Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc. ● Izaak Walton League of America

NEWSLETTER

Volume 64, Number 4 November, December 2026 & January 2027

14708 Mount Olive Road
Centreville, VA 20121-2517

Recently Elected Chapter Officers & Directors Sworn In

Pamela Meara, ARL-FX Chapter president, conducted the swearing in of officers and directors of the Chapter at the August 18, 2026, general membership meeting. The election results had been presented to the membership at the July 21st general membership meeting.



Pictured left to right: Jack Scheible, Benn Crandall, John Lindamood, Brian Hickerson, Bob Crisman, and John Seaberg.

Chapter Annual Picnic



It was another great picnic at the Chapter on Saturday, September 12th. The weather was good and the rain held off. There were over 100 members and guests that were in attendance at the large pavilion. This beats the weather/humidity of when the picnic was previously held in July.

Our picnic chairman, Bob Brino, made sure everyone had plenty of food to eat. The day's menu included chicken, hamburgers, and hot dogs with sides of potato salad and corn-on-the-cob. Guests also enjoyed bags of various chips and a selection of cookies while

Annual Picnic continued on page 5.

Chapter Contact Information

Chapter Officers

President	Pamela Meara	703-362-7293
Vice President	Brian Hickerson	703-926-5711
Secretary	Bruce Crandlemire	703-743-1332
Treasurer	Bob Crisman	703-727-1946
Membership Chairman	Jeff Tackett	703-631-4495

Chapter Directors

Air Range	Keith Kuck	703-405-8935
Conservation	Jack Scheible	703-963-6059
Education & Training	John Seaberg	703-830-9365
Field Archery	Dick Riemer	703-543-8585
Rifle-Pistol	Chip Chidester	703-966-7369
Skeet & Trap	Bob Brino	703-368-4934
Target Archery	*Vacant*	
Youth Activities	Joseph Turner	703-628-4808
Directors-at-Large	Benn Crandall	703-606-4979
	Mark Gauntner	703-943-9946
	John Lindamood	703-201-3667
	Tom Pike	703-802-0740
	Oscar Starz	703-321-8626
	Vacant	

Other Chapter Contacts

Adopt-A-Highway	Steve Rumble	703-946-6920
Awards & Grants	Scott Meyer	703-999-2581
Buildings & Grounds	Brian Hickerson	703-926-5711
Bull Run Muzzleloaders	Art Twichell	571-225-0989
Bullseye Pistol League	Rich Sirois	401-365-8950
Bylaws	Mark Gauntner	703-943-9946
Chapter Caretaker	Brian Martin	703-625-6161
Communications	Pamela Meara	703-362-7293
Cub Run Archers	Mark Gauntner	703-943-9946
Elections	Brian Hickerson	703-926-5711
Historian	*Vacant*	
Junior Olympic Archery	Jeff Del Vecchio	757-813-7545
Knife Club	Matt Michaelson	571-245-6075
Newsletter	Pamela Meara	703-362-7293
Office Membership Admin.	Membership	703-631-4495
Pond Manager	Brian Hickerson	703-926-5711
Public Relations	*Vacant*	
Service Rifle Matches	Paul Kent	703-631-4496
Scholarship	Sean Gagnon	703-631-4495
Scouting Activities	Tom Pike	703-802-0740
Web Site	Pamela Meara	703-362-7293
Winter League—Shotgun	John Seaberg	703-830-9365

Chapter Board of Directors' Meeting

1st Tuesday of each month
7:30 p.m. @ Chapter field house
All members welcome

Attend Your Chapter Meetings

General Membership Meeting
3rd Tuesday of each month
7:30 p.m. @ Chapter field house

Newsletter Committee

Pamela Meara	Editor-in-Chief
Tim Terrell	Copy Editor
Ellen MacBrayne	Design & Production

Field House Phone Numbers

Chapter field house	703-631-4495
Rifle-Pistol field house	703-631-4496
Skeet & Trap field house	703-631-4497
Field Archery field house	703-631-4498
Sills Air Range	703-631-4818

Chapter President's E-mail *pmearaiwla@gmail.com*

Chapter's Web Site *https://wp.arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org*

Chapter's Facebook Page
Arlington-Fairfax-Chapter-Inc-Izaak-Walton-League-of-America

Membership Office Hours

All Tuesdays	1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturdays	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Other times, call	703-631-4495

Property Physical Address

14708 Mount Olive Road, Centreville, VA 20121-2517

Mailing Address

Post Office Box 366, Centreville, VA 20122-0366

President's Column

Chapter members, as you are aware, the board of directors brought a proposed dues increase before the membership in the spring that failed. Since then, I have commissioned a special committee to conduct a full assessment of the financial health and physical condition of the Chapter as a basis for aligning future Chapter costs to a sustainable membership dues structure. This committee is made up of individual Chapter members who represent the Chapter's programs and one member from the board of directors. I asked Past President Ernie Padgette to chair this committee.

The Dues Committee will examine current and projected Chapter expenses, determine what financial resources are available, and decide what due's structure will be necessary to allow the Chapter to meet its financial needs.

The Dues Committee will meet with the designated directors of the various Chapter venues to determine the immediate three-year and five-year projected financial needs of the Chapter, determine the necessary dues income to support those needs, and bring this information before the membership for their decision.

I ask for your patience and your support. This effort will decide the future direction and continued existence of the Arlington-Fairfax Chapter.

Thank you;

—Pamela Meara, President

SIGN UP!

SignUpGenius

Please use to sign up for **Volunteer Opportunities,** located on the Chapter Home Web page.

Check the Chapter Calendar

Just a quick reminder to all of our new members as well as those of us who have been enjoying our great Chapter for years. Before you head out to any of our ranges, take a moment to check the Chapter online calendar to make sure the range is open. The Rifle-Pistol range as well as the Skeet & Trap range are manned by volunteers. Although rare, sometimes an emergency pops up and a volunteer won't be able to cover their duty and for safety reasons, the range will be closed. When we know about it in advance, we will post it on the Chapter calendar saving you a trip. By the way, you can access the Chapter calendar by using the search engine on the homepage of the Chapter Web site.



