



Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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



www.winchester-iwla.org

May 2021

MAY HIGHLIGHTS

MIKE MERCER MEMORIAL KIDS' FISHING DERBY

The Kids Fishing Derby was a huge success! Many thanks to Harold Whitacre for organizing it and the many volunteers that made it happen. Without volunteers, such events cannot happen. Read more about it [here](#) in Lake and Conservation Report.

SPORTSMAN'S SWAP MEET

Do you have any unused equipment lying around you would like to off-load? Maybe you are in the market for something. Tentatively scheduled for June 19th, you can read more about it in [Other News](#).

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

A sincere thank-you and best wishes to all the moms out there who either encourage their kids to get out in the outdoors, take them out themselves, or boot them out the door – however you do it, THANK YOU! And if you are fortunate enough to have your mom, give her a big hug and thank her for all she does.

RANGE GUEST POLICY UPDATED

The rules have been updated. Please see [Range Report](#) section for details.

BULLSEYE PISTOL AND PRECISION RIFLE

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

JUNE ELECTIONS

There are several vacancies on the Board. Please consider running for a seat and help your Chapter thrive. Read more in the [Board Report](#) section.





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FROM THE EDITOR



It is May! I did not think I was going to survive the winter. Baseboard heat is expensive to run and your editor is cheap.

Lots going on at your Chapter. The Precision Rifle and Bullseye Shoot starts this month, as does the league shotgun shoot. Please go to the [Range Report](#) section to read more.

The Mike Mercer Memorial Kids' Fishing Derby (MMMKFD? I do not even want to try to pronounce that acronym) was a huge success. Go to [Lake and Conservation](#) to read about it.

And a personal note from your editor to all the moms out there who do the heavy lifting at home raising their kids and making a house a home: A sincere and genuine "Happy Mother's Day" to you. Even if you are not quite a mom yet, you have got it in you. Make sure to raise your boys into men who respect women, and your girls into women who respect themselves.

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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 April 1st (I heard that snicker back there). The full minutes can be found on the Chapter's [website](#). The next meeting is scheduled for May 7th, 2021.

The Membership Meeting was held April 15th at 7 p.m. in the Chapter House. The proposed changes to the by-laws were unanimously approved by the members present. The by-laws have been updated and can be found on the Chapter's [website](#).

The general election will be in June. Details will be forthcoming in an email, so keep your inboxes clear and ready. Please consider running for a position and helping keep your Chapter vibrant and active for years to come.

LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

Mike Mercer Memorial Kids Fishing Derby

The Mike Mercer Memorial Kids Fishing Derby under the direction of Harold Whitacre, Special Events Chairman, was a very successful event again this year due to the hard work of our chapter volunteers. The chapter saw 82 kids participate and 160 people attend the event. The kids caught 63 trout and a wide variety of other fish claiming over 30 prizes. Prizes were divided among ages groups for boys and girls and included additional prizes for 1st Golden Trout and longest golden trout. The chapter coordinated social distancing and other COVID protocols to be sure all the participants had a great time while remaining safe. Every participant that attended the event received a package of hooks, a bobber, an eagle claw tackle box sticker, a stringer and a variety of snacks. The winners won small tackle boxes full of a variety of fishing hooks, plastic baits and lures.

The chapter would like to thank the following volunteers for their incredible assistance for the event: Rick Wright, Mike Keenan, Dave Kavanah, Charlie Weiss, Ed and Ursula

Dandar, Jeff McCall, Siri Sitton, Kelley Callahan, Jason Hamm, Zac Bowers, Vicki and James Mercer, Terry Henry, Toby and Fran Norris, Katie Frederico, Zoltan Palfy, Paul Sattler and Doug Morgan. We would also like to thank Roger Orndorff who provided amazing trout in the stocking for the event.

BSA Shawnee District Camporee

The Camporee has been moved out to September 10-12 due to continuing COVID restrictions. Details will be provided as we get closer to September.

