

Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc.

Izaak Walton League of America

14708 Mount Olive Road

Post Office Box 366 . Centreville, VA 20122-0366



NEWSLETTER

Volume 50, Number 4

Nov, Dec 2012 & Jan 2013

Important membership notice on bottom of page 8

Houston, we have a problem ...

Members Shooting the Baffles!

At the Rifle-Pistol Range the first set of baffles lasted nearly 20 years before we had to replace them. The second set of baffles are **only five years old** and they need major repairs. The damage to the current baffles is due to members shooting into the baffles. And the rate of damage is increasing ... **increasing very rapidly!**

Yes, the baffles are there to stop bullets from leaving the range and possibly injuring or killing someone outside the range! So we expect over time to see a few holes here and there from normal shooting mistakes. Now a days we see many holes in the baffles that are due to shooters who cannot aim their firearms or shooters who do not care where their rounds impact. But the only source of bullets in the baffles is from people shooting on the range.

While some bullets may leave only a small hole, repeated impacts destroy the structural integrity of the baffle. If we lose a section of a baffle, we will have to take shooting positions out of service until that damaged baffle can be repaired. This happened in August when we lost shooting positions 16 and 17 for a number of weeks. Major baffle failure may result in a range closure.

We expect **all chapter members** who are shooting at the Rifle-Pistol range to control their aim sufficiently well to hit the target and **NOT THE BAFFLES**. Repairs to the baffles have and will cost us thousands of dollars and the work will take many months. Closing down firing positions while repairs the baffles are being repaired will inconvenience members when the range is crowded.

Time to perform the repairs and thousands of dollars of chapter funds are the penalties we all must pay for the few members who cannot aim their firearms properly and control their shot placement. People who miss the whole target frames and perforate the baffles are destroying your chapter assets. They are wasting your chapter dues because they don't care whether they hit the target or not!

We expect each shooter at the Rifle-Pistol Range to take the time to:

- 1. Learn how to operate your firearm safely**
- 2. Learn how to ACCURATELY AIM your firearm and hit the target**
- 3. Fire slow enough so that every shot hits the target**
- 4. After every 5 or 10 shots STOP AND CHECK your target carefully to see that your shots ARE ON TARGET**

We expect each shooter who cannot consistently hit a target firing off-hand to sit down and practice their aim and trigger control until they can hit the target every time.

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Important contact information