REMEMBER

Speed Limit is 10 MPH on the ARL-FX IWLA Property

Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc., IWLA

Chapter Hours of Operation

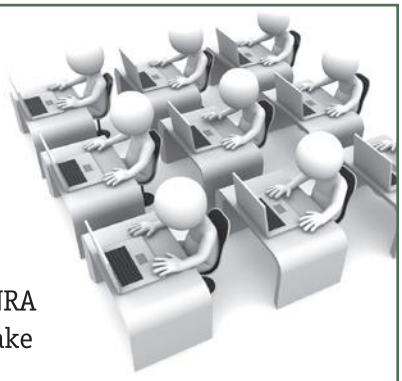
8 a.m. – 9 p.m. for outdoor recreational use (including outdoor range operation)

8 a.m. – 12 midnight for indoor uses (including indoor range operation)

With extended hours reserved for staff and special scheduled events, such as camping activities, as needed.

See designated range Web pages for specific days and times of range operations.

Education & Training NRA Course Updates



The 2026 Education & Training schedule for NRA courses is available. Make sure you check out the schedule on the Web site:

https://wp.arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org/education-and-training/

Bringing Guests to the ARL-FX Chapter

Everyone has gone through the new member orientation, but you probably do not remember everything that was presented to you. We want to highlight some important information about **classes of membership**, **displaying of range badge**, and **bringing guests to the Chapter**.

Per the Chapter Bylaws:

Classes of Membership:

1. **CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP**

   b. **Regular Membership.** This is an individual membership with one membership card issued. … (However, an additional adult living in the same residence and all dependents under eighteen (18) years of age may use the Chapter facilities when accompanied by the Regular Member.)

   c. **Family Membership.** This is a membership for two adults living in the same residence with two membership cards issued. … (All dependents under 18 years of age may use the Chapter facilities when accompanied by either Family Member.)

All range-qualified members are issued range badges and are allowed to bring guests to use the Chapter ranges. We are finding there are times when the Chapter rules are being broken and this is becoming a Chapter issue. Each year when a member renews their membership, they are issued a new badge insert with the current year's credentials. The old range badge inserts must be replaced by the newly issued one to ensure you are allowed access to the Chapter ranges.

- Members are not allowed to give their range badge or membership card or membership number to anyone.
- Copies of a membership card are NOT and will not be accepted as a range badge.

Per the Chapter Bylaws:

Grounds Rules

GENERAL

Any person using any facility or any portion of any part of the Chapter property shall do so at their own risk and by so doing hold the Arlington-Fairfax Chapter of IWLA, its Officers, Directors, Range Safety Officers, agents, and assigns indemnified from any personal injury or other claim.

1. **MEMBERS.** Members, their spouses, dependent children/grandchildren under twenty-two (22) years of age, living in the same domicile, may enjoy the privileges of the property, while escorted by the member, but will be expected to properly identify themselves at any time if requested to do so by Chapter Officers, Directors, Range Safety Officers, or any member.
2. **DISPLAYING RANGE BADGES.** Adult Chapter range-qualified members MUST DISPLAY the current Range Qualification Badge in PLAIN SIGHT whenever they are shooting at any of the Chapter ranges.
3. **GUESTS.** Guests will be permitted use of the property only when accompanied by a member in good standing of the Chapter except as hereinafter provided for:

   a. An individual may be a guest of a range-qualified member on the Chapter ranges five (5) times in one calendar year, except for special events or with prior permission of the Board of Directors.

   b. The number of guests each member may bring on to the Chapter property shall not exceed three (3) persons on any one day except with approval of the Program Director.

   c. **GUEST FEES:** Annually, in December, the Program Directors, with approval of the Board of Directors at a Board of Directors' meeting and recorded in the meeting minutes, are to define the guest fee for their program. Any changes will be implemented on January 1st.

For every visit to each range, the guest must complete a Chapter guest liability release form and pay any required fee.

- If the guest is a youth the adult member with that guest will be responsible for completing the release form.

It is very important you print clearly on the form. If we cannot read the form, you will be asked to complete a new one.

If you have any questions, please send an e-mail to *ARLFXIWLA@gmail.com*.

IWLA's Save Our Streams (SOS) Program



Virginia Save Our Streams is a program of the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA). Founded in 1922, the IWLA is one of the nation's oldest and most respected conservation organizations. With a powerful grassroots network of nearly 270 local chapters nationwide, the League takes a commonsense approach toward protecting our country's natural heritage and improving outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans. For more information about our Virginia chapters, please visit the Virginia Division of the Izaak Walton League Web site (see page 12).



SOS Web Links

Check out the IWLA *Save Our Streams* Web site: ***https://iwla.org/save-our-streams/***.

Check out the IWLA Facebook site: ***https://www.facebook.com/iwla.org/***.

Check out the VA SOS Web site for more information, forms, and gear: ***http://www.vasos.org/***.





Save Our Streams Volunteer Opportunities

The Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc., IWLA, is looking for a few volunteers to help with the Chapter's conservation efforts dealing with Save our Streams (SOS) events.

The SOS method is recognized by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to determine potential impairments to the waters of Virginia. The method collects samples of "bugs" from the water that provide indicators of stream health.

By volunteering for this program, you can:

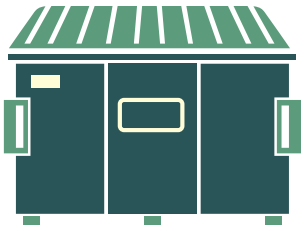
- Gather important data in our local area;
- Work with other engaged volunteers;
- Get first-hand knowledge of water quality in the streams monitored.

For more information, please e-mail ***ARLFXSOS@gmail.com***.



Dumpsters

Please remember the dumpsters located on the Chapter property are for Chapter use only, not your personal use. Anyone caught dumping their personal trash in a Chapter dumpster will be brought before the board of directors for disciplinary action.



SIGN UP!

SignUpGenius®

Please use to sign up for Volunteer Opportunities —located on the Chapter Home Web page.

Annual Picnic continued from page 1.

quenching their thirst with water and iced tea.

As tradition dictated, lunch was served by the Chapter's directors and officers to include the Junior Chapter officers. A special "thank you!" goes out to all the Chapter volunteers who pitched in to help from set up to cleanup to ensure the picnic was an enjoyable success.



Help Wanted — Assistant Treasurer

The treasurer is looking for a member with financial management experience to assist the treasurer with Chapter financial operations.

