



Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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



www.winchester-iwla.org

September 2021

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

GUEST SPEAKER

This month's Membership Meeting (September 16th – mark your calendars) will feature Greg Porter, an expert in firearms laws. Read more about this under [Board Reports](#).

SEPTEMBER 10TH-12TH – FALL CAMPOREE

Your Chapter is hosting the Fall Camporee for the BSA's Shenandoah Area Council. Volunteers are needed. Read more in [Lake and Conservation](#). Reach out to Brian Callahan (brian_callahan@winchester-iwla.org) if you can help.

SEPTEMBER 18TH – BASIC PISTOL TRAINING

Al Stitt will be putting on an NRA Basic Pistol Training Course. See [Other News](#) for details.

SHOTGUN NEWS

From updated hours to shotgun ammo for sale to range training and learning to shoot for the ladies and the youth – so much is going on at your Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Range. What are you waiting for?! Read more in [Range Report](#).

IKE'S DEFENDER 5K

It's begun! It is not too late to register and get involved. Read more under [Lake and Conservation Report](#).

SCHOLASTIC ACTION SHOOTING PROGRAM (SASP)

Your Blue Ridge Bullets competed in July at the national SASP match in Ohio... and brought home some awards! Read more under [Range Reports](#).

FAMILY FUN DAY – POSTPONED

This event has been pushed to October or November. Please see [Other News](#) for more information.





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FROM THE EDITOR



A couple of observations. First, I do not get to your Chapter nearly enough. Except for coming through to get a water sample for testing (by your friends at Winchester Pet and Aquarium), I haven't utilized the ranges, wet a line, camped, or hiked. I am forever exhorting you to get out and enjoy all your Chapter has to offer. The adage *physician, heal thyself* springs to mind.

This month the Ike's Defender 5k kicks off. It's a great way to give back to your Chapter and get a nifty t-shirt in the process. See [Lake and Conservation Report](#) for details. There are orientation classes offered at the Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Range for the ladies and the youth. Details under [Range Report](#). Your Range Committee began a new service, sending out periodic Range Safety notifications. These will contain tips on staying safe on the range, as the name would imply, as well as shooting and gun maintenance tips. The tips will be repeated in the newsletter in case you miss them in your email. You can find them under [Range Report](#) as well.

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BOARD REPORTS

Your Board met on August 5th. Minutes can be found at <https://www.winchester-iwla.org/Board-Meeting-Minutes>.

If you are a shooter, are interested in shooting, own a gun, or know someone who does, you will not want to miss the next Membership Meeting, scheduled for Thursday, September 16th, at 7 p.m. Gary Porter, one of our new members, is an expert in firearms laws and has agreed to speak at the Membership Meeting. He will answer your questions, so come prepared. His topic will focus on the laws and protections as pertain to NRA firearms classes, but will take questions from the audience, time permitting.

Please go to the Events section of your Chapter's website ([here](#)) to register.

LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

Water Quality

Our friends at Winchester Aquarium and Pet Center, “Your Pet Professionals” located at 190 Costello, across from Costco, tested our water sample taken from Lake Neff. 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. Rather than allowing this table to one day overtake the entire column, I will only report three months of readings.

	Nitrate	Nitrite	pH	GH	Kh	Ammonia
Jun-21	0	-	7.8	75.0	80.0	-
Jul-21	0	-	7.6	75.0	50.0	-
Aug-21	5-10	-	6.8	80.0	80.0	-

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

Fall Camporee

The Chapter will be hosting the Shenandoah Area Council Shawnee District Fall Camporee on September 10-12. The event theme is Law Enforcement and local, state and federal agencies will be participating in demonstrations and educational outreach. The camporee has been postponed several times and funding assistance is being provided by an Izaak Walton Endowment grant.

The following will be closed from Friday, September 10th at 5:00 p.m. through Sunday, September 12th at noon:

- Rifle Pistol Range
- Shotgun Range
- Lake and Trails
- Campgrounds

Events taking place include Hunters Education, Patrol Contests, Fishing Contests, CSI Contest, Conservation Education and Merit Badges.

We need volunteers for setup, teardown and the event. Please contact Brian Callahan (brian_callahan@winchester-iwla.org) if you can assist.

Ike’s Defender 5k

The Winchester Chapter wants people to get into the outdoors and enjoy nature! This is not a competitive race but a great excuse to get outdoors, get some exercise with the family and help support our chapter at the same time. A virtual 5k is a run/walk that can be completed anywhere.



The 2021 Ike’s Defender Virtual 5K runs September 1st – 30th.

\$30 Entry donation includes a free shirt which can be mailed to any participants that are not in the local area. We will be awarding 3 top prizes for the best picture taken during the 5k.



Participants can run, walk, bike, swim, even canoe the race distance wherever they want during the race dates. We honor ALL miles.

