



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

Willow River Rod & Gun Club Board of Directors for 2011

Jerry Van Houten and Chris Polfus were re-elected to the Willow River Rod & Gun Club's Board of Directors for 2011. The new officers and positions are:

Brian Headlee - President

tenspot17@hotmail.com - (715-246-5322)

Jon Nysse - Vice President

jnyse@gmail.com - (715-246-7021)

Jerry Van Houten - Treasurer

jjvanhouten@hotmail.com - 651-436-5204

Dave Miller - Secretary

(715-246-3409)

Jessa Nelson - Membership Director

jessa.nelson@gmail.com - (715-246-0266)

Bill O'Rourke - Non-Shooting Events

annlizzie@frontiernet.net - (715-246-2475)

Chris Polfus - Long Range Planning

chris@bradysbrewhouse.com - (612-719-6565)

A special "Thank You" goes out to "Brady's Brewhouse" and "Champs Bar" for furnishing the excellent cuisine at our annual meeting!

Rod & Gun Club News

1. The Winter Archery Leagues are scheduled to begin the week of January 17th with the Indoor 3D League shooting on Wednesdays and Thursdays for 11 weeks and the Spot League shooting on Tuesdays and Fridays also for 11 weeks. The league will be switching to Vegas targets this year with 30 arrows shot instead of 60.
2. The Summer Archery League will begin the 1st Tuesday in May.
3. ARA and IR50-50 shoots will be scheduled soon with 22 to 27 events possible.
4. The Rifle range is getting heavy use and a work day will be set later this winter to replace ties and upgrade the bunkers. The pistol range is also getting heavy use.
5. Capitol projects suggested for the upcoming year includes re-roofing and other maintenance work on the trap shed, a cement shooting pad on the archery practice range, wood chips on the trails and drainage work on the rifle range. A fireproof safe for important document storage was a consideration. Members are asked to think about other improvements on the club land and contact

6. any of the board of directors with their ideas.
6. The membership for 2010 totaled 436 family memberships. Ten other formal groups utilized our club property last year. Membership work hours turned in was 1554 hours by 84 volunteers. Many more hours went unrecorded.
7. The property gate has been essentially problem free except for a few minor adjustments and a family of mice setting up housekeeping in the mechanism. All entries and exits through the gate are recorded by users and this can be monitored if any problems develop.
8. A snow blower/lawn tractor has been purchased by the club and is being used frequently to keep our property open and the club house and ranges available for use.
9. In 2011 the league chairmen and board members will make a concerted effort to get announcements out in a timely manner.
10. There was much discussion on keeping records of top league shooters and other member's accomplishments in club organized functions and also hunting and fishing endeavors. How this will be accomplished is under consideration by the board.
11. A "Friends of the St Croix Wetland Management District" (FSCWMD) update was given. Much progress has been made in the last few months. This group has several upcoming projects planned and will help to make partnerships work while keeping adjacent land owners and users of these lands directly involved with what happens on them. FSCWMD is a "hands on organization" that will work closely with all groups and provide educational and physical help to accomplish goals laid out by all involved. Brochures and nature guides are available.
12. Money was allotted for a donation to the upcoming St Croix Alliance banquet to be held on March 22nd.
13. A moment of silence was held in remembrance of Conservationist Gene Ruetz who passed away on January 4th, 2011.

A Letter from Your Club President

One item up for discussion is club volunteerism. This is a recurring theme in any "all volunteer" organization. As people's activities and interest change, so does the pool of willing volunteers. There are many mentalities at play as individuals weigh whether or not to attend

a work party or help with league or simply pick up an errant target blowing across the range. Why volunteer to help out? First off, it's your club, not mine, not the Board of Directors. It belongs to the membership. The board members and league chairmen are merely workhorses that organize and perform necessary functions to provide a quality experience for themselves and others. We ask that membership step up and help these people in these necessary activities whenever possible throughout the year. We have all heard the old axioms of "want something done, give it to someone that's busy" or "want something done right, do it yourself". While these hold some self evident truths, they also lead to "burn out" of good people. Help out when you can. It's a great way to get to know fellow club members while doing something productive and helpful. Strength in numbers gets the jobs done faster for all. I have been at this for many years now so I have a good idea of how many man hours it takes to keep things rolling. The scope of activities is incredible without including any extra project work hours. I'll list a few here. Keep in mind we are a 100% volunteer organization and these activities need members to complete these tasks.