The needed assistance includes banking–deposits, transfers, payments–working with the membership director and staff to track and deposit dues, assisting with financial advisory committee efforts, helping to establish the Chapter's annual operating budget, assist with preparation of the annual IRS Form 990 submission, and other financial-related duties.

A working knowledge of QuickBooks is highly desirable as well as the usual programs such as Excel, Word, etc.

Additionally, this will require filling in for the treasurer in the event of their absence.

Anyone interested in participating should contact the treasurer, Bob Crisman, by e-mail to ***Bob.Crisman@arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org***.

By the way, you'll receive credit for 8 hours of volunteer work worth $50 off your next membership renewal.

IWLA Mission

To conserve, restore, and promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of our natural resources, including soil, air, woods, waters, and wildlife.

Izaak Walton League Member Pledge

To strive for the purity of water, the clarity of air, and the wise stewardship of the land and its resources; to know the beauty and understanding of nature and the value of wildlife, woodlands, and open space; to the preservation of this heritage and to mankind's sharing in it.

I pledge myself as a member of the Izaak Walton League of America.

Volunteers Needed for Financial Review Committee

We need members, particularly those with financial management experience, to conduct the annual review of the Chapter's financial records. The bylaws call for a review to be conducted annually by a committee selected by the Chapter president and to present its report to both the board of directors and the members. Anyone interested in participating should contact the treasurer, Bob Crisman, by e-mail to ***Bob.Crisman@arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org***. By the way, you'll receive credit for 8 hours of volunteer work worth $50 off your next membership renewal.

Range Badge



Chapter members are required to display their range badge when they access/use the Chapter's ranges. Access will be denied if you do not display your range badge. If you have lost your range badge, please contact the membership office to purchase a replacement badge at ***https://wp.arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org/membership-general-information/***. There is a $10 fee for all replacement badges.

Izaak Walton League of America Store

Are you interested in getting IWLA apparel/items? Did you know that IWLA National has an online store? Visit ***https://iwla.org/*** and click on the SHOP button at top of page.

ATTENTION!

Chapter Pond — Fishing policy — Operating with Catch & Release Policy in effect. We follow all Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) regulations. See ***https://dwr.virginia.gov/***.

Shooting is prohibited anywhere on Chapter grounds except at the designated shooting ranges.

ARL-FX IWLA Membership Notes

Important Membership News!

Important News!

Any member who hasn't renewed their 2026 membership CANNOT renew for 2027 until they have paid for 2026 membership plus the $40 late fee. Members can come into the office during business hours to renew their 2026 membership.

There is NO New Member Orientation Meeting (NEMO) for the month of December.

The 2027 renewal season opened on October 15, 2026, and continues until December 31, 2026, for the upcoming 2027 season. Come into the office during normal business hours and renew your membership. WE LOVE WALK INS! You can also renew your membership by clicking the link on the Chapter's home page under announcements or membership. Online renewals incur a sizable service fee for payment by credit card. We prefer checks or exact cash to be mailed or brought in to the membership office during office hours.

Volunteers will be needed to help with the renewal process. PLEASE look on SignUpGenius and sign up, or just walk in during business hours to HELP!

The new membership director, Jeff Tackett, took office in March and is trying to make some changes to make the process as efficient as possible.

Membership Office Hours

The membership office is located in the field house and is open every Tuesday from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. and every Saturday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. (except holidays). We are always looking for volunteers to help with administrative work in the office, especially during the membership renewal season.

Membership Notes

ATTENTION New Members — After you have completed your six (6) hours of volunteer service and the membership office has received and recorded these hours; you must come to the membership office and pick up your white metal range badge, during normal business hours. All permanent, white metal, range badges must now be picked up from the membership office during normal office hours. The membership office is no longer mailing any permanent range badges.

If you lose your permanent range badge, you can purchase a new one from the membership office during normal business hours. A $10 fee is required, payable by cash or check only.

Volunteer—Volunteer—Volunteer!

ARL-FX IWLA is the largest Chapter in the League with over 2,300 members. We do not have any full-time paid employees. This Chapter is run by volunteers giving their time and expertise. Every new member is required to volunteer at least six (6) hours to obtain full membership. It is our hope every member will volunteer as many hours as feasible to ensure our Chapter continues to operate for years to come.

The office is looking for an additional contractor to help in the membership office. Please contact Membership Director Jeff Tackett ASAP.

If you have any questions about membership or want to know about volunteer opportunities, please call the membership office at 703-631-4495 or e-mail us at ***membershipscy@arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org***.

—*Jeff Tackett,* Membership Director



Want the latest conservation news from the Izaak Walton League and Action Alerts on key advocacy issues? Sign up today at *https://iwla.org/join-renew/*.

Conservation Director's Report

Pond Status

SOLitude Lake Management has been inspecting the pond every two weeks and treating for algae and lilypads as needed. Trey Harris of SOLitude came to the property to meet Vice President Brian Hickerson and I, take a walk around the pond, and discuss ways of deepening the pond, such as dredging and putting in retaining ponds to trap lead before it gets into the pond.

Dredging is prohibitively expensive and SOLitude recommended a product called Try Marine.

Mr. Harris (SOLitude Lake Management) and Brendan McCarthy (head of Business Development for Try Marine Global) gave a presentation on the Try Marine product at the September board of directors' meeting. Messrs. Harris and McCarthy also met me on Monday, September 14th, for a pond inspection and to take sediment samples.

Try Marine encourages aerobic decomposition of the organic sediment (muck), which is a few feet deep near the shore. The process, which takes about three years, will get the sediment to degrade and collapse, deepening the pond without dredging. The three-year cost will be about $37,500, with annual maintenance of $5,500.

Trail Cameras

We have a few trail cameras set up on the property and are beginning to collect pictures.

Save-Our-Streams

At our September general membership meeting, Maggie Dombroski and Samantha Puckett from IWLA National Headquarters gave a presentation on the IWLA's Save-Our-Streams program, in which volunteers collect and catalog "benthic macroinvertibrates" which indicate the health of the stream. (It's a bug hunt.) To become a Save-Our-Streams monitor, start here: ***https://vasos.org/become-a-monitor/***

Adopt-A-Highway

We will be cleaning up Mount Olive Road on Saturday, October 24th, starting at 9 a.m. Sign up here: ***https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0944ACA62CA3FD0-58825130-e2025adopt#/***

—*Jack Scheible*, Conservation Director





Animal Protection

The Chapter grounds are considered a wildlife sanctuary and hunting is strictly prohibited. All animals are protected and are not to be harmed in any way. Anyone found to be harming wildlife on the Chapter grounds will be brought before the board of directors for disciplinary action.

