! But you must first stop at the Chapter house, complete and sign the 'hold-harmless' form, pay the \$10 fee, and keep the bottom portion of the form with you as proof. It is a great benefit to have a free and open range to the membership, but to keep it that way the range rules must be followed. Everyone should be aware of the current anti-gun climate that is pervasive in our communities. Do your part and follow the range rules to ensure we can keep the ranges available for everyone to enjoy. Read more about this here.

POINTS OF CONTACT

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BOARD REPORT

Your Board meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Chapter house. The BOD met on March 4th. The full minutes can be found on the Chapter's [website](#). The next meeting is scheduled for April 1st, 2021. No comments please on the significance of that date. Thank you.

The Membership Meeting has been scheduled for April 15th at 7 p.m. in the Chapter House, with proper COVID precautions maintained. This will be an important meeting as you will be voting on the three proposed amendments for the Chapter by-laws. Read the proposed changes [here](#) and plan on coming to that Membership meeting to make your voice heard.

are trying something new. We will be awarding small, stocked tackle boxes to all the prize winners.

We are asking members to help by donating surplus tackle. Please check your tackle boxes and consider donating any spare fishing gear including lures, hooks, jigs, and plastic worms to the derby. There will be a drop box in the chapter house for donations.

BSA Shawnee District Camporee

Our Chapter will be hosting the Boy Scout Shawnee District Camporee on May 14-16th. We will need volunteers to assist with the Fishing Derby and other events. Please contact brian_callahan@winchester-iwla.org if you can assist!

Dave and Mark Prater Memorial

The Chapter will be remembering David and Mark Prater and their legacy of service on May 22, 2021. Please save the date and watch for more details as we get closer to the event.

Water Quality

Finally! I was able to make it to the lake without needing chains, a snowplow, or an auger. The lake was closed in anticipation of Opening Day, but I managed to sneak past the guards and dip out a quart of water for testing. I don't think I disturbed any of the fish or other wildlife. I transported the jar of water immediately to our friends at Winchester Aquarium and Pet Center, "Your Pet Professionals" located at 190 Costello, across from Costco. See them for all your pet needs.

Our lake is, as ever, very healthy and conducive to growing fish populations.

LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

Opening Day

The annual opening day event was a great success. The event marks the first trout stocking of the season and we had about 75 members and guests. The chapter served about 170 cast iron breakfast sandwiches. The "World's Greatest Hot Chocolate" was a hit with our younger guests. The trout purchased from Mr. Orndorff were top quality. The Lake and Conservation committee needs to thank our volunteers who made this event possible including Mike Keenan, Rick Wright, Toby Norris, Jason Hamm, Peg Sattler, and Rick Krause.



Mike Mercer Memorial Kids Fishing Derby

The Chapter will be holding the Kids Fishing Derby in memory of Mike Mercer on Saturday April 24th. In previous derbies, we awarded fishing rods to the kids but this year we

	Nitrate	Nitrite	pH	GH	Kh	Ammonia
Sep-20	5-10	-	7	30.0	40.0	-
Oct-20	0-5	-	7	30.0	40.0	-
Nov-20	0-5	-	7	30.0	40.0	-
Dec-20	5-10	-	7	30.0	40.0	-
Jan-21	0-5	-	6	30.0	40.0	-
Feb-21	5-10	-	7	100.0	40.0	-
Mar-21	5-10	-	7	60.0	40.0	-

Be sure to always follow the catch regulations to ensure our aquatic populations remain vibrant for years to come.



RANGE REPORT

Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Range

By: Rick Hill, Shotgun Range Manager

We cannot say enough “THANK YOU’S” to the group that came out for workday on the Dr. Green Shotgun Range. Here is a short list of what was accomplished.

1. Worked on the Patterning Range, weed eat, removed old broken target stands.
2. Worked on Range Pavilion, moved all targets, and miscellaneous lumber and building materials.
3. Leaf blew the entire area around the 5-stand, added gravel for better walkway around the station.
4. Rearranged all the field traps to different locations for a new look and new targets to shoot.
5. Moved the blue shed closer to the 5-Stand and will use as an office and office supplies.
6. Filled a 20’ dumpster with trash and unused old materials.
7. Cut out and graveled a 20 x 10 ft site for our Sea Container which was delivered three days later.

We would like to paint both our container and shed this season but would like to power wash first. We are looking for a member who may have both water tank and power washer so we can clean before we paint. Please reach out to Mike Harper (mharper1948@comcast.net) and set up a time with him. If no members have this capability but know someone that does, we would be interested in speaking with them as soon as possible.

April 5th marks the first Wednesday of 2021 that the shotgun range will be open for members and guests. Mike Harper will be chief RSO and the range will be open between 1 and 4 p.m. Mike looks forward to seeing you at the range.

