



Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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



www.winchester-iwla.org

November 2022

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

JAKE'S BAIT AND TACKLE

Jake's Bait and Tackle recently donated a dozen containers of bait worms for the Chapter. Thank you, Jake's, for your continued support! Please visit them for all your bait and tackle needs.

RANGE QUALIFICATIONS

It's that time! Please read about changes to the range quals under [Range Report](#). It's important.

★ FOOD DRIVE ★

The annual Chapter food drive is in progress through November 12. There is a drop box in the chapterhouse for donations of nonperishable food. Please consider donating this year as many families have been heavily impacted by the rising inflation and need our assistance this holiday season.

LUMBER AVAILABLE

Your Chapter has lumber available for sale. Read all about it under [Lake and Conservation Report](#).

"ONE FREE SHOT" SHOOT PICNIC

"What's that," you ask? You'll have to go to [Range Report](#) to find out. You'll thank me later.

CHAPTER WORKDAY

It is scheduled for November 12th. We especially need pole saws on this workday. Go to the [Events](#) page on the Chapter website to register.

ARCHERY COMMITTEE

If you are interested in archery and want to help set up and serve on the Archery Committee for your Chapter, please contact board member Gary Tilley. He can be reached at mindbender119@hotmail.com or by phone - 314-409-5982.





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FROM THE EDITOR



Every November, on the fourth Thursday, the United States officially celebrates Thanksgiving. Originally, President Lincoln made a proclamation in 1863 that the last Thursday of November should be observed nationally as a day of thanksgiving. However, internal conflicts between the States made it difficult to pass that into law. In 1870, HR 1224 stated "...any day appointed or recommended by the President of the United States as a day of public fast or thanksgiving shall be holiday." This didn't quite

make it the annual holiday we know, and it wouldn't be until 1941 that Thanksgiving would be codified into law, and American culture.

Do you struggle to find things for which to be thankful? We all go through hard times. The loss of a loved one, or a job, or ill health – none are worse or better than the other. There is little consolation thinking that someone else is hurting worse. What does help is that God sent His only begotten Son, Christ Jesus. He lived with us, and lived in perfect obedience to the Father. He lived the life we cannot live. He was condemned and paid the debt we owe, but cannot pay. He was buried and raised on the third day as the propitiation for our sins, reconciling us to the Father.

If you have Christ, you have all you will ever need, and an abundance for which to be thankful.

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BOARD REPORTS

Your Board met October 20, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. The Membership meeting was held immediately following, at 7:00 p.m. Minutes for both meetings can be found on the Chapter's website under [Documents](#).

Of note, President Dan Arico announced during the Membership meeting, that "... the Virginia Division met earlier this month and that the Winchester Chapter was cited as having the most progress and innovation in the State." Congratulations to all the tireless volunteers who work behind the scenes to keep your Chapter one of the best in the nation!

LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

From the Membership meeting:

- Autumn olive elimination is well underway
- Shotgun field vegetation: efforts to return perimeter to natural vegetation underway
- Dam maintenance: spillway flow measurement
- Campground improvements: wood-fired pizza oven, new campsites; campground reservations are running higher than ever
- Volunteerism: volunteer hours are nearly triple what they were just two years ago
- Eagle projects: wood-fired pizza oven, new campsites, new trails, including a nature trail; new Eagle projects include refurbishment of the lake water safety stations and a facility and process for reusing wood harvested from Chapter forestland
- Trout restocking will occur in early November
- The rental sawmill has been in use, producing lumber in black walnut, maple, honey locust, and other species
- Chapter workday, with morning and afternoon shifts, is scheduled for November 12th; see the

Chapter [website](#) for details and task lists. Go to the events section and scroll down.

Mission Accomplished!

When you have 157 acres of most forested land, what do you do with the downed trees? The chapter has in years past cut up every fallen tree into firewood for use in the campground. The trees included select hardwoods and pine but we have had no luck in finding lumber buyers interested in a tree or 2 without harvesting multiple live trees.