The Izaak Walton League of America

Web Links

Check out the IWLA Web site: ***https://www.iwla.org***

Check out the Virginia Division Web site: ***http://va-iwla.org/***

Skeet & Trap Range

The 2027 Winter Skeet and Trap League

The 2027 season of the Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, IWLA, Winter Skeet and Trap League will begin on Sunday, January 10th, and run for 13 weeks. The competitive format provides a demanding challenge for shooters of all ability levels and is also a great way to get to know many of your fellow Chapter members. The league size is limited to 28 teams (168 shooters). Another large turnout anticipated for the 2027 season with most of the teams returning. There are also provisions for substitute shooters to fill in for regular members when needed.

League competition consists of six-person squads shooting 12 matches over the course of the season. Each match is two rounds of either trap or skeet. All winter league matches are shot on Sundays when the shotgun ranges are closed for open shooting. Awards are presented to the top-scoring teams and to the individual shooters with high raw averages in Skeet, Trap, and Overall, plus a Most Improved Shooter prize.

For more information visit ***https://wp.arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org/winter-league/***, or to sign up, contact John Seaberg, ***jseaberg@cox.net***.



Photos by John Dwyier

Skeet & Trap Range Hours

I want to send a REMINDER to all members that the Skeet & Trap ranges are OPEN during the week.

Range — Hours of Operation

Monday 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Wednesday 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday 12 noon – 5 p.m.
(Starting January 10th, the range will be closed Sundays for Winter League.)

Hope to see you out there.
—*Bob Brino*, Director Skeet & Trap

Rifle-Pistol Range

Eagle Scout Project



Scout Lyra Zeibel developed, managed, and performed a number of safety enhancements for the Rifle Pistol Range. These included:

- Briefing for guests and new members (see right).
- Additional tables behind shooting positions 2 and 17.
- Maintenance shed improvements.

Many thanks to Lyra and her team for their support of our operations.

Sign-in Table Added



New member Nii Addo utilized his woodworking skills for his 6-hour volunteer hours to make the Rifle-Pistol Range a new sign-in table. The old table has been set adjacent to provide a place for guests to complete their sign-in process. Many thanks to Nii for his support of our operations.

Range Degradation

The range baffles are severely degraded. The degradation is a result of both aging and the shooting by members. Positions with insufficient ballistic-grade safety structure (e.g. chambers that have lost gravel) are being identified and either being designated as out-of-service or rimfire only (reduced exposure level). The diminished baffles have significantly reduced the range operations from 17 to 13 shooting positions, three of which are now designated rimfire only.

All firearms should be "bore-sighted" prior to use on the range.

Range Improvement Committee

The Rifle-Pistol Range Improvement Committee has been actively working on countermeasures. They developed the following steps:

1. Develop range requirements.
2. Seek out a design/architectural firm/engineer.
3. Provide requirements to the potential design/architectural firm/engineer.
4. The architect/engineer develops and provides the technical requirements/design to meet the requirements to the Chapter.
   - » The firm/engineer must be licensed in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
   - » The firm/engineer must validate their plans and represent the Chapter with the County of Fairfax.
5. Create a request for proposal (RFP) based on the technical requirements/design approved by the County of Fairfax.
6. Select a licensed and insured contractor to perform the work.

The committee has developed the requirements. We are stuck on step two. We have contacted every listing in the NRA Range Source Book and the NSSF Marketplace. No company on those lists was interested in working with our Chapter. However, the word got out we were seeking a company to perform range remediation work. We have met with a vendor and are awaiting their response.

Photos Needed!

Doing volunteer work on the Chapter grounds or helping to make the picture perfect?

We would love for you to take a picture of work done or in process and e-mail it to Pam Meara (*arlfxnewsletter@gmail.com*) and/or Ellen MacBrayne (*emb4art@verizon.net*) to publish in the newsletter. Send the largest photo possible and include a caption identifing faces, place, event, and date.

SIGN UP!

SignUpGenius®

Please use to sign up for Volunteer Opportunities — located on the Chapter Home Web page.

Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc.
Izaak Walton League of America
P. O. Box 366
Centreville, VA 20122-0366

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Your current membership expires December 31, 2026.
Renewals postmarked on or after January 1, 2027—Add $40 late processing fee!
NO EXCEPTIONS!

☐ **I believe I qualify for the $50 dues credit. My volunteer hours were completed on:**_____

	Primary Member	**Family Member** *(**must** reside at same address as Primary Member)*
Membership ID #:	_____	_____
Name(s):	_____	_____
Signature(s):	_____	_____
Preferred Phone: Circle one	(H) (C)_____	(H) (C)_____
E-mail:	_____	_____
Date of Birth:	_____	_____
Address—Street:	_____	**City** _____ **State** _____ **ZIP** _____

ARL-FX Membership Types	**2027 Dues**
☐ FM—Family	$311.00
☐ FMD—Family Disabled	$236.00
☐ FMR—Family Remote (50 miles + from Chapter)	$236.00
☐ FMS—Family Senior (born prior to 1966)	$236.00
☐ IN— Individual	$211.00
☐ IND—Individual Disabled	$171.00
☐ INR—Individual Remote (50 miles + from Chapter)	$171.00
☐ INS—Individual Senior (born prior to 1966)	$171.00
☐ ST—Student (under 22 years old and enrolled in 12 or more undergraduate credit hours)	$152.00

National Life & Benefactor Membership Types	**2027 Dues**
☐ BF—Benefactor Family	$236.00
☐ BFD—Benefactor Family Disabled	$161.00
☐ BFR—Benefactor Family Remote (50 miles + from Chapter)	$161.00
☐ BFS—Benefactor Family Senior (born prior to 1966)	$161.00
☐ NLB—**National** Life Benefactor	$161.00
☐ NLI—**National** Life Individual	$161.00
☐ NLD—**National** Life Individual Disabled	$161.00
☐ NLR—**National** Life Individual Remote (50 miles + from Chapter)	$161.00
☐ NLS—**National** Life Individual Senior (born prior to 1966)	$161.00
☐ NFI—**National** Family Life	$236.00
☐ NFD—**National** Family Life Disabled	$161.00
☐ NFR—**National** Family Life Remote (50 miles + from Chapter)	$161.00
☐ NFS—**National** Family Life Senior (born prior to 1966)	$161.00

☐ I have read the Member Release Statement on the reverse side.