Chapter Officers

President

Ernie Padgett.....540-439-6085

Vice President

Tom Ciarula.....703-250-0947

Secretary

Pamela Meara.....703-362-7293

Treasure

Bob Crisman.....540-338-7316

Membership Chairman

Jim Showalter.....571-338-5467

Chapter Directors

Target Archery

Leroy Anderson.....703-644-1560

Director At Large

Carl Armstrong.....703-830-5091

Skeet & Trap

Bob Brino.....703-368-4934

Conservation

John Seaberg.....703-830-9365

Rifle & Pistol

Ed Franzosa.....703-255-3088

Director At Large

Oscar Starz.....703-321-8626

Director At Large

David Myers.....703-395-9613

Director At Large

Dave Cunningham.....202-436-6410

Director At Large

Ben Crandall.....703-993-4503

Education & Training

Bucky Sills.....703-830-0458

Field Archery

Dick Riemer.....703-543-8585

Youth Activities

Tom Pike.....703-802-0740

Director At Large

Randy Hancock.....703-830-8539

Director At Large

Art Twichell.....703-960-6524

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

Chapter Presidents E mail

epadgett@sprnet.com

Chapter Fax Number

703-631-0968

Chapters Web-site

www.arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org

Committee Chairpersons

Adopt-A-Highway / Colin Riley.....703-200-3994

Advance Planning / your name here.....*your phone #*

Buildings and Grounds / Bucky Sills.....703-830-0458

Bull Run Muzzleloaders / Tony Sucher.....703-354-2726

Caretaker / Rick Kohne.....571-334-5125

Chapter Field House / Ed Ables.....703-938-0726

Conservation / John Seaberg.....703-830-9365

Education & Training / Bucky Sills.....703-830-0458

Field Archery / Jim Smith.....703-481-5416

Historian / your name here.....*your phone #*

Junior Olympic Archery / Mary LeCompte703-361-4565

Lani Young.....703-742-8142

Legislation / your name here.....*your phone #*

Meeting Program / Tom Ciarula.....703-250-0947

Membership / Jim Showalter.....571-338-5467

Admin. assistants / Linda Armstrong.....703-909-2708

Scott Aldrich.....571-213-2541

Newsletter / Pam Meara / Bucky Sills.....703-266-2235

Outdoor Ethics / Jim Mills.....703-437-9133

Pond Manager / John Seaberg703-830-9365

Program Outreach // your name here.....*your phone #*

Public Relations / your name here.....*your phone #*

Rifle-Pistol Range / Ed Franzosa.....703-255-3088

Scholarship / Dave Dobbins.....703-753-0878

Skeet & Trap Range / Bob Brino.....703-368-4934

Target Archery / Leroy Anderson.....703-644-1560

Stan Hilliard.....703-430-4534

Youth Activities / Tom Pike.....703-802-0740

Scouting Activities / Tom Pike.....703-802-0740

Chapter field house Office hours

1st and 3rd Tues.....1:00pm to 9:00pm

All other Tues.....1:00pm to 4:30pm

Other times, call 703-631-4495

Chapter Board of Directors Meeting

1st Tuesday of each month

7:30 pm @ Field House

All members welcome

Attend your chapter meetings

Regular Membership Meeting

3rd Tuesday of each month

7:30 pm @ Field house



If you see someone shooting into the baffles, or whose rounds are impacting the range floor short of the berm or shooting into the trees, please notify the duty Range Officer immediately!

What are potential solutions if the damage to the baffles gets worse? We may consider banning off-hand shooting with any firearm! Or if we can prove that most of the damage is being done by handguns we may consider banning handgun shooting. These are very serious and restrictive considerations **but something has to be done about the “spray-and-pray” wild and unsafe shooting that is destroying the baffles.**

The bullet holes in the baffles come from the shooters who cannot and will not aim and control their firearms safely. Accidental discharges and misaligned sights should be the unusual exception and not the general rule. Rapid fire that results in errant shots missing the back berm and leaving the range cannot be allowed at an outdoor urban shooting range. There are no valid excuses for shooting something or somebody unintentionally (intentionally is called murder and would be handled by the police). The holes are from members who do not care about the chapter property. The bullet holes in the baffles are by people who do not give a damn!

Plan Ahead and Avoid the Fall Rush

Remember that weekends during October and November can be very crowded at the Rifle-Pistol Range. This is the season during which many members make their once a year visit to IWLA to sight in their hunting rifles. They are there along with all the regular shooters. As a result, shooting positions go fast and waiting lists become necessary. Members should consider a weekday visit to the range and enjoy a more relaxed outing.

Sighting in a New HANDGUN

Well now you have just gotten your Model 501 Super Blaster in the latest 555 Magnum caliber! How are you going to get this new lovely beast shooting right where you want it to?

You should realize that the manufacturer does NOT set the sights on your Super Blaster right where they need to be. There are two models of the Super Blaster: one with fixed sights and one with adjustable sights.

Let's consider the fixed sight version first. At the IWLA Rifle-Pistol Range the closest distance you can place a target is at 25 yards. Twenty-five yards is not a good starting distance for a novice shooter or anyone with a new gun. You might want to save time and ammo by first going to a commercial indoor range where you can place your target as close as five yards. Once you have a good group relative to your sights at five yards, you can increase the range. If you find that you cannot get a good group at five yards or that the group is substantially off from the proper sight picture at five yards it is time to see a gunsmith for repairs and/or adjustment of the sights.

So buy the biggest target we sell and put it on your target frame backwards so the BLANK side of the paper is showing towards you at the firing line. Put a colored sticker 1-2 inches across at the center of the blank target. Post your target. Come back to the firing line and **SITTING DOWN** fire three shots slowly with your new handgun firmly resting on one of our nifty carpet covered blocks. For each shot carefully aim for the colored sticker. Take your time to get a good sight picture.

Do **NOT** STAND UP! Do **NOT** blast a whole magazine of rounds at the target as fast as you can! Three shots slow and easy under control. At this point you should have a group of three holes somewhere on the target.

Continued from page

On the same target shoot another three times. Now you should have a nice group of SIX holes grouped together somewhere on the target. Try a third time, shoot three more rounds. And if all goes well you have a group of nine holes on the target. (IF you have NO HOLES on the target at all take the new handgun to a gunsmith for a thorough checkup. Do NOT KEEP SHOOTING this handgun!)

Let us assume that you get nine holes close together on the target. And for explanation sake let's assume the group is level with your colored sticker and approximately 12 inches to the right of the sticker. Cover up the nine holes or mark them with a pen. Now try three groups of three shots again BUT this time aim approximately 12 inches to the left of the sticker. If all goes well you should hit right around the center target sticker.

So now you know how far the point of fire is for that type of ammunition in your Super Blaster at 25 yards. The next thing is to try another brand or weight of ammunition made for the caliber of your Super Blaster. You will be surprised how far a typical handgun can spread different weights and brands of ammunition at 25 yards. You may be able to find a weight and brand of ammunition that you like that shoots on or close to the point of aim of your Super Blaster. This is OFTEN the BEST way to get a fixed sight handgun to shoot to the sights. It is a lot less expensive than "pushing" sights, replacing sights, etc. And besides you get the fun of trying out various kinds of ammunition in your new gun!

