



P.O. Box 145 • New Richmond, WI 54017 • (715) 246-4884 • www.willowriver.org

Willow River Rod & Gun Club News

The next WRR&GC turkey shoot will be scheduled mid to late April.

The rifle and pistol ranges are still receiving moderate use. Backers should be replaced as necessary with new ones stored in the metal shed next to the trap shed.

The annual meeting of the WRR&GC is scheduled for Thursday, January 14th, starting at 7 pm. Food and refreshments will be provided. Help set the course for the club in the coming year. The terms of Brian Headlee, Ron Roettger and Jon Nysse are up on the board of directors. If you are interested in running for a position on the board contact Mike Reiter at 715-246-6643 or Larry Suennen at 715-246-3925 to throw your hat in the ring. Hope to see you there!

Current club membership now stands at 423.

The club is presently looking for help to co-chair the Park Art Fair and Fun Fest efforts for 2010. If interested contact any of the club's board of directors.

The card operated gate is now installed and should be ready for use by mid January. (See the gate explanation in the next section)

The club still is looking for some utility poles for support lighting at various places on the club land. Contact any of the board of directors if you know of any that are available.

A special thanks goes out to Joel Knutson and Chris Sharp for provided the foot rail on the club house bar. The installment of this item goes a long way in providing club support in more ways than one.

There will be a scheduled Benefit held at the club house on January 10th for Kathryn Glor, the 6 year old daughter of Brandon, one of our club members. All proceeds from this event will be used toward her medical treatments. More information will be forthcoming.

Money was allotted for a stub wall and improvements on the indoor archery range, targets and score cards for the archery leagues, annual meeting refreshments and a donation to the Glor Benefit.

Entrance to Club goes High Tech

A new automated gate is being installed at the entrance to the club and will be put into service with the membership renewals in January 2010. This improvement to our facilities will make it easier for members to enter and exit as well as recording passage so we can get

better information regarding how much the club is used. Each member will be required to make a \$10 deposit on a Key Card along with the dues for next year. This is a one time deposit and the card will be active as long as the membership is in good standing.

When entering the club grounds, the card must be presented to a reader located on the driver's side of the road near the gate. The system utilizes radio frequency communication so the card will not have to physically touch the reader, but just be held within 2 - 3 inches of it. As soon as the card is recognized, an electric motor will open the gate for a predetermined amount of time. Readers will be on both sides of the gate so exiting is accomplished in the same manner. There should no longer be any need to get out of your vehicle at the gate. During high traffic periods such as league nights and events open to the public the gate will be locked open.

As well as making access easier, this system should improve security by eliminating instances of the gate being accidentally left open. It will also provide some accountability in cases of safety or rule violation. Willow River Rim fire Shooting! – By Brian Headlee

Perhaps some of you have driven by the Pistol & Small bore range at Willow River Rod & Gun Club on a Saturday or Sunday when a match is in progress. You may have seen dozens of multi colored flags, daisy wheels, streamers and a lot of serious looking people with some pretty nice rifles. Our very own Willow River Rod & Gun club is one of the top venues in the nation for rim fire bench rest competition. The colorful flags you see in the range during a match are a rim fire shooters best friend - wind flags.

Wind flags you ask? On a 50 yard range? Well as it turns out the average 22 match bullet leaves the barrel around 1060 fps, subsonic. A 10 mph perpendicular crosswind can move that bullet sideways 1 inch at 50 yards. An inch may not seem like a lot, but the competitors are shooting at a 1 millimeter dot (0.040") that represents the X on an IR50/50 target. An inch sideways means scoring a 4 or 5 out of 10 on that bulls eye rather than a 10 or 10X. Understanding the wind and its implications is entirely different than shooting well in it yet we have several regional shooters that do both well.

With an understanding of the wind, good shooters and good equipment, you have a recipe for excellence. Of over 600 national competitors at various ranges around the country we have 12-15 regulars attending the events here. Now and then we'll get a shooter from Illinois, Iowa, Arkansas and elsewhere out traveling and looking



Rim Fire Competitive Shooting

for national points. The competition is tough. Ten of the regular competitors at Willow River finished the 2009 national season in the top 100. At one time 7 of them were in the top 25. It's not all about competition though. I can say with certainty that I have made some great friends through the sport, the camaraderie is second to none. I have learned more about shooting and accuracy from shooting with this crowd than I ever could have hoped to through trial and error or reading endless articles and web pages. I have also had a lot of fun, getting out and getting some trigger therapy with good people.