Member Steve Nurkowski had the vision to section the downed trees into 6-8 foot lengths and bring in a portable sawmill to



to create lumber. We scheduled a sawyer to come and cut the lumber. They stopped taking our calls. It took us 8 months to find another

portable sawmill that would come to our property to complete the work. In the meantime, Steve collected more logs and added them to the inventory. Last month, after 2 years, the sawmill arrived on our property and completed the milling process. The sawyer ended up working 2 days cutting trees into live edge slabs and boards from 1 1/2" to 3" thick. One the lumber was cut in the campground, it was transported by trailer to outbuildings around the chapterhouse.

Our hope is to double the cost of the saw mill to raise chapter funds and we are off to a great start selling 25% of the cost of mill on day one! The chapter has cherry, oak, black walnut, hickory, cedar, sycamore, and osage orange slabs and boards stickered and drying in our outbuildings. We are hoping to have a large wood sale next summer. Please reach out to Brian (540-664-1578) if you are interested in any of the wood now.

The scrap wood from the milling process is being used by the boy scouts camping on our property to build benches. The trim pieces will be used to repair the backstops at the throwing tomahawk range and the saw dust will be used to



make fire starters. We have plans for all of the byproducts so nothing is wasted.

The chapter owes an enormous gratitude to Steve for his many volunteer hours and amazing vision to make this happen. Many members assisted including Eric Raybuck, Terry Henry, Gerald Crowell, Bruce Metcalf, Toby Norris and Harold Whitacre.

RANGE REPORT

Range Quals

Membership renewal season is upon us, and all of you who use the Chapter's Rifle-Pistol range will want to take notice that you are required to requalify. The goal is to eliminate range rule violations by ensuring that all users of the Rifle-Pistol range have read and understood the Chapter Membership Rules, especially as they apply to range safety. We'll accomplish this using an online quiz that's 100% based on the Rules document dated February 10, 2020. You can get a head start by looking over the document found at <https://winchester-iwla.org/documents>.

The quiz will be available on the Chapter web site and will be "open book" so you can verify your answers either before or after you answer each question. We'll be sending you the link via email in a couple of weeks. The passing grade will be 100%. Nothing less than complete familiarity and understanding of the rules will do. Safety on the range is paramount. Any question you miss can be revisited and answered correctly with no penalty. Just take the time to look up the right answer.

The quiz was developed by a team of Range Safety Officers. We made sure there are no trick questions. If you know the rules and avail yourselves of the online or paper Chapter Membership Rules you'll hit the 100% mark with no problem.

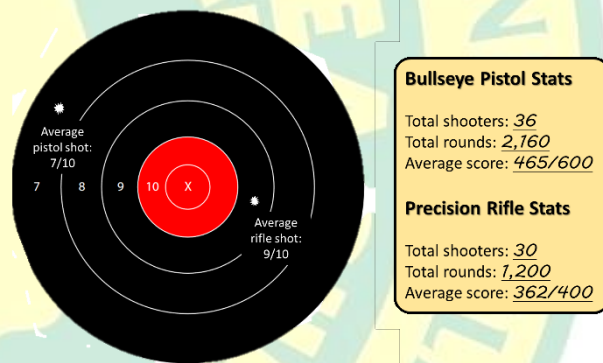
Just remember, if you want to use the Chapter Rifle-Pistol range in 2023 you will have to pass the quiz to be considered Range Qualified. This applies to all renewing members, even those who were Range Qualified at your Chapter orientation.

If you don't have access to the internet we will make the quiz and the Membership Rules document available at the Chapter House.

Bullseye Report

As our 2022 Bullseye Pistol and Precision Rifle shooting season draws to a close (31 October was our last official shoot), we pause to reflect on some great memories from the year, including the joy of meeting new friends, the invigoration of competition, and the thrill of achieving personal high scores. Competitive shooting is something different to each of us...some might enjoy the rigor of practicing and perfecting technical motor skills, while others may revel in the camaraderie of fellow shooters. One thing is for certain: we're grateful for the range time and for the support of our Chapter.

The accompanying graphic offers some stats from the 2022 shooting season and the accuracy our group achieved. Are you a seasoned shooter and think you can do better? Or



are you a novice and wondering how anyone could ease a .22LR projectile that close to the mark at 25 yards from a pistol? This is a small but friendly group of folks honing the craft of pistol and rifle shooting, welcoming of all who are interested in the same.

It's not too late to ask Santa for a li'l something special and get that new toy zeroed in over the winter! Watch this space in the spring for information about the 2023 shooting season!

