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Willow River Rod & Gun Club Board of Directors for 2011

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Rod & Gun Club News

1. The Summer Archery League will begin on May 3rd.
2. The Summer Tap League will begin on April 21st with a Turkey Shoot scheduled for May 8th.
3. The club has agreed to allow the local 4H group to utilize the club facilities on 5 dates this year. Watch the calendar for more information.
4. ARA and IR50-50 shoots will be scheduled with 22 to 27 events possible.
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 any of the board of directors with their ideas.
6. 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.
7. In 2011 the league chairmen and board members will made a concerted effort to get announcements out in a timely manner through email and other means.
8. Money was allotted for archery materials, the outhouse and storage shed repairs, a new beverage cooler and a backdoor access card reader

3D league Shooters

We have changed the score cards for league. As you know we have color coordinated score cards for each

league.

When you go to shoot this week, there will be a score card pre-printed with your name and your partners name on a score card. Please find your score card and use the correct one.

Reminder: There are several people who have not paid their league dues. Please try to get them paid up by the end of this week. Also, we still need help with members working during our league nights and for set-up on Tuesday evenings. Remember, this time does count for your annual 10 hours.

Thank you to all of the members who showed up this weekend to help out at our Indianhead Archery League 3D archery shoot. We had 55 shooters. This is a good number for this time of year.

Our next shoot is scheduled for Sunday May 1st. This will be our annual 2-Man team competitive shoot.

We will be setting up for the shoot on Saturday April 30th at 7:00 A.M.

All Club members

We need some about 3-4 volunteers to clean the entire clubhouse. All the floors need to be mopped, windows cleaned & dusted. Please contact myself or Brian Headlee to set-up a time. Again, this does count toward your 10 hours.

Thanks, Rich Vetterkind

Rod & Gun Club's Blast from the Past

The Willow River Rod & Gun Club's history goes back into the 1930's when the Rod & Gun Club was sponsored at that time and remaining for a number of years as a branch of the New Richmond Kiwanis Club. In the early 1940's, the separate Willow River Rod & Gun Club was formed. On July 5th, 1955 the club filed ARTICLES OF INCOPORATION with the State of Wisconsin. "The purpose shall be to promote conservation, including the propagation of fish and game, re-forestation of lands, practice soil conservation by demonstrating approved methods and practices and to encourage boys and girls to become active in conservation of natural resources and wildlife ... An excerpt from the ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE WILLOW RIVER ROD & GUN CLUB, INC. (This information was taken from a club brochure.)

After several successful years, interest in the club waned and the club became inactive. Efforts on the part of Loren Pracht, Ron Fisher, Gary Johnson and Don Holmberg in the late 60's, and Daryl Adams, Dan Richter, Ron Davis and Bud Prekers in the early 70's to get the club back on track

ended in partial success.

In 1979 there was a concerted effort by a number of local individuals to re-establish the Willow River Rod and Gun Club as a viable club. The Board of directors in 1979 included President Al Benson, Greg Warner, Gary Johnson and Keith Swiggum. Greg succeeded Al as President in 1980. There had been a railroad "induced" fire on the club land earlier and it wasn't until the railroad settled the claim to the satisfaction of the club that there were funds available to get the club off the ground. There was a rifle range located on the land. It had drop down targets in cement pits and the shooting lane started at the north end of the land near the old gate, with shots directed to the southwest. Funds for the construction of this range came from the National Rifle Association, I think. The old cement pad and remains of the storage shed (old truck box) can still be seen. A road was constructed around the range to the east, to the start of the new rifle range and up to the top of the hill. You can still walk the roadbed but it is heavily overgrown at the present time. The construction of this road allowed vehicles to get to the top of the area without crossing the shooting lanes. This was abandoned with the construction of our present road and current ranges. The old trap house at the top of the hill had a manual lever which when cocked and pulled sent a single bird out the door.

Following are some "selections" from previous newsletters of the Willow River Rod and Gun Club.

2010 marked the 33rd year we have sponsored the rifle site-in before the deer gun season at our range.

Our monthly meetings were held either at the Bootery, Legion Club or the Civic Center in New Richmond before we had any buildings on the club land.

The first annual winter fishing contest was held on Big Lake, February 22, 1981. Bob Peterson took first place with a 2.5 pound bass while Chuck Magoon took last place with a 2 pound bullhead.

The first Willow River Rod & Gun Club Sports Show was held on March 21st and 22nd, 1981 at the New Richmond Armory.

Tires were being placed on the club land for noise abatement, ricochet prevention and soil erosion. This practice would later come back to haunt us. In 1995, we were in violation and were told that we must remove the thousands of tires that dotted the landscape. Through a grant from the state and lots of physical labor from the club membership we did just that. Lesson learned was that what seemed like a good idea one day might not be such a great idea the next.

Wild game cookbook sales were used in the early 80's to generate money for the club. After the market was saturated, they were used for door prizes and later for kindling.

Our first family outing was held the summer of 1980.

Larry Suennen was our first rifle range chairman back in 1981.

The St Croix County Alliance held its first pheasant banquet in March of 1982.

In the early 80's we tried to have a special program each month to bring in members to the monthly meeting.

In the 80's a special event called the Trap League Awards and Wives Appreciation Night was held. In 1981 The Bootery took first place followed by The Trap Line and Hanson's. Terry Condon, Bob Peterson and Dave Briese won their respective divisions.

In 1982 we increased our membership dues from \$10 to \$12. These were family memberships.

The second annual fishing contest was again held on Big Lake in 1982 and after the final tally it was fish 8, fishermen 0. Bob Peterson again took first place with a large bite while Chuck Magoon, winner in the bullhead division last year, took last place with a two pound chunk of ice.