- The grass gets mowed now and then by various volunteers, but do you know who makes sure we have running equipment to do it? A full tank of fuel?
- Our indoor brush league is more fun than we should be allowed to have on a cold winter night, but who set up the course? Who opened the clubhouse and who locked it up?
- Have a little problem hitting the toilet on trap league night? Who cleans that up? Who finds the best deal and buys the clays? Who unloads that truckload of clays?
- Ever notice the lack of garbage floating around the ranges? Who picks that up and empties the cans? Who puts new backers up when they need replacement? Who went to the lumberyard to buy the material to build them?

These are just a few of the little things, but all things that need done. We would all certainly notice if they did not get done. There are many more "little things" that are required to provide something we can enjoy and be proud of. I spent a few minutes thinking through the hours it takes to function as we do as a club. I can easily tally up 3000 man hours in the many and mundane tasks. Add in annual improvement projects and that number soars to 4000 man hours. A full time job is 2080 hours in a year. In the average year we have only about 50-60 people put in work hours with some doing 10 and some doing more. Please help out and get to know your fellow members.

2011 Spring New Richmond Hunter Education Class

This class is required for anyone born after January 1st, 1973 who wishes to secure a hunting license in Wisconsin. Students should be 12 years of age before December 31st, 2011. Pre-registration is required with students taken in order of registration. The class size is limited to the first 60 applicants. The first class is Monday, February 7th, 2011 starting at 7 pm at the New Richmond National Guard Armory, 1245 Wall Street in New Richmond. Classes will be held on Monday and Thursday nights from 7-9 pm and ends on March 28th. No classes are scheduled on February 10th, 14th, 17th and March 7th and 10th. A range day will also be held on Saturday March 19th from 8 am until noon at the Willow River Rod and Gun Club. All students must

have a Wisconsin DNR Customer ID# that can be acquired by calling 1-888-936-7463. Students in need of special accommodations are asked to call prior to the first class. Cost is \$10 for the entire class. For more information contact Ron Roettger at 715-248-3883.

2011 Spring New Richmond Bow Hunter Education Class

The 2011 Spring Bow Hunter Education Class will start Thursday, March 31st on the club land. Classes also include the nights of April 4th, 7th and 9th. For more information contact Ron Roettger at 715-248-3883.

St Croix County Alliance Activities

1. The 2012 County Aid Project was discussed with several potential project brought to the table including aquatic habitat work on Squaw Lake, Lake Mallalieu and Bass Lake. The Pine lake aeration system may need some upgrading. Providing easements at sensitive locations was discussed. Other projects are also being considered. A project should be identified by July to get things moving forward in a timely fashion.
2. Because of treacherous ice conditions previously due to heavy snows, fish crib construction on Bass, Cedar and Glen Lakes has been postponed until next year. There is still a possibility that the placement of woody debris in Bass Lake could occur if the USF&WS cannot postpone their wood cutting and not be able to renew their contract. A decision will be made shortly.
3. A new aliquot of herbicide is on hand and more will be made available as needed in our fight against invasive species particularly buckthorn. Jack Rasmussen is coordinating the effort.
4. A Lake Management Plan is in the process of being developed for Squaw Lake. Aleisha Miller is heading up the effort with more meetings scheduled to get it finalized.
5. The Willow River TMDL Project is moving along. Phosphorus level reduction is again the goal of this effort. The Total Minimum Daily Load of phosphorus will soon be determined and efforts will be made to bring the levels into compliance within the watershed. The plan should be wrapped up in June 2011.
6. The 2010 St Croix County Venison Donation program was again a success with more than 120 deer donated and more than a two ton of venison in the freezer. While the donation numbers were down compared to previous years the economic climate may have contributed to the decline.
7. Trout stocking on the Willow River will be expanded this spring with more stocking planned below the dam in New Richmond. An effort will be made to have areas above the dam which are now posted be opened. This subject will be addressed at the upcoming Upper Willow River Rehabilitation District meeting set for January 26th.
8. The 2011 Habitat Banquet is set for Tuesday March 22nd. Mark your calendar!
9. Harvey Halvorsen, our area wildlife biologist, was recently promoted to supervisor. He will remain in the Baldwin office. Congratulations Harv!
10. Hunting and fishing reports of those attending the meeting were given. Hopefully these reports did not contribute to perceived global warming.

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