_____ _____ _____ _____
Member Signature Date Family Member Signature Date

Detach here. Submit top section with payment. Retain section below for your records.
Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc.—Izaak Walton League of America

2026 Membership Dues Paid $_____ Date _____ Check No. _____

For tax purposes, Individual (IN) members may claim a $57 deduction and Family (FM) members may claim a $93.50 deduction. National Life Individual (NLI) and National Life Benefactor (NLB) members may claim a $7 deduction. National Family Life (NFL) and Benefactor Family (BF) members may claim a $8 deduction. Students (ST) may claim a $42 deduction.

The Izaak Walton League of America, a nonprofit conservation organization, is recognized as a Section 501(c)(3) public charity under the Internal Revenue Code. Minimum National dues are $40 for individuals and $60 for family memberships, which includes the **Outdoor America** magazine. Magazine is inseparable from dues. Chapter and Division dues may vary.

Range badges, membership cards, and the gate combination will not be furnished unless the signed Member Release Statement is received by the Chapter. If this is a family membership, the renewal form must be signed by both members.

Member Release Statement

In consideration of the permission granted to me to use the pistol, rifle, skeet, trap, and archery ranges and other facilities of the Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Incorporated, of the Izaak Walton League of America, Centreville, Virginia, I do hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, irrevocably release and forever discharge the Arlington Fairfax Chapter, Incorporated, of the Izaak Walton League of America (hereinafter "ARL-FX IWLA") and all of its officers, directors, agents, and employees, acting in or under color of their official capacity, from any and all claims, demands, actions or causes of action, costs, charges, and liabilities of whatever kind, on account of my death or on account of any injury to me which may occur from any cause during my use of its ranges and/or facilities.

This release is intended to cover all injuries, fatal or nonfatal, and illness of every name, type, kind, or nature, and personal property damage, if any, which may be sustained or suffered from any cause whatsoever connected with or arising out of or by reason of participating in the aforementioned activities. I know the risks and unexpected dangers involved in said activities and assume all risks of injury to my person and property that may be sustained in connection with the stated and associated activities, in and about the Chapter property.

I further agree that I will indemnify and will hold harmless the ARL-FX IWLA and all officers, directors, agents, and employees thereof from any and all costs, charges, claims, demands, and liabilities of any kind arising from the improper or negligent actions of the undersigned while participating in the activities of its property.

I have reviewed the ARL-FX IWLA range safety rules and the Chapter grounds rules and I understand and agree to abide by all the provisions therein. I have read and understand the foregoing release. I certify that my attendance and participation in activities at the ARL-FX IWLA is voluntary.

This release form is in effect as long as I am a member of the ARL-FX IWLA, or for so long as I may use the aforesaid ranges and/or facilities, both now and at any future times, but in no event longer than is permitted by applicable law.

IWLA Pledge

To strive for the purity of water, the clarity of air, and the wise stewardship of the land and its resources. To know the beauty and understanding of nature, and the value of wildlife, woodlands, and open space. To the preservation of this heritage and to mankind's sharing it, I pledge myself as a member of the Izaak Walton League of America.

Questions/payment arrangements? Call the Chapter office at 703-631-4495. If necessary, leave your name and telephone number with your concern(s). Your inquiry will be answered as quickly as possible. Office hours 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. every Tuesday AND EVERY Saturday from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., excluding holidays.

NOTE: This renewal form is available on the ARL-FX Web site as a fillable PDF form.

Air Range

A Busy Fall Ahead at the ARL-FX Chapter's Sills Air Range

Fall is shaping up to be an exciting and busy season at the **Arlington-Fairfax Chapter's Sills Air Range**, with opportunities for Chapter members to shoot, volunteer, watch some outstanding competition, and see firsthand the range's continuing role in developing youth and collegiate shooting sports.

Located here at the Chapter, the Sills Air Range is a 26-lane air gun facility equipped with Megalink electronic targets, along with 11 electronic smallbore lanes used for state and national level competitions. The facility supports air rifle and air pistol programs for Chapter members, junior athletes, high school teams, club teams, and collegiate competitors.

Open Practices — Mondays and Fridays

One of the easiest ways for Chapter members to get involved is through the range's regular **Monday and Friday evening Open Practices**. These practices are open to shooters interested in precision air rifle, sporter air rifle, air pistol, and adaptive shooting. Free coaching is available, making Open Practice an excellent opportunity for someone interested in trying Olympic-style shooting for the first time as well as experienced athletes looking for additional range time.

Equipment and coaching are available, so prior competitive shooting experience is not necessary.

Visit the ***Sills Air Range website*** for additional information and to sign up for an upcoming Open Practice.

Centreville Cup — October 10–11

The fall competition schedule begins in earnest with the **Centreville Cup on October 10 and 11**.

The Centreville Cup recognizes the top junior competitors in both **Air Rifle and Air Pistol** and also serves as a qualifier for **Air Nationals**. The match brings talented junior athletes to the Sills Air Range for a weekend of competition and provides Chapter members with an excellent opportunity to see precision shooting at a high level.

12th Annual Wendell Thompson Match — November 7

On **November 7**, the IWLA Junior Chapter will host the **12th Annual Wendell Thompson Match**, led by Junior Chapter member **Audrey Mooney** and Junior Chapter director **Joe Turner**.

In addition to honoring the legacy of Wendell Thompson, the match serves as the **Virginia Shooting Sports Association State Air Rifle event**, bringing competitors from around Virginia to our Chapter.

Learn more about the ***Virginia Shooting Sports Association***.

NCAA Rifle Comes to Sills — VMI vs. John Jay

November 7 will be an especially busy weekend at Sills as the range also welcomes collegiate rifle competition. The Sills Air Range will host an **NCAA match between Virginia Military Institute (VMI) and John Jay College** during the weekend.

Hosting an NCAA competition provides our members and junior shooters with an opportunity to see the next level of the sport without leaving the Chapter. For younger athletes who aspire to compete in college, seeing NCAA athletes on the same firing points where they practice each week can help make that goal much more tangible.