We have designed a family friendly course using the Chapter hiking trails at the Winchester Chapter which will run September 25th, 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Participants can challenge themselves by completing the 5k on our new chapter cardio trails!

We want people to get into the outdoors and enjoy nature! This is not a competitive race but a great excuse to get fresh air, get some exercise with the family and help support our chapter at the same time!

The chapter will be ordering and sending shirts at the end of the event. Go to <https://www.winchester-iwla.org/5k> for more information and to register.

RANGE REPORT

The range rules have been changed concerning violations to the range guest policy. If a member is found in violation of the policy, he or she will forfeit range privileges for 60 days, and the case will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for further action. The updated Range Rules should be read by all range users; they can be found at <https://winchester-iwla.org/Rifle-Pistol>. Plans call for new signage at the Rifle-Pistol range outlining the Range Guest Policy changes, along with NRA firearms safety rules. John Suter reported that Shotgun range guests can now be registered at the Shotgun range. He also announced the establishment of a new shotgun league. Details may be found on the Chapter website.

SASP Award

September is the start of the new shooting year for the Winchester Chapter's SASP team, the Blue Ridge Bullets. SASP stands for the Scholastic Action Shooting Program, a youth-oriented program of competitive shooting that has chalked up a remarkable record of success.

Founded in 2016 by the late Chapter member and past Chapter President Dave Prater, the Winchester SASP team consists of seventeen boys and girls ranging in age from 11 to 18 years. New shooters may apply for team membership

in September. They shoot primarily .22 cal. pistols and rifles at steel targets placed at varying distances, with accuracy and timing evaluated for score. Safety is paramount at the matches and practice sessions; each team member is subjected to safety and firearms handling training, and every shooter is supervised by Chapter certified shooting instructors and/or Range Safety Officers.

Most recently the Blue Ridge Bullets competed in the SASP National match in Marengo, Ohio in July. At this event our Senior Squad took 2nd place among all high school squads in the discipline of Rimfire Pistol Optics. Team coach and Chapter member Shawn Baird



presented Chapter President Dan Arico with the trophy and with one of the squad medals for that award at the August 15th Membership meeting. Shawn plans to build and install a display case, similar to the one he made for the team's winnings last year, to house the team's current and future awards.

Shawn also displayed the individual medal won by one of our SASP shooters, Alexander Baird, who placed 3rd in the nation for all Senior JV shooters (High schoolers competing at the high school level for their first year).

The team will be accepting inquires for new shooters in September. Any interested parties may reach coach Shawn Baird at blueridgebullets@gmail.com

Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Range

And just like that, it's September! Even with the hot weather this summer we've had some great shooting.



Saturday August 28th will be our last Summer League Shoot. I would like to thank Jack Macgregor for his time and hard work with the league. We still don't know who top gun will be so will have to report next month on our winner's.

We are trying to put together a Fall/Winter League with Winchester Gun Club. The format would be we shoot at WIWL one week and two weeks later shoot at WGC. More to follow as we try to arrange and set up.

Mark September 25th on your calendar. Our shotgun RSO Instructors will be doing an introduction course to shotgun shooting for our lady and youth members. The course will be managed by Larry Camper who is both an NRA and NSCA shotgun shooting instructor. The course will last around 4 hours, first meeting at the Chapter house then out to the range to break some clay targets. WIWL will provide everything you need to shoot including safety glasses, ear protection, shotguns, shells and of course clay targets to break. More details can be found under *Ladies and Youth: Orientation and Basic Shooting Skills*, on the next page.

Just a reminder, the shotgun range is set up for all shotgun shooters with multiple traps. One of our games is called Wobble Trap, you shoot 5 rounds from 5 different stations while the trap is moving up, down and side to side. A 25-shot round costs \$5 with your own gun and shells. We have shells available to purchase for \$8.00 per box of 25 in both 20- and 12-gauge size. If you don't have a shotgun, no problem. We can provide you with either a 20- or 12-gauge model, either full size or youth models for our lady and youth members. Our RSO's will always take the time to help you get started and if you need advice don't be shy. We are all willing to help you shoot better.

I'm sure there are some members who bird hunt. Whether it's dove, grouse, chucker, pheasant, ducks, or geese, we can set a trap to mimic your bird's flight patterns and help you tune up for the coming season.

We look forward to meeting you at the Dr. Green Shotgun Range.

Rick Hill
Shotgun Range Manager

Ammo Available

Your Chapter now has a supply of 12 ga. #8 shot for the range, available to members for \$8/box for use at the range only. 20 ga. is also available.

Ladies and Youth: Orientation and Basic Shooting Skills

The Shotgun Range Committee plans to conduct shotgun range orientation course for ladies and youth on September 25, 2021. The orientation will include basic shotgun familiarity and handling skills, range safety and time on the range shooting sporting clays.