So how does this work? At Willow River we shoot matches under 2 sanctioning bodies, the USRA – IR50/50 and the ARA. The targets and how they are scored are different but they do share some similarities. As ARA is the easiest to get started in I'll explain it first. The ARA Official target is 25 scoring bulls eyes and 10 sighting bulls eyes printed in blue on white paper. A target is to be completed in 20 minutes (as called by the range master) and requires 1 shot per each of the 25 scoring bulls eyes. You can shoot as much as you like at the sighters within the 20 minutes. The center ring is worth 100 points, the next ring is 50 points, then 25, then 10, then 0 making a perfect score on a target 2500. ARA is non-traditional in that scoring is done with the worst edge of the bullet hole. The bullet must be entirely in the center ring to score 100. If the outer edge of the bullet breaks the line, it scores as a 50. Remember the wind.....well you had better be paying attention to it. Many of you saw the 20 minute limit above and probably shrugged your shoulders thinking 20 minutes seems like forever to get off 25 scoring shots. It is if you don't watch the wind. That 20 minutes flies by when you sight in for a condition and then only shoot in that condition, being mindful of those potentially dropped points.

We typically run 6 card ARA matches at Willow River. This would be 6 target cards per shooter to complete the match, 150 scoring bulls eyes spread across 6 separate 20 minute time periods. The match winner is determined by taking the average of the 6 targets and the high average wins. So if a shooter shoots a 2150, 2250, 2200, 2350, 2300, and a 2400 they average 2275. That would earn you a potential top 3 finish anywhere ARA is shot. ARA equipment is open and unlimited, essentially anything goes, shoot what you "brung". This is good and bad in that you can bring any 22 long rifle to a match and compete within the rules, but you may compete against some pretty custom equipment. Overall it is an excellent way to get out and shoot and have some fun and expand your horizons. The 2010 ARA schedule will appear on the Willow River website in January.

The other sanctioned 22 rim fire matches contested at Willow River are run under IR50/50 (IR50) rules. IR50 also uses a 25 scoring bulls eye target with 5 sighters all printed in black on white paper. Like ARA, IR50 requires 1 shot per bulls eye with unlimited sighters, but with a 30 minute time limit. IR50 uses traditional scoring in that the edge of the bullet hole closest to the center is used to score the shot. There is a .040" dot for an X, centered in a .250" diameter 10 ring, followed by concentric rings for 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 and then 0. A 250-25X is a perfect score and has never been done. We had over fifteen 250's at Willow River in 2009, but no one bettered 22X. Equipment is also regulated in IR50. There are 3 classes: Sporter (7.5#), 10.5#, and 13.5#. These represent rifle weight. In Sporter the rifle and scope must weigh under 7.5# and the scope shall be no more than 6.5 power. The fore-end must be radiused and less than 2.25" wide. In 10.5# class fore-ends can be 3" with unlimited scope power. Most use 36x such as a Weaver T36. In 13.5#, everything is the same as 10.5 except you can be heavier. Most people use their 10.5# rifle in the 13.5# class as a matter of economics. The 2010 IR50 schedule will be posted on the Willow River website in January.

Come out and join us in 2010. It's a great way to get out and shoot. Even better if you bring family, 2 of the toughest shooters in the nation are husband and wife. It's also quite entertaining to be beat by your kid. I get that simple pleasure now and then and it's second to none. I hope to see some new faces in 2010!

Winter Archery Shoots

Winter archery leagues will begin on the week of January 18th, 2010. The spot league begins on January 19th and the animal league begins on January 20th. You must be a member of the Rod & Gun Club to join the leagues. The spot league fees are as follows: Adult \$40.00, Youth (age 12-17) \$20.00, Under age 11 \$10.00. The animal league fees are as follows: Adult \$60.00, Youth (age 12-17) \$30.00, Under age 11 \$15.00. Any adults shooting both leagues will receive a \$20.00 discount. The discount only applies to adults.

League nights for the spot league are Tuesdays 5:30-9:00 P.M. & Fridays 5:30-10:00 P.M. We need to close shooting at 9:00 pm on Tuesday evenings to allow adequate time for the animal league to be set up. The club will NOT be open for shooting on Saturday's unless special arrangements are made. Please contact Rich Vetterkind to make arrangements (715-246-2126 or rich.vetterkind@smcltd.com).