Potomac High School Rifle League Season Begins in November

Beginning in **mid-November**, the Sills Air Range will once again become one of the centers of activity for the **Potomac High School Rifle League (PHSRL)**.

The PHSRL provides interscholastic precision air rifle competition for high school students throughout northern Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Maryland. The league currently includes:

- **Arlington County:** Wakefield, Washington-Liberty, and Yorktown.
- **Fairfax County:** Centreville, James Madison, Lake Braddock, Robinson, West Potomac, West Springfield, and Woodson.
- **Maryland:** Landon School.
- **District of Columbia:** St. John's College High School.

The league also includes the ARL-FX Chapter's **Mavericks** team, which provides an opportunity for students attending schools without their own PHSRL team to participate in high school competition.

Many of these athletes train and compete at Sills throughout the winter, making the range an important part of one of the area's longest-standing youth shooting programs.

Air Range continued on page 14.

Rising Star: Rebecca Ahrens Secures Second Place at National Championship

Our very own Rebecca Ahrens delivered a phenomenal performance at the American Legion's Junior 3-Position Air Rifle National Championship, capturing second place in a thrilling weekend of competition.

The finals heated up on Saturday, July 25th, with a high-stakes, 10-shot series in the standing position. Entering the round trailing the leader by 17 points, Rebecca mounted an incredible comeback. She shot the highest total score in the entire finals, shrinking the gap to just 5 points by the final shot.

Rebecca's stellar marksmanship earned her an impressive haul of awards:

- **Second Place Overall**: Awarded a $1,000 college scholarship.
- **Finals Champion**: Awarded a gold medal for the highest finals score.
- **Kneeling Position**: Awarded a silver medal.
- **Prone Position**: Awarded a bronze medal.



A huge thank you goes out to all the volunteers and staff at the Sills Range. Your dedication and support of junior shooting sports make achievements like Rebecca's possible.

Air Range continued from page 13.

Olympic Champion Ginny Thrasher Returns to Chapter's Sills Air Range

The fall season actually got an early start on **September 5**, when Olympic Gold Medalist and former ARL-FX Junior Chapter member **Ginny Thrasher** returned to Sills for a special coaches clinic.

Approximately **40 coaches and teenage athletes** participated in the program, which focused on the fundamentals of Olympic Air Rifle shooting and gave local coaches and young athletes the opportunity to learn from someone who progressed through the local junior shooting community to the highest level of international competition.

The clinic was sponsored in part by the **MidwayUSA Foundation**, whose support helps make training and development opportunities like this possible for junior shooting programs.

Thrasher's return also highlighted something special about the Sills Air Range: athletes practicing on these firing points today are following a pathway that has already produced Olympians, national champions, and collegiate shooters.

You Can Watch the Action Live

You don't have to compete to follow the action at Sills.

The range's Megalink electronic target system allows spectators to follow matches in real time from a computer, tablet, or phone. During upcoming competitions, Chapter members can watch scores and individual targets through the range's live-scoring system: ***https://live.megalink.no/?utm_source=chatgpt.com#!/afc-iwla.***

Better yet, stop by the range during one of our upcoming events and see the competition in person.

Come See What Is Happening at Sills

Whether you're an experienced competitive shooter, a Chapter member who has never fired an Olympic-style air rifle or pistol, a parent looking for a youth activity, or simply curious about what happens inside the Sills Air Range, this fall is a great time to get involved.

The Sills Air Range provides coaching and opportunities for shooters at many experience levels, while also serving as a home for junior clubs, high school teams, and major competitive events.

Come shoot with us on Monday or Friday, volunteer at an upcoming match, or stop by and watch some of the area's best junior, high school, and collegiate athletes compete.

For schedules, Open Practice registration, and additional information, visit the ***AFC-IWLA Sills Air Range***.

NoVA Sharpshooters Continue to Make Their Mark at National and International Competitions

The summer of 2026 has been an exciting season for the NoVA Sharpshooters Junior Pistol Club of the Arlington-Fairfax Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America. From the USA Shooting Pistol National Championships in Hillsdale, Michigan, to the ISSF Junior World Championships in Suhl, Germany, and the CMP National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, our athletes represented Northern Virginia with dedication, sportsmanship, and excellence. These accomplishments reflect not only the athletes, but also the coaches, parents, volunteers, and Arlington-Fairfax IWLA community who support their development.

Outstanding Results at USA Shooting Nationals

The 2026 USA Shooting Pistol National Championships, held June 5–10 at Hillsdale College in Michigan, brought together many of the nation's top pistol athletes. NoVA Sharpshooters competed in 10m Air Pistol, Sport Pistol, and 25m Rapid Fire Pistol, producing an outstanding series of results:

- ❶ *Suman Sanghera* — USA Shooting Women's Air Pistol National Champion
- ❶ *Caroline Tso* — U18 Gold Medalist, Women's Air Pistol
- ❷ *William Regala* — Junior Silver Medalist, Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol
- ❸ *Elie Arkin* — Junior Bronze Medalist, Men's 10m Air Pistol
- ❸ *Sophia Li* — U18 Bronze Medalist, Women's Sport Pistol

These results demonstrate the depth and versatility of the NoVA Sharpshooters program across multiple pistol disciplines.

From Hillsdale to the World Stage



Just days after the national championships, William Regala and Elie Arkin traveled to Suhl, Germany, for the 2026 ISSF Junior World Championships, held June 16–26. The event featured 808 junior athletes from 66 countries competing in rifle, pistol, and shotgun.

For William and Elie, competing internationally was an important milestone. They gained firsthand experience at the world-championship level, learned from athletes representing countries around the globe, worked with equipment specialists, and built friendships with fellow competitors. Beyond the results, the experience provided valuable lessons that will benefit both athletes and their teammates as they continue developing in the sport.

NoVA Sharpshooters at Camp Perry

Sharpshooters excel in both air and rimfire at the National Trophy Matches.