The program will start at 9:00 am and conclude by 1:00pm. We ask that everyone arrive approximately 30 minutes prior to the class for sign in and greetings etc.

The first two hours will take place in the clubhouse and the remaining two hours will be spent shooting clays on Chapter's outstanding Five Stand facility.

The course is for ladies and youth to enhance their familiarity with shotgun shooting and encourage their involvement at the shotgun range. The program will be taught by experienced members of the Shotgun Range Committee. The primary goal of the course is to aid ladies and youth in enjoying shooting sporting clays. The time spent on the range will focus on breaking clay targets in a way that will enhance the confidence of the shooters. Shotgun shells will be provided for the class participants and each person can expect to shoot a shotgun approximately ten times during the range portion of the program.

More information and registration for the course will be found on the club web site. The coordinator for the training session will be Larry W. Camper, a member of the Shotgun Range Committee. Larry is certified by the National Rifle Association as a Shotgun Instructor and as a Chief Range Safety Officer and he is a National Sporting Clays Association Level I Instructor.

The Shotgun Range Committee invites ladies and youth to register for the class and have fun breaking clays. Breaking clay makes our day!

Range Safety Messages

Below are the two Safety Messages that were sent out, in full. Perhaps in future editions these will be pared down,



but for now, they are presented in their entirety. Both messages are valuable in reminding all gun owners about safety.

Message 1

Although we have a very complete set of posted Range Rules at all of our ranges, some of us more frequent users have observed infractions that could cause serious harm. Therefore the Range Committee with Board approval thought it would be a good idea to remind members and range users of the proper way to handle firearms while at the range. We will publish periodic instructional type message reminders of these observations with the goal of improving safety and avoiding any accidents. Remember, our ranges are the best game in town. No place else in town offers what we have, at the price of our membership, the variety of ranges, and the hours of open range time that we offer. Let's not "do anything stupid to screw this up." Below is our first observation and suggestion.

Observation 1: When changing shooting positions at the range, observe the following: Do so only when the range is "hot" and the red light is on, make sure the gun is unloaded, magazine removed, action open, and the gun pointed in a safe direction and that it does not cross the path of another shooter. A safe way to change shooting positions is to place the unloaded firearm, with the action open, in a case and then move to another position.

Message 2

Most of us are aware of the recent surge in the sale of firearms and shooting equipment. This is great; however, some members lack the first hand knowledge of how to properly and safely use their new acquisition. This is especially true of first time AR owners and members buying new optical sights. Our suggestion for new gun and equipment owners is to request assistance from some of our experienced members who are frequently at the range. In the past they have been very helpful and willing to lend a hand in sighting in a new scope or going through the basics of disassembly and reassembly of an AR. Help in sighting in a scope will save you ammo and save the club wooden target frames. We can't emphasize the importance of being totally familiar and competent in handling a new firearm.

OTHER NEWS

NRA Basic Pistol Training Course

Al Stitt, your Education and Training Director, will be putting on this training at your Chapter on Saturday, September 18th. The class will begin at 8 a.m. in the Chapter house. Live fire will be at the Rifle/Pistol range. Plan on arriving a few minutes early to meet everyone and get a cup of coffee.

Each participant will need to bring at least 50 rounds of ammunition for their gun and will also need eye and hearing protection.

Topics will include:

- Fundamentals of Firearm Safety
- Children and Firearms
- Types of Handguns and Their Operation
- Ammunition
- Gun Safety Rules
- Cleaning, Storage, and Transportation
- Shooting Fundamentals and Shooting Positions
- Live Fire

Upon successful completion of the course, each student will be given a certificate to record your participation. This certificate can be used with your application package for a concealed pistol permit.

Family Fun Day

Initially planned for early September, Family Fun Day has been postponed until October or November. Details will be sent out in a member-wide email, so keep your eyes peeled.

W-IWL History

The following was reprinted in the August 16th edition of the Winchester Star. The original publication date was August 10th, 1946.

75 years ago

Acting upon a request of the local Izaak Walton League, the Winchester Lions Club has turned over to that organization their proposed project to provide a winter ice skating pond in the city.



Young skating enthusiasts of Winchester will be interested to know that the pond will probably be completed in time for the winter ice skating season this year.

The site of the pond has been established in the Winchester Park area, southeast of Senseny Road, in a natural contour depression adjacent to the baseball diamond area in that section of the park.

Thanks to Jim Sherry, your Chapter's Secretary, for finding and sharing this nugget of history.

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.

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.





BASIC PISTOL TRAINING COURSE

***** SEPTEMBER 18, 2021 *****

The NRA Basic Pistol Shooting Course introduces students to the knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary for owning and using a pistol safely.



Upon successful completion of the course, each student will be given a certificate to record your participation. This certificate can be used with your application package for a concealed pistol permit.

******Register on the Chapter calendar******