If not, you may be able to buy a sight pushing tool to move the fixed sights on your Super Blaster IF the manufacturer has engineered the "FIXED SIGHTS" to be slightly movable. If you don't want to invest in a sight pushing tool you can consider having a gunsmith move the sights for you. Bring your target along so he has some idea of how far your sights need to move. Usually fixed sight handguns can move the rear sights left and right to adjust for left-right point-of-aim failures. Up-and-down point-of-aim failures are a bit more complicated and may require a gunsmith to install a new taller front sight if your point of aim is high. If your point of aim is low, the front sight can be CAREFULLY filed down or replaced to raise the point of impact.

Good Luck. SHOOT SAFELY or don't shoot at all!

Dr Ed, CRO

Now's your chance to lend a hand



Volunteers Needed for Financial Audit Committee

We need people, particularly those with financial audit or financial management experience, to conduct the annual audit of the Chapter's financial records. The by-laws call for an audit 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 or call 540-338-7316. Oh, by the way, you'll receive credit for 8 hours of volunteer work worth \$50 off your next membership renewal.

FROM THE ARCHERY CENTER

Cub Run Archers would like to extend a warm welcome and invitation to all members of the IWLA to take advantage of the many facilities, training opportunities, archery equipment, events and great camaraderie that our club has to offer. Our state of the art indoor range is available for your use anytime a qualified Range Officer is on site. It is common knowledge that a good many regulars in the club are at the range house every morning from approximately 9 am until noon. This is a great time to come down and introduce yourself and find out what Cub Run Archers is all about. If you are new to archery and need advice on anything from bow setup, arrow tuning to shooting technique, not only will you find literally, several hundred years of collective experience, but equipment to perform those tasks. We especially would like to encourage youth participation and have a great many youth bows that young shooters may practice with to develop their skills. The cost to join Cub Run Archers is only \$15 per year. Though you don't need to be a member of Cub Run Archers to use the facilities, we have a monthly newsletter and several dinners and picnics throughout the year and attendance at even one of these would easily be worth the annual membership. If you are interested, please contact Robert D'Imperio, Secretary, Cub Run Archers, 13490 Edge Rock Ct. Chantilly, Va. 20151. You may email Bob at robbyrayd@yahoo.com as well.

The outdoor facilities are available to any members in good standing of the IWLA. We have a practice range with target butts at 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 40, 50, and 60 yards. These are lighted as well if you would like to shoot in the evenings. There is also crossbow station with a movable bag target for field points only and a broadhead target for broadhead shooting. Remember, crossbows are allowed **ONLY** at the special crossbow station and not at any of the other targets or ranges. A 28 point field archery course is also available for use to all IWLA members. Daytime use only as there is no lighting on the field course.

Indoor Archery Range Open for Evening Shooting

The indoor archery range will be open for evening shooting starting the first Monday in November through the end of March 2013. The range will be open for evening shooting Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings 6:30pm till 9:30pm. All IWLA members are welcome to use the range. This is an excellent opportunity for all you Fairfax County bow hunters to keep your shooting at peak performance throughout the hunting season



Deer processing Station



For all the IWLA deer hunters who would like to process their own deer, the deer processing station is twenty yards off the Cub Run Deck. This area is lighted with running water and 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 going into a dumpster.**

Archery 101 Session

If you missed the September 16th beginner's archery class, mark your calendar for Sunday January 13th. Starting at 1:00pm in the Cub Run Archery Range we will be holding the beginner's archery class for IWLA chapter members who have never shot archery before that would like to give our sport a try. We would like to see ladies, children, and men participating in this training workshop. We have the bows and the arrows..... all you need to do is show up. For registration please email Bob Walla, President of Cub Run Archers at r.walla@verizon.net

IWLA-Monthly Centerfire Bullseye Match: November 2012 – April 2013

The Centerfire Bullseye season begins on November 4, 2012 and will continue through April 2013. The range has 17 shooting positions. The match will have two relays starting at 9:00 am and 10:30 am.

The match is held on the first Sunday of each month. Beginners and experienced pistol shooters are invited to compete in the Bullseye Pistol Match at the IWLA rifle/pistol range. All ages and talent levels are invited to compete in the matches. They are fun and educational. If you are a beginner and are interested, please join us. If you are the parent of a young adult and would like them to learn the basics of pistol shooting, you are also welcome. The shooting competition consists of a total of 60 shots at slow, timed and rapid fire. During the months of November through April, the participants use center fire pistols or revolvers. All new shooter are invited and we will help educate and encourage you to participate in the competition. Targets are provided for all matches. You bring your pistol, ammunition and lots of enthusiasm. See you on the first Sunday of each month.

If you do not have a centerfire pistol, you are permitted to shoot with your 22 rimfire pistol or revolver.

If you are interested or have additional question contact Jack Machey at red-dotbull@yahoo.com. Please join us for an enjoyable Sunday morning event! The weather is cold , however the members are warm and friendly.

Competitors scoring targets during a rainy match.



We lose yet another member

On August 9, we lost Art Shope. That happens. People come and people go. You reflect, you grieve, and you move on; until one day it becomes your turn and others do the same for you. But, sometimes, the people are themselves different. Sometimes they are different in that they gave so much of themselves; their time and their energy; to serve others. Sometimes they have simply been around for so very long that they seem to be timeless; as much a part of the scenery as the buildings, the trees and the very land that comprise the Chapter we all love so dearly. Arthur R. Shope Jr. was both of those and so very much more.