Safe shooting!



Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Range

Hours Updated

The hours have been updated for the five stand. The stand is available Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, from 1pm to 3pm. You can always contact the rangemaster to schedule a date and time for a special shoot.

Day	Operating Hours
Wednesday	1pm – 3pm
Saturday	
Sunday	

One Free Shot Shoot and Picnic

The Shotgun RSO staff would like to say, “Thank You” to all the WIWL shooters who have supported the Dr. Green Shotgun Range since the opening of our new 5- station shooting platform!

To show our appreciation, we invite you to be a part of our “One Free Shot” Shoot and picnic. We know there are many of you who helped us build the new shooting platform, help build the walkway, firepit, loaded the traps, changed the batteries and have done whatever is needed to help maintain our beautiful shotgun shooting facility.

The format for the day will be one free twenty-five shot round per guest. This includes a box of shells either 12 or 20 gauge and semi-automatic shotgun if needed, (both youth and ladies models also available). Should you decide to shoot more, the normal \$5.00 charge for 25 shots round and if needed \$10.00 per box of either 12- or 20-gauge ammunition. Do not forget, eye and ear protection are mandatory! We have both at range if needed.

We will also be serving hotdogs or hamburgers, soft drinks and water after you finish shooting. You are invited to bring a dish to share, any dish is welcome be it vegetable, mac & cheese, potato salad, deviled eggs or even some good ole homemade pie or cake.

Notice, once all guns are cased and the range is closed, adult beverages are welcome! BYOB

Please register at the link below!

OTHER NEWS

Armed Women of America

Armed Women of America provides a safe and comfortable environment for women to gather, learn, train, and discuss issues important to women gun owners while creating opportunities for women to learn and grow as shooters. Chapters across the country offer a welcoming, non-intimidating place for women to learn more about the safe and responsible use of firearm, including firearms safety, personal protection, concealed carry, mindset and so much more.

The meeting offers classroom and range time, all under the guidance of certified women instructors.

The Shenandoah Valley VA Chapter of Armed Women of America meets for classroom training from 6 – 8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the WIWL Chapter House. We meet for range time from 1- 3 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Clyde L. Heishman Memorial Rifle and Pistol Range.

Our members are improving their shooting skills using the NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program. To date we have 12 Pre-Marksman, 10 Marksman, 8 Sharpshooters, 4 Expert and 3 Distinguished Expert.

Anyone interested in joining, or for more information, contact Vicki Rhodes or Megan McGonigal at AWA.ShenandoahValleyVA@gmail.com. We look forward to meeting you!

Raffles

Your Chapter continues to raffle off fun, outdoor equipment, such as rifles, shotguns, handguns, and compound bows, among other items. The next raffle starts soon. Go to the Chapter website under [Chapter House > Raffle](#) (<https://www.winchester-iwla.org/Raffles>) to buy a raffle ticket... or many tickets. Your chances of winning get better the more you buy. Each ticket is only \$20 and all proceeds benefit your Chapter.

Visit the website to see the current raffle. Drawings are held at the following month’s Membership Meeting. Winners need not be present.



Friends of the Winchester Izaak Walton Chapter

Several businesses help support your Chapter through services and gifts. This list will continue to grow, and I encourage you to support them in kind as you can.

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.



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.

Muley Fanatics Foundation

The Muley Fanatic Foundation supports Mule Deer habitat projects for this declining iconic animal as well as provides youth hunts for kids with life threatening



illnesses across the country. The Blue Ridge Chapter was founded by two Winchester IWLA members and is the only chapter on the East Coast. This foundation also supports keeping youth involved in the outdoors by donating a percentage of their annual banquet dinner to local youth programs.

Jake's Bait & Tackle

Jake's will be managing the bait concession in the Chapter house. Support a business that supports your Chapter by getting your worms at the chapter house rather than the gas station. Also, drop in and say 'Hi' next time you're in their neighborhood and treat yourself to some new gear! You can find them at 234 Ezra Lane in Winchester.



Final Thoughts

Please consider bringing your pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns to your Chapter after Halloween. Just toss them in the fields along the road between the range and the campgrounds. The animals love to forage on them. Do remember to remove any candles or other non-pumpkin things from them before tossing, please.