May will be the beginning of our chapter league shoot. If you are interested in shooting in the league, please either e-mail rhill1105@aol.com or stop by the shotgun range and register. The league will shoot twice a Month for 4 months. The shooter’s need to shoot a minimum of 6 rounds but if you can shoot all 8 you can choose to delete your two lowest scores. Cost will be \$15.00 per 50 shot rounds with \$5.00 going back to the top shooters in each class. Class will be

determined by number of shooters divided by a high to low class. (Lewis Class).

We look forward to seeing YOU on the Dr. Green Shotgun Range.

Remember: Feel the gun, see the break, smell the powder.

Range Safety

Many who joined the Winchester Chapter of the Izaak Walton League did so because we provide a safe and secure place to shoot firearms. Now that the weather is warming up, many of us shooters are going to be heading to the range to make holes in paper, or maybe try breaking a clay pigeon. Your Chapter takes great pains to see that every member who wishes to use the ranges is made aware of the safety regulations in place at the ranges and demonstrates competency with their firearms through the Range Qualification program.

Still, safety violations do occur. In almost all cases, violations are addressed by another member at the range and corrected immediately. In most cases no further action is necessary or warranted. Rarely is a member non-responsive to a friendly reminder.

If you are going to use the ranges, please review the range rules as they are subject to change from time to time. You can find and download them [here](#).

Memorize the NRA Gun Safety Rules:

- **ALWAYS KEEP THE GUN POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION**
- **ALWAYS KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER UNTIL READY TO SHOOT**
- **ALWAYS KEEP THE GUN UNLOADED UNTIL READY TO USE**

In addition, remember:

- When and how to make the range hot or cold
- Never move a loaded firearm from one shooting station to another
- Always use eye and ear protection when on or near the firing line
- Always display your membership card with the current RQ endorsement visible
- Always follow the guest policy procedures



Your Chapter has instituted a Flying Squad comprised of trained and certified Range Safety Officers (RSO) who will perform random checks of the Rifle-Pistol Range, but range safety and etiquette are every member's responsibility. Keep our ranges safe and open by following the published rules every time you are at the range.

Bullseye Precision Competition/.22 Pistol & Rifle

Beginning Monday, May 3rd, and continuing through Monday, October 25th, your Chapter will be running Bullseye Pistol and Precision Rifle competitions. Bullseye competitions are open only to IWLA members, their spouses, and appropriately aged children under parental supervision. Range Qualification is also required of each member (range safety instruction provided by IWLA officials). The pistol competitions will occur on the first and third Mondays of each month; the rifle competitions the second and fourth. Each match will begin at 4 p.m. and end by 8 p.m. Shooters are responsible for setting up their individual target stands prior to the match (PVC target stands available at the range). There will not be a match shoot scheduled for May 31st or August 30th as both are the fifth Mondays of the month.

The Rifle and Pistol Range will be closed to members not participating in the Bullseye competitions during the competition.

Bullseye Pistol – Course of Fire

Shooters are required to use a .22LR pistol, semi-automatic preferred, and will need 70 rounds of ammunition (10 for sighting-in; 60 for score). Revolvers allowed but are a real challenge in the Rapid fire shooting segment (5 shots in 10 seconds). Open sights, red dot, or scope allowed. Shooters must have eye and ear protection. Shooters can use either one-hand (conventional military/NRA), or two-hand (defense stance) as their pistol holding grip. Separate scoring categories for each.

The shooter will fire a total 60 rounds in three sets of 20 rounds each, at three separate bullseye targets set 25 yards downrange.

Set 1: Slow fire - 20 shots in 20 minutes.

Set 2: Timed fire - Four 20-second sets of five shots each.

Set 3: Rapid fire - Four 10-second sets of five shots each.

Maximum score: 600 points.

NRA Classification Scoring

Scores are not submitted to the NRA. While this course of fire is very similar to what the NRA runs for its classification, the NRA does not allow for a two-handed stance. These official rank classifications, however, enable you to see how you might rank against Bullseye pistol shooters across the country who participate in official NRA competitions.

NRA Official Bullseye (Precision Pistol) Classifications

High Master	97% and above
Master	95.00 – 96.99%
Expert	90.00 – 94.99%
Sharpshooter	85.00 – 89.99%
Marksman	Below 85.00%

To calculate your percentage, divide your total pistol score by the maximum total score of 600.

Precision Rifle – Course of Fire

Shooters are required to use a .22LR repeater rifle (bolt, pump, semi-auto action) and will need 50 rounds of ammunition (10 for sighting-in; 40 for score). Shooters must have eye and ear protection.

The shooter will fire 40 rounds in two sets of 20 rounds each at two separate bullseye targets 25 yards downrange. All shooting will be done off-hand (standing), with no sling support or Olympic-style shooting coat allowed. The shooter can request 50-yard targets to increase his challenge but cannot alter any other parameters of the course of fire..

Set 1: Slow fire - 20 shots in 10 minutes.

Set 2: Rapid fire – Four 20-second sets of five shots each.