We know Art wasn't a "charter member", in the sense that he wasn't one of the few who signed our original charter. But; I doubt anyone living can remember the day Art became a member here at Arlington-Fairfax. We do know he had a hand in building all of the original buildings here on the property; and he was an integral part of setting up the chapter and all it entails. Art was born June 23, 1926; in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and no one remains to tell us exactly when he moved to this area, because it was Art himself who remembered all the "old hands" now gone. He was in fact the source of many of the original maps we have of the chapter property; and he was the one who answered so many of our questions about "the early days".

From some time in the 1980's, when he retired from U.S.G.S., through some time in 2008, it was Art who unlocked the gate and opened the Archery Clubhouse every day. Although he gave up shooting his bow many years ago, he was involved in every aspect of our archery program until his health at last began to fail. He was a tireless worker; maintaining the archery field house, repairing targets, fixing the target butts, quietly working in the background to make sure everything was right. Art donated or obtained most of the equipment we use to process deer, and he probably taught more people how to dress out a deer than anyone can remember. Art loved the outdoors, and planted literally hundreds, if not thousands, of trees on our property; and he was the source of many of the original bird houses still located here and there around the property.

Yes, people come and people go. Art came to us so long ago; and now he has passed. There is no way we can ever repay Art for all he did; and we probably failed to say "thanks" as often as we should have when we had the chance. But the next time you enter the chapter, look around with a new perspective. Look at the trees; look at the buildings; and then look up at the sky and say: "Thanks, Art; for all you did and all you were. Now go with God".

Watershed Conservation Activities

By Colin Riley

Occurring, just after the Derecho that brought so much destruction to the DC metro area, the July 1st Adopt A Stream cleanup of Cub Run was not well attended with only myself and one other chapter member participating. On the plus side there was comparatively little trash to pickup from the flood plain of the stream. We collected three bags of trash in a couple of hours.

So far this year we have collected far less trash than usual at Mason Neck State Park and our Adopted Stream sections due in large part to the dry conditions that have persisted throughout the year. People unfortunately have not stopped littering; rather the lack of rain has meant that this accumulating trash has not been flushed from roads and into the storm drains and streams. This will no doubt change with the downpours on October 2nd. The resulting storm water runoff is transporting 6 months of accumulated debris into area streams and rivers even as this article is being written.

On August 11th, five volunteers carried out more than 300 pounds of empty beer bottles at an Adopt A Stream Cleanup of Bull Run.

Jim Pont led 5 other volunteers in an Adopt A Highway cleanup of Mount Olive and Compton Road on September 9th.

The filled nine bags with trash collected from the roadway.

To know the beauty and understanding of nature and the value of wildlife, woodlands, and open space

There are many interesting natural features on the Chapter's property but few people who visit our chapter, ever see them.

We have a nature trail but it lacks any current signage or interpretation explaining the more ecologically important aspects of the woodland and its habitats. In an effort to change that, one of our new members, Jon Clark has been mapping some of the trails around the camp ground including the nature trail and over the next month, I will be working on a brochure keyed to numbered markers on the trail. I invite any interested member to come out on Sunday, November 11th from 10 am to 11:30 am, to walk the trail and discuss ways of improving the interpretive pamphlet, controlling invasive plants and finding ways to improve wildlife diversity on the property. We will meet near the small pavilion by the campground. The rain date for this event will be November 18th.

!!! IMPORTANT !!!

Your Range Badge insert is no longer attached to your new membership card. It is separate in your 2013 renewal envelope. Just slide the old 2012 badge insert out and replace with the new 2013 insert. The new gate code will not take effect until January 1, 2013.

!!! NOTICE - NEW MEMBERS !!!

If you did not complete your initial 6 hours of work required of new members, you will **NOT** receive your range badge insert with your 2013 membership card.

Watershed Conservation Activities

Upcoming Events

November 4, 2012 Adopt A Stream Cleanup of Cub Run

Sunday from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon

Participants will meet in the Chapter Field House parking lot.

December 1, 2012 - Adopt A Stream Cleanup of Bull Run

Saturday from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Participants will meet in the Route 28 Access Point parking lot next to 7122 Centreville Road Centreville, VA 20121

December 9, 2012 Adopt A Highway Cleanup - Mount Olive Road

Sunday from 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Participants will meet in the Chapter Field House parking lot.