In 1982 a club combination archery and trap shoot was held. This event continued for a few years.

In 1983 it was announced that a turkey hunting season would be established in the southern part of the state. At that time, little did we know how successful that program would become.

The winter of 1982-1983 marked the start of the aeration system on Pine Lake near Baldwin.

The third annual fishing contest was held on Big Lake again January 15th, 1983. After a hotly contested battle, the final score read fish 4, fishermen 0. Mike Kelly took first place with a three pound "flag" while Chris Lundell won the Chuck Magoon memorial bullhead award for drilling the most holes. Several sunfish in the 2-3 inch size class were hooked while a few small ones were also taken.

A pavilion was constructed in 1983 and was first used for Family Day on September 25th, 1983. It was really only a roof over a cement slab but it proved to be the forerunner of our present club house.

Club jackets and hats were available in December 1983.

A winter archery league was begun the spring of 1984 with shoots held at the New Richmond armory.

Lights were added to the trap ranges in 1984 for night shooting.

Native American rights and spring spearing issues hit the news in 1984.

High powered rifle shoots were scheduled the last Sunday of each month beginning in 1984.

The 4H/FFA pheasant program was begun in 1984 and involved the Willow River Rod & Gun Club, the St Croix County Alliance, 4-H and FFA Clubs and the DNR. Each participating individual receives 25 day old chick pheasants plus funding for materials and feed for the birds to carry them thought until the birds are old enough to release. This project is still active in 2003.

In 1984 John and Kathy Zinsmeister took on the chairmanship of the Family Day event. Their participation stretched over many years.

In 1985 Tom Harder was the Archery League Chairman.

The pavilion was added on to and closed in during 1985 with a counter, heater, fire extinguisher, folding stairway and phone installed that year. The outhouse was also constructed making everyone's life easier. Garbage collection was started.

A pistol league was begun in 1985 with Doug Bell named Chairman.

We hosted the Variety Club Heart Shoot for many years.

In 1985 there was no bear season because the legislature could not get their act together.

(To be continued.....)



Tires from range cleanup.

Visit our Web-site at willowriver.org

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>27</u> [9] <u>Feb</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>1</u> <u>Mar</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
		5:30p -9:00p <u>Winter Archery - Indoor Spot League</u>	5:15p -9:00p <u>Winter Archery - Indoor 3D League</u>	5:15p -9:00p <u>Winter Archery - Indoor 3D League</u>	5:30p -9:00p <u>Winter Archery - Indoor Spot League</u>	
<u>6</u> [10]	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
		5:30p -9:00p <u>Winter Archery - Indoor Spot League</u>	5:15p -9:00p <u>Winter Archery - Indoor 3D League</u>	5:15p -9:00p <u>Winter Archery - Indoor 3D League</u> 7:00p -8:30p Club Meeting	5:30p -9:00p <u>Winter Archery - Indoor Spot League</u>	
<u>13</u> [11]	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>
 Start Daylight Saving Time		5:30p -9:00p <u>Winter Archery - Indoor Spot League</u>	5:15p -9:00p <u>Winter Archery - Indoor 3D League</u>	 St. Patrick's Day 5:15p -9:00p <u>Winter Archery - Indoor 3D League</u>	5:30p -9:00p <u>Winter Archery - Indoor Spot League</u>	9:00a -2:00p <u>Hunter Education Field Day</u>
<u>20</u> [12]	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>
		5:30p -9:00p <u>Winter Archery - Indoor Spot League</u>	5:15p -9:00p <u>Winter Archery - Indoor 3D League</u>	5:15p -9:00p <u>Winter Archery - Indoor 3D League</u>	5:30p -9:00p <u>Winter Archery - Indoor Spot League</u>	
<u>27</u> [13]	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>1</u> <u>Apr</u>	<u>2</u>
		5:30p -9:00p <u>Winter Archery - Indoor Spot League</u>	5:15p -9:00p <u>Winter Archery - Indoor 3D League</u>	5:15p -9:00p <u>Winter Archery - Indoor 3D League</u>	 April Fool's Day 5:30p -9:00p <u>Winter Archery - Indoor Spot League</u>	

Please Remember: No Shooting on the Ranges Before 9AM

Volunteer Birders Wanted

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) St. Croix Wetland Management District (District) is looking for volunteer birders to perform waterfowl pair and brood surveys on specific wetlands located in portions of St. Croix and Polk Counties. Volunteers and District staff have successfully collected three years of data from a handful of wetlands on Service owned and managed Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA's). Due to the quality of data accumulated through these surveys and the continued interest from local volunteer birders to participate, the District Office will be expanding the data collection area to include all wetlands found on WPA's and state managed lands within a corridor. This corridor can be generally described as the area located from New Richmond north to Star Prairie and east to Deer Park. This data has been used by District staff to help estimate local waterfowl production and to compare local population trends to national averages.

In preparation for the surveys, the District Office will be hosting duck identification training on February 23 and March 1, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The address for the District Office is 1764 95th Street, New Richmond, WI 54017. Training will consist of bird identification, a description of study protocol and a discussion of previous year's data. Training opportunities are mandatory; however, if you are unable to attend either of the two scheduled training opportunities please contact Chris Trosen to discuss options.

Data collection will begin roughly on May 15 and run through the first week of June. Observation periods for data collection will be the first two hours of sunlight starting at approximately one-half hour before sunrise and the last hour before dark starting approximately fifteen minutes before sunset, whenever possible counts will be conducted in the morning.

If you are a local birder or will be traveling through the area during the study and wish to participate, please contact Chris Trosen, Wildlife Biologist with the St. Croix District Office by phone at 715-781-4107 or by email at Chris_Trosen@fws.gov.



Tires from range cleanup.

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