Thirteen athletes representing NoVA Sharpshooters participated in the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) Air Pistol Nationals and National Trophy Pistol Matches. Despite the Canadian wildfires canceling some of the pistol matches, six athletes braved the heat outside. Sean Noh (2nd) and Tarin Kanchanawanchai (3rd) placed in the top 3 for the Junior 2700 Aggregate. Sophia Li placed 2nd in the Junior President's 100 match. Tyler Cline won the Perry





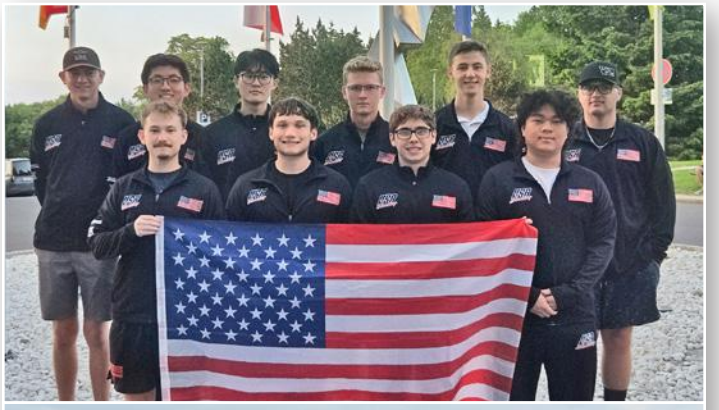
NoVA Sharpshooters continued on page 16.

NoVA Sharpshooters continued from page 15.

DeFino Trophy as the top junior in the National Trophy Individual Match, with Tarin coming in 2nd place. During the last match, Sophia and Royce Shelton took home second place in the junior National Trophy Team Match. The overall junior results for the week had Sophia in 2nd place and Tarin in 3rd.

NoVA had a great showing inside at the air range as well. Suman Sanghera placed 2nd in the open division and 1st in the junior division. The junior division finals included five NoVA athletes out of eight possible spots with Suman taking first, Nate Carbaugh in 4th, Royce in 5th, Elie Arkin in 6th, and Sean in 8th. We continued to shine in the team competition with NoVA Sharpshooters Red (Suman, Elie, Royce, and Sophia) taking home the 3rd place in the open division as well as the top club team and the top junior team. NoVA Sharpshooters White (Sean, Robin Haw, Tyler, Hayden Haw) took 3rd in the junior competition, and coming in 4th was NoVA Sharpshooters (Nate, Victoria Li, Tanisa Kanchanawanchai, Marcus Cheon). It was a great week of shooting and all our athletes gained valuable competition experience and confidence.

NoVA Sharpshooters continued on page 18.





Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc., IWLA

Gun Show 2027

Field Archery Indoor Range

Coming in March 2027

Chapter members can reserve a seller table, beginning in late January 2027. Additional information will be posted on the Web site in December.

To reserve a table 2027 Chapter membership is required.

Firearm Transfers available during gun show hours.

Open to the Public–Free Admittance

14708 Mount Olive Road, Centreville, VA 20121

Outdoor/Indoor Archery

Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc., IWLA, Archery 101 Classes

The Archery 101 classes will take place in the indoor archery range. This one-day class is designed for anyone who has never shot archery before or has very little knowledge of the sport and would like to see what our sport is all about. The minimum age for children is nine (9) years old.

The class will cover the different types of archery equipment, archery safety, purchasing of equipment, and live shooting. All equipment needed (bows and arrows) is available through the Chapter. All you need to do is register and show up.

Fee Schedule (Members/Nonmembers)

- $25 for adults
- $15 for ages 9 through 17
  (Must be accompanied by a parent or guardian)
- $50 max for family

Class fees will be collected before the start of each class beginning at 12:45 p.m. Cash or check made out to AFC-Field Archery accepted

Sunday	November 15, 2026	1–3:30 p.m.
Sunday	December 20, 2026	1–3:30 p.m.
Sunday	January 17, 2027	1–3:30 p.m.
Sunday	February 21, 2027	1–3:30 p.m.

To register for the class e-mail Dick Riemer at ***rriemer@cox.net*** or by phone at 703-543-8585.

Archery 201 Classes

The Archery 201 classes are taught by members of ARL-FX Chapter's Cub Run Archers. The classes are held in the indoor archery range. These sessions are held on five consecutive Sunday nights, excluding holidays. There are two time slots, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. and 7 – 8 p.m. with a maximum of 11 students in each time slot. These are mixed age classes so families can learn archery together. All archery equipment is provided so there is not any initial equipment expense to participate. During the last two nights, we encourage the use of personal equipment if the student has already purchased it. ***The fee for the five-night class is $150.***

The class is taught using the USA Archery 11-step instruction model, then the 1-2-3 method. We first concentrate on shooting form. Then we build upon this foundation with each lesson, so by the end of the five-week class, the student has the total archery shooting package. Safety and range rules are taught the first night and reviewed before each class along with warm-ups and stretching. The class will cover the different types of archery equipment used, archery safety, purchasing of equipment, and live shooting. We try to have a 1:3 coach to student ratio so the student gets the best coaching we can provide.

Archery 201 Schedule

Classes:	5-week sessions (Sundays, excluding holidays)
Fall Session Starts:	January 10, 2027
Youth:	Ages 9–12; 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Adult:	Ages 13 & up; 7 – 8 p.m.
Class Fee:	$150.00

NOTE: *All under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian*

Contact: Mark Gauntner for registration at ***gauntneriwla201@gmail.com***.



Coach Mark Gauntner demonstrates proper shooting form.

ARL-FX IWLA Cub Run Archers

For those Chapter members who are interested in competing in Virginia Bowhunters Association (VBA) archery events, the Chapter established a VBA group called Cub Run Archers so field archery tournaments could be held at the Chapter. VBA is the representative for bowhunters throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Applications to join Cub Run Archers are available at the Field Archery field house. For more information, please contact Stan Briczinski, secretary, Cub Run Archers, by e-mail at *sbriczinski@gmail.com*.

