



# Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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



[www.winchester-iwla.org](http://www.winchester-iwla.org)

October 2021

# OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

## GREG PORTER TO SPEAK AGAIN

Greg Porter will provide Part II of his firearms laws presentation at the October Membership Meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup>. See [Board Reports](#) for additional information.

## MOWERS NEEDED

Contact your Editor if you are interested in operating a zero-turn mower and helping out your Chapter. Read more in [Other News](#).

## IKE'S DEFENDER 5K – CANCELLED

It has been cancelled for this year. Read more under [Lake and Conservation Report](#).

## 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



My, how time flies. It's already October. Seems it was just yesterday that it was September.

The Ike's Defender 5k was postponed due to weather and flooding. Keep your eyes peeled for information on new dates. The orientation classes presented at the Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Range for the ladies and the youth was a great success. Details under [Range Report](#). The Fall Camporee was another big success for your Chapter. You can read all about it under Lake and Conservation Report.

Last month we began sending out Range Safety Messages. The last one listed a half dozen or so 'minor' infractions. I've received some feedback from the membership about these infractions being petty. There is no such thing as a petty infraction at a gun range. If we want to keep an open range at your Chapter, everyone needs to make sure they follow the range rules. No one wants the range limited to the availability of a volunteer to police the range while in use.

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# BOARD REPORTS

Your Board met on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Minutes can be found at <https://www.winchester-iwla.org/Board-Meeting-Minutes>.

Member Ray Palladino was recognized as a top Chapter volunteer and honored with a new campground in his name built by Boy Scouts in the vicinity of Opequon Creek. Congratulations, Ray, and thank you for your exemplary service to the Chapter.

The September Membership Meeting was highlighted by local attorney Gary Porter’s informative briefing on critical aspects of Virginia firearms law. Especially relevant were insights into how the law affects those in possession of a Virginia Concealed Handgun Permit. The consequences of an incident in which a citizen exercises his or her right to self-defense can be unexpected. Greg emphasized the need for Concealed Handgun Permit holders to be familiar with the laws of our state. For example, did you know that Virginia does not have a so-called castle doctrine law? Training in concealed carry situations should be sought by all who decide to carry.

The briefing was well received by the members at the meeting. This month’s Membership Meeting will be October 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Porter will be giving the second part of his firearms laws presentation. Go to the [Events](#) section of your Chapter’s website to register and plan on attending.

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	-
Sep-21	10	-	7.2	75.0	40.0	-

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

## Ike’s Defender 5k – CANCELLED

Due to flooding following the heavy rains in August and early September, the Defender has been cancelled for this year.



## Fall Camporee

Some 200 scouts and leaders from the Shenandoah Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America turned out the weekend of September 10-12 for a Covid-careful Camporee at the Winchester Chapter.

“It was great to see our youth outdoors this weekend, learning and developing leadership skills,” said Robert L. Garrett, Scout Executive/CEO of the Shenandoah Area Council. “The youth have been locked down for nearly 18 months and desperately need interpersonal interactions in a safe and fun atmosphere.”

The theme of the Camporee September 10-12 was *Law Enforcement in Action*, involving local enforcement and state agencies. That was worked in with conservation elements

# 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



from the missions of both the scouts and the Izaak Walton League.

The conservation and crime elements came together in a who-dun-it crime scene investigation exercise involving a forest fire in the Chapter pine forest. The scouts had to follow the clues to determine if the fire cause was a careless campfire or arson. The event was run by retired forester Gerald Crowell who guided the scouts through the crime scene while also reinforcing a key element of The Outdoor Code of being careful with fire.



Activities included a fishing tournament, patrol challenges, and meet and greet with multiple law enforcement agencies. A moment of silence was held in the morning to remember the 20th anniversary of the events on 9-11.

Law enforcement agencies found an exciting audience as the scouts hiked the new chapter trails to meet the different teams. Frederick county provided diverse groups such as search and rescue, k9 and dive teams. The Virginia state police as well as the Department of Natural resources also provided teams that discussed with the scouts their roles and function. A med flight helicopter landed at the event and the scouts were able to meet the crew and see the helicopter up close.

The fishing tournament netted 31 fish with the winner catching a 5lb 7 ounce catfish caught by an 11 year old scout. The all day tournament was staffed by Chapter volunteers who presented seminars on the finer points of catfish and bass fishing.