Non-NRA Bullseye (Precision Rifle) Scoring Classification

We use the same percentages for rifle in developing scoring classification as we use for pistol, as shown above. Such percentages can give the rifle shooter a close, but not official, idea of how well his precision rifle shooting stands up to NRA rifle competitors across the country.

To calculate your percentage, divide your total rifle score by the maximum total score of 400.



OTHER NEWS

Winchester Aquarium and Pet Center

The fine folk at the Winchester Pet and Aquarium Center are responsible for testing the water sampled from Lake Neff. They provide this service freely, willingly, and cheerfully.



A.P.C.
WINCHESTER

“Your Pet Professionals”

190 Costello Drive Winchester, VA 22602 Phone: 540-667-8198 wapcinfo@comcast.net	Mon—Fri 10am to 8pm Saturday 10am to 7pm Sunday 11am to 5pm www.petcenteronline.com
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If you have a pet, or are interested in one, please consider doing your business with them. They give to your Chapter; we should give back at least a little. They are located at 190 Costello Drive, just down from Costco.

IWLA National Convention

You may have received this in your email, but in case you missed it, or do not use email, this year’s convention will be held virtually rather than in-person due to the ongoing concerns over COVID. The League will hold a virtual convention in July minimally to elect new national officers and members of the Executive Board and consider policy resolutions submitted by chapters and divisions. The specific date, format, and any additional components of a virtual convention, such as speakers or workshops, will be determined over the next few weeks. Please look for updates via email, "Outdoor America" magazine and the League’s website. And, of course, your intrepid editor will keep you apprised through your newsletter. Not sure how timely it will be, but nonetheless.

This convention, as all conventions have been, are open to all members. I will provide details as I learn of them.

Chapter Facebook Page

I know this same message has been in previous newsletters, but it bears repeating. There are two Facebook pages for your Chapter. The original was set up, but the

password for that page has been lost and so that page can no longer be maintained.

A second Facebook page was created recently and can be found [here](#). It is updated regularly and is your best source to know the latest goings-on with your Chapter.



Sometimes the Chapter will be closed or events cancelled due to weather or other reasons. Be sure to check the Facebook page to check for closures or cancellations.

Amazon Smile

This is another nugget worth repeating. Would you like an easy way to give back to your Chapter? By selecting Winchester IWLA as your charitable organization at smile.amazon.com, a portion of eligible purchases will be donated back. You can read more about this program [here](#).

To select your Chapter, follow these simple steps:

1. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com>.
2. Choose “Winchester Izaak Walton” as your charity. It can be found [here](#).
3. Be sure that when you shop you are at [smile.amazon.com](#). Having the ‘smile’ at the beginning of the URL makes the difference.



Proposed Amendments

The Membership meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Thursday, April 15. The following three proposed amendments to the chapter by-laws will be voted on at that meeting. Please plan on attending and make your voice heard.

The proposed amendments are listed alongside the current language, with the change expressly described in the final column.

Amendment One – Article II, Section 8. Discipline and Termination of Membership		
Current Language	Proposed Change	What changed
The Chapter shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of the National and Virginia Division constitutions and bylaws. Members may be suspended or expelled only upon proper showing of cause. All charges must be supported by affidavit by the accusers. No member in good standing shall lose his membership until given a fair trial in such manner and form as the state division bylaws and the governing board of the Virginia Division shall prescribe.	The Chapter shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of the National and Virginia Division constitutions and bylaws. Members may be suspended or expelled only upon proper showing of cause. No member in good standing shall lose his membership until given a fair trial in such manner and form as the state division bylaws and the governing board of the Virginia Division shall prescribe.	Delete the requirement that charges must be supported by affidavit.

Amendment Two – Article II, Section 8. Discipline and Termination of Membership		
Current Language	Proposed Change	What changed
d) Disruptive and/or abusive behavior;	d) Disruptive and/or abusive behavior, including lack of proper decorum and repeatedly disrupting meetings after due warning;	Add the clause “including lack of proper decorum and repeatedly disrupting meetings after due warning;”

Amendment Three – Article III, Section 5. Election and Term		
Current Language	Proposed Change	What changed
Directors are limited to three (3) consecutive terms without a break in service. Any director who has reached his or her term limit may not serve in any Officer capacity on the Board of Directors for a period of one (1) year.	[Delete current language without replacement]	Eliminate the term limit.





Winchester Chapter of The Izaak Walton League of America

PRIZES

FREE!

Open to Public



Mike Mercer Memorial Kids' Fishing Derby

Open to kids Age 15 and under.
Registration Begins at 9:30 AM. Derby runs from 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Prizes and Awards 2:30 PM

All registered children will receive a snack and drink.

Prizes are Awarded by Fish
Length for Each Age Group



We have a small
Pier for Special
Needs Children

COME JOIN THE FUN ON APRIL 24th!

IZAAK WALTON PARK, 2863 MILLWOOD PIKE, WINCHESTER, VA 22602