January 26, 2013 - Winter Wetland Cleanup Mason Neck State Park

Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Weather permitting; the Chapter will be conducting a shoreline cleanup of trash at Mason Neck State Park. Volunteers will meet in the Park's Visitor Center Parking lot at 7301 High Point 22079.Rd, Lorton, VA

If you would like more information on these or any unscheduled volunteer opportunities, please give me a call at 703-200-3994 or send an email to fairfaxwatershed@yahoo.com

NOVA Sharpshooters Junior Rifle



We had a good summer season. Several shooters traveled to junior shooting camps. Now summer is over, the kids are back to school and the air rifle range is starting to fill up on Monday and Friday nights. It must be about time for the High School rifle season to begin. Again this year the Arlington Fairfax IWLA will host 6 of the areas Potomac High School Rifle League teams. Lake Braddock, Robinson, West Springfield, West Potomac, and Woodson high schools as well as the Mavericks will call our little range home.

If you would like to bring your junior (8-18) out to shoot air rifle open beginners practices are Monday nights from 4:30-8:30 and Friday nights from 5-9. For more information contact Tom Pike twpike@verizon.net 703-802-0740

2012 Virginia Constitutional Amendment

Virginia Attorney General, and Arlington-Fairfax Chapter member, Ken Cuccinelli has long championed an amendment to the Virginia Constitution which would prevent governments from seizing property such as our chapter property through the improper use of power under “eminent domain” simply to increase tax revenue or indeed for any reason other than true public use. When we vote on November 6th, we will have the opportunity to vote for an amendment to the Virginia Constitution. This amendment will “require that eminent domain only be exercised where the property taken or damaged is for public use and, except for utilities or the elimination of a public nuisance, not where the primary use is for private gain, private benefit, private enterprise, increasing jobs, increasing tax revenue, or economic development”.

We believe this amendment is a very good thing for our chapter, and indeed all similar properties; and may well protect our property from seizure in the future. We encourage our members to view this proposed amendment carefully and thoughtfully, and to vote accordingly. Thanks; Ernie P.

Explanation for Proposed Constitutional Amendment
To Be Voted on at the November 6, 2012, Election

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Article I. Bill of Rights.

Section 11. Due process of law; obligation of contracts; taking of private property; prohibited discrimination; jury trial in civil cases.

BALLOT QUESTION

Shall Section 11 of Article I (Bill of Rights) of the Constitution of Virginia be amended (i) to require that eminent domain only be exercised where the property taken or damaged is for public use and, except for utilities or the elimination of a public nuisance, not where the primary use is for private gain, private benefit, private enterprise, increasing jobs, increasing tax revenue, or economic development; (ii) to define what is included in just compensation for such taking or damaging of property; and (iii) to prohibit the taking or damaging of more private property than is necessary for the public use?

EXPLANATION

Current Constitution and Background. Article I, Section 11 of the current Constitution prohibits the taking or damaging of private property for public uses without just compensation. The power to take private property for public uses is known as the power of eminent domain. If a private property owner and the entity acquiring property for a public use cannot agree on the sale of the property, the property may be taken by eminent domain and the amount of just compensation is decided in a court proceeding.

In a 2005 case from Connecticut, the United States Supreme Court upheld the taking of private property and its transfer to a private business for economic development purposes and also said that states could restrict the use of eminent domain (*Kelo v. City of New London*, 545 U.S. 469). Two years later, the Virginia General Assembly enacted § 1-219.1 of the Code of Virginia and set limits on the use of eminent domain powers. For example, § 1-219.1 provides that no more private property may be taken than is necessary for the stated public use, that the public interest for the taking must outweigh any private gain, and that private property cannot be taken for certain primary purposes such as increasing the tax base, revenues, or employment.

Proposed Amendment. The proposed constitutional amendment continues the approach and concepts set out in § 1-219.1. However, while limits in the Code can be amended by any future General Assembly, the proposed amendment, if approved by the voters, could only be changed by a future constitutional amendment approved by the voters.

About Membership Renewals and New Memberships in 2013

First let me remind everyone to get their membership renewals into the Administrative Staff (Linda and Scott) by the end of this year. That lets everything gets processed before the rush of new members begins in March 2013. We begin holding PMOC's for 2013 on the following dates, subject to change: Saturday 2 March at 9 AM Thursday 11 April at 7:30 PM Saturday 4 May at 9 AM Saturday 1 June at 9 AM (if required) Everyone starts the process of joining the Arlington Fairfax Chapter by sending us an email. In January 2013 people who have contacted us via email will receive an email asking them to confirm their interest in joining the Chapter, and allowing them to request a spot in one of the first three classes of the year. This ensures people who have weekend commitments such as military reserve duty that precludes their attending a class on the first Saturday of the month get an opportunity to join. We would expect to have about 250 openings for new members during 2013. If your friends are interested in joining, make certain they get in touch with us, preferably before January 2013, to get in the queue for membership reservations. They should also plan for those dates, since we had people this year where invited to several classes and kept getting scheduling conflicts. They did not get to join in 2012. They get to try again in 2013. If your friends want to join, they will need to make one of the classes shown above. Let them know. Jim Showalter Membership Chairman



Christmas Party for Underprivileged Kids



The Arlington-Fairfax Chapter's annual "Christmas Party for Underprivileged Kids" is scheduled for December 8, 2012, from 12:00 P.M.- 3:00 P.M., and once again will take place in the Indoor Archery Range. The Fairfax County Department of Family Services will provide us with the names of about 50 underprivileged children, between the ages of newborn and 14 years. These kids, and their families, will be treated to a traditional Christmas Dinner, with a party atmosphere, and gifts for the kids delivered by Santa Claus.