Deer Processing Station

For Chapter deer hunters who would like to process their deer, the deer processing station is 20 yards off the Field Archery deck. The area is lighted and has running water from a garden hose located by the deck entrance. You will need to bring trash bags with you for proper disposal of all parts of the carcass. *When finished be sure to wash the area down completely, putting all remains in plastic bags before placing them into any dumpster. During cold weather, when finished be sure to drain the hose of water to keep it from freezing. Please leave the area cleaner than you found it.*

Field Archery Sign-In Stations

Before starting to shoot outdoors, members must sign in at the outdoor range sign-in station. For the indoor archery range, sign in at the desk. For any family member wanting to shoot, who lives in the same household, a **GUEST LIABILITY RELEASE FORM MUST BE FILLED OUT TO SHOOT ARCHERY.** Members with a guest who lives outside the household, a $10 guest fee is in place. Place the $10 in the liability release form, fold, and place in drop box. **Signing in and filling out the Guest Liability Release Form for your family member or outside guest before starting to shoot is a IWLA CHAPTER REQUIREMENT AT ALL RANGES.**

—*Dick Riemer*, Field Archery Director

Get Involved in the League's Stream Monitoring Programs

Despite some lingering 90 degree days, winter is almost here! Now is the perfect time to get started with the League's Salt Watch program. Through Salt Watch, you'll monitor a stream, pond, puddle, or even your tap water for chloride, a component of most winter road salts. Chloride pollution from excess road salt can affect everything from our infrastructure to our ecosystems to our drinking water. Levels tend to spike in the winter after snowmelt or rain, so the fall is a great time to establish baseline levels that you can compare to later on.

You can request a free test kit here, which will be sent directly to you. After sampling, you'll enter your results on the Clean Water Hub, the League's nationwide publicly accessible database.

If you love Salt Watch and want to dive even deeper into water monitoring, consider becoming a certified Virginia Save Our Streams benthic macroinvertebrate monitor! The next VA SOS sampling season will take place in the Spring, and we'd love to have you on board. Reach out to Maggie Dombroski, the League's Mid-Atlantic Save Our Streams Coordinator, to learn more (*mdombroski@iwla.org*).

—*Maggie Dombroski*
Mid-Atlantic Save Our Streams Coordinator
Izaak Walton League of America

NoVA Sharpshooters continued from page 16.

A Team on the Rise

While medals and championships are exciting, one of the greatest accomplishments of NoVA Sharpshooters is the continued growth of the program. What began as a junior air pistol program at Arlington-Fairfax IWLA has grown into a team competing at USA Shooting National Championships, CMP National Matches, and ISSF International Championships.

For our younger athletes, seeing teammates compete at Hillsdale, Camp Perry, and on the international stage in Suhl demonstrates what can be achieved through commitment, discipline, and perseverance. We are proud to represent the Arlington-Fairfax Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, Northern Virginia, and the United States. Our sincere thanks go to our coaches, volunteers, parents, and Chapter members for supporting these young athletes and helping create opportunities for them to pursue excellence in the shooting sports.

SIGN UP!

SignUpGenius

Please use to sign up for **Volunteer Opportunities,** located on the Chapter Home Web page.

WANTED

OLD ISSUES of the Chapter newsletters prior to 2003.

Send paper copies or scanned copies. Contact: *ARLFXIWLA@gmail.com*

SPEED LIMIT 10

REMEMBER

Speed limit is 10 mph on the ARL-FX IWLA property!

Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc., IWLA, Calendar

For current Chapter calendars and event times, go to the Chapter Web site under the Calendar tab—*https://wp.arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org.*

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2026, JANUARY 2027		
Event	**Date**	**Facility**
Cub Run Archers Meeting	1st Sunday of each month	AC
Board of Directors' Meeting	1st Tuesday of each month	FH
Junior Chapter BoD Meeting	2nd Tuesday of each month	ST
Service Rifle Matches	2nd Thursday of each month	RP
General Membership Meeting	3rd Tuesday of each month	FH
Bullseye Pistol League—Rimfire Matches	1st Sunday	RP
Bull Run Muzzle Loaders	3rd Sunday of each month	RP
Open Air Range (Member Practice)	Sundays	AR
Regular Open Air Range	Mondays & Fridays	AR
Fellowship Dinner	Every Tuesday	AC
Cub Run Thanksgiving Dinner	Sunday, November 1	AC
New Member Orientation	Saturday, November 7	FH
101 Archery Class	Sunday, November 15	FA
Rifle-Pistol Short Range Day	Sunday, November 22 & 29	RP
Cub Run Christmas Dinner	Sunday, December 6	AC
101 Archery Class	Sunday, December 20	FA
Newsletter Article Submission Deadline	Tuesday, December 22	
All Firearm Ranges **CLOSED**	Friday, December 25	
Rifle-Pistol Short Range Day	Sunday, December 27	RP
New Member Orientation	Saturday, January 2, 2027	FH
Winter League Skeet & Trap—Start	Sunday, January 10, 2027	ST
Archery 201 Class (5 Weeks)—Start	Sunday, January 10, 2027	FA
101 Archery Class	Sunday, January 17, 2027	FA
Rifle-Pistol Short Range Day	Sunday, January 24 & 31, 2027	RP
New Member Orientation	Saturday, February 6, 2027	FH
Rifle-Pistol Short Range Day	Sunday, February 28, 2027	RP
Ed. & Trng. NRA Courses	Various Dates	*See Web site*

AC=Archery Club House, **AF**=Athletic Field, **AR**=Air Range, **Camp**=Camp Sites, **FA**=Field Archery, **FH**=Field House, **LP**=Large Pavilion, **RP**=Rifle-Pistol, **SP**=Small Pavilion, **ST**=Skeet & Trap, **TA**=Target Archers



Use of Outhouses

IMPORTANT: Septic tanks are used for the outhouses on the property. Trash (plastic bottles, bags, etc.) should never be disposed of in an outhouse for any reason. Trash clogs the septic tank and the Chapter has to pay to get it cleared. Groups may be charged these costs if the septic tank becomes clogged while they use the property.

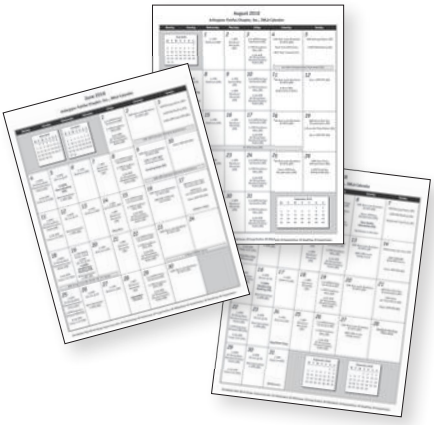
Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc.
Izaak Walton League of America
Post Office Box 366
Centreville, VA 20122-0366

Return Service Requested

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

The Chapter Newsletter is your link to all Chapter activities and information. Keep it handy.
It is also available on our new Web site in color.

https://wp.arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org/



For current Chapter calendars, go to the Chapter Web site under *Calendar*!

https://wp.arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org/chapter-calendars/

We print on recycled paper.