League nights for the 3D animal league are Wednesday & Thursday evening 5:30-10:00 P.M. Club work parties are scheduled for Tuesday, December 15th, Tuesday December 22nd, Tuesday December 29th, Tuesday January 5th, and Tuesday January 12th. Work parties begin at 5:30 P.M. We will be working on repairing the summer league bunkers & replacing the spot league bunkers. A platform will be built on the range floor to support the new bunkers. We are happy to announce, the spot league bunkers will be replaced with Block targets. We need several people to help out with preparing the club. If you still need hours, this is a great way to get them in before the end of the year.

New Richmond National Wild Turkey Federation

New Richmond Area NWTF Chapter Is looking for



*Ron Roettger with 2009
Deer Gun Season Harvest*



Clubhouse New Addition



WRR&GC New Entrance Gate



New Gatekeepers

members and volunteers If you are interested in joining, getting involved or interested in more information please contact: Jeff Matz 715-246-2323 or 651-261-4924 jpmatz@yahoo.com

Star Prairie Fish & Game Update

Twenty cords of logs at \$80 a cord are on order with the staging and build area located on the east side of the Cedar Lake near the McMurtrie preserve. A kayak has been donated to the Pheasants Forever banquet in the spring of 2010.

The club has 38 paid members for 2009 with 14 Life (age 65 and older).

Board members whose terms expire at the end of 2009 are Dan Bygd, Mike Kelly, Bob Swanda and Terry Zais.

Deer Management

(Excerpts from the Wisconsin DNR Wildlife Management Report - 11/10/2009)

9-Day Gun Season -- Preliminary 9-day deer harvest figures have been reported. The statewide preliminary registered kill was just over 196,000 deer, a 29% decrease from the 2008 season. Buck harvest statewide was only down 12%, while antlerless harvest was down 39%. The large decline in antlerless harvest can be attributed mainly to fewer earn-a-buck units, fewer herd control units and more Regular units with limited or no antlerless tags. Customer Service staff are busy entering

registration stubs into a database which will provide final registered harvest figures in February.

Deer Hunter Observations -- The online Deer Hunter Observation Survey has been popular. Through opening weekend of the 9-day season, archery and gun hunters submitted information from over 7,000 trips. Observations of bucks peaked between Nov. 6 and Nov. 20, and observations for does peak between Sept. 26 and Oct. 9. Statewide, deer hunters have reported seeing about an average of 1.5 deer per trip. Turkeys and Ruffed Grouse were the next two commonly seen species from the reporting form.

2010 Deer Season Structure -- The department worked with a hunter and landowner stakeholder committee to develop a future season structure that would have the flexibility of encouraging additional harvest where needed and reducing harvest where needed. Following public hearing, the recommendation was modified and submitted to the Natural Resources Board. However, the Secretary has withdrawn the recommendation until population estimates can be developed for current deer populations, in response to hunter concerns regarding deer numbers observed this past hunting season.

Submitted by Jason Fleener

Deer Estimation Action Plan -- The department is developing a plan to address concerns regarding estimates of deer numbers. The action plan should be completed in January. This plan includes a commitment of \$2 million to conduct research on deer population dynamics and hunter population dynamics. It also seeks to increase involvement of hunters through opportunities to share their observations.

Submitted by Bill Vander Zouwen

Upcoming Events...

December 17th (Thursday).....Canada goose south exterior zone season closes
December 31st (Thursday)Pheasant season closes; Hungarian partridge season closes; Bobcat hunting and trapping season closes; Fisher trapping season closes; Frog season closes
January 3rd (Sunday).....Late archery deer season closes
January 8th (Thursday)Willow River Rod & Gun Club's Annual Meeting,
7 pm, club land, Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
January 10th (Sunday)Kathryn Glor Benefit, Willow River Rod & Gun land, Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
January 18th (Monday).....Star Prairie Fish & Game Association Annual Meeting,
6:00 Dinner & Social, 7:00 Meeting, Don Madsen's
on Cedar Lake, Contact: Dan Bygd 715-246-6477
January 19th (Tuesday)Start of Willow River Rod & Gun Club Indoor Archery
Spot League, Contact Rich Vetterkind 715-246-2126
January 20th (Wednesday)Start of Willow River Rod & Gun Club Indoor Archery
Animal League, Contact Rich Vetterkind 715-246-2126
January 26th (Tuesday)Lobby Day, Madison Wisconsin, Contact Mike Reiter 715-246-6643
January 31st (Sunday).....Squirrel season closes
Ruffed grouse season closes in Zone A (Northern Zone)

Comments, criticisms or input, please contact Mike Reiter 246-6643 or Jessa Nelson 246-0266

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