This Party is one of many, really great events, our chapter does for the community. If you would like to volunteer to help, we'll need members who can help with the following:

Gift Buyer: Purchase gifts, off of a wish list, for one family. You'll be provided with the children's name(s), age(s), gender(s), and a 1st and 2nd choice toy. You go to the store, buy the gift(s), and bring it, gift wrapped, to the Main Club House on 12/05/10 @ 7:00 P.M. Save your receipts, and you'll be reimbursed for your purchases. Arrangements can be made to get funds, to cover the purchases, in advance, if you wish.

Gift Sorting & Stocking Stuffing: Wednesday, 12/05/10 @7:00 P.M.; Match up gifts with wish lists, make sure we have all the kids covered. Personalize and fill stockings for each child. Maybe some wrapping or re-wrapping. At the Main Club House.

Party Set-up: Friday, 12/07/10 @10:00 A.M.; Set up tables, chairs, and decorations. Pick-Up Truck owners needed to move things from Main Club House to Indoor Archery Range.

Party Set-up/Food Servers: Saturday, 12/8/10 @9:00 A.M.; Finish Setting up, Serve the meal, and generally help keep things running smoothly during the Party.

Transportation: Saturday 12/8/10 @11:00 A.M.; Members with large vehicles. Pick up invited families (who don't own vehicles) and transport them to the Party, and take them home, at the conclusion of the party.

Cookies and Pies: Saturday 12/8/10; Donations of Cookies and Pies, to be served at the party. These can be dropped off early.

Party Break-Down: Saturday 12/8/10 @3:00 P.M.; Take it all down, and put it away. The more the merrier. Pick-Up trucks are helpful.

Please contact Carl Armstrong (Carl.Armstrong@arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org, 703-932-2347) if you can help out. If you don't have the time to help, or would prefer, you can make a tax deductible donation to the Chapter, to help cover the cost of this worthwhile cause.



President's column



As a child, I lived for a time with my grandparents on their farm in Bainbridge, Georgia. The nearest neighbor was at least ½ mile away. In fact, there were only two neighbors; David Ezell and his family in one direction and a lady who lived alone and was at least 101 years old in the other. In those days, Bainbridge wasn't on most maps. Nearby Climax, Georgia was, however. Climax was where the feed store was located. They also had a stop sign and a railroad crossing; but I'm not sure anyone actually lived in Climax. In many ways, it was an idyllic environment for a young boy. I was taught some valuable lessons about life: Shoes are to be saved and worn when going to school and church only; at other times children should go barefoot. I had one nice set of clothes (that is; without patches) and that too was reserved for school and church. Everyone has chores to do; and these must be done before any play is allowed. You eat everything on your plate; and you'd better learn to eat the things you don't like; because the time may come when that is all there is to eat. (Think okra, squash, beans and various types of "greens".) When granddaddy was plowing behind the mule, my job was to walk along behind him and stomp on all the clods to break them up. And I remember so many truly wonderful things: Wandering the woods without a care in the world; Watching the fog come creeping across the mill pond; The foxfire glowing eerily in the holler at night; Sitting on the porch and watching the rain sheeting across the yard; And the feeling of being warm and safe among people who love you. But maybe most of all, I remember the rooster.

Thinking back, the rooster and I had some things in common. We were both about the same height; and probably about the same age. I must have been around six years old or so; because I was in the first grade at school. The rooster and I also had some differences. I didn't have a hard beak that could draw blood with a single peck, and a set of very sharp spurs that could lay open skin as easily as a sharp knife; and I wasn't trying to kill the rooster. And I know for sure that rooster wasn't totally and absolutely terrified of me. Of all the things I have seen and faced in my life, the only one that truly panicked me was that old rooster. Being shot at, being cut, crashing race cars and facing irate girlfriend's fathers at three o'clock in the morning are all a distant second place to that rooster. Hey; cut me some slack here... When you look a rooster eyeball to angry, red, glaring eyeball, your perspective is a bit different.

Every day, grandma would tell me "Time to gather up the eggs and feed the chickens"; and the nightmare would begin. We would go out to the barn and gather up some ears of dried corn from the crib. We would put each ear of corn into the top of a hand turned grinder that separated the kernels and dropped the cleaned corn cob out the bottom. The kernels were collected in a bucket as food for the chickens, and the corn cobs set aside for later use. I was just big enough to sometimes turn the crank by myself; but grandma had to help most of the time. We would walk to the coop and I would climb up on top of the rain barrel and turn the piece of wood with a nail through it that acted as a latch. Then I would open the gate in the chicken wire fence while grandma got a bucket of water for the chickens. I would carry the egg basket and the bucket of corn, while grandma carried the heavier water bucket. We would go inside and I would shake the gate until the latch moved and locked the gate behind us. Grandma would always have to reach up to unlock the latch when it was time to go; because I couldn't reach it and the chicken wire fence was too flimsy to climb, even at my light weight.