Dave and Mark Prater Memorial

The memorial service honoring David and Mark Prater will be on Saturday May 22, 2021. The event will begin at the Chapterhouse from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. At 4:00 p.m., participants will move to the campground for the outpost dedication including a flag retirement ceremony.

Please register for the event: <https://winchester-iwla.org/event-4147485>

Congratulations!

The Lake and Conservation Committee would like to congratulate Katie Frederico on her graduation from James Madison University with a degree in Biology. Katie has been working with the committee in an intern role including the Kids Fishing Derby, BSA event and is going to be working on habitat restoration and invasive species eradication within the chapter.

Water Quality

Our friends at Winchester Aquarium and Pet Center, "Your Pet Professionals" located at 190 Costello, across from Costco, once again tested our water sample taken from Lake Neff. They do not simply test water samples. You can see them for all your pet needs.

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



	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	-
Apr-21	0-5	-	7	65.0	30.0	-

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

It's May! The chapter league shoot begins this month. 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 shooters 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

Several incidents have happened on the Rifle Pistol range over the previous 3 months that have caused the Range Committee to modify the Range rules. These incidents involved unregistered guests and unsupervised guests at the range. The Guest policy has not changed, all guests must be registered in the chapter house with payment and sign our hold harmless agreement. Members cannot shoot at the same time as guests because they need to supervise their actions.

The range committee purchased signage that is attached to the yellow poles when entering the range reminding members of the guest policy. The range rules have also been modified so that if any member is found at the range with an unregistered guest, they will lose range privileges for 60 days and be referred to the discipline committee. No member can assume the liability of a non-registered shooter on our ranges. The range committee and Board of Directors approved the following update to the Range SOP, shown in bold italics below.

Range Guest Policy

WIWL Members in Good Standing who are Range Qualified may bring up to two guests at a time to shoot on the WIWL ranges. The host member must sign their guest in at the Chapter House and is responsible for his/her guests while they are on the range, must supervise their shooting, and so may not shoot while their guests are shooting. The host member is responsible for ensuring that each guest complies with posted range policies and procedures. To register a guest, follow the instructions posted in the Chapter House. All non-members who wish to use the ranges must complete the Guest Registration form and pay the guest fee excepting only for Board approved scheduled activities where separate insurance is provided and the guest registration requirement is specifically waived. ***Members who violate the Guest Policy by bringing an unregistered guest to the range will have their Range privileges suspended for a minimum of 60 days and will be reported to the Board of Directors for a possible review by the Discipline Committee.***

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

Sportsman’s Swap Meet

We are trying once again to host a Sportsman’s Swap Meet at the Chapter House. It all depends on member interest and the number of tables members reserve for displaying the hunting, shooting, fishing, camping, archery, and other outdoor gear that they want to sell or swap. Save Saturday, June 19th, the day before Father’s Day, for what we hope will be the first of an annual event at the Chapter.

Many of us joined the Winchester Chapter to have a place to shoot, and only later discovered the many advantages membership provides for those of us who love the outdoors. Lots of us have accumulated gear, including firearms and accessories, fishing tackle, camping equipment, reloading tools, and much more, some of which we do not use much anymore, but that would fit well into another member’s locker. Reserve a table for a nominal fee or come



out on June 19th and find what you have been looking for or maybe just hankering for.

The date is tentative dependent on the level of interest shown. If you think you want to reserve a table, or that you would come to the Chapter House just to look and maybe buy, please email Jim Sherry at jim_sherry@winchester-iwla.org or jimamerican@yahoo.com. No obligation, but we do need an indication of the level of interest in this event. Send your note by May 23rd, please, and we will announce the result in the June Newsletter.

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	Mon—Fri	10am to 8pm
Winchester, VA 22602	Saturday	10am to 7pm
Phone: 540-667-8198	Sunday	11am to 5pm
wapcinfo@comcast.net		www.petcenteronline.com

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.