The patrol challenge was a one-mile race along the Opequon creek. The scouts were stopped at 10 different stations and quizzed on the information they learned during the day on conservation information including invasive plant species, water quality and soil management as well as from the law enforcement groups.

“This event is the culmination of enormous volunteer efforts from the Chapter Conservation committee. Members clocked several hundred hours creating new campsites, redesigning the event for social distancing, and cutting new trails,” said Brian Callahan, Winchester Conservation Committee Chairman. “We cannot thank Frederick county law enforcement enough for helping us with this event.”

## RANGE REPORT

### Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Range

#### *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.

October 2021

4 of 7





There were six students in the class. We conducted 2 hours in the classroom and then approximately 2 hours on the range. The students learned:

1. Gun Safety
2. Gun Fit and Handling
3. Eye Dominance
4. Correct Shooting Posture
5. Correct Stance and Balance
6. Basic Shotgun Anatomy and Operation- Identifying Shotgun Shells
7. Basic Understanding of the Shot Pattern Travel and Relationship to the Clays
8. Basic Understanding of Visual Pick-Up Point, Hold Point and Break Point
9. Importance of Learning From Mistakes (Missed Clays)
10. What to Expect When Shooting a Shotgun (Need for Proper Mount and Addressing Recoil)
11. Enjoying the Sport and Practicing-Achieving Consistent Skills
12. Basic Drills to improve shotgun shooting
13. Range Etiquette/Process for Today (Role of RSOs)

## Range Safety Messages

Below is the third safety message.

### Message 3

Below is an actual account of one member's activities and range rule violations that were observed on Saturday Sept. 18, 2021. This message is intended as a reminder to all members that following range rules is important and failure to do so can result personal injury or worse. Users of the range who are uninformed about proper range use can be a danger to all who are in the area.

The member introduced his two guests as "new members". Neither the member nor his guests had their WIWL Badges. When questioned in conversation it was disclosed that they were new members who had not had their Orientation yet but that they were signed up for the next session. Therefore the member said he signed them in as "guests". Did they have guest receipts and did he pay their fees? They had all been shooting at the same time for over an hour and were using two shooting benches and one handgun position. They were all wearing ear protection but not one of them was wearing eye protection. One "serious" safety violations was observed as the member remained seated at the bench while his two guests were downrange changing targets He didn't touch his firearm. Also the guests were not always behind the yellow safety line when the range was cold and there wasn't any supervision of the guests' shooting by the member.

So let's count the range rule infractions:

1. No one was displaying a valid chapter badge with a "Range Qualified" sticker.
2. Possible guest policy violation if he did not pay or have a receipts for both guests.
3. The member was shooting while his guests were shooting. This is not allowed as you must supervise your guest to insure safe shooting, only one person may shoot at a time, and the member may use only one shooting position so he can effectively do so.
4. If the "guests" were members they should not have been shooting unless they had been Range Qualified and through the Orientation class.



5. No one was wearing eye protection.

6. The member remained seated at the shooting bench with a firearm in the benchrest (the action was open, the mag was removed) while the range was "cold" and people were in the target field.

Now some members may say that these violations weren't that bad. Maybe so if it were only one or two infractions but *six*? Regardless, the member and guests were kindly counseled, instructed and corrected on the proper way to use the rifle/pistol range. It was also suggested that they put their firearms away as the Basic Pistol Course had just completed and that an RSO would be there shortly and they would also be instructed on how to correct these violations. Our hope is that the member(s) who were involved attend the next Orientation Session and become familiar with the range rules. Proper Range Qualification Training as conducted by the chapter is important and protects us all.

We hope that you find the above informative and please observe the range rules.

## OTHER NEWS

### MOWERS NEEDED

Do you want to give back to your Chapter? Do you have any experience cutting grass? Interested in learning how to operate a zero-turn mower? If you answered 'yes' to any or all of these questions, please contact your Editor. You will get all the information you need – keys, where the gas is kept, etc.

### 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.

### 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.



Winchester IWLA  
21h · 🌐

Due to the hazardous road conditions, the Chapter is closed today. Please stay safe and warm and off the roads.

The December membership meeting, scheduled for tomorrow, has been cancelled due to the COVID restrictions on group sizes for indoor gatherings.

You and 1 other

Like Comment Share



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](https://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.