Then we would put water in the pans, throw the corn kernels on the ground in a far corner, and gather the eggs from the roosts while the chickens were occupied hunting the corn. And all the time I kept one eye on the rooster. He would be there; watching; trying to get around behind me; stalking me and waiting for his chance. As long as I stayed within three foot and four inches of grandma, I was safe; the rooster couldn't get to me. But if I forgot where I was; took my eye off the rooster for a split second; got a bit too far away from grandma; it would happen. The sky would suddenly grow dark and I would see the shadow growing on the ground around me. I would look up and there he would be; coming down on top of me; all beak and spurs and fury; slashing away; tearing my flesh and spilling my blood. I would run blindly, screaming in terror while the rooster tore away at me. By the time grandma caught up with us and pulled the rooster off me, I would be breathless, sobbing and totally panicked. That rooster was the spawn of hell; and I absolutely knew that one day he would peck my eyes out before killing me slowly and inviting all the hens to peck my bones clean.

Sunday dinners after church were a big thing; the best meal of the week and often a whole family of guests from one of the nearby farms. On occasion, even the preacher man came to eat with us. Sometimes, I would be asked what I wanted for Sunday dinner. My answer was always the same: "I want to eat the rooster". To be honest, I didn't much care if we ate the rooster or not; I just wanted to see grandma chop his head off and watch while he ran around the yard till he ran out of blood. But, the answer was always the same: "That old rooster would be too tough to eat. How 'bout we have fried chicken, mashed taters and snap beans"? Now, grandma's fried chicken, mashed taters and snap beans weren't to be sneezed at; but more than anything else, I simply wanted that rooster dead. Preferably, dead by some means that allowed me to watch his final death throes at leisure. Since I couldn't do the deed by myself, I need an adult sized ally. But my powers of persuasion proved to be insufficient, and the rooster lived on; and so my torment continued.

One day at school, our first grade class put on a play in the auditorium. For some reason that escaped me at the time, and still does today, this was kind of a big deal. I don't remember, if indeed I ever knew or cared, the name of the play or what it was about. I had a rooster trying to peck my eyes out, for gosh sakes! I had bigger things to worry about. I knew I and five other boys were going to play British Bobbies; I knew we were going to march together and sing a song; and we had to make our costumes. Anything else, I didn't need to know. We had dark construction paper helmets, shirts and pants taped and pinned to our normal clothes, and big paper badges on our chests. And someone had cut an old broomstick into lengths, with a rawhide strap through a hole in one end; to serve as nightsticks. In the play, we six Bobbies marched along, sang our little song and swung our nightsticks. Everyone cheered and applauded. Afterwards, we handed in all our costumes, but I slipped my nightstick into the leg of my pants. An idea was beginning to form.

It is said "Fortune favors the bold". I believe that is true. When the bus dropped me off at home, for the first and probably the only time I can remember, my grandma wasn't there to meet me. She and granddaddy had gone to visit friends and were late getting back. When the bus dropped me off, I didn't even slow down. I didn't take off my shoes or change into my play clothes. I had a nightstick and some business to conduct before anyone showed up to put a stop to things. Me and that rooster were about to have a reckoning. I climbed up on the rain barrel, turned the wooden latch and, nightstick in hand, opened the gate to the chicken coop. I stepped in and turned to shake the gate, to get the latch to drop back in position and lock the gate. As I turned back to face into the chicken coop, the rooster was already heading for me at full speed. And then it hit me: I had just locked myself in the chicken coop with the rooster; and I had no way of getting out on my own.

That rooster came screaming in, straight on to me at right about mach 2; running like a freight train. I could see his eyes glowing with a sinister redness; and everything about his face told me every dream he had ever had was about to come true. This was his birthday, Christmas and every holiday he knew, all rolled into one. Now he had me; and there were no adults in sight to spoil his fun. He was going to peck my eyes out, kill me slowly and invite the hens to peck my bones clean. And I froze. I couldn't move. My brain was still trying to process the fact that I had somehow forgotten about not being able to get out of the chicken coop by myself; and I had now locked myself in with the rooster. We were all alone; and the rooster was more than good with it. The rooster came to a screeching halt right in front of me, with his beak about an inch away from my nose. He cocked his head to his right; trying to decide which of my eyes he was going to peck out first. Actually, the rooster was probably standing there thinking "Aren't you supposed to be running and screaming about now"? But I didn't know that.

You know that feeling you get when you swing the bat in a perfect arc; getting full extension; your hips following through; all your weight behind it; and you feel that solid connection with the ball; that solid, no slip, full energy transfer, "home run" feeling? Well, that's what it felt like when I hit that rooster. Right down to the "crack" of the bat, or nightstick in this case. I swung with my right hand, and I felt the impact all the way into my left foot. In fact the crack was so loud, I stood there for a few seconds, turning the nightstick over and over in my hand, looking to see if I had broken it. Nope; the "crack" sound came from the rooster's head.

I'd hit the rooster slap up alongside his head; and he went down like a puppet with all the strings cut; straight down with no muscles working. He lay there on the ground in a heap; not moving. I watched him for a long time before it suddenly occurred to me that he was stone cold dead. "Oh my gosh; I've killed the rooster", I thought. "We'll never have any more eggs and my grandpa is going to beat me so hard he'll have to take a break just to go to church next Sunday. This is terrible. What have I done? The poor rooster". I poked the rooster with my toe, trying to get him to move; and praying all the time "Dear Lord, please don't let the rooster be dead". After a long time, the rooster finally gave a tremendous shudder and started to flinch a little bit. He gradually started to move around, trying to get things back under control, and slowly and fitfully staggered to his feet. Crack! I hit him again. Down went the rooster again. I poke and prod him until he wakes back up and flops around until he manages to find his feet. Crack! Down again. Repeat the process. And again. I finally missed a swing and the rooster took off running; but all his muscles weren't working very well and he ran like he was stepping into post holes, not making much progress. It wasn't hard to walk alongside him and get in another good swing. Down again.

I beat that rooster from one end of the coop to the other and then back again. Several times. I have no idea how many times I hit him or how many times he went down not moving until I thought he really was finally dead. All I know is I beat him and beat him until I simply got tired of chasing and hitting him. Whatever he might have ever done to me, I did to him a dozen times over. By the time I was done, all I had to do was yell or stomp my foot and the rooster would take off running again. Running a bit funny like, but running. Getting back out of the gate was a problem. I kept trying to climb the chicken wire fence, but it would sag so badly I couldn't do it. So, I'd get frustrated and go hit the rooster a few more times. I finally managed to get high enough I could use the nightstick to shove the latch around and get the gate open. I stood outside the chicken coop for a few minutes, trying to get my breath back; my shirttail all out and covered in sweat. I looked down the drive toward the road and here came grandma and grandpa in his old car with the back of the body cut off and turned into a flatbed. I had just enough time to hide the nightstick before running to meet them.

Granddaddy looked at me suspiciously and asked what I'd been doing. Granddaddy was always suspicious, for some reason. I told him "I was just running and playing"; and he reminded me about not playing in my shoes and school clothes and told me to go change clothes. I quickly changed and ran back outside to where grandma and granddaddy were talking. I walked up to grandma and said "Let's go collect the eggs and feed the chickens, grandma". She looked at me a little funny and said "Okay; get the basket and corn bucket". When we walked into the chicken coop the rooster immediately ran to the farthest point in the yard and stayed there the entire time we were inside. Grandma turned and looked at me for a long, long time, but she didn't say anything; just looking at me kind of funny. And she didn't comment about the rooster running kind of funny like, either.

As I said, I learned some valuable lessons about life on that old farm. I never again had a problem with the rooster; and I never had many problems with much else, either. It's funny how many things in life can be solved with just a bit of courage, some determination and a stick. Thanks; Ernie P.

2013 Birt Kidwell Winter Skeet and Trap League

The Colonel Birt Kidwell Winter Skeet and Trap League will be forming up soon for the 2013 season. Chapter members interested in participating in shotgun shooting sports and improving their marksmanship skills are encouraged to join. The competitive format provides a demanding challenge for shooters of all ability levels. Shooting the league is also a great way to get to know many of your fellow IKE's. The league fielded 168 shooters in 2012 for the ninth straight year and we expect another large turnout for the coming season. Be sure to sign up early to ensure a spot on the roster.

The season will begin on Sunday, January 6, 2013 and continues every Sunday for 13 weeks. League competition consists of six person squads shooting two round matches against another team each week for both team and individual prizes. Six matches each of trap and skeet are shot during the season (twelve Sundays total). Awards are presented to the top teams and to the individuals with high averages in Skeet, Trap, and Overall, plus a Most Improved.

Individuals and/or teams interested in participating in the league can sign up either by email (preferred) or by telephone. Space on the roster is limited, so be sure to sign up early. More information about the Winter Skeet and Trap League can be obtained by contacting John Seaberg. Email Address: jseaberg@cox.net Telephone: (703) 830-9365.

Hello IWLA Winter League Shooters:

The Bender Shima Clinic is coming back to IWLA and is nearly full. The BSSC is a great learning experience and many of our league shooters have taken advantage of the opportunity to learn skeet from the World's Best American Skeet Instructors. In fact, nine league shooters have already signed up for this clinic.

This is a chance to get a great Christmas present from your spouse, spend a day on the range, and improve your scores before the league starts.

There are still spots left with John Shima, but only on Wednesday, October 31st.

Please contact me for additional information. Thanks.

Doug Minnig

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Fire dept. checking our dry hydrant at the pond,



Fixing old power lines at the
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